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Summer Trip (Fishing and/or Horseback Riding) Additional Information

General Considerations

The best gear you can bring is the right attitude to enjoy the wilderness. Colorado serves up a high percentage of perfect sunny days in the summer; the fish bite all day, wildlife abounds and there are mind boggling views. However, the area is a remote and wild place. Weather and many other variables can affect your trip. Having the right attitude for this type of trip can make or break your experience.

Our day trips are perfect for trying out new gear, but use all your gear before bringing it on our multi-day trips. This especially applies to boots, day pack and safety equipment. New, not-worn-in boots can ruin a trip. Making sure your day pack fits well will make your trip more enjoyable.

On multi-day trips, if you are coming with a group, do not duplicate items. Work with each other to organize who brings what. Everywhere we go requires pack stock. We want to avoid packing unneeded weight. This lessens the impact on the wilderness (less pack animals used) and allows staff to focus on guiding activities instead of caring for more pack animals.

The weather in June-August is usually sunny with highs in the 55-70 degree range and night time temps in the 40-50 degree range. Just keep in mind, the altitude does allow any day to turn out to be a winter day. A large portion of our area is around 10k to above 11k.

On day trips, you can get away with most all clothing materials as long as you make sure to bring decent rain gear. On multi-day trips, **stay away from cotton**, i.e. Carhartt, blue jeans, cotton socks, etc... When cotton gets wet it is useless and it will exacerbate suboptimal weather's effect on your body. Focus on wool and synthetics. There is a lot of newer technology clothing that is lightweight, packable, warm and dries quickly.

Don't hesitate to give us a call about any specific gear questions.

Day Trips

Rain Gear

- We will provide slickers on your riding horses. This rain protection is ideal for riding, but not well suited for other activities. If your group is planning on doing a hike off of the horses, fishing, etc... bring comfortable rain gear. Any of the options available at sporting goods stores and other retailers work. Also, most day-to-day rain jackets are fine. “Water resistant” clothing will not work, “water-proof” is a must.
- Cheap ponchos are not a great option. In heavy downpours and activities they will not keep you dry.

Clothing

- **Bring Layers** – The mountain temperature fluctuations will amaze you.
- The ideal mountain layers in summer: 1) Synthetic or Merino Wool Base Layer, 2) Lightweight softshell jacket or insulating “puffy” jacket, and 3) a medium weight jacket. It sounds like a lot, but layers can always be folded and tied over the back of the saddle.
- Brimmed hats – great sun protection.
- Jeans and other long pants are great. Don’t bring any clothing that isn’t fairly resistant to dirt, mud, brush and vegetation. Do not wear shorts.
- Some folks like to wear a light pair of gloves while riding. It can be a little chilly in the early mornings and holding leather rains for a couple hours can be hard on your hands.

Shoes/Boots

- Closed-toe, durable footwear is a must. No sandals, cros, slippers, high heels, barefeet etc...
- Cowboy boots are great but not necessary.
- Warm socks

Other

- Bug spray if sensitive to mosquitoes
- Sunglasses
- Sun lotion
- Water Bottle
- Camera/Phone
- If you have been prescribed an Epi-Pen, do not come on this trip without one.
- Snacks for saddle bags. We provide meals/snacks/drinks on our trips but some people like having their preferred snacks in a saddlebag while riding.
- Compact binoculars for wildlife viewing are fun to have along.

If trip is focused on guided fishing:

- Trade in normal sunglasses for polarized ones
- Day pack or fanny pack – for when hiking into fishing spots
- Small flash light or headlamp in pack/fanny pack
- We provide basic conventional or fly fishing gear (rods, reels, flies/spinners, tippet, etc...), but if you are more than a beginner fisherman we suggest you bring your own fishing gear. Our gear is optimized for decent performance and durability only. It is not as versatile and tuned as most advanced fisherman prefer.
- Wear waterproof hiking boots or pack along lightweight waders. Bring wool or synthetic socks.
- Purchase a fishing license before arrival

Multi-Day Trips

Boots and Footwear

1 Primary pair of waterproof hiking boots.

- Try to visit a retail location where you can try on different boot models. Fit is essential.
- In steep terrain, the rigidity of the sole is more important than the boot height. Wearing boots that are uncomfortably high can cause “shin bump”, an uncomfortable sore spot on your shins.
- We do not recommend plastic mountaineering boots. They are too uncomfortable when covering level ground.

1 Secondary pair of boots/shoes

- A pair of Merrel type hiking shoes is great backup footwear. They are not great in wet conditions, but the reduced weight and increased breathability are nice.
- A pair of tennis shoes or crocs will work as camp/backup footwear.

Sock liners

- Thin liner socks will help you avoid blisters and allow you to pack fewer pairs of primary socks.
- We prefer ultra-thin, silk liners. Merino wool and synthetics will also work well.

Primary socks

- The best option is medium weight wool.
- If you tend to have warm feet, bring lightweight wool socks in place of your liner socks. If the weather is warm, you can just wear the lightweight socks.

Gators (Optional)

- Great in snow and/or rain. Also great when dealing with high, frosty or dewy vegetation
- Keep your boots and feet dryer

Base Clothing:

Pairs of long underwear sets

- Synthetics and merino wool are good options
- Get different weights so you have flexibility for temperatures
- You will not need heavy, wool long underwear
- You can substitute synthetic undergarments if you know you run warm

Daily Layers

1-2 Lightweight shirts

1 Mid-weight shirt

1 Pair Synthetic Shorts

1 Pair lightweight pants

- On nice days, lightweight almost pajama-like (MicroTex) pants are awesome. Prana Zion Stretch and other hiking pants are great.
- Avoid vegetation that releases burrs. This type of pant picks burrs up.

1 Pair mid-weight pants

3 Layer Outerwear System

(If you run cold, bring a Primaloft insulated jacket or vest in addition to these layers)

1 Lightweight fleece or soft-shell jacket

1 Heavy/medium weight jacket for cold weather (35-45 degrees, nights and early mornings)

- Wool or wool/synthetic is best.
- Needs to have wind stopping attributes.

1 Full set of rain gear

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Other Clothing

- Gloves
- Balaclava or scarf
- Brimmed hat

Tool Gear

1 Head lamp or small flashlight

Day pack

- A comfortable pack in the 1,300-2,200 cubic inch range

Camera

- Bring your charger and/or spare batteries
- The cold can quickly uncharge a charged battery

Water bottle and/or hydration bladder

- Sturdy bladders that go in your day pack are best

Water purification tablets or water purifiers

- Many of our guides carry water purifiers, but carrying a light weight personal purifying method makes water stops quicker and easier.
- The most common way we sanitize water is by boiling. However, on long day hikes when you need to refill your water bottle in the field, having a lightweight purifying mechanism is great.
- Electrolyte tablets, like Nuun, improve the taste of purified water (tablet purified, filtered, or boiled) and add an energy boost.

Personal Gear

Sleeping bag

- For the summer season a 10-20 degree rated bag is best.
- We prefer non-mummy type bags for comfort, this is personal preference

Personal Hygiene and Medication Items

- Make sure you have enough of any prescriptions
- If you have had anaphylaxis (allergic reaction) to bees or other insects, please carry an Epi-Pen at all times.
- Pepto-Bismol and other routine medications can be helpful
- Altitude medication if you have a history of altitude sickness
- Carry personal Aspirin as an immediate treatment for heart attack or pain.
(We carry extensive first aid kits in our guided camps. These include basic medication like Ibuprofen, Aspirin, Pepto, Imodium)

Baby Wipes

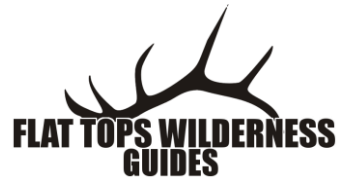
- No better bathroom wipe around

Chapstick and Sunscreen

Sunglasses

Bug spray

An extra pair of eye glasses or contacts if you wear them



Soft duffle bags to pack most your gear in for packing on mules. Dry bags are best.

- Bags must weigh less than 50lbs a piece
- Water, camera, clothing layers are allowed in saddlebags. Other gear is not allowed.
- Wearing day packs while riding is prohibited on packin and packout

Super absorbent personal towel

- REI sells lots of good options that are packable, dry quickly and absorb an astonishing amount of water.
- Another good option is the ShamWow towels. The price is right too!

Water Bottle

Compact binoculars for wildlife viewing are fun to have along.

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