

Great Bear Wilderness Fly Fishing Packing List

We are glad you are joining us in the Great Bear Wilderness. This packing list serves to inform you of clothing and gear that is appropriate to bring along on your trip. We will break down which gear is provided for you and which clothing and gear is your responsibility to bring. As with all our provided gear, if you have your own which you would prefer to use, for example, a sleeping bag, you are more than welcome to bring it.

It is important to remember that in the mountains, weather can be unpredictable. When packing for your trip, keep in mind that temperatures can vary from 30 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit (-1 to 32 degrees Celsius). The best way to prepare for these temperature swings is to pack layers. We want to make sure you have the right gear to keep you comfortable so you can enjoy your backcountry Montana experience.

Your trip starts with a hike into the wilderness on the Granite Creek trail, which is about 5.5 miles long. There are a few small, shallow creek crossings along the trail that may get your shoes or hiking boots wet, depending on the time of year. Once at the river, the remaining days are spent floating, walking and wading down the river.

What is Provided?

- Transportation from the office to the trailhead.
- Meals – from lunch on the first day through lunch on the final day (see sample menu)
- Waterproof bags for your personal gear (one large dry bag per person, which is not accessible during the day, and your guide will carry one small bag per boat, which will be accessible during the day)
- Tents, sleeping bags and sleeping pads
- Coast Guard-approved type V life jacket
- Fly Rods (9' 4-5 wt. 4 pc fly rods)
- Flies (Western trout patterns, Caddis, Mayflies, Stoneflies, Humpies & Hoppers sizes 12-16)
- Extra leader, tippet (9' 3x – 5x)
- Fly floatant, hemostats, and nippers
- Your guide will have a net

Recommended Clothing Not Provided:

- Waterproof & breathable rain jacket and pants
- Lightweight fleece or synthetic jacket
- 1-3 t-shirts (Quick drying synthetic shirts are best for on the river)
 - Cotton is not recommended on the river
- 1-2 long-sleeved shirts (Quick drying and for sun protection)
- 1 set of synthetic thermal underwear, top and bottom
- 1 pair of pants (for use while at camp)
- 2 pairs of shorts (1 for river/1 for camp)

- Swimsuit
- 1-2 wool or polypro socks
- 1 pair of camp shoes (for use around camp & short hikes)
 - There are creeks and streams that you may have to cross on your hike to the river.
- 1 pair of river shoes (Chaco, Keen, Teva, tennis shoes). We recommend having gravel guards if you prefer to use your wading boots instead of river shoes.
- 1 hat (sun protection)
- 1 pair of gloves (fleece, wool, neoprene)

Recommended Gear Not Provided:

- Small Pillow (Pillows are not provided)
- Washcloth & towel
- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Soap & shampoo (biodegradable)
- Medications
- Sunscreen, Chapstick, body lotion, insect repellent
- Sunglasses & eyeglass retention strap
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Waders are not necessary (Wading boots are better)
- Water bottle
- Small daypack or fanny pack
- Camera, binoculars (We have water-resistant containers to store these items in, but you should still have a protective/padded case to use inside the container. Waterproof disposable cameras and batteries are available for purchase at Glacier Anglers & Outfitters)
- Alcoholic beverages, carbonated beverages or snacks (cans or plastic bottles)

Firearms and Bear Spray

Our guides carry gear to protect you from wildlife encounters. They will also give a safety brief before your trip starts. If you feel that a firearm is necessary for your trip, please give us a call so we can discuss safety procedures. You may carry bear spray if you choose to. (We do sell bear spray at Glacier Angler & Outfitters.)

If you have any additional questions on clothing or gear to bring, please feel free to contact us and we would be happy to help you. We look forward to guiding your multi-day adventure.