# CAR CAMPING CHECKLIST



# 1. Planning & Preparation

- ✓ Choose Your Destination Research campgrounds, permits, and regulations.
- Check the Weather Pack accordingly for rain, cold, or heat.
- ✓ Plan Your Route Identify gas stations, grocery stores, and emergency stops.
- Reserve a Campsite (if required) Many popular sites need reservations.
- ✓ Ensure Vehicle Readiness Check oil, tire pressure, and fuel levels.
- **Download Offline Maps** In case of poor cell service.
- **✓ Share Your Itinerary** Let a friend or family member know your plans.

# 2. Sleeping & Shelter

- ✓ Tent or Rooftop Tent (if not sleeping in the car)
- ✓ Sleeping Bag (appropriate for the temperature)
- ✓ Sleeping Pad or Air Mattress
- **✓** Pillow & Blanket
- Tarp or Groundsheet (for under the tent)
- ✓ Hammock (optional, for relaxing)
- Earplugs & Eye Mask (for better sleep)

## 3. Cooking & Food Supplies

- ✓ Cooler & Ice Packs
- Camp Stove or Portable Grill
- Fuel/Propane for Stove
- Cookware (Pots, Pans, etc.)
- Cooking Utensils (Spatula, Tongs, Spoon, etc.)
- ✓ Plates, Bowls, Cups & Cutlery
- Knife & Cutting Board
- ▼ Food Storage Containers & Zip Bags
- Camping Table & Chairs
- **✓** Portable Coffee Maker or Kettle
- **☑** Dish Soap & Sponge
- Trash Bags (Leave No Trace!)
- Paper Towels



#### 4. Food & Snacks

- Non-Perishable Items (canned goods, pasta, rice, etc.)
- Fresh Produce & Proteins (if refrigeration is available)
- Energy Bars, Nuts, and Dried Fruits
- ✓ Instant Meals & Freeze-Dried Food
- Plenty of Water & Reusable Water Bottles
- Coffee, Tea, or Hot Chocolate

# 5. Clothing & Footwear

- Weather-Appropriate Layers (base layer, mid-layer, outer shell)
- **✓** Comfortable Hiking Shoes or Boots
- Extra Socks & Underwear
- Rain Jacket or Poncho
- Gloves, Hat, and Scarf (if cold weather camping)
- Swimsuit & Quick-Dry Towel
- Sleepwear & Camp Shoes

## 6. Safety & Emergency Gear

- **▼** First Aid Kit
- Headlamp & Flashlight (with extra batteries)
- Multi-Tool or Knife
- Fire Starter (lighter, matches, firewood)
- Bear Spray or Insect Repellent
- ✓ Sunscreen & Sunglasses
- Portable Phone Charger or Solar Charger
- Whistle & Emergency Blanket
- Basic Repair Kit (duct tape, zip ties, etc.)

## 7. Camping Essentials

- Camping Chairs & Table
- Shade Canopy or Tarp
- Lantern & String Lights



- Backpack for Short Hikes
- Books, Cards, or Games
- **V** Notebook & Pen (for journaling or notes)
- Binoculars (for wildlife watching)

# 8. Hygiene & Toiletries

- Biodegradable Soap & Shampoo
- ▼ Toothbrush & Toothpaste
- **✓** Wet Wipes & Hand Sanitizer
- **✓** Quick-Dry Towel
- Toilet Paper & Trowel (if primitive camping)
- Deodorant & Personal Hygiene Items
- Laundry Bag for Dirty Clothes

#### 9. Fun & Entertainment

- Camera or GoPro
- Fishing Gear (if applicable)
- ✓ Bluetooth Speaker (respect campground quiet hours)
- ✓ Hiking Maps & Trail Guides
- ✓ Notebook or Sketchpad
- Star Chart or Astronomy App for Stargazing

## Final Tips for a Great Car Camping Trip

- ✓ Pack Light But Efficiently Only bring essentials to maximize space.
- ✓ Stay Organized Use storage bins or packing cubes.
- ✓ Follow Leave No Trace Principles Pack out what you pack in.
- ✓ Respect Campground Rules Be mindful of noise and wildlife.
- ✓ Have Fun! Enjoy nature, unwind, and make memories.

By following this checklist, you'll be fully prepared for a safe and enjoyable car camping trip. Happy camping! ??