

# European Alps | Matterhorn to Mont Blanc | Gear & Packing List

Gear selection is one of the most important steps when preparing for your trek. The right gear is pivotal in your trekking experience. The following is a suggested gear list to help you prepare for your trek in the European Alps from Matterhorn to Mont Blanc. There are many brands and types of clothing and gear. Usually higher quality leads to longer life of the item. Take note of items you will use again after this trip when buying new items. Gear you will only use once may be of lower quality. Please make sure your gear is comfortable and fits well.

## Laundry services are available all throughout this trip

Have Gear Questions? Please do not hesitate to contact our gear experts at 801.943.0264 if you have the equipment you are not sure fills our requirements or any other questions. We want to ensure everyone is prepared for a wide array of conditions, and a good experience on the mountain dictates having the right gear.

Gear Rentals: There is the ability to rent every piece of gear you will need for this trek for only a few hundred dollars. Please let us know in advance so we can make special arrangements for you. You may need to plan an extra day into your itinerary to get fully outfitted. Non-clothing items such as sleeping bags and trekking poles can be reserved with ease.

## Packs & Bags



### **Rolling Suitcase**

Bring one rolling suitcase for ease of transport to and from your room.

**Pro tip:** If you use small bags to separate your clothing and other items, you will have a much easier time finding everything in your duffel!



#### **Travel Locks**

Used for securing luggage in transit and for your storage duffel bag. Make sure that you buy TSA-approved locks. Please store a spare key in a separate bag or pack.



#### **Medium-sized Day Pack**

We recommend a 15-25 liter pack. You will carry day-use items such as a water bottle, camera, lunch, and extra clothing layers in this backpack.



#### Day Pack Rain Cover (Optional)

A rain cover should be fitted to the size of your day pack. This cover keeps your gear dry in the event of precipitation.

## Clothing & Layering

Clothing impacts not only your comfort but also your safety. Always be critical of the quality and fit of your clothing. Cotton clothing must be avoided as it dries very slowly and is a poor insulator when wet. Instead, choose wool or synthetic fabrics that wick the sweat away from your skin. If you pick layers that build on each other, you will be able to add or remove layers to match the weather and stay warm and dry.

## Four-Layer System

- A. Base Layer: Manages moisture and wicks perspiration away from your skin (Polypro, Capilene, dri-clime)
- B. Insulating Layer: Should be down-fill or synthetic-fill (e.g. down, primaloft, or polarguard)
- C. **Softshell:** Should be a durable, comfortable, insulating, and wind/water resistant layer that breathes well. The main softshell fabrics are Polartec Wind Pro, Gore Windstopper N25, Schoeller, and each clothing manufacturer's own fabrics.
- D. Hard shell: Windproof, waterproof, and breathable (e.g. Gore-Tex or similar)

## Shirts & Jackets



#### **Base Layer T-Shirt**

Two short-sleeved tech shirts that are good at wicking moisture. Synthetic or wool materials only; no cotton.



### **Long Sleeved Shirt**

Bring at least one long-sleeved tech shirt made of synthetic or wool material. A sun shirt works well, and a light color works even better.



#### **Mid-Layer Top**

A warmer long-sleeved synthetic mid-layer with quick-drying capabilities. A grid fleece or hybrid works well because of its lightweight, breathability, and flexibility. No cotton



#### **Insulated Jacket**

A soft shell or insulated jacket. Fleece, down, or synthetic is ok.



#### **Hard-Shell Jacket**

A waterproof jacket for when the weather turns wet. A Gore-Tex rating is recommended. Ensure your jacket has underarm zippers and no insulation.



#### Rain Poncho

A poncho provides a lot of rain protection in a lightweight package.

## **Pants & Shorts**



#### **Trekking Pants**

One Pair of lightweight full-length trekking pants. Zip-off pants are nice.



### **Hard-Shell Trekking Pants**

Gore-Tex or other waterproof pants. Full-Length side zippers are a nice upgrade. Don't feel the need to buy the best pair of pants.

## Headgear



## Warm Skull Cap

A beanie or ski hat to keep your head warm.



#### Sunhat

Something to keep the sun out of your eyes and off your face. Your favorite personal hat is a great choice.



### **Neck Buff/Gaiter**

One or two buffs for sun and wind protection of your face and neck.



### Sunglasses

We prefer polarized sunglasses with UV protection. Sunglasses should be dark and protect your eyes well.

## Gloves



## **Light-Weight Gloves**

Bring one pair of lightweight gloves

## **Footwear**



## **Light-weight Trekking/Running Shoes**

One pair of lighter shoes for casual wear and for shorter trekking days.



### **Hiking Boots**

One pair of sturdy, water-repellent hiking boots. These should be well broken in before the trip. A high-top boot is preferable.



## **Medium-weight Socks**

Four to six pairs of medium-weight synthetic or wool hiking socks.

## Personal Equipment



## **Trekking Poles**

3-section adjustable trekking poles with snow baskets.



### **Universal Power Adapter**

A universal travel adapter. One with USB ports is convenient.



#### **Water Bottle**

Two wide-mouth water bottles with a minimum 1L capacity.

## Medicine

**Dramamine:** (Over the counter) If you are prone to "car sickness" it is always a good idea to bring for motion sickness.

Lip-screen: Two sticks of lip balm with an SPF rating of 20 or higher

**Sunscreen:** A few small tubes of sunscreen with an SPF rating of at least 45.

Insect Repellent: We recommend 100% DEET, in lotion or liquid spray bottle form.

Personal Medications: Don't forget to pack your personal medications!

OTC Medications: We recommend bringing Pepto-Bismol, Imodium A-D, and Cough Drops.

## **Additional Items**

Dress Clothes: We recommend bringing a few dress shirts and dress pants for dinners

Travel/Casual Clothes: You will need street clothes for air travel and evenings

**Swimsuit:** A swimsuit your already own will be great.

Camera: Please make sure to bring your SD card, cords, and other accessories.

Casual Shoes: Bring a pair of comfortable casual shoes for lodges and around town.

**Snack Bag:** Bring a one-gallon-sized bag of energy bars and other small snacks to keep in your day pack to eat between meals if needed. Bring food you like to eat.

Travel Light: Bring a small travel light with you just in case.

## **Recommended Apps**







**World Clock** Android | iOS



**Google Translate** Android | iOS



GlobeConvert Android (Alt) | iOS



Skyview



**Peak Finder** Android | iOS



Android | iOS

Strava



**Weather Underground** Android | iOS

