



Winter/Snow Camping Checklist

Note: This list is intentionally extensive; not every person will bring every item on every trip.

The Ten Essentials (for safety, survival and basic comfort)

1. Navigation

- Map (with protective case)
- Compass
- GPS (optional)

2. Sun protection

- Sunscreen and lip balm
- Sunglasses

3. Insulation

- Jacket, vest, pants, gloves, hat (see Clothing)

4. Illumination

- Headlamp or flashlight
- Extra batteries

5. First-aid supplies

- First-aid kit (see our [First-aid checklist](#))

6. Fire

- Matches or lighter
- Waterproof container
- Fire starter (for emergency survival fire)

7. Repair kit and tools

- Knife or multi-tool
- Duct tape strips; repair items as needed

8. Nutrition

- Extra day's supply of food

9. Hydration

- Water bottles or hydration system (insulated)
- Water filter or other treatment system

10. Emergency shelter

- Tent, tarp, bivy or reflective blanket

Beyond the Ten Essentials

- Backpack
- Daypack or summit pack
- 4-season tent, or tarp or bivy sack
- Snow or tent stakes and guylines
- Tent-pole repair sleeve
- Footprint (if needed for tent)
- Sleeping bag (liner optional)
- Stuff sack or compression sack
- 2 sleeping pads per person (+ optional chair kit)
- Pillow or stuffable pillow case
- Packable lantern
- Snowshoes or crampons
- Skis (with skins)
- Crampons
- Ice axe
- Trekking poles (w/snow baskets)
- Multifunction watch with altimeter
- Signaling mirror (often on compass)
- Whistle
- Personal locator beacon (PLB)
- Avalanche transceiver
- Avalanche probe
- Slope meter
- Snow shovel
- Snow saw
- Meals
- Energy food (bars, gels, chews, trail mix)
- Energy beverages or drink mixes
- Stove
- Fuel
- Cookset with large pot (for melting snow)
- Dishes or bowls
- Utensils
- Cups (measuring cups)
- Pot grabber
- Food-storage sacks or canister
- 50-foot nylon cord
- Backup water treatment (e.g., halogens)

Clothing

- Base layer: wicking underwear
- Mid layer: insulating jacket/vest/pants
- Shell: Rain jacket (or soft shell)
- Rain pants (of soft-shell pants)
- Dry clothing for camp
- Insulating hat, cap or headband
- Balaclava and/or face mask
- Goggles
- Gloves and/or mittens
- Waterproof overmitts

Footwear; assorted personal options

- Boots
- Main socks, liner socks, spare socks
- Gaiters
- Camp booties
- Bandana or buff
- Toilet paper + sanitation trowel
- Hand sanitizer + quick-dry towel
- Toothbrush and/or toiletry kit
- Notebook and pen or pencil
- _____
- Permits
- Guidebook; interpretive field guide(s)
- Camera
- Binoculars
- Two-way radios
- Cell or satellite phone
- Music player with headphones
- Small amount of cash or credit card
- Trip itinerary left w/friend + under car seat
- _____