

One of the most common pre-trip questions we receive is all about what to pack, and what the essential items are. This is a list of recommended kit to take on an Avenue of Volcanoes challenge. We have tried to pare down this kit list to the absolute must-haves for your trek, but above all you should use your common sense and your own personal preferences when you are packing. Check out our additional guidelines at the bottom of this list!

## RUCKSACKS AND BAGS

- Day sack 30-40L
- Rucksack/Duffle bag 70-90L
- Waterproof liner\*

## SLEEPING

- 4 season sleeping bag comfort rating of -10
- Sleeping mat/Thermarest
- Sleeping bag liner\*

## FOOTWEAR

- Walking boots with ankle protection
- Hiking socks at least 4 pairs, of which one thermal
- Training/comfy shoe for evenings
- Spare laces\*

## CLOTHING

- Waterproof and breathable jacket GORE-TEX recommended
- Waterproof over trousers
- Down jacket
- Windproof softshell jacket
- Lightweight fleece top
- Wicking t-shirt
- Trekking trousers (not jeans)
- Thermal long johns
- Underwear light and loose
- Bandana/buff for the cold
- Balaclava/hat
- Insulated gloves/mittens
- Casual clothes for around camp
- Hiking shorts\*
- Smart clothes for the celebratory meal\*
- Swimwear dependant on hotel\*

## GENERAL TREKKING EQUIPMENT

- LED Head torch plus spare batteries
- Water bottles/bladder min 3l
- Sunglasses
- High energy snacks bars, dried fruit, chocolate, nuts
- Dry bags for keeping clothes and docs dry
- Walking poles\*
- Camera\*
- Contact lenses (plus spare glasses) \*
- Gaffa tape\*
- Alarm clock/watch\*
- Ear plugs\*
- Special equipment for summit night (to be hired in country)

## SMALL FIRST AID KIT

- Your own medication
- Malaria tablets under advice from your GP
- Pain killers
- Plasters
- Zinc oxide tape
- Blister plasters such as Compeed
- Antiseptic wipes
- Diarrhoea tablets
- Rehydration sachets
- Deep heat\*
- Knee support\*

## TOILETRIES

- Personal toiletries
- Tissue/toilet paper
- Travel towel
- Insect repellent containing DEET
- Sunscreen (min factor 30), Aftersun/moisturiser
- Anti-bac hand gel
- Dextrose tablets for extra energy\*
- Dry shampoo\*
- Dry wash\*

## DOCUMENTS

- Passport
- Visa (if required)
- Flight tickets
- Photocopy of passport
- Money
- Debit / Credit card
- Travel insurance

**KEY** \* Indicates Optional

If you do not own some of this equipment and do not wish to spend a lot of money on buying equipment then we would highly recommend hiring equipment from our partners at **Outdoorhire**. They can hire really good quality outdoor equipment for weekends and often hiring a high-quality piece of equipment is better than purchasing a cheap version

# MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR KIT

## PACKING

Check out Outdoorhire's useful tips on how to pack your kit bag here. We recommend that you limit your baggage to 18kg, so don't overpack!

The climb of Cayambe entails walking on the glaciers of the volcano. You will therefore need to hire a pair of plastic boots with crampons, an ice axe, harness, helmet and karabiner. This will cost approx. £70 for the days required, and you will be given professional instruction on how to use the equipment, as well as half a day's practice before the climb. If you have feet smaller than size 36, or larger than 45, please advise us ASAP as boots may be difficult to hire.

Your day sack should have a thick waist strap for maximum comfort. Other things to consider are back ventilation, hydration compatibility and gear loops for stowing walking poles. Waterproof liners or bags are essential for keeping valuables and clothes dry within your pack.

## CLOTHES

Temperatures can fluctuate enormously from day-night and between the bottom of the mountain and the summit. Lots of light layers are key, as well as a synthetic or down jacket for Summit night. Make sure that you wear and test your kit before arrival, particularly your hiking boots.

## SLEEPING

Look for a sleeping bag 'Comfort Rated' as close to the anticipated minimum temperature for your trek. For Avenue of the Volcanoes this should be between 10° and -15° C. If you particularly feel the cold, then upgrade your sleeping bag to the next level e.g. from 4 Season to 4+ Season. Consider a silk sleeping bag liner for extra comfort without taking up too much space in your pack. A handy tip is to keep your camera in your sleeping bag as you sleep, this will conserve the battery, which runs down quickly in cold temperatures.

## HYDRATION

At high altitude and during exercise your fluid intake needs to increase dramatically, hydration is vital, not least to help prevent Altitude Sickness. There are various ways to get the right fluids into your body, with many people opting to use water bladders or bottles. Another alternative is a wide mouth bottle with a drinking tube adaptor (click here for an example). This set up is easy to fill on the mountain and if the tube freezes it can be removed and you can still drink straight from the bottle.

See Outdoorhire's top tips for hydration [here](#).

## SUMMIT NIGHT

If you do use a water bladder, take a water bottle as well and before you set off on Summit night, get your guide to fill your water bottle with hot water and keep it inside your pack, that way you'll have plenty of easily drinkable water and it won't be freezing cold. Summit nights are cold so make sure you wear your waterproof because as well as keeping you dry it'll also keep the wind out and add a valuable insulation layer.

## HEALTH

Make sure you take a first-aid kit with you, as the group medical kit is designed for emergencies. Zinc Oxide tape is a handy addition, as it is often a lifesaver for blisters. Tape your feet up before trekking and this will reduce the chance of you developing hotspots. In addition, when applying your sunscreen, make sure that you cover the backs of your hands as well as your face and neck. Although you may feel cold, the sun will be stronger on the mountain. Don't forget to take an SPF stick for your lips as well.