



## Lens on the Lake – What Should I Pack?

Linens are provided (sheets, pillows, blankets, towels) for houseboat berths, however we are not usually able to run heaters at night, so the houseboat can get chilly after bedtime. You will need a good sleeping bag – one good enough to get you through temperatures in the 40s. In the morning and during much of the day we can fire up the generator and warm up the boat when needed.

**Luggage Limits:** Houseboats have limited storage space; please, only one piece of soft luggage (or duffel bag) in addition to your camera gear.

### Required Gear:

- ❖ Camera Gear (It is a photography-based course after all)
- ❖ Sleeping bag or bedding suitable for temperatures that may drop into the 40s (outside the boat)
- ❖ Layers for warmth. Be prepared for changing weather by layering clothes, rather than bringing a single heavy garment. Temperatures are likely to range from warm to chilly in the day and chilly at night. (See below for more details)
- ❖ Over-the-ankle boots strongly recommended for hiking.
- ❖ Wool or suitable synthetic socks for hiking – cotton socks are not recommended as they are prone to cause blisters.
- ❖ A light daypack; one to two quarts leak-proof water capacity (bottles or bladder – hydration system such as Camelback® or Platypus® – you will be able to fill up on the boat).
- ❖ Rain gear
- ❖ Warm hat & gloves
- ❖ Brimmed hat or visor cap for bright sun
- ❖ Neck cord for glasses/sunglasses.
- ❖ Sunscreen – minimum SPF 15
- ❖ Sunglasses
- ❖ Flashlight and/or headlamp
- ❖ Lip balm, Skin Moisturizer
- ❖ Personal toiletries and medications (as needed)

### Optional Gear (Not always necessary, but nice to have on hand):

- ❖ Walking stick
- ❖ Binoculars
- ❖ Reading materials, pen, paper, sketch pad, writing journal, etc.
- ❖ Hand lens (for looking at rocks & flowers, etc.)
- ❖ Fishing gear (licenses available at the marina)
- ❖ Pocket knife
- ❖ Moleskin, personal first aid kit (we have major kits on the boats), tweezers (cactus are endemic).
- ❖ We will not bring kayaks on this trip. If you would like to bring your own or rent one from the marina, please let us know.



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### Photography Gear: Gary's List:

In general (unless you just have way too much equipment), bring everything you think you might use during the week. You don't have to carry it all with you every day-you can select what you carry to fit the day's activities. But remember, there is limited room on the boats!

- ❖ **Digital and/or film camera(s)**
- ❖ **Tripods:** I recommend that you bring a tripod. We will sometimes work under low light conditions (early in the morning and in dim, deep canyons) that will almost surely require a tripod. Also, if you want me to see what you're taking in the field, your tripod will make it possible. Don't, however, bring a large heavy tripod for our hikes. (I don't always carry a tripod because it's just sometimes not worth it. What I'm suggesting here is that you should have a tripod ... but it's not required.)
- ❖ **Lenses:** Wide angle lenses are, in general, likely to be a little more useful than telephoto lenses. In the 35mm format, I like to use a 24-120 mm zoom for most of my shots. Lenses longer than 120 mm, up to about 200 or 250 mm can also be useful but I would definitely shy away from lenses of more than 250 mm most of the time.
- ❖ **Filters:** With some films I like to use a mild warming filter such as a #812. I also carry KR3 and KR6 warming filters. I use the KR3 occasionally to warm up scenes made in the shade (such as in a canyon) when the foreground is illuminated mostly by a clear, blue sky. I rarely use the KR6 but might if the available light were excessively blue (such as in the shade under a blue sky, early or late in the day). I don't recommend that you buy these filters, especially if you have digital cameras with white balance adjustments. And even if you're using a film camera, I would recommend that you consider a #812 filter and maybe a KR3 filter, but they are not required. I sometimes use a polarizing filter and I think they are useful for everyone. But they're not required. And then there are Graduated Neutral Density filters (sometimes called Split Neutral Density filters). GND filters are very useful in reducing the contrast in some situations. (But, again, they're not required.) If you decide to buy a set, do not get the round, threaded type that forces you to place the boundary between the filtered and unfiltered sections in the middle of the scene. Buy the square or rectangular filters that fit into plastic holders that screw onto the front of your lens but allows the positioning the boundary anywhere in the scene. These filters come in 1-, 2- and 3-stop varieties. I use only the 1- and 2-stop filters. Although many photographers prefer the 2- and 3-stop varieties, I believe the images obtained with 3-stop GND filters look too unnatural. Remember, none of these filters is required – they help produce better photos in some situations only, situations which you may not encounter often enough to make it worth the investment. One more filter: I often carry an “enhancing filter” but I'm not sure why. I think of enhancing filters as “emergency” filters to be used only when the light is absolutely horrible. I go years without using them.
- ❖ **Day packs and camera bags:** Because we'll be hiking, small day packs (carried on the back) are far better for carrying equipment than hand-carried camera bags. (You'll be using your hands for some of the hikes, maybe carrying your tripod, maybe using a hiking stick.) If you can fit your stuff into a fanny pack, that would work, too. Please note that cameras without cases hanging from the neck are vulnerable to disastrous bumps against rocks.
- ❖ **Attitudes:** Be sure to bring a spirit of adventure, a sense of humor, and a willingness to help one another on the trails and routes that we'll follow.
- ❖ **Pictures to share:** If you want to share some of your pictures with the group, put them on a DVD and we'll look at them one evening.



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Packing ALL of the items on this list provides you with layering options and enable you to be comfortable during temperature and weather fluctuations that occur on any given day.

### Layered Clothing:

- ❖ **Rain jacket & pants:** waterproof, breathable. Beware! Not all Gore-Tex is 100% waterproof.
- ❖ **Long underwear:** shirt + pants; polypropylene or capilene. These are synthetic materials that wick moisture away while keeping skin warm. Cotton or silk is not as good, but nice at night hanging around campsite.
- ❖ **Shirts/tops:** Polypro or capilene light to medium to heavy weight
- ❖ **Fleece Jacket or Micro-Fleece Top:** synthetic materials that work great wet or dry and provide comfort in cool as well as cold temperatures.
- ❖ **Warm Jacket & pants:** down or heavyweight fleece
- ❖ **Warm Hat and gloves:** your body temperature can be greatly impacted by what you wear on your head. A warm hat will make a big difference in cooler temperatures.
- ❖ **Long-sleeved** woven cotton, button shirt: good sun protection
- ❖ **Long pants:** not jeans; roomy and comfortable for hiking.
- ❖ **Sturdy lightweight hiking boots:** well broken in
- ❖ **Extra shoes** for relaxing on the boat
- ❖ **Socks:** Thor-Lo®, Smart Wool or similar padded socks – consider wearing thin liner socks under your hiking socks, like thin polypropylene socks. No cotton socks for hiking! Warm socks for evenings!

**Refreshments:** Carbonated soft drinks are not provided! We provide water, coffee, hot tea, cocoa, lemonade, and iced tea – if you would like a soda, please bring it; we will provide cooler space. **Alcoholic beverages not provided – You may bring your own beer or wine, but please exercise moderation; please no hard alcohol.**