

PACKING LIST – BIG BEND EXPLORING AND HIKING

Note: Please limit your luggage to one piece plus your daypack. Use the smallest suitcase/duffel that will accommodate the items on the packing list. Space in the van is limited. Do not bring any fragile items. You will also need to carry your luggage up and down stairs; several of the places we stay do not have elevators and we're on the 2nd floor.

FOOTWEAR

- 1 pair of lightweight hiking boots or shoes – well broken in
- 1 pair of comfortable shoes for walking around our accommodations or in town.
- 1 pair sandals or water shoes (to wear for kayaking)
- 2-3 pairs of hiking socks (wool or synthetic equivalent: Smartwool, Thorlo, Darn Tough)

CLOTHING

- 1- 2 pair of comfortable supplex/nylon long pants for hiking - zip-offs work well
- 1 pair of shorts (quick-drying nylon) *Optional, if you prefer long pants for sun/brush protection
- 2 or 3 synthetic or lightweight merino wool T-shirts or short-sleeved shirts
- 1 lightweight, long-sleeved shirt for hiking – (sun protection, can be layered over a t-shirt)
- 1 pair lightweight long underwear top and bottoms: silk, wool or synthetic equivalent (Capilene, Smartwool, MTS, or polypropylene) – note that the temp can range from 30 degrees in the morning to 80 degrees during the day
- 1 medium-weight top layer – synthetic or wool pull over - fleece works well for this layer
- 1 rain jacket and rain pants – **waterproof**/breathable fabric like Gore-tex (for wind protection/warmth as well as rain)
- Underwear/nightwear
- 1 pair lightweight wool, Capilene, or Polartec gloves
- 1 lightweight wool or fleece hat
- 1 wide brimmed or baseball style hat for protection from the sun/rain
- 1 – 2 changes of casual clothes to wear at end of day
- 1 swim suit
- Recommended: buff, lightweight vest

TOILETRIES (small everything)

- Toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, hand sanitizer, shampoo, contact lens paraphernalia, sanitary supplies
- Sunscreen and lip protection with sunblock of at least SPF 15
- Personal first aid/patch kit - Band-Aids, 1 safety pin, moleskin, compeed (or blister bandages), ibuprofen, any personal medications

Please note: Individuals who have had or have the potential for a severe allergic reaction to insect stings, specific foods or medications must bring an epi-pen. Please consult your physician and tell your guide.

EQUIPMENT/ESSENTIALS

- 1 pair Trekking poles (Required: we will have some steep descents/ascents on uneven, rocky terrain)
- 1 daypack (see notes on packing list for recommended capacity)
- Capability to 'waterproof' your backpack. A rain cover or a heavy-duty plastic bag to line your pack.
- Capacity to carry 3 liters of water (Please see Notes on Packing List). *Water is not always available at trailheads and we'll have several long hikes. We suggest bringing a 2-liter hydration system (bladder w/tube) plus a 1-liter water bottle. You can use the water bottle on the kayak day, in the van, and for extra water capacity for longer hikes.
- Sunglasses (100% UV protection) w/retention strap
- Small headlamp or flashlight
- 1 – 2 bandanas
- Ear plugs (for a good night's sleep!)
- Wristwatch/travel alarm clock
- Tupperware-like container for sandwich/lunch

OPTIONAL (personal preference, not required)

- Camera (extra battery) and film/memory card
- Book, notebook, journal, pencil/pen
- Binoculars
- Your favorite snack (snacks will also be provided)

NOTES ON PACKING

Adventures in Good Company's packing list covers everything you need to assure your safety and comfort. You may not use everything you bring; however, you need to come prepared for all possible weather conditions. At the same time, you must be able to carry your own luggage, sometimes up and down stairs. Bringing a duffel bag or soft-sided suitcase with wheels, rather than a hard-sided suitcase, is easier for packing in the van.

Daypacks: Your daypack should be large enough to hold the following items: 2-3 liters of water, rain gear, lunch/snacks (for the day), sunscreen, warm layer (fleece pullover or vest), personal first aid kit, lightweight gloves, warm hat and personal items such as camera, etc. We recommend a daypack with a capacity of between 1800 and 2400 cubic inches with a hip belt, padded shoulder straps, and 'lifters'. Line your daypack with a durable plastic bag to keep your belongings dry, or have an elasticized pack cover that fits snugly over it. Before you leave home check to be sure that it is comfortable to wear all day and has sufficient space for all of your items. **Note: Fanny-packs and hydration packs are not large enough to hold all of the items you will need for the day.**

Footwear: Well-fitting, sturdy boots or trail shoes are very important to your safety and enjoyment. If you plan to buy new boots, break them in by wearing them around town and taking some short hikes *before* your trip. For general hiking, lightweight or midweight cordura or leather boots with a Vibram sole work well. If you have weak ankles or are recovering from an ankle injury, get boots that come above the ankle—you'll find that this will give you more support in uneven or slippery terrain. Remember to waterproof your boots before the trip. Even boots billed as 'waterproof' need to be treated with a waterproofing product.

Personal First Aid Kit: Bring a small first aid kit with familiar medicine and first aid supplies you might need. Recommendations include the following: blister or foot remedies like moleskin, Compeed, blister bandages, or similar, a small roll of duct tape (always useful!), remedies for respiratory ailments, stomach ailments, sore muscles or joints. The guides will have a first aid kit but having what you know works well for you is a good idea.

Clothing: The clothing listed on the packing list has been chosen for your specific trip conditions and for its versatility for layering. NO COTTON for your activewear! It should all be made from synthetic/synthetic blends, down/down blends or wool/wool blends. 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.

Rain Gear: You will need a parka or jacket made of a coated nylon or a waterproof/breathable fabric like Gore-tex, HellyTech, Membrane, H2No, or Ultrex. **Be sure it keeps water out.** Before making this important purchase, be sure that it fits you properly. It should be large enough to fit over all your layers. In particular, the hood needs to be effective. It should shield your face from the rain and turn with your head. Movement of your arms must not interfere with the hood. Put on your daypack; can you still raise your arms? Your rain pants should be comfortable, allow enough room for your layers, and permit free movement of your legs (for example, can you crouch comfortably?). Partial or full-length leg zippers are useful for easily putting your pants on over your boots. An inexpensive plastic poncho will both leak and tear easily and is not recommended.

Hydration: Being able to easily access your water without assistance, so that you can drink frequently, is important to your safety and enjoyment. One method is to have a water bottle attached to your waist strap. Another option is to use a **HYDRATION SYSTEM** such as CamelBak, Platypus, and MSR bladder bags, which are collapsible water bags with a hose attachment that you drink from. The bags fit inside or outside your pack with the hose positioned over your shoulder so that you can access your water as you hike. Bladder bags can hold 1 - 3 liters of water.

Trekking Poles: Trekking poles are required for this trip. Trekking poles contribute to your safety by improving your balance and stability, and to your health by saving stress on your hips and knees. If you are not familiar with trekking poles, [click here to read this blog post](#) that addresses the most commonly asked questions.