



# Float Trip Gear Lists

## Daily Personal Gear

Depending on the river, conditions, and time of year, you will fish from inflatable rafts or drift boats. Your items for a full day on the river should be packed in a waterproof pack and can be stored on your fishing boat. Please pack lightly and avoid excessive items. Vests can often be stored on the back of a seat, while waterproof packs can be placed under seats or tied to the side of rafts. Drift boats usually have dry storage, and some rafts have dry boxes. Waders should be worn during spring, fall, and winter trips or anytime the forecast calls for cool, rainy conditions. Wear shorts or quick-dry pants with lightweight wading footwear during the summer. Be sure your wading boots do not have cleats or spikes, which don't mix well with inflatable rafts or fiberglass boats. Waders are usually too hot during the summer on float trips when much of your time is on the boat.

## What to Wear Fishing

Be sure to check the forecast before your trip and pack accordingly. Be prepared for rapidly changing conditions and inclement weather, even during the summer, as afternoon storms and cold fronts can bring unseasonably cool temperatures and precipitation. The following list is primarily for warm weather. Review our clothing suggestions at the bottom for spring, fall, and winter recommendations.

- Lightweight Fishing Shirt or Sun Hoody**
- Quick Dry Pants**
  - Quick-dry pants with lightweight wading boots or shoes are best in summer.
  - Protect from high-elevation sun, biting flies, thistles, brush, and branches.
- Quick Dry Underwear** - Cotton underwear/clothing does not dry quickly, which is uncomfortable.
- Lightweight Wading Boots or Shoes**
  - Simms Flyweight Boots, Astral Brewer 2.0 or Rassler 2.0.
  - Provides ankle support, foot protection, and aquatic traction.
  - **Felt soles are prohibited in Yellowstone Park.**
- Wet Wading or Wool Socks**
  - Simms Wet Wading Socks, neoprene socks, or wool socks
- Ball Cap or Wide Brimmed Hat** for sun and errant fly protection.
- Polarized Sunglasses – A Must!**

Smith and Costa make premium polarized fishing sunglasses. We recommend Brown, Bronze, and Copper photochromic lenses, which are the most versatile. Mirrored lenses block extra light and work as a mirror for applying sunblock on your face. We recommend bringing an extra pair as a backup. Brighter lenses like Smith's Ignitor in rose or yellow work well on cloudy days or dark conditions. Although lighter lenses are great in dimmer light, they aren't as good in bright sunlight as they let more light through, leading to eye fatigue and headaches. Gray lenses are okay on bright days but too dark on cloudy days.

## Waders

- Waders**

Breathable waders are recommended for spring, fall, and winter trips. They may be worn during summer when the forecast calls for cool, rainy conditions or if you have a low tolerance for cool-to-cold water.
- Wading Boots** - Vibram and felt soles work well. **Cleats and spikes are not allowed in boats. Felt soles are prohibited in Yellowstone Park.**
- Wading Staff** – *Optional.*

## What to Bring on Boat

- Rain Jacket** – Every day regardless of forecast or clear morning skies.
- Rain Pants or Bibs** – *Optional*. Good to have in summer if you don't bring waders.
- Warm Layer** – fleece jacket or shirt, puffy jacket.
- Fishing License**
- Camera or Cell Phone** for photos/videos. Spare lenses, batteries, memory cards, and accessories.
- Water Bottle**
- Toilet Paper, Wet Wipes, Hand Sanitizer**
- Sunscreen & Lip Balm**
- Insect Repellent** – June & July mainly, sometimes August, depending on conditions.
- Binoculars**

## Fishing Gear

Rods, reels, flies, and terminal tackle (leaders, tippet, indicators, split shot, floatants, etc.) are provided, but feel free to bring your gear. Please get in touch with us before your trip for recommendations.

- Fly Rods & Reels**
  - **Nine-foot 5 & 6 Weight Rods** - Versatile for most trout fishing in Montana and Wyoming. You can bring lighter rods (2-4 weights) for dry flies and heavier rods (7-8 weights) for streamers, nymph fishing, and wind.
  - **5 Weight Rods** - Present dry flies more delicately than heavier rods and are suitable for light and standard nymphing. They aren't as good with large flies, weight, and wind as 6-weight rods.
  - **6 Weight Rods** - Cast split shot, indicators, heavy and large flies, and wind better than lighter rods.
  - **7 & 8 Weight Rods** - Great for streamer fishing, large, heavy flies, sinking lines, and wind.
  - **2 to 4 Weight Rods** - Good for dry flies on smaller streams but don't handle large flies, weight, or wind well.
  - **9', 9' 6", and 10' Rods**. Excellent for boat and nymph fishing, and they have superior mending and leverage.
  - Rods **under 9'** aren't recommended for boat fishing or nymphing.
  - **7' 6" to 8' 9" Rods** - Great for short, accurate casts with dry flies, especially on small streams and creeks.

- Fly Lines**

Floating lines cover most fishing conditions. Weight-forward lines are preferred, but double-tapered lines work well. Nymph tapers are good for turning over strike indicators, split shot, and heavy nymphs. Streamer-specific lines work well for casting large, heavy streamers. You can use a sinking line to search deep.

- Fishing Vest or Pack**

- Leaders**

- 7.5', 2x – 3x are preferred, versatile, and great when fishing two flies.
- 9', 2x – 4x are good options, especially for technical dry fly fishing.

- Tippet**

- 2x – 5x will cover most situations. Your guide will have plenty of tippet material and sizes.
- Fluorocarbon tippet is excellent for nymph fishing; nylon tippet is best for dry flies.

- Flies & Fly Boxes**

We provide all the flies, but buying locally is best based on your guide's recommendations.

If you wish to tie your flies or purchase some in advance, contact us for fly recommendations.

- Retractor(s), Nippers & Hemostats**

- Ketchum Release** – responsible, fish-friendly release tool; release fish without handling or touching.

- Monomaster** – responsibly store used tippet. <http://www.monomaster.nl>

- Waterproof Fly Treatments** – FlyAgra, Aquel, Gink

- Desiccants** - Dry Shake, Frog's Fanny

- Split Shot** - Sizes AB, BB & B are often used, although sizes 1-6 can sometimes be useful.

- Strike Indicators**

- Air-Lock and Oros Strike Indicators in 3/4" are best and easily adjust without kinking your leader.
- New Zealand wool is excellent for lightweight and short-leash nymphing.
- Palsa or Umpqua Strike II indicators work well for short-leash nymphing and delicate presentations.

- Tie-Fast Knot Tool** – Excellent for nail knots.

- Hook Hone**

- Waterproof Thermometer** – for checking water temperatures.

# Clothing

Be sure to check the forecast before your trip and pack accordingly. Be prepared for rapidly changing conditions and inclement weather, even during the summer, as afternoon storms and cold fronts can bring unseasonably cool temperatures and precipitation. We conduct trips in all but the most extreme and unsafe conditions.

The following items should be packed in your luggage for several days of fishing, dining, and relaxing.

## Summer Trips (*Mid-June to Mid-September*)

- Lightweight Fishing Shirts (2-3)**
- Sun Hoodies (2-3)**  
Sun and biting fly protection. *Guide Tip* - doubles as a pajama top at night.
- Quick Dry Pants and Shorts (2-3 Pairs each)**
- Casual Pants, Shirts** - For hanging out after fishing, dinner, etc., Kuhl pants, Mountain Khakis, jeans, etc.
- Belt(s)**
- Quick Dry & Daily Underwear**
- Dry Socks** for after fishing.
- Dry Shoes, Boots, Flip Flops, etc.**, for after fishing, dinner, walking around town, and lounging.
- Rain Jacket**
- Rain Pants or Bibs** - *Optional*. Good to have in summer if you don't bring waders on a trip.
- Warm Jacket & Layer**  
Great for cool mornings, evenings, and rapidly changing weather.  
*Recommended:* Patagonia Micro Puff, Nano Puff, Nano-Air Jacket, R1 Pullover, Early Rise Snap Shirt.
- Sun Gaiter (Buff), Bandana/Scarf** for sun and insect protection.
- Sun Gloves**
- Neck Cooling Towel** for hot weather.
- Fishing Hats**
- Wet Wading Socks (1-2 pairs)** for fishing.

## Spring, Fall & Winter Trips (*Before June 15 & After September 15*)

In addition to the items listed above, we recommend the following items for spring, fall, and winter.

- Warm/Insulated Jackets (1-2)**  
*Recommended:* Patagonia Down Jacket, Simms Bulkley Jacket.
- Warm Mid Layer Shirt, Hoody, Vest (2)**  
*Recommended:* Patagonia R1 Pullover, Patagonia Early Rise Snap Shirt, Down Vest, etc.
- Baselayer Tops (2-3)**  
*Recommended:* Patagonia Capilene Lightweight, Midweight, Air, & Thermal Weight Tops.  
Simms Lightweight & Midweight Tops, or similar synthetic or Merino Wool tops.
- Baselayer Bottoms (2 Pairs)**  
*Recommended:* Patagonia Capilene Midweight, Air, & Thermal Weight Bottoms.
- Warm Pants (1-2 Pairs)** - Great for under waders.  
*Recommended:* Patagonia R1 Pants, Patagonia Tough Puff Pants.  
Simms Challenger Sweat Pants, Simms Cold Weather Pant, or similar fleece pants.
- Warm Hat & Gloves**
- Wool Socks (Several Pairs)**
- Fleece Neck Gaiter**
- Insulated Waterproof Boots** - Keep your feet warm and dry when not fishing.
- Waders & Boots – no spikes or cleats in boats, please!**

# Personal Items

- Wallet & Credit/Debit Cards**
- Cash**
- Guide & Lodge Gratuities** (Separate Envelopes)
- Reading Material/Guidebooks**
- Eyeglasses/Contacts** - With Repair Kit
- Cell Phone**
- Camera & Lenses** – Batteries, memory cards & chargers.
- iPod/MP3 player w/chargers, Headphones, Portable Speaker**
- Laptop/Tablet & Chargers**
- Toiletry Kit** – Toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, deodorant, shaving kit.
- Personal Medications**
- First Aid Kit w/band aids, waterproof tape**
- Ibuprofen, acetaminophen, naproxen, aspirin**
- Immodium, Tums**
- Neosporin, hydrocortisone cream**
- Hand Lotion**
- Aloe/Sunburn lotion**
- Bar of soap**
- Large Garbage Bag** - keep wet items separate from dry clothing.
- Gallon Zip Lock Bags** (3-4) – For Misc. items
- BYOB**
- Personal Snacks**
- Playing Cards/Cribbage Board**

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