

PACKING LIST

Built on decades of experience, Bold Earth's packing lists include all the essential items students need for a successful trip. Please note that students are required to have all items on the packing list; one ill-prepared student can negatively affect the safety and fun of the entire trip, so please come prepared. Students who arrive without all the necessary equipment may be required to purchase missing items. We review these lists every year; please do not pack more than what is listed.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- **Weather:** One of the best parts of Epic Africa during the months of June through August is that we will see little to no rain. What we can expect is for it to be cold! Be sure to bring those extra jackets and pants with average temperatures ranging anywhere from 38°F to 70°F. This means that the climate can vary from a nice warm day at the beach, to a chilly evening on the Swazi hillsides.
- **Buying guide:** The linked items are simply recommendations and examples. Don't break the bank on every piece of gear; many items, like sweatshirts, long underwear, water bottles, headlamps, and duffel bags, can be found at less expensive prices at big-box stores like Target (remember, higher cost doesn't always mean higher function). However, don't skimp on more important items like a sleeping bag, backpack, sleeping pad, waterproof rain jacket, hiking shoes, and sandals—these need to be higher-quality items ideally from an outdoors-specific store. Visiting a local outdoor gear store is a great way to try things first hand.
- **Travel and packing tips:** Pack essential items in your carry on. This includes: a change of clothes, essential toiletries, contacts/glasses, prescription medications, cell phone & charger, ID, and water bottle. You may carry on your sleeping bag as your personal item. This will ensure you have it upon arrival and makes space in your duffel. If your trip requires a backpack, you can try to fit it in your duffel. This will reduce the number of bags you check. Wear closed-toe shoes and clothes for the outdoors on airport day in case of baggage delay.
- **Cotton:** A popular backcountry saying is "cotton is rotten." Cotton cannot provide insulation when wet and can take a very long time to dry, but it's more comfortable when relaxing in camp. By bringing synthetic clothing in addition to cotton clothing, you will be warm and comfortable no matter the conditions.
- **Rain gear:** Waterproof/breathable rain gear is required. Double-check with a salesperson that you are buying a waterproof, not water-resistant, shell. Students do not need windbreakers, ponchos, or heavy, insulated ski parkas. A simple waterproof rain jacket will suffice.
- **Eyeglasses or contacts:** It's easy to change your contacts, and you'll always be able to wash your hands before you touch your eyes. Please bring solution, extra pairs of contacts, and glasses just in case. If you wear glasses, please bring a strap to keep them on during activities. You can bring separate sunglasses or the kind that go over your glasses.
- **Break in your shoes:** This will help prevent blistering and possibly stress fractures. Try to walk at least 20 miles (it doesn't have to be all at once) in your hiking shoes to ensure they are broken in prior to your trip.
- **Spending money:** All activities, meals, transportation, and lodging are included on your Bold Earth adventure. However, we suggest bringing approximately \$75 per week. This is for personal expenses, baggage fees, gear replacement, and souvenirs. Cash plus an ATM or credit card is best because sometimes airlines will not accept cash for baggage fees. If there is an **EMERGENCY**, Bold Earth can advance money.
- **Baggage fees:** Each airline has different fees for checked baggage. Save or bring cash for the end of the trip to check your bags home. Before arriving at the airport, check the baggage policies for your reservation. If you have difficulty locating this information, the Bold Earth team will be happy to assist you!
- **Identification:** For domestic flights, U.S. citizens under the age of 18 are not required to show or carry a government-issued ID at the airport. For non-U.S. citizens or if traveling internationally, bring a picture ID, library card, school ID, or state ID card. Your trip leader will be happy to hold any ID or important documents.
- **Laundry:** We visit laundromats every 6-9 days (once on a two week trip and twice on a three week trip). You will wash your own clothes; we provide the suds, coins, and know-how. Because our students have similar clothing and gear, please **LABEL EVERY ITEM WITH THE STUDENT'S NAME.**
- **We will provide:** Bold Earth will provide a lot of group gear, such as tents, mess kits, cooking gear, knives, tarps, and technical gear required for activities like rock climbing, whitewater rafting, etc.

Click on any image or [blue underlined text](#) for purchasing suggestions.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- Duffel bag:** We suggest a durable, soft-sided duffel about 70 liters in capacity. We prefer duffel bags that do not have wheels.



- Daypack:** This will be used during the day to carry personal items. A school backpack is usually fine (about 20 liters in capacity).



- Sleeping bag:** A medium weight, mummy-style, nylon bag with synthetic fill (not down) made for camping and backpacking and rated to 30-40°F. A stuff sack is required.



- Sleeping pad:** "Therm-A-Rest" or other air/foam sleeping pad. Try it out before your trip to ensure its comfort.



- 2 one-liter water bottles:** We recommend a simple, wide-mouth Nalgene style bottle (without straws).



- Headlamp and batteries:** LED lights have better performance and weigh less than incandescent.



- Crazy Creek-style chair:** A lightweight chair that supports your back and makes sitting on the ground for evening meetings more comfortable. Don't bring a folding chair with legs.



- Travel Packet & Birth Certificate:** Bold Earth will provide details of what is required for participants under the age of 18.

- Passport:** Passport must be valid for 6 months after the trip. Please bring 2 photocopies of passport and leave an additional copy at home.



REQUIRED CLOTHING

Base Layers

- 9-day supply of underwear (in a variety of cotton & synthetic).
- 1 pair synthetic, medium weight long underwear, top & bottom
- 4-5 sports bras. Make sure that the seams and straps are comfortable under a loaded backpack. Bring a dark-colored, more conservative design, as sports bras are also acceptable while rafting or swimming.

Middle layers

- 3-5 pairs of shorts (girls might want a few more pairs)
- 6 short-sleeve shirts (combination of synthetic, wool, cotton)
- 1 long-sleeve synthetic shirts
- 1 pair of jeans or khakis
- 2 swimsuits
- 1 outfit for final dinner (could use jeans or kakis)

Outer layers

- 1 sweatshirt
- 1 [fleece jacket](#), not cotton
- Waterproof rain jacket (recommended brands include REI, Outdoor Research, Columbia, Patagonia, Marmot, etc.)

Footwear

- 2 pairs of [wool or synthetic hiking socks](#)
- 6 pairs athletic socks (can be cotton)
- [Sandals](#) (must have a heel strap; recommended brands include Texas, Salomon, or Chaco)

- [Hiking shoes](#) made for hiking/backpacking; light to medium weight. A comfortable fit is critical. **Break these in before the trip!** Recommended brands include Merrell, Vasque, Montrail, Asolo, Salomon, etc.
- 1 pair of sneakers or town shoes

Head and hands

- Fleece or wool hat, not cotton
- Baseball style cap
- Bandana or [Buff](#)

MISCELLANEOUS

- Lip balm (with SPF)
- SPF 30+ sun screen (Bold Earth will also provide)
- Bug spray (Bold Earth will also provide)
- Personal toiletries: toothbrush and toothpaste, deodorant, travel-size shampoo and conditioner, soap. Ladies, your preferred feminine hygiene products and a few Ziploc bags for disposal (we'll have extra bags, too).
- One towel or [large pack towel](#)
- Sunglasses with a [secure strap](#)
- Laundry bag
- Camp pillow (leave your big pillows at home)
- Watch with an alarm

OPTIONAL (BUT RECOMMENDED)

- Camera (phone & camera must be separate)
- Book and or Journal
- Flip Flops (for showering)