

Equipment Checklist for Winter Backcountry Travel

This list can be used as a guide when preparing for your trip. Not every item listed here will be necessary on every trip - but go through the list and decide what is necessary for your trip.

Clothing Suggestions

- Fleece jacket or warm sweater
- Warm pants with a cuff to keep out the snow
- Shelled jacket and/or pants (water repellent/breathable)
- Long underwear top and bottom
- Insulated jacket (down, synthetic, etc)
- Warm socks with liner socks (reduce blisters)
- Warm hat or sun hat
- Warm, shelled gloves or mitts

Personal Equipment

- Pack (well fitting, 30-40 litres for day trips)
- Avalanche transceiver (with strong batteries)
- Collapsible avalanche probe
- Collapsible shovel
- Watch
- Sunglasses, sunscreen and lip protection
- Water bottle and/or thermos, and food
- Lighter or waterproof matches
- Pocketknife
- Camera
- Headlamp (good during the darkest months)

Equipment for Travel on Snow

- Skis, snowboard, or snowshoes
- Poles with good baskets
- Comfortable ski or snowboard boots
- Skins (fit well with lots of glue - check at home!)

Group Equipment

- First-aid kit
- Satellite phone (record emergency numbers)
- Bivouac sac or small tarp (emergency shelter)
- Map and compass (bring route info)
- Repair kit