

Car Camping Checklist

A complete car camping checklist covering shelter and sleep setup, the camp kitchen, comfort gear, clothing and campsite essentials.

Shelter and Sleep Setup

- ☐ Tent with stakes, or a sleep platform for the car
- ☐ Footprint or ground tarp
- ☐ Sleeping bags rated for the conditions
- ☐ Thick sleeping pads or an air mattress
 - Car camping lets you bring a thicker, more comfortable pad.
- ☐ Real pillows and extra blankets
- ☐ Window covers or a sunshade for in-car sleeping
- ☐ Pump for an air mattress

Camp Kitchen

- ☐ Two-burner camp stove with fuel
- ☐ Large cooler with ice or frozen packs
- ☐ Pots, pans, and a cast-iron skillet
- ☐ Cooking utensils, knife, and cutting board
- ☐ Plates, bowls, mugs, and reusable cutlery
- ☐ Dish soap, sponge, wash basin, and towels
- ☐ Coffee maker or French press and a kettle

Food and Water

- ☐ Drinking water and a refillable jug
- ☐ Planned meals and ingredients
- ☐ Snacks and s'mores supplies
- ☐ Cooking oil, salt, pepper, and spices
- ☐ Trash bags and sealed food containers
- ☐ Store food sealed and away from your tent to deter wildlife

Campsite Comfort

- ☐ Folding camp chairs
- ☐ Folding table
- ☐ Pop-up canopy or shade shelter
- ☐ Outdoor rug or mat for the tent entrance
- ☐ Hammock for relaxing
- ☐ Cooler chair or extra seating

Lighting and Tools

- ☐ Lantern for the campsite and table
- ☐ Headlamps and flashlights for everyone
- ☐ Extra batteries and a power bank
- ☐ Multi-tool or knife
- ☐ Mallet for stakes and a small axe for firewood

- ☐ Rope, bungee cords, and duct tape

Clothing and Personal

- ☐ Layered clothing for warm days and cool nights
- ☐ Rain jacket and a warm fleece
- ☐ Sturdy shoes and camp sandals
- ☐ Hat, gloves, and extra socks
- ☐ Toiletries, towel, and biodegradable soap
- ☐ Sunscreen, insect repellent, and a first-aid kit

Before You Leave Home

- ☐ Confirm your campsite reservation and rules
- ☐ Check the weather and conditions for your dates
- ☐ Tell someone your plans and return time
- ☐ Load heavy and bulky items in the car first
- ☐ Keep the kitchen kit and chairs easy to reach
- ☐ Charge phones and any devices fully