

Horse Packing Trip Camping Equipment List

Overview:

You will be in the majestic mountains of the Montana's Bob Marshall Wilderness the duration of your trip. Western mountains are generally cooler than most other parts of the country in summer. Additionally, we have low humidity and higher UV ratings than most other parts of the country. The most important aspects of being comfortable in whatever the weather throws at is to use layers. The list below is a good place to start as you look over your packing list for your trip. We encourage you to let us know any and all questions you may have for gear.



We like to have your gear (excluding sleeping bags) come in at or under 35 pounds. It's not a hard requirement, but it sure helps us plan for the amount of stock we need. Heavier gear like fishing waters and tackle may add to this certainly. If you have specific questions on gear please reach out.

Expected Weather and Temperatures:

This is a crazy subject line we know – no one in their right mind predicts the mountain weather. However, we do have a good idea of what the “normal” patterns are and feel like it's a great level set for you to know as you being your packing.

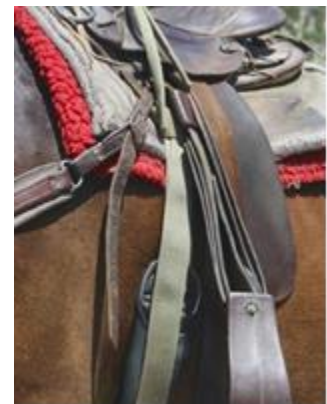
June and early July temperatures will have daytime highs in the 70's, and low's will be in the 30's at night. The daylight hours are insanely long – sunrise is around 5am with sunset around 9:30pm. So, there is lots of light for our adventures. We always have the chance for thunderstorms, but this is the lowest frequency time for them.

Mid-July to mid-August will have warmer days and nights. By August our daytime temperatures will climb into the high 80's with the evenings rarely dipping below 45. As we get into August we get increased opportunity for afternoon thunderstorms, which are strong but fleeting. They typically pass in under an hour.

Mid-August to early September we generally see moderating temperatures back into the 70s during the day. The evening low temperatures don't change much. The days begin to have less daylight, though still long by any standard. Thunderstorms become less frequent as we get to September.

Outer Wear:

- 2-3 pair of blue jeans (these will get dirty)
- 3-4 T-shirts
- 2 long sleeve comfortable, medium weight outdoor shirts (cotton is fine)
- 1 medium weight sweatshirt for cool nights and mornings



- Hiking shorts
- Pair of light gloves
- 4 pair medium weight hiking socks (calf height)
- Hat to screen the often intense sun
- 1 pr hiking shoes (above ankle height) with moderately aggressive tread. Waterproof is ideal but not required
- 1 pr lighter shoes or light weight hiking shoes. These are mainly for walking around camp. Two pair of shoes allow you to dry one if one pair is wet.
- Medium weight jacket
- Rain gear – there are good rain jackets out there for hiking and backpacking. These are ideal. Rain pants are a good idea also if we get an extended rain front that takes a day to move through. Ponchos are not recommended as they tend to billow with the breeze, which is dramatically lowers their effectiveness.
- Sweat pants or similar if you are prone to getting cold at night while you sleep. Silk or long johns are equally effective here.
- Small knit hat to wear when sleeping as you may find the nights and early mornings are coldest.

What to pack it all in:

- We like duffel bags (36x18) are best, but most any size works. They do not have to be waterproof but that helps.
- We find that most people put their clothing in the duffel bag, and the sleeping bag is separate. This is perfectly fine, but we recommend bringing a second duffel bag for that.
- We like to see your duffel bag around 35# or less. Of course, your sleeping bag (if separate) will be less than that.
- We cannot pack roller or hard sided travel cases. We have duffel bags if you do not have anything like that.

Sleeping Systems:

- Sleeping bag rated to 20F (it won't get to 20, but we find bags are comfortable at about 10-15 degrees higher than they are rated)
- Small pillow
- Small sleeping pad. There is often confusion about this. Do not bring an inflatable bed. They don't work in the mountains. We do recommend inflatable sleeping pads for hiking or backpacking (Thermarest and others make them). Alternatively, you may find modestly sized foam works.
- We can rent sleeping bags/liners/pads for those not wishing to travel with this gear.



Miscellaneous:

- Sunscreen
- Bug repellent
- Lip balm
- Binoculars if you like to spot things
- Flashlight/headlamp
- Extra batteries for anything that uses them
- Camera (whatever you prefer). We occasionally get requests to bring camera backpack for expensive lenses, etc. If you have that kind of gear definitely bring it.
- Toiletries and medications
- Water bottle – 750ml
- Wash towel, wash cloth, personal soap (yes, we have a traveling shower with hot water)



Adult Beverages

- If you like to bring wine, beer, or spirits please feel free to do so.
- We like to see wine bottles wrapped in towels, sweaters, or pants inside your duffel bag.
- For beer, please bring aluminum cans. We like cold-pack sizes best.
- For spirits, please buy the ones in plastic bottles or transfer it into larger plastic water bottles. This is all to mitigate any breakage during packing or caused by the occasional misbehaving mule.



What's in camp:

- We provide large roomy tents which fit two adults comfortable. We generally pair up people who are traveling together, but if you're traveling solo you will have separate tent.
- We provide the camp gear – kitchen set up, wood cutting, large mess tents to eat in, latrines, and all necessary gear to pack and move your gear on the trip.