The Ultimate Essentials Camping Checklist

183 items in 12 sections · OutdoorFootprints.com · Updated November 2026

Print it, check items off as you pack, and use the After Arrival section once you reach camp.

Campsite

- [ ] Tent with stakes
- [ ] Rain fly
- [ ] Sleeping pads/cots/air mattress
- [ ] Sleeping bags
- [ ] Pillows
- [ ] Flashlights/headlamps with batteries
- [ ] Portable chairs
- [ ] Outdoor rug/mat to wipe feet
- [ ] Table (if applicable)
- [ ] Bear spray, carried within reach (if applicable)
- [ ] Approved firewood bought on site or near camp (optional)
- [ ] Fire extinguisher (optional)
- [ ] Ground cloth/tarp (optional)
- [ ] Sunshade (optional)
- [ ] Hammock (optional)
- [ ] Lantern (optional)
- [ ] Tent fan (optional)

Tools and Accessories

- [ ] Mallet/hammer/hatchet
- [ ] Knife/multitool
- [ ] Lighter/matches
- [ ] Utility cord/bungee cords
- [ ] Air mattress pump (if applicable)

Kitchen

- [ ] Stove
- [ ] Stove fuel, including compatible propane (if applicable)
- [ ] Pots
- [ ] Frying pan/cast iron skillet
- [ ] Oven mitts
- [ ] Utensils for cooking
- [ ] Utensils for eating
- [ ] Bottle opener/wine opener
- [ ] Can opener
- [ ] Cutting knife and board
- [ ] Plates
- [ ] Cups/mugs
- [ ] Paper towels/napkins/rags
- [ ] Food for meals
- [ ] Snacks
- [ ] Beverages
- [ ] Large water jug
- [ ] Cooler
- [ ] Ice
- [ ] Scrub pad
- [ ] Dish soap
- [ ] Trash bags
- [ ] Aluminum foil (if applicable)
- [ ] Wash tub (if applicable)
- [ ] Charcoal and lighter fluid (if applicable; follow fire restrictions)
- [ ] Tablecloth (optional)
- [ ] Hot dog sticks (if applicable)
- [ ] Coffee maker (optional)
- [ ] Marshmallows, chocolate and graham crackers
- [ ] Roasting sticks (if applicable)

Clothes

- [ ] Undergarments
- [ ] Base layers (t-shirts, pants, shorts)
- [ ] Mid layers (long sleeve t-shirts, sweatshirts)
- [ ] Coats/Jackets (windbreakers, rain gear, cold weather)
- [ ] Shoes/hiking boots
- [ ] Socks
- [ ] Sleepwear
- [ ] Hats
- [ ] Swimwear (if applicable)
- [ ] Gloves (if applicable)
- [ ] Bandanas (optional)
- [ ] Sandals for in camp (optional)

Hygiene & Health

- [ ] Hand sanitizer
- [ ] Soap
- [ ] Shampoo
- [ ] Bath Towels
- [ ] Shower sandals
- [ ] Deodorant
- [ ] Toothbrush/toothpaste
- [ ] Toilet paper
- [ ] Sunscreen
- [ ] Bug spray
- [ ] Lip balm
- [ ] Basic first aid kit
- [ ] Directions to nearest hospital
- [ ] Prescription medications (if applicable)
- [ ] Prescribed epinephrine auto-injector (if applicable), check expiration
- [ ] Brush/comb (if applicable)
- [ ] Menstrual products (if applicable)
- [ ] Sanitary wipes (optional)
- [ ] Mirror (optional)
- [ ] Earplugs (optional)
- [ ] Eye mask (optional)
- [ ] Camp shower (optional)

Personal Items

- [ ] Wallet with money and ID
- [ ] Campsite reservation (if applicable)
- [ ] Fishing license (if applicable)
- [ ] Phone with charger
- [ ] Hiking/camping apps

- [ ] Water bottle
- [ ] Sunglasses
- [ ] Day pack (optional)
- [ ] Battery bank (optional)
- [ ] Pocket knife (optional)
- [ ] Small bills for camp stores and firewood

Leisure & Recreation

- [ ] Books
- [ ] Earbuds
- [ ] Podcasts offline
- [ ] Audiobooks offline
- [ ] Local guidebooks
- [ ] Board games
- [ ] Card games
- [ ] Lawn games
- [ ] Binoculars
- [ ] Fishing rod and gear
- [ ] Glow sticks
- [ ] Kayak/canoes/inner tubes
- [ ] Kayak paddles
- [ ] Life jackets
- [ ] Bikes
- [ ] Footballs/volleyballs/soccer balls
- [ ] Musical instruments
- [ ] Swim towels

Bikes (if applicable)

- [ ] Bike helmets
- [ ] Bike lock
- [ ] Tire pump, spare tube and repair kit
- [ ] Bike lights (if applicable)

Crabbing and Clamming (if applicable)

- [ ] Crabbing and clamming licenses and local rules
- [ ] Crab traps, lines and bait
- [ ] Clam rake or shovel and bucket
- [ ] Tide and weather information

Organizational Items

- [ ] Plastic storage bins for camping gear/dry food/clothes
- [ ] Duffel bags for clothes
- [ ] Laundry bag for dirty clothes
- [ ] Clothing cubes (optional)
- [ ] Suitcases (optional)

Camping with Kids

- [ ] Sleeping arrangements with pillow, padding, and bedding
- [ ] Portable crib/playpen
- [ ] Baby monitor
- [ ] Baby food
- [ ] Kids chairs/high chair
- [ ] Food for kids
- [ ] Toys and activities for kids
- [ ] Carrier for kids on hikes/walks
- [ ] Extra diapers and baby wipes
- [ ] Extra trash bags for diapers
- [ ] Bottle washing items
- [ ] Extra formula
- [ ] Kid friendly sunscreen
- [ ] Extra bandaids

Camping with Dogs

- [ ] Dog bed/crate
- [ ] Leash and harness
- [ ] Dog food
- [ ] Dog dishes for food and water
- [ ] Dog treats
- [ ] Dog toys
- [ ] Poop bags
- [ ] Dog ID tags
- [ ] Directions to the nearest vet

Car/Vehicle

- [ ] Vehicle serviced and fueled or charged
- [ ] Current insurance cards and registration
- [ ] Contact info for roadside service
- [ ] Phone charger
- [ ] Full gas tank or charged battery
- [ ] Tires inflated
- [ ] Functioning spare tire and jack
- [ ] Flat tire fix
- [ ] Jumper cables
- [ ] Extra water
- [ ] Flashlights
- [ ] Car snacks
- [ ] Paper towels
- [ ] Music/podcasts/audiobooks
- [ ] Trash bag/bin
- [ ] Emergency blanket
- [ ] Car top carrier (optional)
- [ ] Bike rack (optional)
- [ ] Portable tire inflator (optional)
- [ ] AC/DC inverter (optional)

EV Charging (if applicable)

- [ ] Charging stops and campsite charging rules
- [ ] Compatible charging cable or adapter
- [ ] Backup charging plan

After Arrival and Camp Logistics

- [ ] Campsite check-in and site rules
- [ ] Water, food, ice and fuel resupply list
- [ ] Camp store hours and on-site purchases
- [ ] Potable water refill locations
- [ ] Fire restrictions and burn bans
- [ ] Ranger programs and activity schedule (if applicable)
- [ ] Laundry facilities and detergent (if applicable)
- [ ] Checkout time and departure routine
- [ ] Trash disposal and campsite cleanup