

| Weather: Check the forecast so you know what conditions to expect and you can pack accordingly. |
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| Navigation: Bring a detailed topographic map of the area and a compass/GPS. Practice using your compass and GPS before the trip so you are comfortable with them. A GPS is a great tool, but always bring a compass as a backup. |
| A day pack sized to fit you comfortably. |
| Appropriate hiking footwear for the terrain. |
| Warm, dry apparel and socks. This includes both insulating and waterproof layers. Wool and synthetic materials are best; cotton will not keep you warm when wet and dries slowly. |
| Shelter: This is generally not necessary for short hikes. For long hikes or in remote locations, consider bringing a small tarp or bivy sack so you can spend the night safely and comfortably if necessary. |
| Headlamp or flashlight with extra batteries. |
| Water and a way to purify it, such as a filter or chemical treatment. If you're carrying water, plan on roughly three quarts per person per day, depending on the temperature, your fitness level and the length of your hikes. |
| Matches/lighter in a waterproof container and a fire starter kit for starting a fire in an emergency. |
| Food, preferably dry and lightweight. |
| First-aid kit. |
| Sun protection: Sunglasses, sunscreen, lip balm and a hat. |
| Multitool with knife. |
| Cell phone. |
| Trip itinerary: Leave a copy with family or friends so they know where you're going and when to expect you back |