

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON EQUIPMENT FOR HOOFIN IT IN THE GRAND TETONS

You are essentially packing for 2 trips-in-one and clothes can be shared. The first part includes clothing for hiking and rafting, then you will need camping gear, and a very small bag (preferably waterproof) to pack for the horse packing portion. Remember that you need to limit the amount you take on horse packing portion because all gear is loaded on horses for packing in and weight limit is very crucial. See specifics below.

1. Temperatures can vary widely in the mountains and sudden thunderstorms and variable weather patterns are always a possibility. Having clothing that will keep you warm even when wet is essential. Cotton does not do this and should be avoided.
2. For the first three days, you will need to bring a “day pack” to hold your rain gear, water bottles, snacks, sunscreen, pocket knife, camera, and an additional layer for warmth. You will carry this as you hike, so before you leave home make sure that it is comfortable to wear and fits everything. Having a pack with a hip belt will be more comfortable.
3. For the next three days, while trail riding, you will carry (or wear) a warm shirt or jacket, warm hat, warm gloves, rain gear, an extra pair of socks, and a water bottle in a saddlebag, as well as a camera, sunscreen etc, not to exceed 15 pounds. You will also carry your lunch in a small, insulated lunch sack. Daypacks are not allowed while riding, and the use of hydration systems (such as a Camelbak) are discouraged.
4. Bring a sleeping bag with down or synthetic insulation, wrapped in a heavy plastic bag (trash compactor bags work well) inside its stuff sack. Weight and bulk are some of the factors to consider in sleeping bags. Down bags are lightweight and compact, but they need to be kept dry in order to keep you warm. Synthetic bags are usually heavier and bulkier, yet they still keep you warm if they are wet. They dry more quickly than down. Bring a bag rated to 10 degrees F.
5. Layering is the most practical and efficient method of insulating the body. Several layers of varied weight materials provide better insulation than one thick layer of clothing. Also, adding or subtracting layers allows you to adjust to the temperature at your particular level of activity. Synthetic fabrics are often specified on this equipment list: Capilene, Thermastat, Polartec and Gore-Tex. In addition, there are many other patented brand names used by different manufacturers, which can make it all seem even more complicated. Basically, they all have one thing in common: The synthetics do not absorb much water compared to cotton—thus, they continue to provide warmth when wet. The specific fabric name is not as important as having material with these qualities and having a variety of weights available to you as your layering system. They really *are* miracle fabrics. Wool is also a very good choice, especially some of the new clothing made by Ibex or Smartwool. It is 100% merino wool, keeps you warm and dry and is not itchy. It also doesn't absorb the odors the way many synthetic materials do. You can also buy less expensive wool clothes at a second hand or Army/Navy store. Cotton is not a good choice! **Wet cotton (even heavyweight sweats) will rob you of your body heat faster than if you were wearing no clothing at all.**
6. Items on your packing list can be purchased through a number of outdoor outfitters. Here are three companies that offer mail order service and have internet “stores” (often with special deals):

Recreational Equip. Inc (REI)
800-426-4840
website: www.rei.com

Eastern Mountain Sports (EMS)
603-924-7231
website: www.emsonline.com

Campmor
800-226-7667
website: www.campmor.com

Another company that often has discounts on seconds and discontinued items and also has an excellent return policy is Sierra Trading Post. Their number is 1-800-713-4534 and their web site is www.SierraTradingPost.com. We have links to REI and Sierra Trading Post on our website on the affiliates page of our Resources section (www.goodadventure.com/resources/affiliates.html). You may also want to visit your local Army/Navy surplus store and thrift stores such as Goodwill and the Salvation Army.