NATIONAL PARK FAMILY

PACKING & PLANNING CHECKLIST

Plan the details before you leave so your family can spend less time figuring things out and more time enjoying the trip.

YOUR FAMILY TRIP

Destination / Park: _____

Trip Dates: _____

Where We're Staying: _____

Adults: _____ Kids: _____ Kids' Ages: _____

Traveling By:

☐ Car ☐ Rental Car ☐ RV ☐ Other: _____

OUR TRIP PRIORITIES

The 3 things our family most wants to experience:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Reservations or timed entry needed:

_____

Longest expected driving day:

_____

Typical weather / temperatures:

_____

Family considerations:

Naps, mobility, dietary needs, sensory needs, medications, or anything else that could affect your plans.

_____

_____

_____

BEFORE YOU GO

Family Planning Checklist

Take care of the big trip details before you leave. Check each item as you confirm it.

RESERVATIONS & ENTRY

□ Park entrance requirements checked
□ Timed-entry requirements checked
□ Lodging or campground reserved
□ Tours, shuttles, or activities reserved
□ Required permits secured
□ Reservation confirmations saved or downloaded

DAILY PLANNING & PACING

□ Family's top must-do experiences identified
□ Drive times between major stops checked
□ Daily plans kept realistic for our kids' ages
□ Meal and snack breaks considered
□ Bathroom and rest stops considered
□ Downtime or an easier part of the day included
□ Backup activity planned for weather or tired kids

WEATHER & SAFETY

□ Typical weather and temperature swings checked
□ Weather forecast checked before each park day
□ Clothing and layers planned for changing conditions
□ Wildlife safety rules reviewed with the family
□ Park-specific hazards or closures checked
□ Basic first-aid supplies packed
□ Medications and important health items packed
□ Offline maps or directions downloaded

WHAT TO PACK

Family Packing Checklist

Pack for the weather, the day's activities, and the little things that make traveling with kids easier.

CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR

- ☐ Comfortable clothes for each day
- ☐ Warm layers for cool mornings and evenings
- ☐ Rain jacket or waterproof layer
- ☐ Comfortable walking or hiking shoes
- ☐ Extra socks
- ☐ Sun hat or other sun protection
- ☐ Sleepwear
- ☐ Extra outfit for younger kids
- ☐ Swimsuit or water shoes, if needed

KID-SPECIFIC ESSENTIALS

- ☐ Comfort item or favorite small toy
- ☐ Child carrier or stroller, if needed
- ☐ Diapers, wipes, or potty-training supplies
- ☐ Kid-size water bottle
- ☐ Sunglasses and sun hat
- ☐ Activities for long drives or waits
- ☐ Headphones, if used
- ☐ Familiar sleep or comfort items
- ☐ Extra change of clothes kept accessible

HEALTH, TOILETRIES & COMFORT

- ☐ Prescription medications
- ☐ Basic first-aid supplies
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Insect repellent
- ☐ Toiletries and personal-care items
- ☐ Hand sanitizer
- ☐ Tissues or wipes
- ☐ Lip balm
- ☐ Any allergy or medical supplies
- ☐ Small bag for wet or dirty clothes

FOR A DAY IN THE PARK

Family Day-Pack Checklist

Keep the essentials close so you're prepared for changing weather, hungry kids, and a full day of exploring.

FOOD & HYDRATION

- □ Water for each family member
- □ Extra water for longer or hotter days
- □ Easy-to-carry snacks
- □ Lunch or other meals, if needed
- □ Extra snacks for delays or longer-than-planned days
- □ Reusable water bottles
- □ Cooler or insulated bag, if needed
- □ Any allergy-safe or special-diet foods

WEATHER & SUN PROTECTION

- □ Sunscreen
- □ Sunglasses
- □ Hats
- □ Rain jackets or ponchos
- □ Warm layer for each family member
- □ Extra layer for younger kids
- □ Insect repellent
- □ Weather forecast checked before leaving

SAFETY & NAVIGATION

- □ Basic first-aid kit
- □ Family medications
- □ Park map
- □ Offline maps downloaded
- □ Phone fully charged
- □ Portable charger
- □ Emergency contact information
- □ Wildlife safety guidance reviewed
- □ Trail or activity conditions checked before starting

PLAN YOUR PARK DAY

Family Trip-Day Planner

Plan one great day at a time—with room for drive time, meals, breaks, and a backup plan.

TODAY'S PLAN

Park / Destination: _____

Date: _____ Weather: _____

Today's #1 Must-Do: _____

Second Priority: _____

Where We're Starting From: _____

Estimated Drive Time _____

OUR DAY

Morning

Plan / Activity: _____

Drive Time: _____

Midday

Plan / Activity: _____

Lunch / Food Plan: _____

Afternoon

Plan / Activity: _____

Drive Time: _____

Evening

Plan / Activity: _____

Dinner / Food Plan: _____