# Day Hiking Checklist

This checklist is deliberately comprehensive and intended for day hikes in the backcountry where being self-sufficient is important to your well-being. The list includes many more items than you’ll likely need for short treks in or near developed areas, though you can adapt it to your needs for these trips.

## Hiking Gear

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daypack</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional:</td>
<td>Trekking poles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Clothing/Footwear

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moisture-wicking underwear</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moisture-wicking T-shirts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quick-drying pants/shorts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-sleeve shirts <em>(for sun and bugs)</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lightweight fleece or jacket</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boots or shoes suited to terrain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socks <em>(synthetic or wool)</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra clothes <em>(beyond the minimum expectation)</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional items for rainy and/or cold weather:**

- Rainwear *(jacket and pants)*
- Long underwear
- Warm, insulated jacket or vest
- Fleece pants
- Gloves or mittens
- Warm hat

## Navigation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Map *</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compass *</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Optional:

- Route description/guidebook
- Altimeter watch *
- GPS *
- Satellite messenger and/or personal locator beacon *

## Tools & Repairs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knife or multi-tool *</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small gear-repair kit *</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Food & Water

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water bottles and/or reservoir *</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water filter/purifier or chemical treatment *</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail snacks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra day’s supply of food *</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Emergency Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First-aid kit or supplies *</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighter/matches &amp; firestarter *</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency shelter *</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whistle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two itineraries: 1 left with friend + 1 under car seat</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Personal Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Credit card and/or cash</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cellphone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEALTH &amp; HYGIENE</td>
<td>DAY HIKING EXTRAS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Hand sanitizer</td>
<td>□ Headlamp or flashlight * (with extra batteries)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Menstrual products <em>(if needed)</em></td>
<td>□ Camera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Prescription medications <em>(if needed)</em></td>
<td>□ Interpretive field guide(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ First-aid kit or supplies</td>
<td>□ Outdoor journal/sketchbook with pen or pencil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Binoculars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Two-way radios</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ ____________________________</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ ____________________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Sun protection: |
□ Sunscreen *
□ Sunglasses *(+ retainer leash)*
□ Sun hat *
□ SPF-rated lip balm *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Optional</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ Insect repellent *</td>
<td>□ Insect repellent *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Toilet paper</td>
<td>□ Toilet paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Urinary products</td>
<td>□ Urinary products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Sanitation trowel <em>(if no toilets)</em></td>
<td>□ Sanitation trowel <em>(if no toilets)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Baby wipes</td>
<td>□ Baby wipes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Alcohol or antiseptic wipes</td>
<td>□ Alcohol or antiseptic wipes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Blister treatments</td>
<td>□ Blister treatments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ ____________________________</td>
<td>□ ____________________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* These items are part of the Ten Essential systems. The exact items you take for each system can be tailored to your trip based on considerations such as weather, difficulty, duration and distance from help. To learn more, see our article on the Ten Essentials.