



Patagonia Conservation Program – Equipment List

The following list should contain most of the necessary items for the program. All items are required unless otherwise noted as optional. *Please keep extra items to a minimum!* Try to stick to the essentials and pack light. You will end up needing less than you think.

Please make sure that your tent, sleeping bag, rain gear, and hiking boots are of very high quality. You will be hiking, bushwhacking, and camping in rugged conditions, often in high winds, rain, cold temperatures, and possibly snow. Your gear needs to be durable, lightweight, and waterproof.

Check with your airline to see if your checked baggage will be restricted by weight or size. The gear you need for the program should easily fit into 1 or 2 pieces of luggage and a carry-on. We suggest you bring one large backpack (suitable for backpacking excursions and carrying 3-10 days of clothing and equipment in the field) and, if needed, a second smaller duffel bag or other piece of luggage. You should also carry-on a backpack (your daypack). We suggest that you carry-on a change of clothes and personal items in case your bags are delayed during travel.

Any questions about what to bring should be directed to [Susie](#) or [Doug](#). Links below are suggestions only.

Camping Equipment

- Tent**
- [Travel pillow](#)*
- Sleeping bag (rated to *at least* 15°F)***
- Sleeping pad (lightweight, i.e. [Thermarest](#))***
- Camp bowl, cup, cutlery (lightweight)
- Large backpack (at least 65L)
- Pack cover (make sure this fits your pack)
- Travel mug*
- Pocket knife*
- Camel Back*
- 2 water bottles (or enough to carry 2L)
- Camp towel
- Headlamp & batteries
- Bandana*
- “Crazy Creek” type chair*
- [Lightweight dry bags](#) (one each for your sleeping bag, your clothes, and group food)
- Personal insulated thermos or “Hydroflask”*

* Optional

** Each student must have his or her own tent. It should be durable, waterproof, wind proof, and have enough room for you and your gear. It is extremely important (and in your best interest) that your tent is high-quality, and that it can withstand three months of camping in very high winds, rain, possible snow, as well as sun exposure. We do NOT recommend bringing an ultra-light tent. We recommend a 2 person tent. You will sleep in this every night while at basecamp, and will have the option to share tents with one other student when backpacking.

***Your sleeping bag and pad should be lightweight, and suitable for backpacking, but should also be high quality and warm enough for you. We recommend a bag rated to *at least* 15°F. You may want a warmer bag (i.e. 10°F), especially for the months of Sept-Dec, and especially if you are typically cold at night. **Make sure your sleeping bag can fit into one of your dry bags.** Synthetic bags will stay drier than down bags, but either way you must have a lightweight dry bag for your sleeping bag.

Field Equipment

- Day pack (at least 30L)
- Watch
- Pens/pencils
- Seam sealant for tents*
- Mirrored compass (i.e. [Suunto Global Compass](#) with weighted needle for use in both hemispheres)
- Laptop Computer**
- Camera/case/batteries*
- Jump drive
- Thermarest repair kit*
- Binoculars***
- Sunglasses
- Sno-Seal leather protector*
- Repair tape (i.e. [Tenacious Tape](#))

* Optional but recommended (the fiords can be very tough on gear; having these items with you will increase your chances of successfully repairing any damaged gear)

** *Every student does not need to bring a laptop, however you may wish to bring your own.* Laptops will be used by students for data entry, writing mid-term exams and final papers, email when in towns, and downloading photos. A padded carrying case is recommended to protect your computer while traveling. **Students should communicate with each other via e-mail before the program to ensure that there is at least 1 laptop for every 2 students.** If you do not bring your laptop, you may wish to bring a flash drive.

*** Each student must bring a pair of good binoculars. You will use these every day in the field. Quality binoculars are a very good investment, will not become obsolete, and can last a lifetime. Binoculars should be 7x to 10x power. [Eagle Optics](#) and [B&H Photo](#) are good online vendors.

Clothing/Footwear

When conducting fieldwork, you'll want supportive hiking boots and clothing that offers warmth and movement. Layering will be important to keep warm in variable weather conditions. Make sure you have adequate means of protecting yourself from the sun, wind, and constant precipitation. Please ensure that your rain gear is of high quality (it is not uncommon for lightweight rain pants to rip to pieces during the bushwhacking trip in the fiords!).

- Underwear
- 1-2 T-shirts (cotton)
- 2 long-sleeve shirts
- 3-4 T-shirts/tank tops (synthetic/wool)
- 1 pair of shorts (i.e. athletic shorts)
- 2 long-underwear tops (of varying weights)
- 1 pair of jeans
- 2 long underwear bottoms (ideally wool)
- Quick-dry hiking pants
- Mittens or gloves
- Warm hat
- Warm [down](#) or [primaloft](#) jacket
- Down/fleece vest
- Fleece jacket
- Fleece pants
- Rain coat
- Rain pants
- Town clothes**
- Liner socks*
- Swimsuit*
- 5-6 pairs thick wool hiking socks
- Baseball cap
- [Gaiters](#)
- Sandals (i.e. Chacos or Crocs)
- Sturdy hiking boots with ankle support***
- Running shoes/sneakers
- Insulated rubber boots (i.e. Bog, Xtra Tuf)*
- Sweatshirt (i.e. hoodie)

* Optional

** Please bring one nice, casual outfit; e.g. skirt/blouse for women and slacks/shirt for men, for the potential of attending community events and/or giving presentations to project partners.

*** **Your hiking boots must be durable, waterproof, and provide adequate ankle support.** You will be wearing these almost every day! We recommend high quality leather or Gore-tex boots, like [these](#). In addition, good gaiters will be indispensable.

Toiletries

Bring a small supply of personal toiletries, including **sunscreen**. Most toiletry items are available in most towns – and almost all items you will need are available in Coyhaique. It is *not* necessary to bring a 3-month supply of everything.

Medical

We will have first aid kits with us at all times, but you should bring a small personal first aid kit, especially for dealing with blisters, splinters, and minor cuts. **If you take prescription medications make sure you bring enough for the entire program.**

- Pain relievers
- Band-Aids
- Antibiotic Ointment
- Anti-diarrhea tablets
- Tweezers
- Antiseptic solution
- Moleskin
- Athletic tape
- Allergy medications (if needed)
- Contact lenses/solution (if you wear glasses or contact lenses please bring extra contact lenses and an extra pair of glasses)
- Single course of antibiotics* (such as Ciprofloxacin; speak with your doctor about this; a single course can come in handy for infections in remote areas)

* If appropriate

Books

- Novels
- Notebooks/paper
- Envelopes (if sending letters home)
- [Grinnell Journal Kit](#)
- If bringing a Kindle, use a weatherproof case
- Spanish/English dictionary (optional)

Round River will provide you with course readers when you arrive; these will contain required readings from selected periodical journals and books. Round River will also provide field guides, however if you are interested in bringing your own field guides, we recommend the following:

- Jaramillo, Alvaro. 2003. [Birds of Chile](#). (Princeton Field Guides)
- Chester, Sharon. 2008. [A Wildlife Guide to Chile: Continental Chile, Chilean Antarctica, Easter Island, Juan Fernandez Archipelago](#). Princeton University Press.

Other

- Peanut butter* (unavailable in southern Chile)
- Good coffee, ground* (if you are a coffee drinker!)
- Granola bars or other snack bars* (unavailable in southern Chile)

* Optional: If you are someone who needs to have peanut butter or other American bars (i.e. Cliff bars) available when hiking, you may wish to bring your own supply of these items, as they are not available in southern Chile. You may wish to bring 2-3 *plastic* jars of peanut butter to share with the group. Your instructors will have a limited supply of peanut butter on hand.