

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 the Sahara Desert Trek. 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
- Rucksack/Duffle bag

SLEEPING

- 3-4 season sleeping bag

FOOTWEAR

- Walking boots with ankle protection (worn in and comfortable)
- Hiking socks
- Training/comfy shoes
- Spare laces*

CLOTHING

- Lightweight long-sleeved shirt/t-shirt to cover from midday sun
- Lightweight waterproof jacket and trousers
- Wicking t-shirts
- Trousers – lightweight cargo, avoid jeans
- Lightweight fleece
- Trekking trousers (not jeans)
- Shorts
- Swimwear
- Sun hat
- Casual clothes for around camp
- Sand gaiters*
- Hiking shorts*
- Smart clothes for the celebratory meal*

GENERAL TREKKING EQUIPMENT

- LED Head torch plus spare batteries
- Water bottles/bladder min 3l
- Sunglasses
- High energy snacks bars, dried fruit, chocolate, nuts
- Plastic bags for keeping clothes and documents dry
- Walking poles*
- Camera*
- Contact lenses (plus spare glasses)*
- Small roll of Gaffa tape*
- Ear plugs*

SMALL FIRST AID KIT

- Your own medication
- Pain killers
- Plasters
- Zinc oxide tape
- Blister pads such as Compeed or kinesiology tape
- Antiseptic wipes
- Diarrhoea tablets
- Rehydration sachets
- Sterilising tablets*
- Knee supports*

TOILETRIES

- Personal toiletries
- Small travel towel
- Anti-bacterial hand gel
- Tissue/toilet paper
- Wet wipes
- Insect repellent containing DEET
- Sunscreen (min factor 30), Aftersun/moisturiser
- Lip balm with SPF
- Talcum powder

DOCUMENTS

- Passport
- Tickets
- Photocopy of passport
- Copy of 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

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.

In hot, dry conditions your day sack will be much more comfortable if it has good back ventilation, and hydration compatibility is vital in the heat. Look out for the water drop icon.

CLOTHES

Temperatures can fluctuate enormously between day and night in the desert so lots of light layers are key. Make sure that you wear and test your kit before arrival, particularly your hiking boots.

Whilst it is unlikely to rain in the desert there may be the odd occasion where a light shower falls so we recommend taking lightweight waterproof jacket and trousers. They can also be good protection from the sand if it is windy.

SLEEPING

Look for a sleeping bag 'Comfort Rated' as close to the anticipated minimum temperature for your trek. In the desert this might be colder than you'd imagine so make sure yours is rated according to the kit list recommendations. Don't forget a silk sleeping bag liner for extra comfort without taking up too much space in your pack. Another 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. A sleeping mat is not needed as this will be supplied locally.

HYDRATION

With high daytime temperatures and exercise, your fluid needs increase dramatically and hydration is vital, not least to prevent heat exhaustion. There are various ways to get the right fluids into your body, with most people using either water bladders or bottles.

Another alternative is a widemouth bottle with a drinking tube adaptor (click [here](#) for an example). This set up is easy to fill in trekking conditions and is more versatile than a bladder.

Using a sterilising solution during the trek will help keep your mouthpiece and water bottle clean.

SUN EXPOSURE

The sun is dangerous and must be treated with respect. Wear a broad-brimmed hat and make sure that you apply sun-screen to exposed areas, not forgetting the backs of your hands and the tops of your feet if barefoot or in sandals. A long-sleeved shirt will also provide a physical barrier to sunburn and don't forget to take an SPF stick for your lips as well.

CAMPING

Being organised when camping can make life far more comfortable and few things help organisation better than a set of dry bags. They help compartmentalise your kit and keep wet and damp kit separate, and valuables dry. An LED head torch is probably going to be the most useful bit of kit you take; finding stuff at night, reading, going to the loo will all be much easier with a head torch.

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, particularly on desert treks where blisters are a problem. Tape up your feet before trekking and this will reduce the chance of you developing hotspots. Hand hygiene is vital on trek, wash your hands thoroughly before eating and keep a bottle of anti-bacteria gel handy for when water isn't available.

DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

Please let us know if you have any dietary requirements. Whilst our team in Morocco will do their best to meet any special requests, gluten free food is quite limited. We recommend you take a supply of gluten free bread, oats, and pasta that can be used for daily meals as well as gluten free snack bars during the day.

