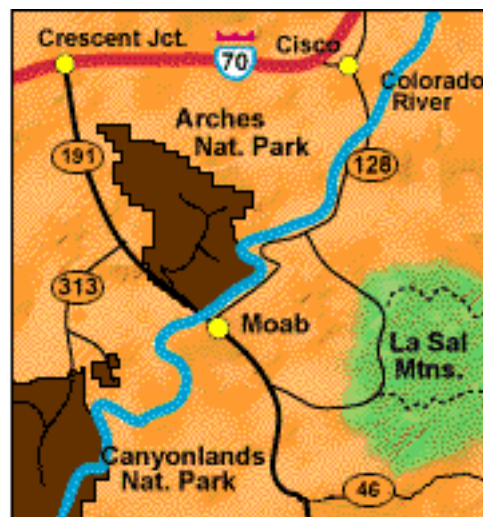




La Sal Mountains

The **LA SAL MOUNTAINS**, Utah's second highest mountain range, rise impressively above the red rock canyon country of southeastern Utah. The range contains 6 peaks that rise above 12,000 feet, the tallest being Mount Peale at 12,721 feet. Covered with thick aspen and fir forests and dotted with mountain lakes, the La Sals are a cool oasis within the often difficult environment of the surrounding desert.

Numerous trails in the La Sals provide good hiking, biking and horseback riding opportunities from late spring to mid-autumn. In winter, the same trails are put to use by cross-country skiers and snowmobilers. The beauty of the La Sals can also be enjoyed by simply driving the La Sal Mountain Scenic Route. Viewpoints and picnic areas along the way overlook Arches and Canyonlands National Parks and other impressive features of the red rock country below.



The La Sal Mountains are located on the eastern border of Utah, about 15 miles east of Moab. They occupy a relatively small area, running just 15 miles north to south and 6 miles across. They are most easily accessed from the west on the La Sal Mountain Loop Road that begins south of Moab.

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Recreational Activities

Provided below is information on:

- Hiking
- Mountain Biking
- Horseback Riding
- Cross Country Skiing
- La Sal Mountain Loop

See La Sals SuperMap to view a full page map of the range.



HIKING

There is a network of 18 trails totaling some 65 miles in the La Sal Mountains. Most are well marked and many pass through pretty forests and near mountain lakes. For more information, select [La Sal - Publications](#) for a list of books and maps.



MOUNTAIN BIKING

The forest service roads through the range and a few of the hiking trails make good mountain biking routes. Two of your better options are described below. See Moab-Mountain Biking for information on bike rentals.

	<u>Skill/Endurance</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Elev. Gain</u>	<u>Time</u>
Three Lakes Trail	Advanced/ Strenuous	14 mile loop	3,700 feet	1/2 day

Three Lakes Trail is a figure-8 loop of mostly primitive and often elusive single track through forests of aspen and fir. Along the route are 3 pretty alpine lakes and nice views of the surrounding desert red rock canyon country. You will encounter one calf deep river crossing, higher in early summer. The route is rideable June to October, though it's often wet in early summer.

Burro Pass

Advanced/
Strenuous

8 mile loop

3,600 feet

1/2 day

Burro Pass Trail follows both a 4wd forest route and single track trail (half and half) through pretty mountain scenery. The route passes two nice mountain lakes and like the Three Lakes Trail provides nice views over the surrounding canyon country.



HORSEBACK RIDING

Most of the 65 miles of trails in the La Sals are rideable on horseback. The following operator(s) offers trips lasting from a few hours to several days:

Pack Creek Ranch	La Sal Mtn. Loop; Box 1270	435-259-5505
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CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

The La Sals are covered in snow from November to April. The roads through the range are unplowed and offer opportunities for ungroomed cross-country skiing. The following outfitters rent skis and lead guided tours as indicated.

Dreamrides	600 N. Main St.; Box 1137	435-259-6419	tours
Pack Creek Ranch	La Sal Mtn. Loop; Box 1270	435-259-5505	rentals
Rim Cyclery	94 W. 100 North	435-259-5333	rentals
Tag Along Expeditions	452 N. Main St.	800-453-3292	tours



LA SAL MOUNTAIN LOOP

The La Sal Mountain Loop Road climbs up and along the western side of the La Sals. Along the way are picnic areas and overlooks of Arches and Canyonlands national parks and other beautiful scenery of the red rock canyon country below. Unpaved forest service roads branch off to a few alpine lakes and old mining areas. The length of the full loop from Moab is 60 miles, about 25 miles of which are in the mountains. See the La Sal SuperMap to locate the route.

Camping/Lodging/Dining



There are two primitive Forest Service campgrounds in the La Sal Mountains.

- Warner Lake Campground is set in a heavily timbered area a short distance from pretty Warner Lake. 20 sites; drinking water; vault toilets; elev. 9,200'; open Jun-Oct; first-come, first serve; \$7 overnight/\$5 day use.
- Oowah Lake Campground is a primitive campground set very nicely near Oowah Lake, an attractive small lake surrounded by heavy forest. 6 sites; NO drinking water; vault toilets; elev. 8,800'; open Jun-Oct; first-come, first serve; no fee.

See Moab-Camping for information on private campgrounds nearby.



There are a few lodging options in the La Sal Mountains. Only Pack Creek Lodge regularly serves meals.

Hummingbird Haven B&B	Hwy. 46; Box 215	435-686-2325	2 rooms	\$\$
La Sal Huts	La Sal Mountains	800-453-3292	3 cabins	\$
La Sal Mountain Guest Ranch	Hwy 46; Box 247	800-982-1540	11 units	\$\$-\$\$\$
Morris' Last Resort	La Sal Mtn. Loop Rd.	435-259-5000	1 cabin	\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$
Mt. Peale Country Inn B&B	Box 366	888-687-3253	3 rooms	\$\$-\$\$\$
Raven's Rest Canyon Estate	La Sal Mtn. Loop Rd.	415-861-8726		
Rockland Ranch Inn	La Sal Jct.	425-459-4150		
Pack Creek Ranch	La Sal Mtn. Loop Rd.	435-259-5505	11 rooms	

For lodging and dining options nearby, see Moab-Lodging or Moab-Dining.

Practicalities



GETTING THERE

The La Sal Mountains are located on the eastern border of Utah, about 15 miles east of Moab. They are most easily accessed from the west on the La Sal Mountain Loop Road that begins south of Moab. The maps below will help you plan your route and get oriented.

- Utah
- Southeast Utah
- La Sal SuperMap



WHEN TO GO/CLIMATE

The La Sals are normally snowed in from November to April. Trails and roads are usually dry by June. Summer temperatures are pleasant during the day but frequently near freezing at night. Early summer brings wildflowers and autumn fantastic colors.



USEFUL ADDRESSES & PHONE #'S

Manti-La Sal NF - Moab Ranger Dist.	2282 S. West Resource Blvd. - Moab	435-259-7155
Moab Information Center	Center and Main - Moab	800-635-6622



MISCELLANY

See Moab-Practicalities for information on recreation supply stores, religious services, etc.



Presented below are publications that contain coverage of the La Sal Mountains. Publications are listed alphabetically under the following categories.

- Hiking
- Mountain Biking
- 4wd Adventuring
- Camping

Hiking

- **Hiking Utah's Summits -- Paula Huff & Tom Wharton**

Information on hiking and scrambling up 26 peaks in Utah -- one for each county. (220 pages; Falcon Publishing; 1997; \$10.50)

[Order now from:](#)
BOOKS, MUSIC & MORE
amazon.com

Mountain Biking

- **Bicycle Utah Pamphlets**



A series of free pamphlets for each of Utah's nine travel regions. Contains good trail descriptions and advertisements from bike outfitters. Available from the Utah Travel Council at 800-200-1160. (20-30 pages)

- **Bicycle Utah Vacation Guide**



A free pamphlet published by Bicycle Utah, a group that promotes mountain biking throughout the state. It contains overviews of selected trails in Utah's main travel regions plus advertisements from bike outfitters. (70 pages; Bicycle Utah Vacation Guides; published yearly)

Call to order:
435-649-5806

- **Moab Area Mountain Bike Map -- Trails Illustrated**

High quality plasticized map showing bike trails in the Moab area. (Scale: 1:75,000; Map #501)

- **The Mountain Biker's Guide to Utah -- Gregg Bromka**



Excellent book describing in detail 80 classic rides throughout Utah by a writer who really knows the state and is terrifically enthusiastic about riding. Great maps. (360 pages; Falcon Press; 1994; \$12)

[Order now from:](#)
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amazon.com

- **Mountain Biking Moab -- David Crowell**

Descriptions with maps of 42 rides in and near Moab, Arches, Canyonlands and the La Sal Mountains. (160 pages; Falcon Publishing; 1997; \$9)

[Order now from:](#)
BOOKS, MUSIC & MORE
amazon.com

4wd Adventuring

- **Utah Byways: Backcountry Drives for the Whole Family -- Tony Huegel**



Descriptions with maps of 60 routes in Canyonlands, Arches, Capitol Reef and surrounding areas (176 pages; Post Company; 1996: \$13.50)

[Order now from:](#)
BOOKS, MUSIC & MORE
amazon.com

Camping

- **Utah & Nevada Camping** -- Gayen/Tom Wharton and Deke Castleman



Comprehensive guide to campgrounds in Utah and Nevada. Provides all the information you need. Note, however, a fair amount of details change in a year's time. (380 pages; Foghorn Outdoors; 1997; \$15.16)

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