

PACKING FOR THE TRAIL



Your adventure begins! You can be comfortable on the trail, it just takes some planning. Don't overpack. A rule of thumb is to pack 1/2 of what you think you will need. Your duffel should not weigh more than 40 lbs not including sleeping bag. Select a zippered canvas or nylon duffel bag. (There are also waterproof bags available in such catalogs as "Cabelas") All of your personal belongings should fit in one duffel bag. It is often helpful to organize items in your bag in ziplock or plastic sacks, as it also helps keep things dry. While we always hope for a dry trip, it is not always possible. You will need good raingear, either a two piece set, or a good riding slicker. Poncho's often tear and blow in the wind, causing you to be wet and scaring your horse. If you choose an Australian Outback, make sure it's waterproof. The good old-fashioned yellow riding slicker covers you and your saddle from shoulders to foot and isn't too expensive. Make sure you have a waterproof hat cover too. Rubber overboots not only keep your boots dry in the rain, but also in the morning from the dew. Finally, warm waterproof leather gloves are a necessity for chilly or wet weather.

Temperatures in the mountains vary during the day, so it is advisable to wear clothing in layers. You will basically need 3 complete changes of clothing with extra socks and underwear. Sleepwear varies, some like jogging suits or long underwear and a ski cap. Pack a warm winter jacket or jacket and vest for cool evenings or a sudden storm. You should have a 4 season sleeping bag good for moderate to freezing temperatures. We recommend a Thermarest or good mattress pad, however, we can provide one if you are unable. Large pillows are too bulky. A space-saving method is to pack a pillowcase and fold your jacket inside. Also, remember a flashlight. It gets dark at night!

We provide a solar shower for bathing, or you may prefer to heat water for a sponge bath. Remember to bring biodegradable soap/shampoo and use them away from streams and lakes. There will also be a latrine set up away from the main camp. Make sure to bring packets of tissue for along the trail.

Anything you need during the day can be packed in your saddle-bags (we don't allow daypacks as they are too cumbersome and heavy to be added to your back and /or the saddle). Cameras, film, binoculars, sunscreen, collapsible drinking cup, etc can fit, but don't get them too heavy. Some people like fanny packs for personal items. You can tie your slicker and jacket directly on your saddle. Remember, pack for comfort, but pack light. Here's a checklist.

- warm jacket and optional vest
- raingear
- three complete changes of clothing
- long underwear
- swimsuit, shorts
- hat or cap - a tie string may help save it in the wind
- bandanna, gloves
- footwear - Riding boots with a good heel, overboots, hiking boots or sneakers for camp, and "wet" shoes or sandals for swimming or wading in the streams.
- sleeping bag, mattress pad
- personal kit - Towel, washcloths, soaps, sunscreen, lip balm, insect repellent, small flashlight, etc. Disposable baby wipes are also handy.
- water bottle, sunglasses
- camera, film, binoculars
- fishing tackle - if interested, fly rod or spinning tackle
- any alcohol - should be packed separately and brought to the wrangler's attention so as not to break any glass containers.