THE FAMILY CAMPING CHECKLIST

Tick it. Pack it. Go camping.

Made for Kiwi families heading out for the first time. Must-haves first, nice-to-haves underneath. Tick it off on the lawn, not at the campsite.

☐ Tick when packed 🏠 Probably already in your house, no need to buy

Before you go

- ☐ Book your site and save the booking details and the park's phone number
- ☐ Check what the site has: power, kitchen, showers, toilets, drinking water
- ☐ Practise pitching the tent on the back lawn (get the kids to help)
- ☐ Check the fire season at checkitsalright.nz
- ☐ Check the forecast, then check it again the day before
- ☐ Plan your meals (and pack more snacks than you think)
- ☐ Charge the headlamps, power bank and phones
- ☐ Tell someone where you're going and when you'll be home

Shelter

- ☐ Tent, poles and pegs (count them before you leave)
- ☐ Spare pegs and a mallet
- ☐ Tarp or old ground sheet 🏠

Nice to have

- ☐ Gazebo or shade shelter
- ☐ Tent carpet
- ☐ Door mat 🏠

Sleep

- ☐ Sleeping bag for each person
- ☐ Sleeping mat for each person
- ☐ Pillows 🏠
- ☐ Something warm to sleep in 🏠

Nice to have

- ☐ Stretchers
- ☐ Spare blanket 🏠

Seating and shade

- ☐ Camp chair for each person (don't count on a picnic table)
- ☐ Some shade for the middle of the day: a tarp, a gazebo or a shady site

Nice to have

- ☐ Camp table
- ☐ Picnic blanket 🏠

Kitchen

- ☐ Stove and gas (skip it if the site has a cooker you can use)
- ☐ Lighter or matches
- ☐ Chilly bin and ice packs
- ☐ Pots and pans 🏠
- ☐ Plates, bowls, cups and cutlery 🏠
- ☐ Sharp knife and chopping board 🏠
- ☐ Tongs, spatula and a big spoon 🏠
- ☐ Tin opener and bottle opener 🏠

Nice to have

- ☐ Camp kitchen bench
- ☐ Coffee plunger 🏠
- ☐ Marshmallows and skewers (if fires are allowed)

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The rest of the gear, plus your own last-minute reminders.

Cleaning and rubbish

- [ ] Rubbish and recycling bags (no bins? Take it home)
- [ ] Washing-up tub, sponge and dish liquid
- [ ] Tea towels
- [ ] Dustpan and brush

Nice to have

- [ ] Clothesline and pegs
- [ ] Wet wipes

Food and water

- [ ] Meals for every day you're away
- [ ] Snacks. Lots of snacks.
- [ ] Drinking water, if the site's water needs boiling
- [ ] Tea, coffee, milk, salt, oil and sauce

Nice to have

- [ ] Water container

Lighting and power

- [ ] Headlamp for each person
- [ ] Spare batteries
- [ ] Powered site? Camping power cord with RCD

Nice to have

- [ ] Rechargeable lantern
- [ ] Power bank
- [ ] Small fan

Clothes (for each person)

- [ ] Warm layers for the evening
- [ ] Rain jacket
- [ ] Sun hat
- [ ] Togs and a towel
- [ ] Jandals
- [ ] PJs and spare clothes

Nice to have

- [ ] Gumboots
- [ ] Merino or fleece for the kids

Sun, bugs and safety

- [ ] Sunscreen (SPF 50)
- [ ] Insect and sandfly repellent
- [ ] First aid kit
- [ ] Personal medication
- [ ] Toilet paper and hand sanitiser
- [ ] Toiletries

Nice to have

- [ ] Rash vests
- [ ] After-bite cream

Kids and fun

- [ ] Favourite toy or teddy for bedtime
- [ ] Even more spare clothes
- [ ] Cards, a book or a board game

Nice to have

- [ ] Beach cricket set or a ball
- [ ] Buckets and spades
- [ ] Bikes and helmets
- [ ] Glow sticks

Geoff's tip

On the drive home, write down what you wished you'd had and what never left the car. That's your list for trip two.