

Riding in Remote Areas

If you have an accident in a remote area, it may take medical help hours to arrive. Travel with a group so that someone can be sent to obtain help and another rider can administer first aid. On a hot day, you will want to have more water than your frame mounted bottles hold. Carry a large refill bottle on your rack. If your bike breaks down, it can be a long push back to town. Carry appropriate tools and know how to repair your bike.

Essential Equipment Checklist

- helmet
- two water bottles plus a large reserve bottle
- high energy food
- sunscreen and sunglasses
- route map
- tire pump, tire irons, and patch kit
- bike repair tools
- first-aid kit
- riding gloves and sturdy shoes
- riding shorts
- rain gear

For cool season or high elevation rides add:

- riding tights or long underwear
- fleece and gloves
- ear band

Detailed Trail Maps

Detailed maps of all the trails described in this brochure are available at most of the bike shops in Moab. Additional information is also available at the Moab Information Center, on the corner of Main and Center Streets, in Moab.

Trail descriptions and maps are also available on discovermoab.com, or by scanning the QR code on the right with your mobile device.



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Minimum Impact Practices

Each year, individuals take hundreds of thousands of mountain bike rides in the Moab area. You can help protect this fragile land by adhering to the following minimum impact biking practices.

Ride only on designated roads and trails.

Riding cross-country, taking shortcuts, and riding around campsites damages plants and soils. Don't be a trail pioneer by leaving a poorly chosen path for others to follow. Help land managers keep areas open to biking by staying on established routes.

Learn to recognize and preserve cryptobiotic soil crusts.

This delicate, often black, crusty-looking, complex of soil and slowly growing algae, mosses, bacteria, and lichens retains water, reduces erosion, and provides a stable base from which higher plants can flourish. It takes many years for cryptobiotic soil crust to recover from the ruts created by one bike. If you don't know what it looks like, ask someone to point it out. If you stay on the trail, this is not an issue.

Avoid skidding your tires.

Locking your wheels needlessly damages trails and leaves ugly tire marks on slickrock. Stay in control by "feathering your brakes".

Avoid clay-like surfaces and stay on rocky, slickrock, and sandy areas when it's wet.

Soils with high clay content turn into slippery, chain-clogging mud when wet. Riding through these areas under wet conditions also leaves deep ruts that accelerate trail erosion.

Avoid riding through and camping in riparian areas.

Riparian areas, the communities of water-loving plants along streams, are precious to wildlife. Wildlife concentrates in these areas and can be displaced by recreational use.

Protect water sources.

Washing mud off bikes and bathing can introduce lubrication, soaps, and oils from sunscreen into water sources critical for the survival of small animals.



Moab Area Mountain Biking & Road Cycling

An Overview of Available Trails



Moab Information Center
Main & Center Streets
Moab, UT 84532
435-259-8825

General Information

The Grand County Trail Mix Crew builds and maintains the non-motorized trails in the Moab area. All of the mountain bike trails are signed at each intersection with color coded maps indicating trail difficulty. Individual Trail Area maps may be purchased at the local bike shops. Be aware that the trail difficulty for a given rating may be higher in Moab than in places where the topography is more flat and less rocky. The Moab Trails Alliance works with Trail Mix in fund raising efforts and promotes responsible ridership to protect and enjoy our public lands.

Klondike Bluff

Within the 57 miles of mountain bike trails, riding opportunities run the gamut from fun beginner (Jurassic), to flowy intermediate (Dino-Flow), to upper intermediate, and there is even some expert level challenge (EKG, Alaska, Nome). Ride to the top of the Morrison uplift for amazing views of Salt Valley, Arches NP, and Klondike Bluff. Dinosaur track sets are visible along the Klondike Bluff trail and via the Dinosaur Stomping Ground Hiking Trail. There is a good mix of dirt singletrack and slickrock. Trailheads are at the north and south end of the system. Travel to the trailheads normally can be accomplished with a passenger car, but when wet, the clay roads are difficult/impassable.

Klonzo

This mountain bike trail system includes 24 miles of trails. The riding is mostly smooth dirt single track that is intermediate, but also offers some slickrock. Notable at this system is the Carousel Loop area designed specifically for active kids. The climbing at Klonzo is quite moderate. For more advanced riders the north end of the system offers great fun and challenge on Wahoo and Gravitron. This area has enough variety to be fun for the whole family. There are several trailheads located along the Willow Springs Road. Driving to the area involves crossing a large sandy wash where high clearance vehicles may be needed, with 4 wheel drive being the best.

Moab Brands

This area provides 32 miles of mountain bike riding only 7 miles from Moab. Challenge levels vary from very easy beginner single track (Rusty Spur) up to expert (Deadman's Ridge, Long Branch, and Killer Bee) with everything in between. Most of the trails are dirt singletrack and two-track with intermittent rock, but the east side of the system has 5 miles of intermediate slickrock (Circle O and Rockin' A). Access is easy with a passenger car and there is ample parking at the trail head. On rainy days the red dirt trails do become quite muddy.

Magnificent 7

Mountain biking the visually magnificent Gemini Bridges area involves fun intermediate (Getaway) or upper intermediate singletrack (Bull Run) with a little bit of expert thrown in. Create your own "figure 8" ride by combining Great Escape, Arth's Corner and Little Canyon Cutoff. For the very fit and expert riders only, make it a day by climbing to the top of Gold Bar Rim which connects to trails that lead to the Poison Spider Mesa or the Portal (allow 8 hours for this in total). The riding surface in the Mag 7 system is primarily rock with some dirt. One trailhead is just off of Hwy 313 and others along the dirt Gemini Bridges Road. Riders may encounter construction or industry vehicles on the road portions.

Dead Horse Point State Park

The Intrepid mountain bike system, named for the Intrepid Mining Company that provided the funding to build the trails, is very popular. Intermediates enjoy Big Chief & Whiptail while beginners are comfy on Raven Roll. These 14 miles of trails are primarily on dirt but also incorporate some slickrock. The terrain is fairly flat and involves very moderate climbing. The views are spectacular and the visitor center boasts modern bathrooms. Access is by paved roads and the somewhat sandy soils can be ridden even during light rains.

Slickrock

People come from all over the world for the challenge of this famous Navajo Sandstone trail. The trail is expert both in technical difficulty and in the fitness required, making it one of the most physically demanding trails in Moab. The riding involves going steeply up solid rock and steeply down for the entire 10 miles. However, for those who are up to the challenge, it is an amazing adventure with incredible fun! The views all along the route are outstanding. Access is by paved road and the trail can be ridden in the rain (the normally incredible traction will be reduced a bit).

The Whole Enchilada (WE)

This is an epic mountain bike ride and the 29 miles provide some of the most technically difficult riding in Moab. Allow a full day for this trail. The WE is actually six trails - Burro Pass, Hazard County, Kokopelli, UPS, LPS and Porcupine Rim. There is a seriously steep 800' climb up to Burro Pass at 11,200'. From there you ride mainly downhill (there are still some substantial climbs), losing 7000' in elevation. The riding involves cliff edges, climbs up boulders, thousands of ledge drops, and then there is some really hard stuff. Most people catch one of the many shuttles available in Moab which takes them to Geyser Pass.

Amasa Back

These are some of the most difficult mountain bike trails in Moab. There are no easy trails. Those who are highly skilled will love the myriad challenges and killer views. Climbing Hymasa opens up all the black and double black diamond routes. The very popular Captain Ahab is a thrilling one-way ride for experts. Pothole Arch Trail requires high level intermediate skills and a good deal of fitness. Rock Stacker is extremely technical, and Jackson involves cliffs and exposure – the penalty for failure is high on both trails. The trailhead is accessed via Kane Creek road which starts as pavement, then turns to gravel.

Bartlett Wash

This mountain bike playground has the smoothest slickrock in Moab. The trails are short (4 miles), but remember the object here is play. The Bartlett Wash main trail is predominantly intermediate. For those who are seeking challenge, there are plenty of optional steep ups and downs, as well as tons of small ledges. The Super Bowl, Toilet Bowl and Mushroom Rock are especially challenging. This is a free rider's paradise, but the less skilled should use caution. The Jedi trail is similar to Bartlett but the main trail is a lot more challenging. Access is via the Blue Hills Road which can become impassable when it rains.

Monitor and Merrimac

The Monitor and Merrimac trail is one of the easiest slickrock trails in Moab with very nice views of the buttes. It is listed as beginner, but the

climbing involved is quite substantial. Additionally, there is deep sand at the entry and exit. Riding can also be done on the jeep/atv trails (upper intermediate) to get to Uranium Arch. Listen for ATV's and move to the side of the road to let them pass. The dirt roads are difficult in the rain (clay), and sandy washes require high clearance and/or 4X4.

Navajo Rocks

This 16 mile system of intermediate to upper intermediate trails is named for the Navajo sandstone mounds along the trails. Climbing and descending those mounds on the Rocky Top trail offers great challenge and amusement. On the west end of Ramblin', there is a smooth, rolling slickrock section that is a hoot. Additionally, you can access the 7 Up trail, providing a connection to the Mag 7 system. The trailheads are along Highway 313, and the dirt trails themselves have enough sand content to allow for decent riding in wet conditions.

Gold Bar/Poison Spider

This trail area provides epic rides for highly skilled and exceptionally fit people, and can take an entire day to complete, requiring lots of food and water. People have died here and intermediate riders should reconsider. Route finding can be difficult, so bikers should obtain maps and trail information/suggestions at the local bike shops. Access from the north is from the Mag 7 or Moab Brands trailheads, and from the south is from the Poison Spider trailhead. At times motorized traffic will be very heavy on the jeep trails.

Pipe Dream

This challenging 4.7 mile ride is handy for locals and visitors looking for a ride they can do from town. Some folks do a shuttle and ride from the south end, while others start at the north end and do an out and back (9.4 miles). If you start from the south end, you drop about 500' in elevation to the north end, but there is plenty of tough climbing in between. The dirt trail winds through boulders, over smaller rocks and along very steep hillsides. There's no day dreaming - if you like constant focus on tight, techy trails, you'll love this one.

La Sal Mountains

There are trails in the mountains that range from beginner (Warner Family Loop 1 mile), to intermediate (Jimmy Keen 7 miles, Burl Friends 3.5 miles), to expert (Moonlight Meadows 11 mile loop, and portions of the Whole Enchilada). Some of the trails open in late spring/early summer due to snow and close in the fall. Temperatures here are about 20 degrees cooler than in Moab.

ROAD BIKING

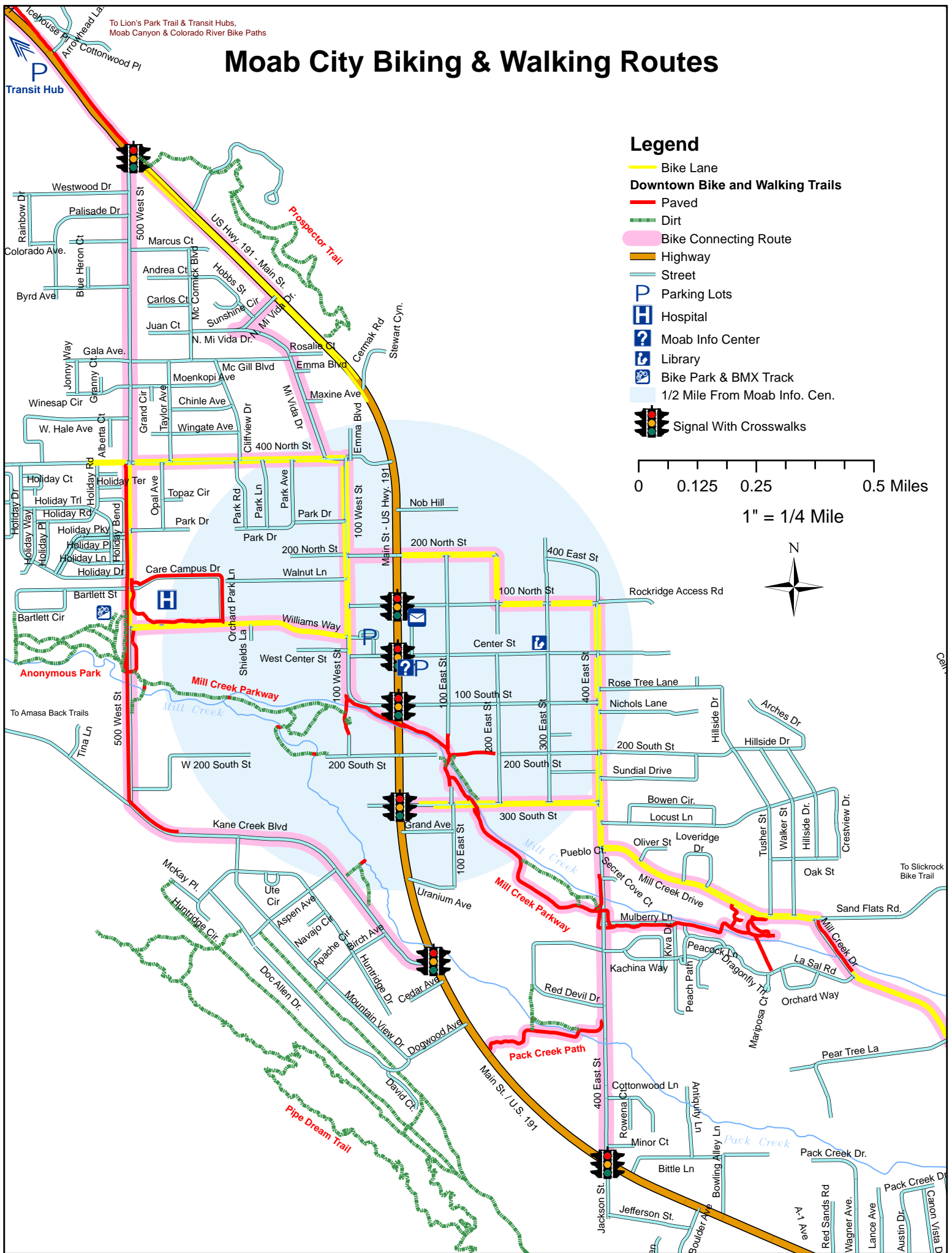
Moab Canyon - Beautiful 8 mile pump up the canyon past Arches National Park.

Hwy 128 - 3 miles of bike path along the scenic and historic Colorado River.

Hwy 279 - Access to Dead Horse Point and Canyonlands NP. Watch for large truck traffic.

Hwy 313 - 36 mile out and back of spectacular rock formations.

Moab City Biking & Walking Routes



Moab Area Mountain Biking and Road Cycling

