Car Camping Checklist

Car-specific gear plus the camping basics

Lap of Nature
lapofnature.com

Sleeping in the car

- [ ] Pad or mattress that fits the cargo area
- [ ] Sleeping bag and pillow
- [ ] Window covers or sunshades
- [ ] Bug netting for cracked windows
- [ ] Headlamp

Engine off while you sleep. Never use a fuel-burning heater in a closed car.

Power

- [ ] Power bank
- [ ] Car phone charger
- [ ] Battery lantern
- [ ] Portable power station EXTRA

Vehicle kit (Ready.gov)

- [ ] Jumper cables
- [ ] Flares or reflective triangle
- [ ] Ice scraper
- [ ] Blanket
- [ ] Map
- [ ] Cat litter or sand for traction
- [ ] Spare tire, jack, lug wrench
- [ ] Tire pressure gauge
- [ ] Full tank before the last town

Packing

- [ ] Bins: kitchen, dry food, tools, clothes
- [ ] Cooler where you can reach it
- [ ] Water jug with spigot
- [ ] Duffel per person

Bear country

- [ ] Food locker plan for every park
- [ ] All scented items packed together
- [ ] Car cleared of wrappers and crumbs
- [ ] Cooler goes in the locker at night

In Yosemite, no food in the car after dark.

Camping basics

- [ ] Tent, footprint, stakes, mallet
- [ ] Camp chairs and table
- [ ] Stove, fuel, lighter
- [ ] Cooler with ice
- [ ] Pots, plates, utensils
- [ ] Layers and rain gear
- [ ] Headlamps and batteries
- [ ] First aid kit
- [ ] Sunscreen, insect repellent
- [ ] Toilet paper, toiletries
- [ ] Reservation and park pass

Don't forget

- [ ] _____
- [ ] _____
- [ ] _____
- [ ] _____