



Your Ultimate Guide to Family Camping

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What Kind of Camping Do You Want To Do?

What's Your Style – Different Kinds of Family Camping for Unforgettable Fun and Adventure

Camping gives everyone the chance to experience wildlife firsthand.

Campers usually can engage in hunting, fishing, plant study, swimming, canoeing, nature photography and wildlife watching.

Likewise, camping delivers many physical benefits because it involves

outdoor activities and according to enthusiasts, camping imparts confidence in children as well as offers opportunity for adult campers to challenge themselves when in unfamiliar surroundings.

Day hiking

Day hiking is becoming more popular with campers of all ages. Anyone capable of walking long distances can certainly do this. A day hikers' objective is to hike or walk for the day and return to the place of origin that same day, usually as night approaches their campsite.

Besides being able to walk long distances, you must also be ready for any weather conditions as well as having the right tools and techniques needed so you can find the right route back to your campsite.

One very important thing in hiking is selecting the correct footwear. Because hiking is defined as walking which simply means being "on your feet", you must purchase footwear designed specifically for hiking and that primarily give your feet comfort while walking. Never purchase footwear solely based on how good they look.

Many are attracted to this "sport" because every individual sets their own objective then strives hard to achieve it; this undertaking requires some commitment and planning.

RV camping

RV stands for Recreational Vehicle and RV campers embrace the liberty of traveling at their "own time" and are able to camp in different places while not sacrificing comfort that RVs offer.

An RV is comparable to a small lodge but on wheels and normally comes complete with heater, oven, refrigerator, shower, stove, beds, toilet, and "12-volt" electrical power.

According to many RVers, they enjoy their "mini hotel" because they are always "packed and ready-to-go".

Furthermore, they enjoy the cooking, bathing and sleeping convenience the vehicle offers while in a distant or remote campground.

For individuals who never experienced camping in an RV but thinking of purchasing one, renting first would be a very sensible decision so you will see if the RV lifestyle suits you.

Backpacking camping

Backpacking is generally the most exciting and basic way to experiencing a wilderness adventure.

Backpacking adds new excitement and elements to any hiking experience because it extends your visit in the backwoods. You may travel far into the wilderness because you are not obliged to go back to your campsite at the day's end.

Backpacking is simply exploring on foot beautiful and wild country, being self-sufficient, while hiking with camping essentials in a comfortable backpack and set camp mostly in undeveloped and primitive areas.

Put simply, backpacking entails having to carry a pack of essential camping supplies on your "back." The longer your trip, the more supplies you carry. What you will be taking along with you as well as how distant you will hike actually depends on you.

Preparing for your backpacking trip involves assembling, selecting and

packing supplies and gear that you need and want to bring along with you.

Selecting your backpacking gear is very significant so as to have a successful trip. Excessive gear or specifically the wrong kind of backpacking gear can bring about an extremely heavy weight load that will spoil your hike.

Likewise, incorrect or too little gear will result in discomfort and under certain conditions, may even be dangerous.

The internet is filled with stores specifically devoted to backpacking supplies and gear as well as information. Studying your backpacking gear will enable you to purchase the right gear that you need.

The selections for backpacking gear are always evolving, ongoing and constantly changing. Find out which one best suits your backpacking requirements.

Backpacking equipment generally costs more compared to car camping, however much less compared to RV camping and take note, backpacking campsites are usually free.

Tent camping

Tent camping usually attracts families with children because children are primarily the ones that enjoy it the most and because it is rugged and inexpensive.

Tent camping employs a vehicle to transport camping equipment to any established campground that offers full amenities and allow direct car access.

Whatever type you choose, with safety in mind, camping is sure to be a fun filled experience the whole family will love and will look forward to every season.

Summer, Winter, Spring or Fall

What Is The Best Season For You To Go Camping?

Different camping seasons impart different lights and views.

Summer camping

The summer is the most popular season for campers because the weather is dry and warm. Campsites are understandably more crowded during the summer. You need to plan ahead, make reservations and arrive early so to find a good campground especially during weekends.

Winter camping

There are some people that find winter camping more satisfying compared to the summer months, because they say, winter camping requires a specific strength and courage that summer camping does not.

If you love the challenge it brings, then consider "winter camping". You can enjoy sleeping in "mild weather" outside.

Likewise, it gives you added "self-confidence" realizing that you actually can endure the preparedness and ingenuity this kind of outdoor adventure requires.

Certainly, there are many advantages to camping during winter; no snakes, bugs, flies, bears, dust or mosquitoes, plus winter wilderness view is breathtaking.

You can go snowmobiling, snowshoeing, "cross-country skiing" and engage in many heartening challenges.

Furthermore, campgrounds during winter will most likely be quiet, empty and normally cheap.

However, lack of preparation and readiness brings dangers. There are

many hazards and dangers that one needs to be familiar with, like large quantities of snow falling from “overhead trees”. But with good planning, you can enjoy the slower pace of winter camping.

Here are some reminders for winter camping:

1. Drink plenty of water to fight or avoid hypothermia because water effectively replaces all the moisture that was expelled from the body due to constant heavy breathing. Just drink water even when you feel you are not thirsty. The recommendation is one gallon of water a day.
2. At signs of an approaching storm, immediately put your rain gear on. Should you get wet, change right away to warm and dry clothing, because moist clothes will quickly suck heat from your body.
3. Remember to pace yourself.
4. Do more tasks than you would normally, because movement will generate body heat.
5. Following tips 1-4 and wearing clothing layers, especially clothing that is polyurethane foam insulated will help you prevent frostbite.
6. Always listen and take notice of your body’s reactions. When you start to shiver, immediately do something in order to make yourself warm before uncontrollable shaking and numbness sets in.

Take note that hypothermia occurs mostly in windy and wet weather with temperature ranging from “30-50 degrees F”.

7. Eat a lot of complex carbohydrates and do avoid food rich in sugar and starches.

Fall camping

Fall camping is catching on among family campers. The beauty of nature during the fall season is indeed captivating.

With lesser crowds and no insects to bother you, fall camping can be the perfect option for you.

However, during fall, some essential camping amenities such as showers and washrooms might not be offered.

But, if you can settle on remote fall camping, pack your warm clothes then enjoy the “autumn months”.

Spring camping

Spring is the season of transition; snow is now melting away and it is time to go back outdoors and see nature after that cold and long winter.

So what is there to do during spring camping? Anglers are eager to go fishing because the “small mouth bass” and the walleye are both spawning; ducks are now coming back and you can go hunting.

Hike, swim, go canoeing, fishing, boating and do not forget to bring your paint brushes and camera as well because you will see more exciting sights.

Likewise, you can set up a barbeque outside, of course far away from your tent and enjoy hearty grilled snacks and meals such as hotdogs, burgers, steaks, fish fresh from the river, vegetables and salads.

Summer, Winter, Fall, and Spring offer many different and exciting challenges unique to every season.

Remember, whatever the season, while you are camping, you are dealing and living with the wild. Learn and apply your “basic survival” knowledge when the situation calls for it; stay alert and be prepared always.

How to pick the best tent

How to Pick the Best Tent to Ensure a Comfortable and Safe

Refuge While Camping

An essential piece of equipment, your outdoor camping experience is largely dependent on the quality of your tent. Which is why there is a huge quantity to choose from.

The first and simplest way so as narrow your tent choices is to decide the tent dimension that you require.

Tents are constructed to house a specific number of individuals. A solo backpacker will be looking for a tent that is much smaller than a family of campers that require a roomier tent.

Almost all tents are labeled with description and their capacity which indicates how many individuals the tent can hold comfortably.

Unless you are intent on having a collection of tents in different capacity or sizes, it is wise that you establish the largest number of individuals you believe will sleep in the tent.

If you normally backpack with a companion but this summer is going solo, then it is wise to purchase a “two-person” tent.

Basically, there are four tent components: namely the poles, tent body, rain fly and the tarp which is some kind of footprint or ground cloth to extend your tent’s floor life.

Apart from these basic components, here are some guidelines in choosing the best tent for you:

1. Consider your needs. Know your particular camping requirements, such as where do you mostly go camping, at what season and would you be backpacking? And how many are you. These answers can give you a clear idea of what type of tent you will need.
2. Set your budget. When you allocate a budget before you go looking for a tent, most likely, you will not overspend.
3. Tent weight and size. How many individuals will be sleeping in the tent? The size of your tent will not really matter should you go “car camping”; however, if your intention is backpacking, then consider a “light-weight” tent.
4. Tent features. Today, there tent manufacturers offering a lot of features for their tents.

Mesh panels allow the breeze go in your tent at the same time keep the mosquitoes and bugs out, “shock-corded” tent poles allow speedy setup, waterproof and flame resistant for safety, a rain fly for added rain protection, etc.

Make certain you choose the tent that best caters to all your basic

requirements.

5. Make certain that you select a durable fabric tent. It will cost you more money, however this is definitely an area worth it.

6. Select the proper tent color. Inspect how the color of the tent transmits light well into the interior. Certain colors generate a brighter interior, whereas others create a cave-like and dreary ambience.

Take note that light colors are best for summer camping since they tend to be cooler whereas dark colors are able to absorb solar energy so that they are great when camping in cold weather.

7. Check the tent's coating. Remember that you must see a waterproof and shiny coating inside the floor and rain fly. If this is not visible or you can not feel this on the tent's fabric, than it is not thick enough to withstand heavy use.

8. Know that your tent needs when camping in the summer are very much different compared to camping in the snow.

Almost all tents available on the market have weather ratings. Make sure that you purchase a tent specifically made for a particular weather condition or season that you will be out camping.

9. Tent manufacturers. Various tent manufacturers have their unique design and name. Some are identified to make inexpensive tents, while others are well recognized to make high quality but expensive tents.

Popular tent makers are Coleman, Wenger, Eddie Bauer and Greatland Tents. Choose a tent manufacturer that has been trusted for years.

While in the forest or wilderness the wrong camping equipment may not kill you, it can send you packing off to a motel and cause you to regret having planned a family campout.

For that well-planned and enjoyable camping vacation, take your time when you purchase your tent.

Remember, it will be your home for a few days. Having the right tent will keep you comfortable and warm especially on rainy and cold nights.

How to pick the best backpack

Three Tips to Choosing the Right Camping Backpack

“It’s just a bag”

That’s what most inexperienced campers say. Unknown to them, the choice of bag is no trivial matter as any serious camper will testify. You will never appreciate how a good backpack can benefit your trek until you try going on a major one using an ill-fitting pack.

Take for example the experience of a trekker who went on a trip to the Appalachians in 1994. Instead of an exhilarating camp experience, he had to go home broken and bleeding from the weight of an ill-fitting pack damaging his hips. A decade later – with him a lot wiser and experienced – this hiker, accompanied by a better fitting pack, made 960 miles of terrain – a much greater experience than having your trip cut short due to terrible equipment.

Now you know how important a good pack is, here are a few tips to help you choose a good pack for the journey that lies ahead:

1. Know what you need – hikers and campers vary sharply in camping preferences, some are very minimalist in nature and take only the bare essentials. Others take a lot more equipment on their trips. The amount and type of equipment you bring will definitely shape the decision you make towards what backpack you will need.

You can then do some simple computation on your space needs. Most capable sales representatives can give you the amount of space their bags offer. When doing this try using the measurement for the amount of equipment you take for the longest trip you expect to go on.

2. Is it comfortable – this is probably the most important consideration when choosing a backpack. The goal of every good camping bag is to help campers carry the most amount of weight with the least amount of effort – and inconvenience for that matter.

Good packs distribute weight efficiently, allowing you maximum comfort when carrying the pack. To know how well a pack does this, you will have to test the pack itself. Most camp stores will have sand weights to place in the pack so that you can test how the pack holds

up to the weight. You will have to carefully consider how comfortable these packs are before even considering them for purchase.

A rule of thumb to remember is that the shoulder straps should carry about 30% of the weight, while the hips – being a lot more stable should carry about 70% of the weight. When testing the pack, make sure the shoulder straps are not uncomfortable or restrictive. Try moving around in them to see how much mobility the backpack gives you.

Most packs also have a sternum strap. These straps help stabilize the backpack. Sternum straps should be positioned below the collarbone to ensure comfort and stability.

The hip belts on the other hand should not constrict your breathing, nor should they be too thick that they reduce your mobility.

Designs always vary and backpack companies are always heralding a ‘new and improved’ technology for campers to try out. The only way to really know if these new bags work is for you to try them out

3. Choose your frame – there are two types of frames to choose from – internal and external. Internal frames are slimmer and hug your body closer, making them ideal for hard trails since they are so maneuverable and do not restrain mobility. They are a bit harder to load though. External framed backpacks are great for beginners on easy trails since they are easier to pack. However, they are a bit stiffer and may restrict mobility. It’s the best type of backpack for children and beginners though.

4. Extras – when purchasing backpacks consider whether the pack is compatible with weather sheets to protect your pack against the elements. Also consider how attachments can be adapted for your pack. Most packs have rings and snap-on pieces that allow for accessories to integrate with your pack.

In the end, a good pack is almost synonymous with a great trek. Choosing a good pack will definitely enhance your camping experience tenfold. Choose carefully, since your backpack will probably be your most trusted companion on all of your camping trips.

How to pick the best sleeping bag

Sleep with Comfort Even on the Road – A Camper's Guide to Sleeping Bags

The hardest thing about going on camping trips is getting a good night's sleep. Being out in the woods on the trail will certainly expose you to nature's worst. While you shelter yourself against the elements with a good tent, only a proper sleeping bag will help give you a good night's rest to power you up for the next day of activities.

While finding a "be all and cure-all" sleeping bag is virtually impossible, it is however, possible to find a bag that will keep you comfortable for most trips – if not all.

When choosing a sleeping bag, take careful note of your needs. You will have to cater your choice of sleeping bags to the trips you most often make. Also, careful knowledge of the available types of sleeping bags will help you make a good decision regarding a sleeping bag.

The greatest issue when choosing a sleeping bag is whether to purchase a down or synthetic fill sleeping bag. Nothing provides comfort and warmth like down, and down is generally recommended for most outdoor camping trips with the family. However, in the event that it rains and your down-filled sleeping bags get wet, it is going to take forever to get your sleeping bags dry. Synthetic fill bags, on the other hand, give good warmth and dry quickly if ever they get wet. They are a bit heavier in comparison, though.

If your needs revolve around general purpose camping trips, you will want to purchase a three-season sleeping bag. These bags generally have a temperature-comfort rating of 10 to 20 degrees Fahrenheit. If you are a more specialized camper – for instance if you like going camping on specific seasons – you will want to purchase a bag that caters to that season. If you like camping during the cooler seasons, go for sleeping bags that offer more warmth – and if you need a bag for warmer climes, go for breathable bags that keep you cool even during the hot seasons.

Check the bag before purchasing, they will usually have a temperature rating guide so that you can choose the bag suited to your needs. Most

winter sleeping gear should be rated for minus 15 to 40 Fahrenheit, while summer sleeping bags should hold up to the 10 to 20 degree Fahrenheit rating.

Here are few things you should look for in a good sleeping bag

1. Material – Most sleeping bags will be made of nylon, or polyester. These are the best kinds of material for sleeping bags. If you are a serious backpacker, try to avoid cotton material – especially the printed ones. If you are taking kids along, you will probably have to concede this point.

For added comfort while sleeping, look for bags that have a lining of taffeta or other non-cotton material. These materials, in comparison to plain nylon or even some cotton lining, are more comfortable, breathe better, and warm quicker.

2. Shape – The mummy shaped sleeping bag is pretty popular nowadays, however, some people find them constricting, especially those that want a lot of space to wiggle around in while sleeping. Mummy shaped bags tend to be snug and comfortable for some people, plus they warm quicker. Rectangular and semi-rectangular bags are great if you want a larger space to sleep in.

3. Accessories and zippers – Make sure the zippers are double-sided and allows for opening on both ends without any hassle. You may want to look out for zipper hooks as well, which prevent the bags from inadvertently opening up accidentally. Also look for insulated draft collars that help seal in the heat around the shoulders and around the neck.

Plus, dark colored bags are advisable since they absorb more heat and are easier to dry out than their lighter colored counterparts.

While all these tips come in handy, you may still want to test the bag itself to see if it fits your lifestyle. Some stores will allow you to test their products before selling them to you. If this is the case, don't hesitate to jump into a bag to try it out.

With a good sleeping bag, you can look forward to more comfortable nights on your camping trips.

Dressing for the weather

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