

Moab Area Horseback Trails



Moab Area Travel Council
Internet Brochure Series
Available from:
discovermoab.com

INTRODUCTION

This brochure is designed to give you general information on equestrian trails. It also gives approximate time needed for each trail. The estimated times do not allow for side trips and stops. Always carry a map of the area and take plenty of water for your pack and saddle stock.

SAFETY TIPS

- Always carry a map of the area.
- Stay on established trails and routes and other areas open for equestrian use. Be aware of prohibited areas.
- Know which roads are open to vehicle & stock use.
- Be prepared to provide water for your stock.
- Cutting switchbacks and taking shortcuts can destroy vegetation and cause others to use unauthorized routes.
- Respect and be courteous of others who want to enjoy the lands you are enjoying.
- Be considerate and honor other's desire for solitude and a peaceful outdoor experience.
- When riding, be especially cautious around hikers and bikers.
- Whenever possible, use existing campsites designated for saddle stock. Camp on durable surfaces and place tents on a non-vegetated area. Do not dig trenches around tents.
- Camp at least 200 feet from water and trails.
- Hold saddle stock 200 feet from lakes, streams, huts and camping areas.

- Avoid damage to vegetation when tethering your saddle stock. Do not tie saddle stock to trees, small limbs saplings or shrubs. Use highline for tethering.
- Use corrals, paddocks or hitching rails where provided.
- Report lost pack and saddle stock immediately.
- For cooking, use a camp stove. They are always preferable to campfire in terms of impact on the land.
- Observe all fire restrictions. For campfires, use only fallen timber. Gather firewood well away from your camp. Do not cut down trees.
- Let fire burn down to a fine ash. Ensure the fire is completely extinguished. Leave your surroundings as you found them.
- Do all you can to help protect the forest, lands and waters that mean so much to you.
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- Inquire with local land management personnel for information on such considerations as access, weather conditions, snowpack, available feed, high-use areas and wildlife considerations.
- Know the techniques required in the backcountry before heading out.

1. KEN'S LAKE TRAIL

Allow 2 hours

Terrain: Sand and Sandstone
Land: BLM

Directions to the Trail: Go South from Moab on Hwy 191 turn left at mile post 118 onto Old Airport Road. Turn right onto Spanish Valley Drive .5 miles. Turn left to Ken's Lake, continue past the campground entrance .2 miles to the horse trailhead to park.

Trail: From the parking area ride towards the lake and cross the creek. Follow the road between the lake and the red cliffs to the east. The sandy parts of the road are a good place for a loop. As you pass the lake there is a road turning left to loop around the lake, or you can continue north and explore the ridges below the cliffs.

2. PACK CREEK TRAIL

Allow 4.5 hours

Terrain: Dirt and gravel with loose rock
Land: Forest Service

Directions to the trail: Go South from Moab on Hwy 191, turn left at mile post 118 onto Old Airport Road. Turn right onto Spanish Valley Drive .5 miles. Go past the Ken's Lake turn off and continue on the LaSal Mountain Loop Road. Turn right towards Pack Creek Picnic Area onto Pack Creek Road. Park just past the Pack Creek Picnic Area. The trailhead is back before the cattleguard you just crossed, west of the picnic entrance. (There is a gate to bypass the cattleguard).

Trail: Just before the cattleguard at the picnic area entrance, ride up USFS 719, a gravel road going to the south just before the USFS Pack Creek Campground. Stay on the gravel road as it climbs through an easement of private property. Go past a minor road to the left, and an old cattle loading ramp on the right. Continue gaining elevation until you reach a fork in the road. Take the left fork for another mile. The road ends and the trail begins with a creek crossing. Continue riding up the trail, which will eventually climb to 10,000 feet at La Sal Pass. This part of the trail is best for experienced riders and stock. There are incredible views of the mountains along this trail.

3. SEVEN MILE CANYON TRAIL

Allow 4.5 hours

Terrain: Sandy Wash
Land: BLM

Directions to the Trail: Go North from Moab on Hwy 191, nine miles out of Moab. Turn west onto Hwy 313, and park at the fourth possible left turn. You will park on a flat area next to the road, and there is plenty of room to turn around. (If you start to climb a hill on Hwy 313 you have gone too far). Ride down the dirt road and follow the canyon to the south.

Trail: Follow the jeep route up the wash. Stay in the main canyon. Side canyons are impassable, and impossible to ride. At the end of the canyon is a grotto, which is usually has a pond. The water is not for human consumption.

4. ONION CREEK TRAIL

Allow 4 hours

Terrain: Dirt and gravel road

Land: BLM

Directions to the trail: Go North from Moab on Hwy 191 and turn right onto Hwy 128. Turn right on a road marked Taylor Ranch at mile marker 20. After you turn you'll see a small sign for Onion Creek.

Trail: Park at the parking area before the first creek crossing within the first mile. You can continue on over the bridge and meet up with the Stinking Spring.

OTHER SUGGESTED TRAILS

The following areas are also suitable for horseback riding. Detailed maps of these areas can be purchased at the Moab Information Center or at many of the shops in Moab:

- Millcreek
- Rim Trail
- Archview Ride
- Mill & Tusher Canyon Trail

ARCHES NATIONAL PARK

1. Pack and saddle stock use includes horses, burros or mules. All other domestic animals are prohibited.
2. Pack and saddle stock use is permitted upon all designated four wheel drive roads within the park which include: the Willow Springs Road, the road from Willow Springs Road to the Salt Valley Road, and Cache Valley Road. Use is also permitted on the following two wheel drive dirt/gravel roads: the Salt Valley Road from the main park road to the west boundary and the Klondike Bluffs Road. All other roads in the park are closed to pack and saddle stock use.
3. Roadless areas open to pack and saddle stock use are Salt Wash, upstream from Wolfe Ranch, Courthouse Wash, and Sevenmile Canyon. Travel in these roadless areas is confined to wash bottoms. Leaving wash bottoms to avoid

quicksand when it is present is an exception to this regulation.

4. Pack and saddle stock users are required to obtain a free backcountry permit for overnight trips. Permits can be obtained at the visitors center.
5. A maximum of 10 people and 10 animals is allowed for overnight and day trips.
6. The loose herding of pack and saddle stock on park land is prohibited.
7. Riders will slow their pack and saddle stock to a walk when passing hikers.
8. Pack and saddle stock may not be ridden or kept overnight in any established roadside campground.
9. Backcountry camping by pack and saddle stock parties is permitted in all areas authorized for pack and saddle stock use with the following restrictions:
 - Campsites must be one mile from out of sight of front country facilities and all park roads and one-half mile from designated trails.
 - Campsites must be a minimum of 300 feet from any archaeological site.
 - Campsites and tethering must be a minimum of 300 feet from any non-flowing water source and 100 feet from any flowing water source.
 - Where possible, pack and saddle stock will be watered downstream from the source. To avoid contamination manure must be removed immediately if dropped in or near any spring or non-flowing water source to avoid contamination.
 - Pack and saddle stock must be picketed in locations which least damage the vegetation. They shall not be tied to trees with the exception of tamarisk (salt cedar).
 - Parties are required to pack out all trash and scatter manure upon vacating a campsite.
 - Front country staging areas shall be cleaned up to include both manure and feed (hay and straw).
10. Accidents resulting in personal injury which occur in the parks must be

reported to a park ranger as soon as possible.

11. Any commercially guided horse or pack stock trip must be provided by an outfitter authorized to operate under the commercial use procedures for Arches National Park.
12. Grazing is not allowed in the park and horse and pack stock users are required to carry feed for overnight trips. In the backcountry, the use of loose hay or grain containing viable seeds is prohibited. Stock users are required to carry supplemental feed such as pellets of rolled grains on all trips.

For additional information, contact:

Arches National Park
435-719-2299

CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARK

1. Pack and saddle stock may be taken on all backcountry roads and in Horseshoe Canyon. Cross country travel is prohibited. Pack and saddle stock include horses, burros, or mules. All other domestic animals are prohibited in the backcountry. Lack of water is a limiting factor for pack and saddle trips in Canyonlands, as only a few areas have reliable sources. Contact the park for recommended destinations.
2. Stock must be fed pelletized feed for 48 hours in advance of and for the duration of the trip in order to prevent the spread of exotic plant species. Animals may not be left unattended and must be stalked at least 300 feet from water sources and away from vegetation where possible. Park vegetation may not be consumed. Animals may not be unstaked and hobbled.
3. Permits are required for all overnight trips and for day trips in Horseshoe Canyon and Horse Canyon/Peekaboo and Lavender Canyon in the Needles. Permits are available at district visitors centers and may be reserved in advance.
4. There is a fee for Day use permits in Horseshoe Canyon/Peekaboo and Lavender Canyon in the Needles, with a maximum of 7 animals per

day. Elsewhere, day trip groups may not exceed 10 animals and 10 people. Permits for Horseshoe Canyon are free.

- 5. Overnight trips must stay at designated vehicle camps. All manure and feed must be packed out from the campsites. The group size limit is 7 people and 10 horses for the Needles and Island in the Sky, and 5 people and 8 horses for the Maze and Orange Cliffs. Overnight use is not allowed in Horseshoe Canyon.

For additional information contact Canyonlands National Park:

- Park Headquarters: 435-719-2313
- Reservations: 435-259-4351
- Island in the Sky Dist: 435-259-4712
- Needles Dist: 435-259-4711
- Maze/Horseshoe Canyon: 435-259-2652

RIDING ON BLM LANDS

Equestrians are required to feed weed-free hay to pack and saddle stock while using BLM land. Although horses are not restricted to designated roads and trails, resource damage is lessened when all riders stay on the same route.

Pack and saddle stock are allowed at any BLM campground (BLM requests that you pick up the waste as a courtesy to other users).

However, certain campgrounds are more suitable for pack and saddle stock trailers. These are: Goose Island, Ken's Lake, and Hittle Bottom Campgrounds.

RIDING ON FOREST SERVICE LANDS

- Know your stock.
- Take supplemental and weed-seed-free feed.
- Use nosebags and mangers when feeding your horse stock hay, pellets or grain.
- Stay on the trails and avoid shortcuts.
- Be courteous and yield to others when you can.

- Travel in small groups.
- Use highlines and tree saver straps. Do not tie directly to tree.
- Keep stock at least 200 feet from shorelines and streams.
- Break up and scatter horse manure and fill in pawed holes.
- All trails open to horse use.
- Do not camp at trailheads.
- Camping with pack and saddle stock is not permitted in developed campgrounds.

For additional information contact:

Manti La Sal National Forest
435-259-7155

Trail Manners		
Bicyclists	Equestrians	Hikers
Yield to horses & hikers. Move off trail on downhill side and stop.	Yield to others moving faster than horses. Move off trail When stopping.	Yield to horses. Move off trail on downhill side and stop.
Talk to horseback riders & hikers.	Talk to bikers, hikers & horseback riders.	Talk to horseback riders.
Stay a safe distance from horses (10-15 ft).	Keep horses a safe distance from others.	Stay a safe distance from horses (10-15 ft).
Avoid sudden moves and loud noises near horses. Pass at slow speed.	Never frighten others with horses.	Avoid sudden moves & loud noises near horses.
	Clean up manure, from loading areas.	

OVERNIGHT BOARDING

OK RV Park
3310 Spanish Valley Drive
Moab, UT 84532
435-259-1400

Old Spanish Trail Arena
3300 Spanish Valley Drive
Moab, UT 84532
435-259-6226

VETERINARIANS

Moab Veterinary Clinic
4575 Spanish Valley Drive
Moab, UT 84532
435-259-8710
Spanish Valley Veterinary Clinic
1428 Spanish Valley Drive

Moab, UT 84532
435-259-5216

CANYON COUNTRY MINIMUM IMPACT PRACTICES

1. **Tread lightly when traveling and leave no trace of your camping.** Drive and ride only on roads and trails where such travel is allowed; hike only on established trails, on rock, or in washes. Camp at designated sites or, where allowed, at previously-used sites. Avoid placing tents on top of vegetation and use a camp stove instead of making a campfire. Unless signs indicate otherwise, leave gates open or closed as you find them.
2. **Help Keep Canyon Country Clean.** Pack out your trash and recycle it, clean up after less thoughtful visitors, and dispose of human waste properly.
3. **Protect and conserve scarce desert water sources.** Camp at least 300 feet from isolated water sources to allow for wildlife access. Where possible, carry your own drinking water. Leave potholes undisturbed and wash well away from pools and springs.
4. **Allow space for wildlife.** When encountering wildlife, maintain your distance and remain quiet. Teach children not to chase or pick up animals. Keep pets under control.
5. **Leave historic sites, Native American rock art, ruins and artifacts untouched for the future.** Admire rock art from a distance and never touch it. Stay out of ruins, leave artifacts in place, and report violations.

Moab Information Center
Main & Center St, Moab

Moab Visitor Information
(800) 635-6622
(435) 259-8825

discovermoab.com

