



Camping Checklist

Packing for camping depends on where you are going and your personal tastes, but here's a checklist to start with, plus a look at the pros and cons of camp stoves versus campfires.

	Minimalist-ish	A little luxury	Take it if you want (and have room)	Glamping
Shelter and sleeping	<input type="checkbox"/> Small tarp, or tent, bivy bag or hammock <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping bag, no pillowcase (use rolled up clothes) small, thin inflatable mattress, head to knee length	<input type="checkbox"/> Tent with extra room eg an annex, and probably one you can stand up in, flyscreens <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping bag with innersheet <input type="checkbox"/> Decent inflatable mattress, full length <input type="checkbox"/> Inflatable pillow or just a pillowcase to stuff with clothes	<input type="checkbox"/> Campbed (still generally needs a mattress) <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping bag with inner sheet, possibly extra blankets <input type="checkbox"/> Pillow, pillowcase <input type="checkbox"/> Tarpaulin, poles and rope for extra shelter if it rains	<input type="checkbox"/> Multi-room canvas palace <input type="checkbox"/> Comfortable, thick (ie big to transport) mattress on campbed with <input type="checkbox"/> Pillow <input type="checkbox"/> Consider just taking your doona, blankets and sheets from home.
Lighting	<input type="checkbox"/> Small head torch or just use your phone	<input type="checkbox"/> Head torches plus possibly small lantern for cooking and tent	<input type="checkbox"/> Large or multiple lanterns plus headtorches	<input type="checkbox"/> Large or multiple lanterns plus headtorches, plus in light sources if you have power
Food and cooking	<input type="checkbox"/> Matches <input type="checkbox"/> Dehydrated food or food that needs no cooking <input type="checkbox"/> Mug and spoon <input type="checkbox"/> Small campstove with pot <input type="checkbox"/> Small cleaning rag <input type="checkbox"/> Pocketknife <input type="checkbox"/> Drink bottle <input type="checkbox"/> Teabags/ instant coffee	<input type="checkbox"/> Matches <input type="checkbox"/> Mixture of dehydrated and fresh food that will keep without being kept cool, possibly in an insulated bag <input type="checkbox"/> Campstove <input type="checkbox"/> Mug, bowl, plate, knife, fork, spoon, cooking implement, water containers <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning rag, scourer, teatowel <input type="checkbox"/> Pocket knife, biodegradable soap <input type="checkbox"/> Teabags/ instant coffee or coffee bags	<input type="checkbox"/> Matches <input type="checkbox"/> Eski/ cool box with ice to keep it cool <input type="checkbox"/> Mixture of food that does not need cooling + food that can be kept for up to 3 days in the coolbox. <input type="checkbox"/> Gas stove with cylinder, same utensils as ← but consider taking eg cutting board, colander, a cooking knife <input type="checkbox"/> Basin for washing up, biodegradable soap, wash rags and tea towels X2 at least <input type="checkbox"/> Tea, coffee, whatever you like, as long as you don't have to grind the coffee beans, plunger	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't forget the matches! <input type="checkbox"/> Portable fridge running off batteries, generator or you're at a campsite with power <input type="checkbox"/> Any food you like that will keep <input type="checkbox"/> Gas stove <input type="checkbox"/> Pots and any cooking utensils and implements you want to take <input type="checkbox"/> Pocketknife plus other cooking knives <input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen sink and any other camp furniture your local camping shop is willing to sell <input type="checkbox"/> Tea, coffee, coffee grinder... any coffee paraphernalia you like as you probably have a powered campsite anyway



	Minimalist-ish	A little luxury	Take it if you want (and have room)	Glamping
Hygiene and toiletries	<input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush and small flannelette <input type="checkbox"/> Any essentials (eg contact lenses/ glasses, asthma medication...)	<input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush, toothpaste, biodegradable soap, moisturiser, small travel towel <input type="checkbox"/> Any essentials specific to you	<input type="checkbox"/> Same as ← but more of what you like or what might come in handy. Decent sized towel is often worth it	<input type="checkbox"/> Whatever you use normally, but leave the electric hairdryer/ curler/ straightener and most of your makeup at home
Safety and navigation	<input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen, sunglasses, hat <input type="checkbox"/> Compass, map <input type="checkbox"/> Small emergency first aid kit, mobile phone might be handy (keep in plastic zip-lock bag)	<input type="checkbox"/> Same as ← but possibly more <input type="checkbox"/> Extra battery for mobile phone	<input type="checkbox"/> Same as ← but possibly more	<input type="checkbox"/> Same as ← but possibly more
Clothes	<input type="checkbox"/> The minimum to keep warm and dry <input type="checkbox"/> Don't forget a rainjacket!	<input type="checkbox"/> A few spares and extras, don't forget the rainjacket, and swim gear + towel if bathing is a possibility	<input type="checkbox"/> Take enough to avoid having to wash while you're away and still look decently clean every day, rainjacket and swim gear!	<input type="checkbox"/> Whatever you like, just include warm gear and don't forget rain jack and swim gear!
Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> What? That's what the big wide world is for ☺	<input type="checkbox"/> One or two of: pack of cards, small paperback book, small crafts, word puzzles, Sudoku or similar, paper and pencils	<input type="checkbox"/> Board game(s), same as ← but more variety <input type="checkbox"/> If with kids, small toys, bucket, spade etc	<input type="checkbox"/> Anything you like really, as long as it travels well, maybe also a tablet or other device, but do remember that things can get dirty when camping.
Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Possibly a small mat to sit on the ground, or just use your raincoat <input type="checkbox"/> Clothesline? Just use a tree or bush. <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic bags for waste	<input type="checkbox"/> Camp chair/ camp stool <input type="checkbox"/> Extra rope (eg for clotheslines) double over and twist instead of needing pegs (tight twists will keep the clothes there) <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic bags for waste	<input type="checkbox"/> Camp chairs, small folding table for cooking, eating etc, possibly a fold out picnic table <input type="checkbox"/> Hammock for day use, pegs <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic bags for waste	<input type="checkbox"/> Plastic bags for waste <input type="checkbox"/> Your local camping shop can help part you from your money with a wide range of optional camping equipment. Just be sure it can all fit in the car, or maybe just take a trailer too.



Camp Stove versus Campfire

In many places campfires are not allowed due to possible danger to the surrounding environment. Where they are allowed, there's still a choice between a camp fire and a camp stove. Here's a look at the pros and cons of each. In summary, if you do have a campfire, it's good to still have a camp stove for a quick cuppa or meal.

	Camp stove	Campfire
Advantages	<input type="checkbox"/> Convenient, quick to light and heat food <input type="checkbox"/> Generally come with lightweight pans <input type="checkbox"/> Less dirt and cleaning involved <input type="checkbox"/> While injuries can happen, they are less likely than with a fire <input type="checkbox"/> Less risk to the surrounding environment	<input type="checkbox"/> Cost- unless you have to buy firewood <input type="checkbox"/> Cosy <input type="checkbox"/> Campfire cooking can be really good fun and campfire cooked jacket potatoes? Yum!
Disadvantages	<input type="checkbox"/> Cost to buy <input type="checkbox"/> Have to take own fuel <input type="checkbox"/> Not great for baking generally	<input type="checkbox"/> Not always possible or allowed due to the surrounding environment <input type="checkbox"/> No good if it is windy or wet Takes time to light and be ready to heat food, particularly when baking <input type="checkbox"/> Much higher risk of smoky, charcoaled or burnt food, possibly raw in the middle – difficult to estimate and control temperature <input type="checkbox"/> Safety-wise riskier <input type="checkbox"/> Needs heavier equipment – generally cast iron pans, camp oven etc

If you're looking to buy a camp stove, here are a few resources to help you choose which is best for you

- [10 camping and hiking stoves – what stove is right for you?](#) By Go Camping Australia
- [Camp stove reviews](#) by Backpacker magazine
- [Picking the right Camp stove](#) by Australian Geographic Outdoor