

## **Pack Trip Gear List**

We want you to have the greatest adventure possible! Please take the time to review this gear list and its helpful guidelines. The right gear can make or break your ability to enjoy an extended trip in the wilderness. We don't want you to have to spend unnecessary money, but it is also important to have the proper gear. Striking that balance of bringing too little or too much can be crucial for days and nights in the outdoors.

### **WHAT TO EXPECT:**

Be prepared for our Rocky Mountain weather. All trips start at approximately 6,500 feet of altitude and gain elevation up to 10,000 feet. The most common summer weather at these elevations in the Tetons includes highs near 70 degrees Fahrenheit and lows around 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Temperatures fluctuate with moving clouds so clothing items that you can easily add and remove in layers are important (see layering system below).

Early in the season, you can expect mosquitoes in the mornings and evenings and on hot days horse flies can become pesky. Long sleeves and long pants are the best line of defense but we will also have bug spray on hand. Feel free to bring some of your own spray as well, especially if you have a brand in particular that you like.

### **HOW TO PACK:**

Because horses carry all of our equipment and gear – how much we pack is not just important... it's an issue of being humane. Please be diligent about reviewing the Gear Checklist and scrutinizing what goes into your field luggage. When it comes to easy and quick packing onto our pack horses, it helps to bring your things packed into ONE medium-sized 25 x 13x 10 (60L) duffel per person. Waterproof your gear with thick garbage compactor bags or buy a waterproof duffel. This duffel should hold your clothes and toiletries only. Your rain gear will go on the outside on your saddle, and your sleeping bag/compact camp pillow should be packed separately (not in your duffel). If you choose to bring a down coat, usually it is not needed till the evening so you can stuff it in your sleeping bag stuff sack when packing to save room. Efficient packing is key!

### **HELPFUL HINTS ABOUT YOUR GEAR:**

**Avoid cotton as a base layer.** If you wear cotton and it starts to get rainy and cold, you will get wet and cold. As a consequence, your body temperature starts to drop down twice

as fast versus if you were wearing nothing at all! Most outerwear companies make synthetic versions of clothing needed for the outdoor enthusiast, ie. polypro or wool tops, socks, and undergarments. These fabrics tend to wick moisture away from your body and allow you to dry quickly.

**Think layers.** If you build your layers, ie. synthetic t-shirt, long sleeve lightweight polypro top, midweight polypro top, fleece sweater or vest, down jacket, and a raincoat (horse long plastic rain slicker) then you can add and subtract items as necessary as the temperatures fluctuate.

**Don't bring too little, don't bring too much.** For your safety and comfort in staying warm (and keeping in mind the large weight the pack horses must carry) we have a good rule of thumb: "3-2-1". For instance: pack 3 days worth of undergarments, 2 pants (one jean and one hiking pant), 1 each of your outer layers (1 fleece, 1 jacket, 1 rain coat/slicker) – then wear it again! All of your gear should fit in one medium duffel @ **60 liters or smaller**. It is nice if the duffel is waterproof. Check out [Patagonia.com/blackholeduffel](http://Patagonia.com/blackholeduffel)

**Footwear.** Western boots look great when you are riding but don't make much sense when hiking around. There are good options out there that offer both good looks and performance in one boot. We recommend Ariat boots with a rubber sole if you want to go western. Focus on first finding a riding boot that has a heel to help with grip in a stirrup and that also won't let your foot slip all the way through the stirrup — this is important. Ariat also makes an endurance boot that is great for riding and hiking, which is comfortable and preferred by our guides. Otherwise, any pair of gortex medium to narrow hiking boots will do (not so wide it gets stuck in the saddle stirrup). Of course the boots may get wet, so its a good idea to treat your boots with 'nixwax' and/or bring along galoshes to put over your boots when walking in the long grass fields in camp. I also recommend a comfortable pair of camp shoes, that cover your toes, to air your feet in the evenings and will allow you to slip them on/off easily in the middle of the night when you need to pee outside.

**Rain Gear.** Good rain gear is the most important piece of clothing. A rainstorm can be fun and beautiful if you stay dry. Often riders like a 'western duster'. Otherwise, a good rain coat and waterproof pants work well too. Don't let your head get wet. I carry a plastic hat cover for my cowboy hat or I wear a hood.

**Gloves.** A pair of leather gloves are great for long rides as well as for keeping your hands warm on cool evenings. If you prefer leather gloves without insulation, then be sure to also bring wool or ski gloves that allow you to still hold reins and ride.

**Warm Jacket.** Referring back to the layering idea, packing one light layer AND one medium layer jacket are more versatile than one big bulky one and both can be worn

together if necessary. Consider bringing a **down**; a vest or jacket can act as a great insulator and can be easily compressed into your sleeping bag sack when packing your gear to save room.

**Pants.** Denim jeans are great for riding and hanging out in camp (be sure to bring ones that are *not too loose* that you experience chaffing, but also *not too tight* that they rip when mounting your horse!) Ladies, avoid bringing your ‘fancy’ jeans w/buttons/snaps on the back pockets for comfort reasons while sitting in the saddle. Synthetic hiking pants are desirable for hiking and function/agility and they can be a good barrier to the wind with a pair of long johns underneath.

**Sun Protection is a must.** Everyone needs sun protection at high elevations. Bring sunglasses with straps i.e. croakies, a hat, sunscreen and lip balm. If you choose to sport a cowboy hat, be sure to get the “stampede strings” added so that you don’t lose it unexpectedly to the wind -or worse spook a surprised horse.

**Saddle Bag & Extra Doodads:** Saddle bags that attach to the back of your riding saddle should carry the lunch you bring, a couple water bottles and other warm layers like a warm hat and gloves. Consider bringing one nalgene screw-top water bottle AND one squirt-mouthpiece water bottle to facilitate drinking water while riding/steering your horse. Your rain gear ties behind the saddle on the cantle for easy access. If you prefer to wear a ‘Camel bak’ water vessel, that is convenient to stay hydrated.

**The Toilet.** All campers will want to buy and bring on the trip a small to medium nylon ‘ditty bag’ with a drawstring to house your plastic ziplock of used toilet paper/tampons to pack out or burn. It should be large enough to carry a mini personal hand sanitizer in it too. Hand to Mouth contamination is a serious health consideration in the backcountry and it is everyone’s “duty” to keep hands clean since we will eat together.

### **HIKERS NOT RIDING A HORSE into the backcountry:**

For hikers much of this list will apply. Instead of a boot that works for riding, you will want a good sturdy hiking boot. The horses will carry the bulk of the gear but you may not be travelling with the horses. You will want a good comfortable day pack to carry everything that you will want for the day, i.e simple foot blister kit, rain gear, sunscreen, water bottles, extra layers, and lunch. Don’t forget bear spray!

### **OTHER GEAR:**

A comfortable tent and sleeping pad, camp chair, cup, bowl/plate, dining utensils, a mini first aid kit, toilet paper, and water filter (\*all water needs to be treated when in the backcountry drinking from the streams/lakes). We provide breakfast & dinner food. Bring your own lunches and coffee/tea.

## **YOUR BASIC GEAR CHECKLIST:**

**NOTE: \* indicates this item is optional  
You can adjust for longer or shorter trips**

### **Tops: (midsummer trips can go lighter on layers if desired)**

- 1 or 2 shirts (choose from tank top, t-shirt, short-sleeved lightweight polypro)
- 2 long-sleeved shirts (choose from cowboy buttondown, lightweight polypro or wool shirt for sun and bug protection)
- \*1 long-sleeved medium weight polypro shirt
- Fleece Sweater or Vest
- Medium weight Jacket (down is acceptable)
- Rain Jacket (or \*horsepacker's slicker)

### **Bottoms:**

- Underwear
- 1 or 2 pairs Polypro LongJohn Pants (medium/light layer); serves as another layer as well as pajamas!
- 2 pairs of pants total including the ones you are wearing (choose jeans and synthetic hiking pants)  
(add rain pants if you didn't bring a long horse rainslicker to protect legs)

### **Head & Hands:**

- Leather Gloves
- \*Wool gloves or mittens
- Winter hat for cooler evenings
- Sun or ball cap
- \*Cowboy hat (a stampede strap is **required** in case it blows off your head while riding; it will still remain attached to your neck and won't spook the horses)
- Sunglasses
- \*Mosquito head net

### **Foot:**

- Riding Boots
- Camp/hiking shoes (closed toed are best for protection of feet)
- 3 pairs of wool socks

### **Misc.:**

- 2 Water Bottles (one of them being a squirt-type bottle for ease of drinking while riding)

- Sunscreen & Lip balm with SPF of at least 15
- Headlamp with extra batteries (much better than a flashlight)
- Toilet articles
- \*BabyWipes
- Lightweight wash towel
- 2-3 bandannas (for nose, glasses, pee rag for females)
- Personal Prescription Medications
- Prescription glasses and contact lenses
- \*Watch
- \*Bug spray
- \*Compact camping pillow
- **Sleeping bag** rated down to 0-20 degrees Fahrenheit

**Other Optional Items:**

- 2 or 3 small/medium nylon stuff sacks to organize your things (see toiletries organization)
- Nylon shorts for camp lounging, sleeping in, and spontaneous bathing dips!
- Camera and extra batteries
- Binoculars
- **AVOID GLASS!** Beer **in cans**, **Boxed** Wine (think lightweight), or Liquor in plastic bottles
- A couple extra granola bars if you must have your favorite, but expect some supplied by us :-)
- A reading book / deck of cards