

## How to pack for a rainy trip

 [nationalgeographic.com/lifestyle/article/how-to-pack-for-a-rainy-trip](https://nationalgeographic.com/lifestyle/article/how-to-pack-for-a-rainy-trip)

Kaitlin Stanford

### Here's what to pack for a rainy trip

Be prepared for unpredictable weather with our head-to-toe waterproof picks.



Photograph by Westend61 GmbH, Alamy

By Kaitlin Stanford

January 10, 2025

*By clicking on the featured links, visitors will leave nationalgeographic.com and be directed to third-party e-commerce sites that operate under different terms and privacy policies. As a participant in multiple affiliate marketing programs, National Geographic will earn a commission for certain purchases. See full disclaimer below.\**

We all wish for nice weather and clear skies when traveling, but rainy days are bound to happen.

“Weather can be unpredictable these days, especially with climate change,” notes Diana Lee, a travel writer and certified paddling instructor based in Canada. “It’s good to be prepared and adapt to the weather as much as possible.”

It doesn't matter if you're hiking through the mountains or exploring a new city, packing wisely for any trip will ensure your plans won't be ruined if you encounter occasional drizzles or a full-on downpour. "When you're waterproof head to toe, a rainy day won't stop you from getting out there," adds Lee.

At the same time, we know luggage space is precious. To help, we've put together this rainy trip packing list, with key items to keep you dry. Here are our top picks.

## What to pack for a rainy trip

---

- Best travel umbrella:** [Repel Umbrella](#)
- Best rain jacket:** Patagonia Granite Crest Rain Jacket ([Men's](#)); ([Women's](#))
- Best quick-drying pants:** REI Trailmade Rain Pants ([Men's](#) & [Women's](#))
- Best quick drying coat:** Arc'teryx Atom Hoody ([Men's](#) and [Women's](#))
- Best waterproof sneakers for men:** [Saucony Peregrine 14 GTX](#)
- Best waterproof sneakers for women:** [Hoka Transport GTX](#)
- Best waterproof dress boots for men:** [Blundstone Thermal Chelsea Boot](#)
- Best waterproof dress boots for women:** [Ariat Wexford Waterproof Chelsea Boot](#)
- Best waterproof backpack:** [Waterproof Typhoon Pack](#)
- Best waterproof backpack shell:** [Frelaxy Waterproof Backpack Rain Cover](#)
- Best waterproof dry bag:** [Booe Belt Bag](#)
- Best waterproof rain hat:** [Sunday Afternoons Ultra Adventure Storm Hat](#)
- Best quick-drying pack towel:** [Rainleaf Microfiber Towel](#)
- Best waterproof phone carrying case:** [Rifle Paper & Co. Waterproof Pouch](#)
- Best portable clothesline:** [Sea to Summit Lite Line Clothesline](#)

## Everything you need to weather rain on your trip

---

We asked multiple experts who agree that it's best to invest in high-quality travel gear that's guaranteed to be waterproof when traveling, even if they're a bit pricier. Not only will they be more likely to keep you dry, but they will also last longer for more comfortable trips into the future.

### Best travel umbrella: [Repel Umbrella](#)

---



Photograph courtesy Amazon

## Repel Umbrella

---

[Buy it now on Amazon](#)

**Why we like it:** Travel-sized umbrellas can be flimsy, bending in the wind or failing to provide sufficient coverage from heavy rain. Reviewers say the Repel umbrella is built to be sturdy and dependable, with a thick waterproof canopy and air vents that help prevent it from turning inside out on windy days.

“I’ve used it in hurricane-like weather on my travels and it still managed to keep me dry and not break—which felt like some sort of miracle,” [says one reviewer](#).

With an automatic open-and-close button, you can easily pull out this umbrella at the first drop of rain and fold it quickly before heading indoors. We also appreciate the lifetime guarantee.

**Keep in mind:** Most customers say this umbrella is lightweight, but others say it’s heavier than expected for a travel umbrella.

**Product details:** **Weight:** Less than a pound | **Dimensions:** 42 in. (open); 11.5 in. (closed) | **Colors:** 25

*(Rain or shine—be prepared with these travel umbrellas)*

## **Best rain jacket: Patagonia Granite Crest Rain Jacket (Men's & Women's)**

---



Photograph courtesy Patagonia

### **Men's Patagonia Granite Crest Jacket**

---

Buy it now at Patagonia



Photograph courtesy Patagonia

## **Women's Patagonia Granite Crest Jacket**

---

Buy it now at Patagonia

**Why we like it:** Patagonia receives praise for its high-quality rain gear—with good reason. The Granite Crest Rain Jacket has a smart design for comfortable, all-day wear in some of the wettest conditions.

“This has a three-layer shell and has a water repellent finish, so it actually does prevent rain from simply soaking through your jacket,” says Costa Rica-based Chris Atkins, owner and founder of Central America Fishing, who relies on it for rainy days. “The zippers are also watertight, so your cell phone will stay safe in a deluge.”

Unlike other high-quality rain jackets, which can be thick and trap heat, the Granite Crest has zipper vents around the armpits designed to help you cool down, notes Atkins. It also has a two-way adjustable hood with a built-in visor.

“It can be packed into itself to make a small travel pillow,” adds Atkins, “and you can feel good that it’s made from 100-percent recycled nylon from old fishing nets.”

**Keep in mind:** Patagonia recommends regularly cleaning the jacket to help preserve it over the long run.

**Product details: Sizes:** XXS-3XL (men); XXS-XXL (women) | **Weight:** 14.1 oz. | **Materials:** Post-consumer recycled nylon ripstop, PFAS-free Durable Water Repellent finish

*(Here are more great rain jackets for [women](#) and [men](#))*

## **Best quick-drying pants: REI Trailmade Rain Pants ([Men's](#) & [Women's](#))**

---



Photograph courtesy REI

### **Men's REI Trailmade Pants**

---

[Buy it now at REI](#)



Photograph courtesy REI

## Women's REI Trailmade Pants

---

Buy it now at REI

**Why we like it:** The Trailmade is a two-and-a-half-layer shell pant designed to be both windproof and waterproof in all sorts of weather.

A water-repellent exterior keeps rain from soaking through, while 11-inch zippers at the ankle allow you to pull them on or off without removing your shoes. (The built-in locker loop lets you hang them to dry.)

There are lots of features designed for added comfort, too, including an elastic drawcord waistband and a crotch gusset for increased range of motion.

**Keep in mind:** Pay close attention to the care instructions and avoid fabric softeners to ensure the waterproof layer isn't compromised.

**Product details:** **Materials:** 100% polyester; 2.5-layer waterproof fabric | **Sizes:** S-3XL regular, small, tall (men); XS-3XL regular, petite (women)

## Best quick-drying coat: Arc'teryx Atom Hoody (Men's and Women's)

---



Photograph courtesy Arc'teryx

## **Men's Arc'teryx Hoody**

---

Buy it now at Arc'Teryx





Photograph courtesy Arc'teryx

## Women's Arc'teryx Hoody

---

[Buy it now at Arc'Teryx](#)

**Why we like it:** When it comes to weatherproof clothes, gear, and accessories, Arc'teryx is a trusted top-tier brand. Multiple experts told us they rely on Arc'teryx for all sorts of wet adventures, including water sports and skiing.

Unlike down-filled jackets, which can become heavy when wet, the Atom Hoody has synthetic insulation, which can dry faster than down, and a water-resistant exterior made to be light. Customers say they like the comfort and fit, and the versatility. You can wear it on its own or as a midlayer in colder temperatures.

**Keep in mind:** This jacket is cut slim to hug the body. Check the size guide before checking out or try a larger size for a roomier fit.

**Product details:** **Sizes:** XS-3XL (men); XXS-XXL (women) | **Materials:** "Coreloft Compact" insulation and water-resistant "Tyono" 20 face fabric. | **Fit:** Slim

## Best waterproof sneakers for men: [Saucony Peregrine 14 GTX](#)

---



Photograph courtesy Amazon

## Men's Saucony Peregrine 14

---

[Buy it now on Amazon](#)

**Why we like it:** This vegan trail shoe is made to handle every kind of terrain while keeping travelers dry and comfortable.

It features GoreTex, a waterproof technology that blocks water and other debris from entering the shoe, and an outsole made with a proprietary material for grip and traction in extremely wet conditions. A special sockliner and cushioned insert provide extra comfort for uphill hikes or casual walks.

**Keep in mind:** Some reviewers say this shoe feels stiff at first. But they may loosen up after a few outings.

**Product details:** Heel-to-toe drop: 4mm | **Weight:** 10.6 oz. | **Sizes:** 7-14

## Best waterproof sneakers for women: [Hoka Transport GTX](#)

---



Photograph courtesy Hoka

## Women's Hoka Transport GTX

---

Buy it now at Hoka

**Why we like it:** Hoka is known for making shoes with superior comfort, and the Transport GTX is no exception. While it can handle rugged terrain, it's billed as a "commuter-friendly" shoe, making it ideal for city dwellers as well as travelers jetting off to see the sights.

Just like the Saucony Peregrine, it features GoreTex waterproof technology, but it also has the The American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA) Seal of Acceptance, awarded to products that benefit foot health.

**Keep in mind:** Some customers found the toe box a bit narrow. You can try a larger size or go with a wider shoe.

**Product details:** **Heel-to-toe drop:** 8mm. | **Weight:** 10 oz. | **Material:** Cordura main mesh with 100% recycled polyester | **Sizes:** 5-11

*(These are the 8 best Hoka shoes for walking)*

## Best waterproof dress boot men: Blundstone Thermal Chelsea Boot

---



Photograph courtesy Zappos

## Blundstone Chelsea Boots

---

Buy it now at Zappos

**Why we like it:** These low-profile thermal boots offer a stylish alternative to waterproof sneakers or bulky hiking shoes. They work particularly well in cold, wet climates, since they are lined with shearling and Thinsulate insulation. But you could wear these anywhere.

**Keep in mind:** The exterior is made with waterproof leather, which requires special cleaning and maintenance.

**Product details: Materials:** Waterproof leather outer, removable sheepskin footbed, “TPU” outsole | **Sizes:** 4-13

**Best waterproof dress boot for women: Ariat Wexford Waterproof Chelsea Boot**

---



Photograph courtesy Zappos

## **Ariat Wexford Chelsea Boots**

---

Buy it now at Zappos

**Why we like it:** The Wexford combines classic style with comfort and versatility to deliver a boot that can be worn virtually anywhere.

It features a waterproof suede or leather upper, a rubber outsole made to last, and a traditional twin gore style that gives it a stretchy fit. Wear it through rain, snow, mud, and more, and it will keep your feet warm and dry.

**Keep in mind:** While the Wexford has hundreds of positive reviews online, a few customers say the boot runs a bit big. Wearing thick socks may help.

**Product details:** **Materials:** Waterproof suede or leather upper, rubber outsole. | **Heel height:** 1.25 in. | **Weight:** 1 lb., 2 oz. | **Sizes:** 5.5-11

*(Cloudy days are no problem with these top waterproof shoes)*

## **Best waterproof backpack: Exped Typhoon 15 Pack**

---



Photograph courtesy REI

## Exped Typhoon 15 Pack

---

Buy it now at REI

**Why we like it:** This is a solid pick for anyone planning extensive outdoor excursions, such as a multiday hike or a weekend of camping. As its name suggests, the Typhoon is made to withstand all sorts of weather, with a fully waterproof exterior, roll-top closure, and a seal-taped liner designed to help keep water out.

It's made with lightweight materials, with padded shoulder straps and a back panel for added comfort. We love all the stretchy pockets for stashing smaller items.

**Keep in mind:** While the body of the bag is waterproof, some reviewers note the shoulder straps and mesh backing are not.

**Product details: Dimensions:** 16.5 x 8 x 6 in. | **Weight:** 13 oz. | **Gear capacity:** 15L |

**Materials:** Polyurethane-coated recycled 210-denier ripstop nylon carbonate; PU-coated recycled 150-denier polyester lining

**Best waterproof backpack shell:** **Frelaxy Waterproof Backpack Rain Cover**

---



Photograph courtesy Amazon

## Frelaxy Waterproof Backpack Rain Cover

---

[Buy it now on Amazon](#)

**Why we like it:** A rain cover makes a budget-friendly waterproof option to a new backpack. There are plenty of quality options on the market, but this one has thousands of positive reviews from customers who say it's easy to use and durable.

The Frelaxy is made from tear-resistant nylon and has a waterproof and UV-resistant coating that wicks away water.

**Keep in mind:** Some customers say it was difficult to get the right size and suggest purchasing based on a full backpack.

**Product details:** **Material:** Nylon with polyester coating | **Weight:** 2.2-3.6 oz. | **Sizes:** S-XL (Up to 90L) | **Colors:** 7

## Best waterproof dry bag: Booe Belt Bag

---

### Booe Belt Bag

---

[Buy it now at Booe](#)

**Why we like it:** This simple belt bag was made for keeping smaller items dry, such as car keys, cash, and sunglasses. With its gender-neutral style and adjustable/removable strap, it can be worn multiple ways, including around the waist, over the shoulder, around the neck, or as a crossbody.

We especially like the roomy interior pocket made just for smartphones—it has a clear back panel that allows you to use your phone without taking it out. Bonus: It's made to stay afloat, which is ideal for touring waterways.

**Keep in mind:** While it's designed to fit all smartphone models without a case, the fit might vary depending on case size.

**Product details:** **Dimensions:** 7.8 x 4.7 x 1.6 in. | **Material:** TPU-coated waterproof tarpaulin fabric

## **Best rain hat: Sunday Afternoons Ultra Adventure Storm Hat**

---



Photograph courtesy Zappos

## **Sunday Afternoons Storm Hat**

---

Buy it now at Zappos

**Why we like it:** Whether you're kayaking or gardening, this seam-sealed hat offers great protection from rain. It has an adjustable chin strap that helps keep it in place during windy days and folds flat so you can easily pack it away.



It's not just for rain, however. Customers also appreciate the extra-wide brim and neck cape for ample sun coverage. It even has a UPF 50+ sun rating.

**Keep in mind:** This hat may not be as effective at keeping rain off your face on stormy, windy days.

**Product details:** **Sizes:** S/M, L/XL | **Dimensions:** 3.25 in. brim and 6 in. neck cape | **Colors:** 3

## Best quick-drying pack towel: Rainleaf Microfiber Towel

---



Photograph courtesy Amazon

## Rainleaf Towel

---

[Buy it now on Amazon](#)

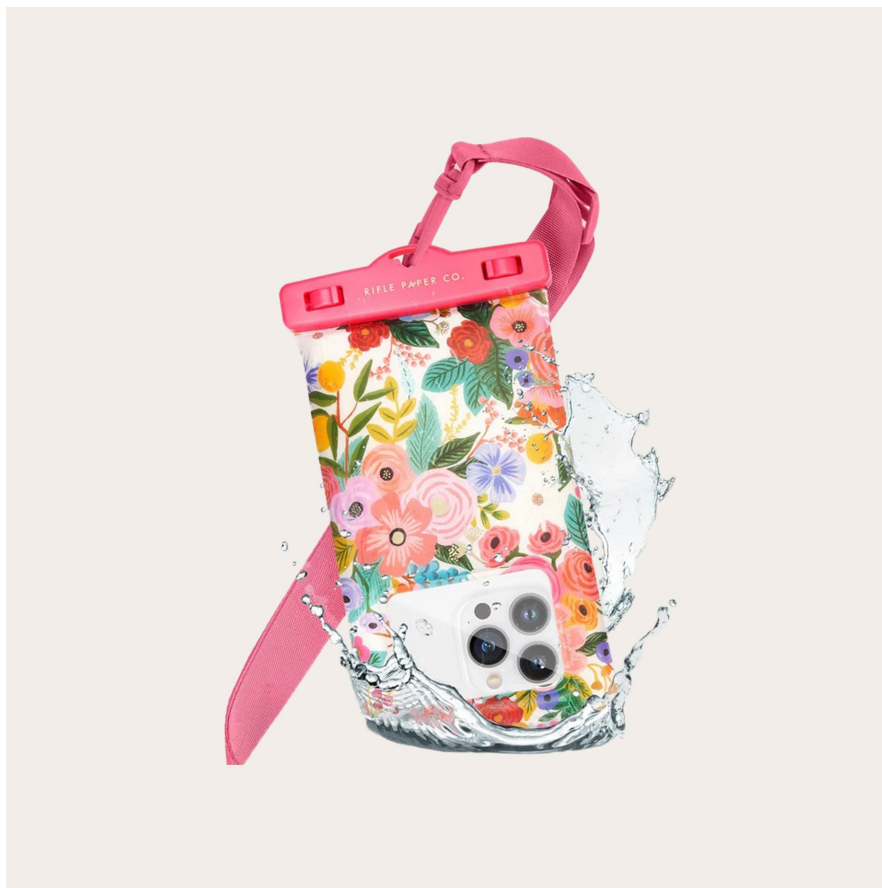
**Why we like it:** The Rainleaf can be used at the beach, gym, or even camping to soak up rain, sweat, and more. The manufacturer claims that the towel can absorb up to five times its weight in water and dries quickly after use. (Just hang it up by the snap loop.) It's also made to resist sand. The mesh carry bag is handy for keeping things tidy while traveling.

**Keep in mind:** The Rainleaf comes in six sizes, so consider your needs and the amount of room you have in your suitcase. It's machine washable, but consider washing it in a laundry bag designed to capture microplastics.

**Product details: Dimensions:** From 24 x 12 in. to 72 x 40 in. | **Material:** Microfiber | **Colors:** 16

## **Best waterproof phone carrying case: Rifle Paper & Co. Waterproof Pouch**

---



Photograph courtesy Amazon

### **Rifle Paper & Co. Cell Phone Pouch**

---

Buy it now on Amazon

**Why we like it:** This pouch is a stylish alternative for travelers who want to protect their phone without keeping it stashed away in a pocket. It's made to be airtight and has a lanyard for hanging around your neck. The see-through panel lets you text, call, or take photos. It's certified for underwater use, up to a depth of 3.3 feet for 30 minutes, making it perfect for snapping pics while snorkeling.

**Keep in mind:** The pouch must be sealed and locked properly for it to be fully waterproof. Consider testing it out at home before traveling.

**Product details: Materials:** N/A | **Size:** Fits smartphones up to 6 in.

## **Best portable clothesline: Sea to Summit Lite Line Clothesline**

---



Photograph courtesy REI

## Sea to Summit Clothes Line

---

[Buy it now at REI](#)

**Why we love it:** You can easily hang-dry wet items anywhere, whether you're camping in the woods or staying in a hotel. Just tie each end of the cord to a tree branch, shower rod, or other stationary post and use the beads to hang various items without the need for clothespins. It all comes neatly tucked inside a travel-friendly pouch, which you can toss inside a backpack or easily fit in a suitcase.

**Keep in mind:** Some customers said it worked better in camp or hiking settings than in hotels, where it was tricky to attach.

**Product details:** **Material:** Nylon cord | **Dimensions:** 11 ft. 6 in. | **Weight:** 1.3 oz.

## How to decide what rain gear to bring

---

Knowing what to pack—as well as what to skip—really depends on where you're going and how you prefer to travel. Consider these key factors before stuffing your bags.

### Weather

It may go without saying, but packing for Costa Rica in the summer will look much different than packing for London in the winter. Consider the time of year you're traveling and research the average daily temperature there (including humidity and precipitation

rates) to avoid over- or under-dressing on your trip.

For example, a waterproof rain jacket is useful no matter where you go, but if your destination has 80-degree weather with high humidity, you should choose a lightweight jacket with ventilation over a heavily insulated one.

## Location

Packing an umbrella may seem like a necessity, but it may get in the way when navigating congested city streets or waiting in line at tourist hotspots. For these cases, consider investing in a quality rain jacket or poncho with a sturdy hood, such as our top picks, the Patagonia Granite Crest for [men](#) and [women](#). If you do bring an umbrella, go for a lightweight model, like [the Repel](#).

## Excursions and activities

If you plan to spend lots of time outside in wet weather, consider a waterproof carrying case for your phone. Look for one with touch-screen capability that you can wear around your neck for easy access, like our [favorite Rifle Paper & Co. pouch](#). A submersible option, such as the [Booe Belt Bag](#), can be an especially smart choice for beach trips and water tours.

## Frequently asked questions

---

### How to deal with rain while traveling?

A little rain doesn't mean you have to throw your entire itinerary out the window. It just means you'll have to plan ahead and improvise when necessary.

During any trip, Lee relies on several weather apps to stay informed of changing forecasts and sets up weather alerts for all destinations she plans to visit. Radar maps show cloud coverage and how fast impending thunderstorms are moving, helping her to adjust plans. In another app, she monitors wind strength and direction, which could make water activities dangerous.

"Knowing these weather-related things will help me determine what I pack and if I need a Plan B," she notes.

Of course, your "Plan B" will look different depending on the type of trip you're taking. Seeing rain on the forecast may require a simple change, like swapping out your open-toed sandals for some waterproof shoes and tossing a sturdy umbrella in your bag. But if the rain is really coming down, you may want to stick to indoor activities.

Ultimately, it all comes down to your mindset, says Lee. "If we can shift our attitude, even if just a little bit, away from 'bad' weather to being adaptable to unexpected weather, we can get more out of our travels and everyday adventures," she says.

### What do you need in the rain?

Every trip is different and so is every traveler. Many experts we spoke to said that investing in quality travel gear that's waterproof and highly versatile will save you from stress in the long run.

"With the right equipment, you'll be ready to face any weather, making rainy conditions part of the fun," says Andrew Straley, resident gear expert at [Kampgrounds of America](#). "Comfort is king in the outdoors, so equip yourself to embrace whatever nature brings."

That said, you don't need to buy everything on our list if your trip doesn't call for it. Start with the basics. A quality rain jacket, waterproof shoes, and a good travel umbrella will go a long way. So will a small dry bag, which can fit inside a purse or backpack to protect important items like your phone or wallet in the event of a downpour.

### **What are the best travel clothes for rainy weather?**

According to Abby Britenfeldt, outdoor apparel buyer at [Sun and Ski Sports](#), the most protective rain gear will be anything that is clearly labeled "waterproof."

"Steer clear of anything that says 'water-resistant,' as it won't keep you as dry as something that's fully waterproof. Look for something that has a breathable membrane," she says, adding ventilation zippers are even better.

Jackets and backpack shells marked "3L" will be the most durable and waterproof options, says Britenfeldt. That indicates that the item has three layers of protection—an outer layer, a membrane layer, and a mesh layer. Keep in mind that such pieces will come at a premium price.

Clothing identified as 2.5L or 2L offer less protection, but are still high quality and easier on the wallet.

**Kaitlin Stanford** is a freelance writer and editor from New York. She has covered various topics from trending news to women's health for Yahoo, *Parents*, and Bustle, among others.

*\*Although we are sharing our personal opinions of these experiences or products with you, National Geographic is not endorsing these experiences or products on behalf of anyone. It has not performed product safety testing on any of these products, did not manufacture them, and is not selling, or distributing them and is not making any representations about the safety or caliber of these products or experiences for individual consumers. Prices and availability are subject to change from the date of publication.*