

## PRECAUTIONS

Unmarked roads branch off the Gemini Bridges route. Following these roads can get you lost, so pay attention to the trail markers and map. Should you become lost, retrace your route to the main trail. If this is impossible, make yourself visible and await help. Portions of the trail are quite steep and can be eroded.

The Gemini Bridges Trail is somewhat demanding (if ridden as an up-and-back). It is easier as a one way ride, but still has plenty of ledges and exhilarating downhill.

### ✓ Always wear a helmet

Most trails are very rocky. Even the best riders can get tired and make mistakes. Helmets can prevent or reduce the severity of head injuries. Medical professionals say that the average cost of treating a major head injury is over a half-million dollars.

### ✓ Carry lots of drinking water and take high energy food

During the warmer months, after a short time, most riders start craving water. Take two large bike bottles and a reserve supply in a water bladder or other container. Eating at intervals provides an opportunity to rest and the energy needed to complete the ride.

### ✓ Check your bike frequently

Riding on Moab trails loosens headsets and puts maximum stress upon frames and components. Frequent inspections reduce the possibility of injury.

### ✓ Carry and use trail maps

Great trail maps and guidebooks are available at bike shops, the Moab Information Center, bookstores and other locations in town. Check the alignment of the route and key junctions. Moab is surrounded by a maze of deep canyons and towering cliffs. Never try to cut cross-country to shorten a ride.

### ✓ Be prepared in case of an emergency

Don't venture into remote areas with nothing but a T-shirt and shorts. Carry a windbreaker, sunscreen, sunglasses, map, matches or lighter, pump, patch kit, first-aid kit, a good bike tool kit, extra food, water and clothing. Ride with someone else and stay together in case of problems. Discuss your situation calmly and make a plan to improve it

### ✓ Stay found, save money

Grand County has the highest incidence of search and rescues in Utah. The high cost of these operations is normally the responsibility of the rescued party. If you decide that you have lost the trail, do not continue on in hopes of finding your way. Retrace your route back towards the trailhead until you pick up the trail, find someone who knows the area, or return to the trailhead. If you cannot retrace your route, stay put, conserve energy and water, make yourself visible, and await rescue.

### ✓ Respect the desert

Tread lightly when traveling (don't leave bike tracks off trails) and leave no trace of your camping. Help keep Canyon Country clean by taking your trash home and picking up after the less aware. Protect and conserve scarce water sources for wildlife by not washing your bike or yourself in them. Allow space for wildlife by maintaining your distance, and leave historic sites, rock art, ruins and artifacts untouched for the future.

### ✓ Have fun and learn about the area

Great trails are not the only reason Moab has become an international destination. Take time to enjoy the scenery, study ancient Native American rock art, or marvel at the harmony of a cryptobiotic soil garden.

## SPECIAL NOTE

Cyclists riding from the lower Gemini Bridges trailhead into Moab are strongly urged to follow the more scenic old highway to the bottom of Moab Canyon. See the kiosk at the parking lot for details.

## DISCLAIMER

Trail conditions can change rapidly. Signs vanish. Trails deteriorate from weather or use. You are the one responsible for your own safety.

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For information about the Moab Bike Patrol, contact the Bureau of Land Management, 82 East Dogwood, Moab, Utah 84532; (435) 259-6111.



# Gemini Bridges Trail



Purchase of this guide supports Moab Bike Patrol trail management and safety programs.



13.7 mi (22 km) from Highway 313 or  
16.6 mi (26.8 km) from Highway 191  
Time: 4 to 6 hours (down or up-and-back)  
Rated 1 (downhill) or 2 (up-and-back):  
Physically and technically moderate

## GEMINI BRIDGES TRAIL

The trail follows dirt roads and jeep trails. It features twin natural spans, as well as outstanding views of the area. The trail can be ridden downhill from Highway 313 (with a vehicle shuttle), or as an up-and-back from Highway 191. As a one-way ride, the trail is relatively easy for the Moab area (rated 1 out of 4), with a 1,400 foot descent and one 300 foot climb. As an up-and-back, the trail rates a 2 due to the 700 foot ascent to the Bridges, in addition to the 300 foot hill climb on the return.

## LOCATION, SEASON AND FACILITIES

The lower parking area is 11 miles north of Moab, on the west side of U.S. Highway 191 (1.3 miles before the Utah Highway 313 turnoff). If you plan to ride one way, drop one vehicle at this parking lot, and drive to the upper trailhead. To reach the upper starting point, turn left (west) on Utah Highway 313. Proceed 12.8 miles on Highway 313 to a dirt road going to the left (east). The road is between mile markers 10 and 9. This is where the one way downhill ride begins. Park along the dirt road near its intersection with Highway 313. If ridden as an up-and-back to the Bridges, the lower parking lot is both the trailhead and terminus.

The season for this trail is from March through late October. However, due to the excessive heat of summer, it is most popular during spring and fall.

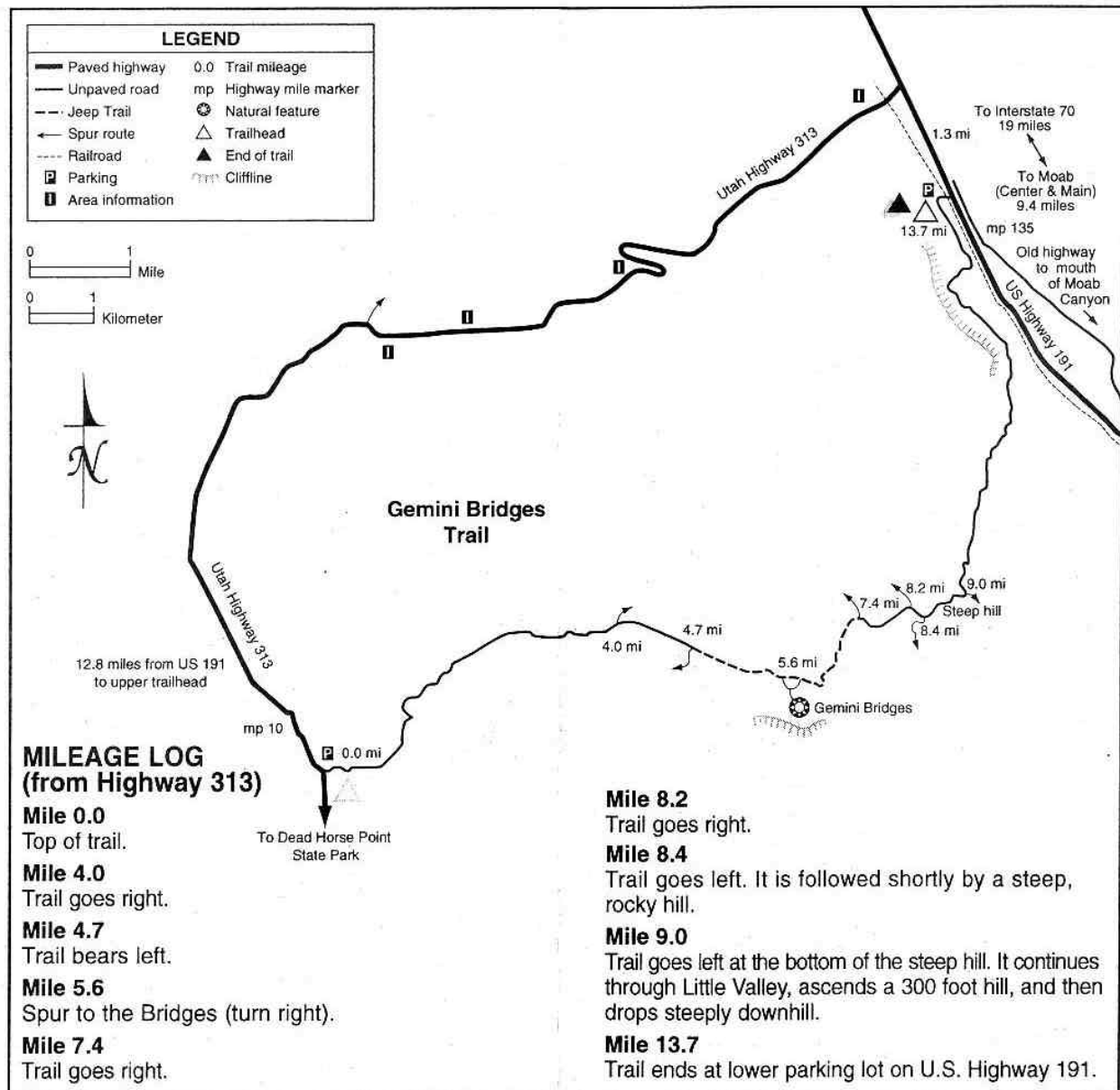
Facilities at U.S. Highway 191 include an information board and trail register. (The parking lot is on private land; the owners have allowed public access. Please help keep this access by keeping the area clean.) The trailhead off Highway 313 has no facilities.

## TRAIL BASICS

Ridden one way from Highway 313, the Gemini Bridges Trail is 13.7 miles to its terminus at Highway 191. If ridden uphill from the lower parking lot, it is 16.6 miles from Highway 191 to the Bridges and back. Shuttle services in Moab offer transportation to the top of the trail.

The trail is marked with brown signs, brown flexible posts with arrows, and painted stripes on the rock. The trail is mostly dirt road with sections of jeep trail near the Bridges. The route is used by motor vehicles. Some portions of the road are rocky and ledgy; others are relatively smooth.

The Bridges are at the end of a short spur off the main route. Please stay on the marked route. This spur is 5.6 miles down from Highway 313, or 8.1 miles up from Highway 191. It goes to the south for about 0.2 miles, and ends at an abrupt drop at the Bridges. Please exercise caution at this unfenced overlook.



## LOW IMPACT RIDING

To help maintain the Gemini Bridges area, please:

### ✓ Stay on the trail

The gardens of pinyon trees, cactus and cryptobiotic soils are easily damaged by bike tracks. The dark, often crusty-looking, cryptobiotic soils are the building blocks of the desert and take years to recover once disturbed.

### ✓ Apply brakes gradually to avoid skidding

Skidding your tires leaves ugly black marks on rock and can promote trail erosion. Feather your brakes for more control.

### ✓ Don't "trash" the area

Always pack out what you pack in (or more) to preserve the beauty of this area.