

# The Bikers' Bible



A Guide for what you need, and what you don't, to bike from Southwest Colorado to Moab, Utah!

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Hello Bike Adventurer!

San Juan Hut Systems' mission is to provide low impact, human powered, lightweight backcountry travel opportunities for the independent health conscious adventurer at a practical price. We have devoted over thirty years to creating and defining destination hut-to-hut mountain bike travel. With the only destination hut-to-hut based system in the US, we take the weight out of bike packing by offering fully stocked huts and navigation tools. So, you are considering a ride on one of our 215 mile bike hut routes, or you have already reserved your departure date. To help you decide if this is a ride for you, or to help you plan the trip, we have put together this, The Bikers' Bible.

The Bikers' Bible is intended to be a tool for you, the rider. It does not take the place of common sense and ultimately you are responsible for yourself out on the route. Feel free to call or email us with any questions or concerns you may have after reviewing the information provided here in the Bikers' Bible.

Find San Juan Huts on nearly all of the social media platforms, Facebook and Instagram are the most frequently updated. We intend for the Facebook page to be rider driven, providing riders with information from other users of the huts and trails. Get information and share your experiences here. You may also sign up for our e-newsletter to receive direct emails containing important information, new developments, and special promotions!

So there you have it! **Thank you for keeping the spirit of adventure alive!** We here at San Juan Hut Systems look forward to providing you and your group an...

**Adventure Without the Weight!**

## ***Policies and Procedures:***

### Reservations

- Your departure date is secured with a deposit of 50% of the total trip cost.
- The 50% deposit is non-refundable, but it can be extended to any available date in the original booking season or the next season as long as notice is given to San Juan Huts at least 30 days prior to your scheduled departure date.
- If booking a Group Rate trip, the whole hut must be reserved at time of booking and each 50% payment must be made with one card or check.

### Terms and Conditions

- Full payment is due no less than 30 days prior to your trip departure.
- You will receive an email reminder prior to this payment.
- The Route Maps and Hut Combo Code are mailed once full payment and all paperwork is received. They will be available in the spring before the season begins.
- Payments made to San Juan Hut Systems are non-refundable, but can be used for another trip on a different date within the original booking season or the next.
- All Special Rates/Promotions require full payment when making your reservation and are non-refundable and may have additional terms and conditions.
- Unless you book all 8 spots in a hut, you may share the hut with other groups.
- Pre-existing credits cannot be used to purchase special rate/promotional trips. Special Rate/Promotions payments may not be used toward group rate discounts in the future.
- In the event a group must cancel their reservation; the reservation can be changed to any other available date in the original booking season or the next. You must notify San Juan Huts at least 30 days prior to your scheduled departure date if you wish to change your trip date.
- All members of a group must depart on the same departure date.
- San Juan Hut Systems does not issue refunds or credits for incomplete trips, regardless of the reason.
- Smoking is not permitted in or around the huts.

### Route Descriptions, Maps and Hut Combo Code

San Juan Hut Systems has a two-part Route Packet that is provided to individual riders and group leaders who then disperse the packet to their group. The first part of The Route Packet is an email containing this Bikers Bible, a Daily Standard Route Description, Alternate Route Overview, GPS Tracks, and Elevation Profiles as well as links to online Liability Waivers and a Group Roster. This information is emailed to you at the time your reservation is made and updated versions may be sent out. The second part of The Route Packet comes via the USPS and contains the combo code to unlock the huts and a set of maps marking the Daily Standard Route and the Alternate Singltracks. The Map and Code Packet are mailed out in the spring after the trip has been paid in full and all Liability Waiver(s) for you and your group as well as a current Group Roster are completed by your group and received by SJH.

## ***Planning Your Trip:***

### Trip Dates

When planning your trip it is most beneficial to allow for at least one full day prior to your departure date at the elevation of your trailhead. This allows riders to begin acclimating to the altitude. The full routes are seven day/six night rides. It is best to plan on a late arrival in Moab on your seventh and final day of riding. The shorter rides are 4 night/ 5 day rides that end two days short of Moab. Similarly, expect to arrive at Gateway or Paradox late in the day.

### Airports

- Durango Airport (DRO)
- Montrose Regional Airport (MTJ)
- Grand Junction (GJT)
- Telluride Airport (TEX)
- Moab Airport (CNY)
- Cortez Airport (CEZ)
- Denver International Airport is an eight hour drive to either trailhead. (DIA)

## Ground Transportation Considerations

Transportation considerations for your Bike Hut Trip vary for each route and depend on whether an individual or group is flying or driving.

### **1. Getting To Your Hotel/Trailhead**

Telluride: When flying into Montrose and needing to get to the **Telluride to Moab** trailhead consider using one of several shuttle companies listed in the appendix to shuttle riders, bikes, gear, or all three. These shuttle services can take you into the town of Telluride and drop you off at the front door of your hotel.

Durango: Please be advised that the trailhead for Durango to Moab Route is approximately 25 miles north of the town of Durango. It is very convenient to stay at the Purgatory Resort as it is located at the start of the Standard Route, they offer shuttle services from Durango, and by staying at the trailhead you avoid possible delays on the morning of your departure date. Purgatory resort also offers shuttles to the Alternate Singletrack start at the Little Molas Lake Trailhead.

### **2. Returning to the Airport/Trailhead**

If you need to get back to the airport you flew into or your vehicle after you have completed a bike route, consider hiring one of the many Moab shuttle companies listed on our website or in the appendix to get you back to your trailhead, airport, or the towns of Telluride, Montrose, Durango or Grand Junction.

### **3. What To Do With Your Vehicle if not flying**

- Where to leave your vehicle
- Shuttling you/group from Moab back to the trailhead
- Having your vehicle shuttled to Moab

Telluride: When making your accommodation reservations consider arriving one full day before your departure date to help acclimate to the altitude. Parking in the town of Telluride is a nightmare! Telluride presents a festival every weekend in the summer months and this can make parking interesting to say the least. Ask the hotel if you may leave your vehicle at the establishment until your return. Many places in Telluride have limited parking and do not allow for this. Riders can leave their vehicles at the Telluride Airport, airport parking fees will apply. Please do not plan to park RV's or trailers in or around Telluride or the Telluride Airport. You can leave your vehicle for the duration of your bike ride and hire one of the shuttle companies in Moab to bring you back to Telluride. You can also hire a shuttle company to shuttle your vehicle to Moab. Another option is to leave your vehicle at a hotel in Moab and get a shuttle to the start of the ride in Telluride. Prices vary; contact the shuttle companies for direct quotes.

Durango: Inquire about the individual policies of lodging establishments if you choose to stay in the town of Durango. Purgatory Resort, located at the trailhead for the standard route, will allow guests and non-guests to leave their vehicles **upon request**, though they will not be responsible for vehicles or their contents. Contact them and identify that you are a San Juan Hut Systems client and need to park your car at the resort for the week. Before starting your trip, you can arrange for one of the Moab shuttle companies to shuttle you to the start or end of your ride. You can also hire some of them to shuttle your vehicle to Moab so that it is there when you arrive.

### Where to Stay:

There are many choices to fit all budgets. Please check the appendix for a list of lodging options by location or the Travel Resources option at [sanjuanhuts.com/travel-resources](http://sanjuanhuts.com/travel-resources).

### Bikes:

We recommend that you ride your own bike if it is possible. This cuts down on the time spent learning how to ride foreign gear and avoids potential repair issues in the backcountry. Local Bike Shops are listed in the Appendix. People have chosen to ride all sorts of bikes on these routes. In general we recommend XC or trail style full suspension mountain bikes for those looking to ride all the singletrack; modern hardtails for those looking to ride mainly the standard route with occasional singletrack or those wanting a comfortable ride on the standard route; gravel grinder bikes can be appropriate for confident riders on the Telluride to Moab standard route. We do not recommend E-bikes as there is not electricity at the huts or along the routes to recharge them and they are not allowed in all areas. Tubeless tires, with tubes as backups, are recommended for all bikes.

## Repair Kits and Bike Bags/Panniers

Under the Repair and Equipment List Section of this Bikers' Bible, you will find the suggested repair equipment for bikes, for these routes. If you need help putting these together, you have a few options. Your local bike shop should be able to help you fit our repair list to your bike and skill set, just make sure they really know how much rugged and remote terrain you will be riding through! Hero Kit is a small company out of Crested Butte that puts together great, pre-packaged repair kits. Check them out at [HeroKit.com](http://HeroKit.com).

If you're looking for a one-stop shop for bikepacking bags, gear and advice before your trip, visit **Velorution Cycles**. They're a great bike shop in Durango with full-service repairs and also have a comprehensive online store for bikepacking adventures. These guys have tons of bikepacking experience and can get your set-up fully dialed in before you start the route. Check them out at: [VelorutionCycles.com](http://VelorutionCycles.com)

We recommend modern bike bags like the ones made by **Revelate Designs** and **Bedrock Bags** as opposed to more traditional touring gear if you plan to ride singletrack. Traditional ridged frames can be used on the Standard routes. **Old Man Mountain Products** makes more traditional pannier racks that will accommodate full suspension bikes. Most people riding only the Standard Routes, and not the Singletrack Alternates, prefer to carry all of their gear on their bike and don't bring a backpack. Just remember, when looking at all these cool bags, you really don't need that much space. You should only need about 20 liters of space. One more note on bike bags, we *strongly* recommend against bike trailers. They swing your back tire out, are way too big and you will find lots of extra stuff to carry that you don't need, and they will insure that you don't get off on any of the fun alternates. Your friends will wish you did not have it.

## Altitude & Health Considerations

These bike routes are demanding. Although they are well within the capabilities of many riders, you should not underestimate the difficulty of the trip. Riding three to eight hours a day for a week presents its own challenge. Pedaling at altitude will noticeably increase fatigue levels. We recommend spending a few days, and no less than 24 hours, acclimatizing at altitudes similar to those you will be riding at before heading out on the route. This will ease the shock placed on the body that accompanies leaping from near sea level elevations to nearly 11,000 feet. Staying well hydrated will help. If you are currently taking medications or treatments that would compromise your body's fluid levels or performance in the heat, please consult your physician before reserving your Bike Hut Trip and let your Group Leader be advised of any medical conditions.

## ***On the Route:***

### Human Powered

San Juan Hut Systems' mission is to provide low impact, **human powered**, lightweight backcountry travel opportunities for the independent adventurer at a practical price. Ebikes are not appropriate for these trips. We do not allow vehicular support of any kind.

### Communication

There is no guaranteed cellular service along either route. One may find cell service on the Telluride to Moab Route at the Gateway Hut on the fifth day of riding. On the Durango to Moab Route, you may find cell service at the Wedding Bell Hut, the fourth hut. Make sure to keep your phones in airplane mode and off most of the time to save battery. Some groups may find it useful to bring a backup battery charger. If you are not comfortable with this, we recommend bringing a Spot, inReach device, or Sat Phone.

### Weather

It is entirely possible that your group will experience the full spectrum of weather conditions known to this planet over the course of your seven-day ride. A few years ago, a group from California departed the first week of June after an exceptionally snowy winter. The trail had several sections with snow. One five-mile section of the trail had continuous snow pack! They traveled these sections early, taking advantage of the firm frozen conditions. During days two and three, they encountered big wind and cold precipitation including quarter-sized snowflakes, slushy sleet, and freezing rain. The weather broke on day four, and it was glorious sunshine. They pedaled to the finish in unseasonably hot weather with temperatures topping 100 degrees Fahrenheit on the last leg to Moab.

For the first two weeks of our season in June and towards the end of our season in September, riders should augment their cold weather clothing over and above that on our suggested clothing list. It is common to experience late season

snowstorms during the first three days of the trip when you are traveling through the high elevations. Be on the guard for the potential of hypothermia during these times. Be aware that it can snow like crazy here, even in July.

Bring everything that you could possibly need to Colorado and leave extra equipment in your car, at the lodging you stayed the night before or at the bike shop you are renting from. It would be a shame to get here, find you need it, and have to buy it again. **The day before your departure, check the National Weather Service Ten-Day Forecast for your starting and ending towns!**

## Lightning

Lightning is a very serious consideration on this ride. It can be extremely violent on any part of the route, at any time during the riding season. Certain periods of the season however, will see more severe and widespread lightning. **Typically, the lightning season begins in early July and extends until mid-September and coincides with the onset of the "afternoon monsoon."** High lightning exposure areas include:

- On the Telluride to Moab Route, the second half of Day Two while on Horsefly Mesa and the entire Uncompahgre Plateau ridgeline on Day Four.
- On the Durango to Moab Route, the Singletrack Alternate on day one, starting the second half of Day Three, until almost the end of Day Four, and as you approach the last hut in the Pine Flats area on Day Six.

Be aware of the phenomenon known simply as "afternoon buildup." Cold mountain air pushes around hot air from the desert and, along with other barometric factors, culminates in a showdown that can let loose lightning and severe weather throughout the summer. This may occur as early as 11AM. and continue as late as 5PM. The extremes for most activity are between Noon and 4PM. Plan your departure and day's ride to avoid these hours and the above-mentioned high lightning exposure areas on days with suspect weather.

If caught in one of these storm systems, hunker down with your rain gear, deep in the forest (but not under a big tree!), and wait for the storm cell to pass. If caught in the open, **stay away from fences!** While your bike's metal will not "attract" lightning, we do not advise sprinting downhill. Sprinting through sagebrush with loaded panniers and funny shoes in fear of your life is asking for its own trouble. Set your bike down gently, kiss it goodbye for the time being. Take cover in lower country or deep in the forest. If you are pinned-down and feel that the lowest, immediate ground is the safest, find a spot **without water** and crouch low. Maintain the lowest profile possible and keep minimal contact with the ground. Spread out so your group members are not near each other but stay within hearing distance of one another. Do this only if certain and immediate peril prevents you from moving around!

## Mud and Snow

Mud and snow may be serious at times. Major storms roll over both the Telluride to Moab and Durango to Moab Routes. These storms can be intense, sometimes lasting 1 ½ - 2 days. The nature of the soils in this area makes for incredibly sticky slick mud. Riders who are mentally prepared for mud fair well. It can be very difficult to move forward on a bike when it is snowing overhead and muddy under the tires, but it is possible. The best way to deal with mud conditions is to avoid them. So, read up on your Route Descriptions, provided in The Route Packet. It is imperative that you take the time to peel the mud off your derailleur, brakes, brake pads, rims, chains, and anywhere else it collects. With a clogged chain and derailleur, you have to be very careful when shifting. You may not be able to shift at all. If you do, you could break the derailleur. You may have to peel the mud off every quarter mile for miles. You may have to get on and off to walk your bike. You may have to walk through the sagebrush with your bike beside the road to avoid impassible mud! This is what you could face out on route...and some do it with a smile.

## First Aid on Route

There are no emergency medical services within easy reach of any one of the huts on either route. It is the responsibility of the group leader to collect any allergy or other pertinent medical information for the group. If someone in your group does have a medical condition or allergy, make sure the group is aware of it, and able to recognize signs of distress.

It is each group's responsibility to bring a First Aid Kit. There are basic First Aid Kits at the huts. However, our first aid kits get pilfered regularly and, though we try to keep them well stocked, the group before may have had an emergency and cleaned the kit out or your injury may occur a great distance from the next or previous hut. First Aid Knowledge and training (including what to bring in a First Aid Kit) is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY**. Below is a list of recommended items you should include in your First Aid Kit:

- Iodine tablets. Can be used in a small amount of water to help disinfect wounds or normally as water purification.
- Adhesive tape. We suggest the cloth/athletic type of tape.
- Antibiotic ointment.
- Ibuprofen or the equivalent, check with your group for allergies to Aspirin.
- Gauze
- Non-stick and regular gauze pads, lots for road rash
- Small scissors capable of cutting tape and Mole foam effectively. Often on Leatherman.
- Benadryl for bites and allergic reactions. If a member of the group is allergic to nuts, bee stings or other serious allergies bring epi pen/s. This is not a place where help is around the corner and anaphylactic shock can be a life-threatening condition.
- Sunscreen, a minimum of SPF 30.
- SPF 20 lip balm.
- Chamois cream like Butt Butter to prevent saddle sores.
- Insect Repellent, bring a small bottle.

### Recommended Hydration Routine

Be aware that Colorado and Utah are dry climates and monitoring your fluid loss is difficult. Staying hydrated may be the single most important thing you do before and on this trip. Fluids lost can be difficult to replenish. Bring enough bladders/bike bottles to carry at least 3 liters of water. Use the bottles for mixed drinks, and the reservoir for straight water. Hydrate your way across the route and it will seem much friendlier. This trip gets hotter and drier as you progress west, so be on top of hydration and you will actually feel like having a couple of beers in Moab at the week's end! Begin focusing on hydration three to five days before your trip, especially if you are a "caffeine junky". Drink! Drink! Drink! Then drink some more. Electrolyte mixes, like the Skratch Labs and Gatorade provided at the huts, are also important. It is very important to replace electrolytes and sugars in your body to speed up re-hydration, especially on hot days. Too much sugar however, can actually dehydrate you. Most importantly, know your body's hydration requirements as everybody is different. People of the same sex and weight can have vastly different sweat levels and hydration needs.

Make frequent use of springs along the Standard Route. It is your responsibility, however, to filter or otherwise treat this water for purification. Most water filters found in backpacking stores will do the trick (there are some really small in line filters available), as will purification tablets or iodine drops. Use purifying techniques according to the manufacturer's instructions! Drinking water is provided at the huts.

### Things to Keep in Mind While Riding

- Wear your helmet! It will save your life someday.
- When encountering motorized vehicles, ride single file down the road, do not ride wide around corners.
- On all trails, horseback riders have the right of way. If you encounter horseback riders, dismount your bike and stay on the downhill side of the trail. Also, if you encounter cattle on the trail, do not spook them. Remember these trails that you are riding were initially built by ranchers and miners. Be respectful of those that came before you.
- Monitor your body temperature. Add or remove layers accordingly. Do not get behind on hydration or core temperature.
- Plan the day's ride around the weather. If lightning is evident in the early afternoon, get out early and beat the bad weather.
- Be prepared to get benighted. Carry a headlamp, lighter or matches, extra battery, and enough food to get you by. Plan for the best and be prepared for the worst. At the beginning and end of the season bring a small candle to help start a fire by dripping wax etc. Remember that the best way not to get benighted is to pack light, be prepared, and pay attention so you do not get lost.
- Keep in contact with your group. Travel the speed of your slowest rider or make plans to regroup at predetermined points along the way and do not deviate from these plans! Do not make turns without everyone being in sight. Make sure everyone in the group has access to the maps.
- Be aware of animals. The mountains and canyons of this route have bears, lions, cows, bulls, rattlesnakes, scorpions, black widows, and tarantulas. All of these critters have the potential to cause you pain.
- On either Route, once you enter the drier canyon areas, such as the approach to the Gateway Hut on the Telluride to Moab Route and the area from Dry Creek Basin Hut to halfway up the hill headed to Geyser Pass Hut on the Durango to Moab Route, you must be aware of goatheads. Goatheads are thorns that exist



on small plants all over the aforementioned areas. The way to not have your tires punctured by these small thorns is to make sure that you stay on existing roads and trails. It is quite possible to get ten punctures in a tire in 10 feet. Tubeless tires (with fresh sealant) along with spare tubes and diligent bike handling are your best defense.

## ***The Hut and Hut Etiquette:***

### Leave No Trace

The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics is an educational, nonprofit organization dedicated to the responsible enjoyment and active stewardship of the outdoors by all people, worldwide. Leave No Trace is a national and international program designed to assist outdoor enthusiasts with their decisions about how to reduce their impacts when they hike, camp, picnic, snowshoe, run, bike, hunt, paddle, ride horses, fish, ski or climb. The program strives to educate all those who enjoy the outdoors about the nature of their recreational impacts as well as techniques to prevent and minimize such impacts. Leave No Trace is best understood as an educational and ethical program, not as a set of rules and regulations. Please visit their website and review their recommendations so that we can all work to Leave No Trace.

Thank you.

<https://lnt.org/learn>

### Propane Instructions

The huts have stoves and lanterns fueled by propane. For your safety and ease of operation please follow these guidelines.

1. To charge the gas lines when preparing to use the stove or lanterns, turn the grey valve on the propane tank 1 to 2 turns counterclockwise. Turning the knob more will not increase gas flow and will slow the time needed to shut off gas in case of an emergency.
2. Shut the gas off at the outside tank **every night** and **before leaving** the next morning. Please double-check that the gas is off! To turn the gas off, turn the grey valve in a **clockwise** direction until snug.

If a propane tank is empty, exchange it with one of the provided full reserve tanks. Use the adjustable wrench found in the kitchen area. On the empty tank, unscrew the “hex” style brass gas fitting located nearest to the tank’s valve. To differentiate the lantern lines from the stove line look for the regulator on the outside of the hut. Remember, gas fittings at the tank are always **reverse threaded!** This means “righty-loosey”, “lefty-tighty.” Be certain you are turning the fitting **clockwise to loosen** and **counterclockwise to tighten**.

It is **VERY IMPORTANT** to check for leaks if you smell a sulfur-type odor. Make a sudsy soap and water solution with detergent from the hut and apply it to the fittings and hoses where you suspect the leak might emanate from. Tighten fittings gently until leaks stop. Take care not to over-tighten the fittings as brass fittings may break. Please notify San Juan Hut Systems as soon as possible.

### Lighting the Lantern:

1. Push in the lever on the side of the lantern and flip the lever to the ‘ON’ position (embossed in the metal on the side of the lamp)  
NOTE: You must push the lever **IN** before flipping the lever to the “ON” position. This disengages a mechanism in the lamp that prevents accidental movement of the lever resulting in gas leaking out.
2. Light a match and hold it beneath the mantle.  
NOTE: Do not touch the match or lighter to the mantle. Doing so may break a hole in the mantle necessitating its replacement. (If needed look for replacement mantels on the wall in the area of the lamp)
3. If the lantern does not light and you need to try again, it is important that you begin repeating the procedure from Step 1.

### Turning off the Lantern:

When finished with the lantern, push lever in and turn it to the off position stopping the flow of gas. Do not force lever! It will become jammed and require taking the cover off the lantern. Simply feel for the spring and the slot it presses into and then gently rotate the lever.

### Trouble Shooting the Lantern:

If the lantern is dim, and the tank has gas, look for a spider web or other blockage in the supply tube of the lamp housing. Remove the web or other obstruction with a pencil or pen.

### Lighting the Stove: **Do not leave a burning stove unattended!**

1. Turn on the main gas valve located outside the hut on the propane tank.
2. Turn on the in line valve inside the hut (usually yellow) on the pipe connected to the stove.
3. On the stove, turn on the desired burner by rotating the knobs located on the stove front. Have a flame ready and over burner when gas flow begins.

Please clean any spills or messes in the stove or blackened pots and pans. **Turning the heat to high may cause the flame to emanate from the bottom of the cook pan/pot and melt the stove knob. Use medium/medium-high heat at the most when using larger pans.**

### The Wood Stove

- **If a fireban is in effect, use of the wood stove MAY be prohibited**
- Locate the fire extinguisher in hut. Make sure all hut users are familiar with its location and operation.
- You may collect fallen dry wood from the area surrounding the hut that is lying on the ground, detached from trees, and smaller than your wrist. Please **DO NOT USE** the firewood stacked at the Last Dollar Hut (the first hut on the Telluride to Moab route). This wood supply is for winter use when firewood collection is difficult in this area.
- Store only what wood and kindling you plan to burn right away inside the hut. These huts are efficient. You do not need to play Paul Bunyan and stack a cord of wood under the bunks. It is a mess to clean up.
- Pick up dead, dry wood from ground or out further from the hut. Do not break live or dead limbs off trees around hut.
- Look for dry red needles from coniferous trees as they make a good fire starter. Shavings from the interior of dry branches make good kindling.
- Open the damper in the stovepipe (if one is provided).
- Light a small starter fire, and close stove door to about ¼ inch. This will make the stove draw air properly. Listen for a rushing sound of air as you close the door to determine the proper amount of closure.
- Open and close the stove door quickly to avoid releasing smoke into the hut.
- Once the fire gets going, do not leave the stove unattended.
- Do not let the stove, or stovepipe, get glowing red-hot!
- Keep the area around and under stove free from flammables, especially the coolers!
- Completely extinguish the fire in stove before leaving for the next hut. Anticipate the time of your departure, and stop feeding the fire as your departure time nears. Rake remaining coals to the front of the stove near the vent to help the coals burn down. You may sprinkle a cup of water on the coals to kill the remaining embers before you leave. Please do not throw large amounts of water into the stove. It will cause rust and make it difficult for the next group to start a fire.
- **DO NOT THROW ANY ASHES UNDER THE HUT.** If you need to empty ashes from the stove, please put them in the bucket and take them outside. Dig a small hole, put the ashes in the hole, pour appropriate amount of water on them, cover with excavated dirt, and stomp loose dirt down.
- Some of the lower elevation huts do not have wood stoves.
- Outside fires are not permitted.
- **Campfires are not permitted at any of the huts!** The frequent 'tinder dry' conditions, dry winds, and the huge availability of fuel make this region very susceptible to wild land fires. We will not accept any liability for open fires. **Failure to comply with this rule is grounds for immediate removal from the route.**

### Cleanliness

Please help us keep the huts and grounds clean. If you are not mindful of this you will ruin the trip for yourself, the riders behind you, and the quality of the hut experience and the environment surrounding the huts.

Animals will eat anything left lying around. Word travels fast in the animal world. An infestation can occur in less than 24 hours if one fails to clean and lock up everything. **You must keep all containers, lockers, and packages**

**closed and out of reach when you are not using them!** This means no crackers, toilet paper, nuts, or anything else left out or within reach of mice, pack rats, and all the other critters that inhabit the forest. Again, if you fail to do this you will have mice crawling over you at night and the next group will encounter an even grimmer scene when they arrive. Mice are opportunists and an open door is all they need. Critters will chew through anything to get to the goods, so please, keep food out of reach. Keep the screen door closed during the day and the solid door closed at night to keep bugs and rodents out of the huts.

Before leaving each morning **CLEAN THE HUT** top to bottom. Sweep, re-organize, and tidy things up. If there is a very slovenly group in front of you, call us when you can or when you get out and we will deal with it accordingly. Please be conscious of your fellow riders and leave the huts better than you found them. **If everybody continues doing this the huts will continue to be rodent free.**

#### Daily Clean Up Responsibilities

Please take ten minutes every morning and follow this procedure:

1. With a wet sponge and a touch of bleach in the water, wipe off kitchen counter thoroughly, drying with a paper towel.
2. Sweep off the bunks, under the bunks, and the entire floor.
3. Spray a little disinfectant onto a paper towel and wipe down the bunks.
4. Empty the water buckets under the sink if provided.
5. **Have entire group present inside the hut before leaving to verify that the hut is clean.**

#### Sleeping Bags, Pads, and Liners (Please note that in the 2021 season we are not able to provide sleeping bags due to covid regulations)

Sleeping bags and pads are provided at the huts. Please bring and use your own sleeping bag liner. Silk or silk like liners pack down to about the size of a softball. There are no pillows. We suggest bringing a stuff sack that can transport your clothes in the day and can be filled with your bulky clothes items at night to make a pillow.

- Please do not lay sleeping bags or pads directly on the ground, inside or outside of the hut.
- If you spill food or drink on a bag, please clean it with mild soap and fresh water. Make sure the bag is dry before returning it to the bunk or its storage container. Hang the bag from a clothesline to dry away from nearby mouse launching pads. Please call the office as soon as possible to notify us.
- **Shake out all sleeping bags (inside and out), fold them back up, and place one on each bunk.**

#### Water Jugs

We haul in all of the potable water at the huts. Please practice good water conservation ethics. This is a dry climate; please monitor your water use accordingly. Water is for drinking, cooking, and conservative-minded dishwashing. It can be impossible to keep pace with water wasters!

- **Please limit your water usage to 2 gallons per rider per day.**
- Try to fill your water bottles at the indicated locations on the Daily Standard Route Description before arriving at the hut.
- Please do not use water from the hut supply for bathing, washing your feet, or washing your bike. Do this in streams, lakes, irrigation ditches, etc.
- **Do not use water provided at the huts for solar showers.**

#### Washing Dishes

- Use paper plates as liners for the blue metal plates. This will save immensely on your clean up time and water usage. The paper plates make great fire starters. Burn all paper garbage that does not contain foil in the stove (if provided) before departing.
- Fill the three provided wash bins  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  full of water. The 1<sup>st</sup> bin is for detergent, the 2<sup>nd</sup> is for rinse, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> is for bleach sterilization. Start with a small amount of detergent applied to the sponge. You can always add more if needed but you can easily use too much which takes a lot of water to rinse. The final bleach sterilizing rinse should have 1.5 teaspoons (1/2 cap) of bleach to two liters (or 8 cups) of cool water. The bleach water should not have excess soap or be hot as this can decrease the effectiveness.

- When done with the dishes, rinse the sponge in the rinse and bleach water. Check to make sure the catchment bucket is under the sink drain. Then pour the soap bin down the sink and the food scraps will get caught in the strainer. Then rinse the soap bucket with the rinse water and also pour it down the sink. Empty the strainer into the trash. Finally, rinse all the dish bins with the bleach water and pour it down the sink and in doing so, cleaning the sink.
- Please use only hot water to clean cast iron pans and wok. Use a paper towel and a little oil to rub on the pans to condition them and prevent them from rusting after washing and make sure they are fully dry before storing to prevent rust. Hang the large wok on the hooks provided on the side of the kitchen shelves.
- Empty the grey water buckets at least 50' from the hut.

## Food Storage Information

- Please reduce waste by using open containers first.
- **Use clothes-pins to keep all bags sealed.**
- Clean up spilled food inside of food lockers immediately.
- Open and close coolers quickly and keep them away from wood stoves.
- When leaving the hut, please **organize the food locker** for the next group.
- **Keep the food locker doors closed at all times, even while you are in the hut!** Rodents are brave little dudes, and they will dive in while your head is turned.
- Throw uneaten food into the compost pail and then empty it into the metal compost bin by the composting toilet.

## Trash Management

Please help us to minimize the trash at each hut. Trash removal from the hut uses precious resources and occupies landfill space. Please recycle, reduce, and reuse whenever possible.

- Separate out and burn all burnable trash in the wood stove when provided.
- Crush all steel and aluminum cans with the provided can crusher. This will help reduce the volume and number of loads necessary for transport to a recycling facility.
- Separate out all organic compostable food waste and scraps following the below composting procedure.

## Food Composting Procedure

1. Place all un-eaten food scraps and organic food waste into the food waste pail. Do not put egg shells in the compost, they take a very long time to compost. **Please put eggshells in the trash.**
2. Empty the food waste pail into the right side compartment of the composting bin located outside the hut, next to compost toilet.
3. Add wood chips from the left side compartment of the composting bin, to the food scrap waste compartment and mix thoroughly with the compost bin stir and mix tools.
4. Rinse out the food waste pail with about 2 cups of water. Please wash water into the metal compost bin and mix it into the compost with the provided shovel.
5. **If there is visible liquid in the bin, do not add more.**
6. **Do not pour dish water in compost bin.** The soap and bleach kill the bacteria that make the composting happen!

In huts with wood stoves, please burn paper towels, plates and other burnable trash.

## Composting Toilets

Composting toilets only work if people treat them properly. They compost your waste so that in a short time, it is safe to return to the environment. Please understand and respect what does and does not belong in the composting toilets.

What **DOES NOT** go down the Poop Chute:  
(a partial list "collected" through experience)

- Your underwear
- Plastic of any kind

- Foil wrappers
- Tampons and tampon applicators (they don't biodegrade in this system)
- **Sanitary hand wipes (non biodegrade in our lifetime) even if they say "biodegradable."** They might degrade, but it will take years.
- 

We have to **HAND PICK** items that do not belong out of the crapper and your waste. We're sure you wouldn't want to do this job... neither do we. Please place all non-biodegradable material in the waste can provided. Do the right thing and help keep these toilets working.

What **DOES** go down the Poop Chute:

- Your bodily waste, liquid and solid
- Toilet paper
- Wood shavings
- **Nothing else!**

## ***Clothing/Bike Equipment/Gear Lists:***

### Clothing For All Times Of Year

You can accommodate many layering combinations for the fair-weather season with a long sleeve jersey, short sleeve jersey, shorts, knee warmers, leg warmers, and arm warmers. They reduce weight, bulk and provide many combinations for the elements.

- Lightweight T-Shirt or sleeve-less shirt.
- Long sleeve shirt or jersey with a zipper-turtleneck.
- Long sleeve jacket with a high collar-medium weight.
- Cycling shorts, with the padded chamois.
- Lightweight plus medium weight synthetic socks (wool early and late season).
- Riding gloves
- Waterproof or Vapor Barrier rain gear.
- Sun hat.
- Sunglasses.

### Additional Essential Clothing for the Start and End of the Season or if Cool Weather is Forecasted

**All material should be synthetic or wool. NO COTTON**

- Wool or synthetic hat. Try to get one which can somehow be crammed under a helmet if need be.
- Neck gaiter (for early and late season).
- Long synthetic pants, medium weight or thermal biking tights without a chamois. 'Expedition weight' for the first and last two weeks of summer. Midsummer, you may want to consider leg warmers, however they are not as nice to hang out in during the evening.
- Warm gloves with water/weather proof shells.
- Neoprene shoe covers/wool socks.
- Additional warm insulating layer such as a wind stop fleece vest.

Be wary of affordable clothing that is advertised as both waterproof and breathable. You are generally better off with watertight PVC material than "leak-tex" cloth. Get gear that is absolutely going to keep you dry. During a hypothermia-inducing downpour, you want to be dry! If you are suspicious, buy it and try it. Go home, put it on and stand in the shower cranked on for 15 minutes. If it works great, please let us know what the product is and where to get it! Internal moisture is much warmer than the stuff from above. Ill-equipped clients can find themselves in life threatening situations due to inadequate raingear. Please get your raingear sorted out before you come. We recommend that you **always** bring cold/wet weather gear to the trailhead. Before your departure, check the 10-day forecast and plan your clothing accordingly.

Cycling shoes should be large enough to accommodate thicker wool socks, especially early or late in the season. Check your shoes at home to confirm that you have good toe movement. If they are the least bit tight, there will be trouble.

Mountain bike shoes that have a flexible sole are much more comfortable to walk in than stiffer more aggressive bike shoes.

## General Gear List

The following list contains Items we feel you should have with you on our routes:

- Mountain bike.
- Helmet.
- Hydration pack with a 2 to 3 liter reservoir with storage capacity for jackets, gloves, sandwich, etc.
- Water bottles, when combined with hydration pack at least 3 liters carrying capacity per rider.
- Bike bags of a 20 liter capacity **or less** that fit your bike. See Repair Kits and Bike Bags/ Panniers.
- Lighter and a small candle for emergency 'bivy' fire starter.
- Headlamp and spare battery. (Flashlights are difficult to handle when two hands are required for a task... and generally, they are).
- Sleeping bag liner 33"x72," or there about, depending on your height. Many good options are available on the market, check with your outdoor store or online. 1.8 or 2 oz. silk or nylon sewn in a dimensioned rectangle work well.
- Repair Kit
- First Aid Kit
- Maps and Hut Combo Code (provided by San Juan Huts when payment is full and all paperwork is in)

## Recommended Bike Repair Equipment & Tools

Any part of a bike can break. This is a Suggested Bike Repair Equipment & Tool List. Everyone in your group does not need all of these items but the group as a whole should have a good repair kit. If you feel you need to bring more, or less, do so. There are a number of lightweight, compact tool kits on the market. While there is no substitute for the "*Real Tool*," the weight savings is worth it. Several companies make good kit/multi-tools. However, many sell crap. Make sure what you bring meets an "inspection of logic." We highly recommend all riders start out with new sealant and tubeless tires and fresh brake pads. Dry cleaning your bike (by brushing) and lubing it every evening will go a long way to fewer repairs. Items every group should consider bringing:

- Tire patch kit. Hint: Inspect your rim tape before departing, small abrasions or sections failing to cover eyelets completely can cause a maddening spree of unexplainable flats.
- Tire Levers
- Tubes, one to two heavy-duty extras per rider. Large groups may be able to reduce this especially if running tubeless to start with. Carry a few lightweight emergency spares for the group.
- Tire plugs which can often repair a tire and keep even tubeless tires rolling.
- Burly needle and floss (to use as thread) to sew up rips in tires.
- Dollar bill or other tire boot used to cover a hole in the tire itself and protect the tube.
- Duct tape or Gorilla Tape; roll a good length around your emergency lighter.
- Bike pump and CO-2 cartridge system (optional) or two pumps if you are solo. Choose compact, high volume types.
- Chain-breaking tool.
- Multi-tool and Leatherman that combined have the following: Allen wrench set with 3 mm-9 mm sizes, slotted and Phillips screw drivers that fit all needs of all heads on a bike, set of plyers, sharp knife blade.
- A spare 5mm Allen bolt or two
- Two SRAM Power Links for each type of chain in the group.
- FiberFix spokes.
- Zip ties
- Chain lube, bring extra if rain is forecasted.
- Small bike brush or sawed off tooth brush to clean off mud especially if rain is in the forecast.
- Spare derailleur hanger for each type of bike.
- Spare set of brake pads especially if any rain is forecasted or if you did not start with new pads.
- Spare rear derailleur. You may need more than one as they are often not compatible. If you know how to set your bike up as a single speed and are O.K with that idea, you might be able to leave this behind.

Other repair items you should consider bringing that have previously been used in the field

- Extra tire. We recommend the folding bead type. These often can be zip tied to your frame. You really should consider this especially with groups of 4 or more riders or those looking to ride a lot of singltrack.
- Toe straps or ski strap, they repair everything duct tape cannot
- Spoke wrench, for all four-nipple sizes.
- Adjustable wrench.
- A couple of spare normal spokes of the right length, wire nipples, and tape or zip tie them tightly under the left chainstay to keep them out of the way.
- Spare derailleur cables.
- Small coil of medium to heavy gauge wire.
- "In the Field" bike repair book, if necessary.

At least one member of the group should have all of the necessary parts, tools, and the knowledge to use them. Riders are responsible for checking their bikes for proper operation prior leaving home. Re-check all tires, cables, brake pads, tubes, chains, and other parts before departure from the trailhead. Be careful not to replace a chain without giving your bike a good strenuous test ride before leaving as cogs and chains wear out together and replacing one may result in a failure of the two to mesh. Mechanical troubles can really ruin a trip.

Gear List for the minimalist: for those of you who are handy with bikes and willing to accept a little more risk in order to go lighter here is a suggested gear list for you.

- Tire iron/s
- 1 extra inner tube (at least)
- 1 complete patch kit with different size patches
- Tire plugs which can often repair a tire and keep even tubeless tires rolling.
- Burly needle and floss (to use as thread) to sew up rips in tires.
- Multitool
- Leatherman
- Small pump
- 1 or 2 SRAM Power Links that are compatible with all bikes on the trip.
- Zip-ties
- Spare derailleur hanger for each type of bike
- FiberFix spoke kit.
- A spare 5mm Allen bolt or two
- Duct tape or Gorilla Tape; roll a good length around your emergency lighter.
- Small container of bike lube

**Bring what you think you need for your trip** Our list is suggested items. You are responsible for what you bring! We are not responsible for what you break, what you do not bring, or what you do not know how to fix.

**If you have an irreparable break-down,** contact us and we will arrange for parts and or a rental bike to be brought out. We will help how we can, but may not be able to drop everything else the moment we are contacted. If you do need assistance while on the route, please relay a succinct message of where you are and what you need. Realize that we may not be able to find specific bike parts on short notice so, also include your bike size in case a rental is required. You will be responsible for the cost of the parts, delivery, and rental as needed. You may also contact bike shops and shuttle companies directly if we are not available or this makes sense for where you are on the route.

*San Juan Hut Systems Ten Commandments*

1. Thou shalt not use vehicle support. We strictly prohibit the use of vehicles. Bringing vehicles on the hut system is in direct violation with the U.S. Forest Service and private landowners. Violation of this commandment results in your prompt removal from the system without opportunity to return.
2. Thou shalt not sneak on extra riders. We **will** catch you as our routes are monitored regularly. Violation of this commandment results in your prompt removal from the system without opportunity to return. You will also incur a charge for the additional persons.
3. Thou shalt not remove tools, utensils, pots, pans, plates, cups, sleeping bags, etc., etc, or any other items from the huts. They are there for a reason and you would miss them if they were gone when you arrived.
4. Thou shalt not skip huts or stay extra nights. Remember, there is often a group ahead of you and behind you.
5. Thou shalt not leave a pigsty hut disaster. Cleanliness is Godliness. Good hut system travelers know this.
6. Thou shalt use proper bike etiquette. You all know how to be considerate travelers, so do so. Be courteous, friendly, and kind to all who share the trails with you. Remember on all trails, horseback riders have the right of way. If you encounter horseback riders, dismount your bike and stay on the downhill side of the trail. Do not spook the horses. Ride as if there was a horse around each blind corner. Horses were here first and horses originally created these trails.
7. Thou shalt pack your brain. Common sense is a mandatory item. Do not suddenly forget where you are and what you are doing.
8. Thou shalt conserve water! Take only what you need and leave the rest for your fellow travelers.
9. Thou shalt read and understand our Terms and Conditions.
10. Thou shalt have a great adventure! We are all here to have fun, build character, and make memories!



Appendix:

**Shuttle Services/Rider Transportation**

**Moab Based**

Porcupine Shuttle	435-260-0896	<a href="http://porcupineshuttle.com">porcupineshuttle.com</a>
Redrock Express	435-260-0595	<a href="http://www.redrockexpress.com">www.redrockexpress.com</a>
Road Runner Shuttle	435-259-9402	<a href="http://www.roadrunnershuttle.com/ourservices.html">www.roadrunnershuttle.com/ourservices.html</a>
Moab Express	435-260-9289	<a href="http://moabexpress.com">moabexpress.com</a>

**Telluride Area Based**

Western Slope Rides	970-626-5121	<a href="http://gowsr.com">gowsr.com</a>
Telluride Express	970-728-6000	<a href="http://letsride.co">letsride.co</a>
Mountain Limo	(970) 728-9606	<a href="http://www.mountainlimos.com">www.mountainlimos.com</a>

**Durango Based**

Animas Transportation	970-259-1315	<a href="http://animastransportation.com">animastransportation.com</a>
Buck Horn	970-769-0933	<a href="http://buckhornlimousine.com">buckhornlimousine.com</a>
Durango Cab	970-259-4818	<a href="http://durangocabservice.com">durangocabservice.com</a>
Bustang bus service	970-563-4545	weekday or 970-553-0389 <a href="http://ridebustang.com">ridebustang.com</a>
Purgatory Resort	970-426-7282	<a href="http://purgatoryresort.com/dining-and-apres/getting-around-parking">purgatoryresort.com/dining-and-apres/getting-around-parking</a>

**Gateway Based**

John Stewart (shuttles, parking, and help with the unexpected) 970-618-2025

\*If you hire an independent transportation or shuttle service, it is your responsibility to verify that the company maintains current and adequate insurance. **San Juan Hut Systems assumes no liability for these services.**

**Parking Personal Vehicles**

Durango to Moab Route:

Park your vehicles in the parking areas of the lodging providers where you stayed the night before. Purgatory Resort, at the trailhead, will allow guests and non-guests to leave their vehicles *upon request*, though they will not be responsible for vehicles or their contents. Please visit the front desk of main lodge and indicate you are a client of San Juan Huts.

Telluride to Moab Route:

Call the Town of Telluride (970-728-2151) or the San Miguel County Sheriff (970)728-1911 for the latest instructions on where they would like you to park the week you are on your trip. This changes frequently and there are fewer and fewer parking options in Telluride. Do not plan on bringing a trailer or RV to Telluride. Another option is to park your car at the Telluride Airport.

Moab:

The easiest parking is usually at a hotel. Most hotels will let you park there if you are staying before or after your trip, but it is good to check ahead of time. Parking is also available at the airport but is a bit out of town and inconvenient. Gravel Pit Lanes, bowling alley has offered parking availability for our riders, their one request is to call and let Eric know @ 435-259-4748 For additional options contact the Moab Police Department 435-259-8938 or the Moab Visitors Center 435-259-8825.

**Lodging by Location**

Ridgway Area:

Orvis Hot Springs	970.626.5324	<a href="http://www.orvishotsprings.com">www.orvishotsprings.com</a>
Ridgway Lodge and Star Saloon	970-626-5444	<a href="http://www.ridgwaylodgeandsuites.com">www.ridgwaylodgeandsuites.com</a>
Chipeta Solar Springs Resort	970-626-3737	<a href="http://www.chipeta.com">www.chipeta.com</a>

Moab Area:

Moab Springs Ranch	435-259-7891	<a href="http://moabspringsranch.com">moabspringsranch.com</a> *8% off coupon code: <b>SJHS20</b>
Red Stone Inn	435-259-3500	<a href="http://moabredstone.com">moabredstone.com</a>
Lazy Lizard International Hostel	435-259-6057	<a href="http://www.lizardheadhostel.com">www.lizardheadhostel.com</a>
Bighorn Lodge	800-325-6171	<a href="http://www.moabbighorn.com">www.moabbighorn.com</a>
Apache Motel	435-259-5727	<a href="http://moabredstone.com">moabredstone.com</a>

Durango Trailhead area:

Purgatory Resort\* 970-247-9000 or 800-525-0892 [durangomountainresort.com](http://durangomountainresort.com)  
Silverpick Lodge 970-259-6600 [silverpicklodge.com](http://silverpicklodge.com)  
Aladdin's Lamp Hut 970-382-9570 [silvertonskihut.com](http://silvertonskihut.com) \*Let them know you book

Telluride Area:

Book early as things often book up do to festivals. More affordable options exist in nearby towns of Ouray and Ridgway. Airbnb and VRBO are also a good place to check for lodging especially if you have a few days in the area before your trip.

The Victorian Inn 970-728-6601 [victorianintelluride.com/](http://victorianintelluride.com/)  
Bear Creek Lodge 888-729-0398 [bearcreeklodge.com/](http://bearcreeklodge.com/)  
New Sheridan Hotel 970-728-4351 [newsheridan.com/](http://newsheridan.com/)  
The Peaks Resort and Spa 888-696-6734 [thepeaksresort.com/](http://thepeaksresort.com/)

**Area Chambers of Commerce**

Below are numbers for the area Chambers of Commerce that can help you find additional information about the area and services offered.

Telluride	970-728-3041	Durango	970-247-0312
Moab	435-259-7814	Grand Junction	970-242-3214
Montrose	970-765-8367	Ridgway	970-626-5181

**Bike Bags and Racks**

**Revelate Designs**

907-231-7520  
[www.revelatedesigns.com/](http://www.revelatedesigns.com/)

**Bedrock Bags**

970-403-5772  
[www.bedrockbags.com](http://www.bedrockbags.com)

**Old Man Mountain Products \*10% off  
coupon code: SanJuan10**  
[www.oldmanmountain.com](http://www.oldmanmountain.com)

**Bike Shops**

**Velorution Cycles**

A bike packing hub  
Durango, 970- 259-1975  
[velorutioncycles.com](http://velorutioncycles.com)

**Box Canyon Bicycles**

Full service bike shop  
Telluride, 970-728-2946  
[boxcanyonbicycles.com](http://boxcanyonbicycles.com)

**Bootdoctors on Oak St**

Telluride, 970-728-4581  
Bootdoctors.com

**2<sup>nd</sup> Ave Sports**

Durango, 970-247-4511  
[2ndavesports.com](http://2ndavesports.com)

**Cliffside Ski and Sport**

Located near start of Durango Routes  
Durango / Purgatory  
970-385-1461 [www.cliffsideski.com](http://www.cliffsideski.com)

**Bike Fiend**

Bike Packing hub  
Moab, 435-315-0002  
moabbikefiend.com

**Chili Pepper Bikes**

Full service bike shop  
Moab, 435-259-4688  
[chilebikes.com](http://chilebikes.com)

**Bicycle Outfitters**

Grand Junction and Montrose,  
970-245-2699 / 970-615-7122  
[www.gjbikes.com](http://www.gjbikes.com)

**Brown Cycles**

Grand Junction, CO  
970-245-7939

**Poison Spider**

Moab, 800-635-1792  
[shop@poisonspiderbicycles.com](http://shop@poisonspiderbicycles.com)

**Emergency Contact Numbers**

San Miguel County Sheriff (Telluride, CO)	970-728-1911
Montrose County Sheriff (Montrose, CO)	970-252-4023
Mesa County Sheriff (Grand Junction, CO)	970-244-3500
La Plata County Sheriff (Durango, CO)	970-247-1157
Grand County Sheriff (Monticello, UT)	435-259-8115
Telluride Medical Center	970-728-3848
Montrose Memorial Hospital	970-249-2211
Basin Clinic (Naturita, CO)	970-865-2665
Uncompahgre Medical Center (Norwood, CO)	970-327-4233
St. Mary's Flight for Life	800-332-4932
San Juan Hut Systems (Ridgway, CO)	970-626-3033