

Printable Hiking Budget Checklist

Print or save this checklist and work through each item while planning your hike — from choosing the trail to packing up afterward.

1 Before Choosing the Trail

- ☐ Set the maximum total cost for the day.
- ☐ Choose a route that matches the group's ability.
- ☐ Check distance, elevation, terrain and expected time.
- ☐ Confirm parking, access hours, fees and reservations.
- ☐ Check official alerts, closures and weather.
- ☐ Choose a safe lower-cost alternative in case conditions change.

2 Before Buying or Renting Gear

- ☐ List the functions required for this specific route.
- ☐ Check what suitable items you already own.
- ☐ Ask whether the missing item can be borrowed.
- ☐ Compare rental cost with likely future use.
- ☐ Inspect used gear for wear, missing parts and recalls.
- ☐ Prioritize fit, weather protection and reliability.
- ☐ Delay nonessential purchases until the need repeats.

3 Before Leaving Home

- ☐ Pack the Ten Essentials in a route-appropriate form.
- ☐ Fill safe reusable water containers.
- ☐ Pack food and an extra snack from home.
- ☐ Download or carry the necessary map.
- ☐ Charge devices and pack a separate light.
- ☐ Share the route and return time with a reliable person.
- ☐ Confirm the transport and parking plan.
- ☐ Keep the contingency amount available.

4 After the Hike

- ☐ Record the actual total cost.
- ☐ Note which items were used and which were unnecessary.
- ☐ Clean, dry and store gear correctly.
- ☐ Write down recurring gear needs instead of buying immediately.

Notes / Planned Budget / Actual Cost

TRIP NOTES

PLANNED BUDGET

Transport	
Access / fees	
Food & water	
Gear / rental	
Contingency	

ACTUAL COST

Transport	
Access / fees	
Food & water	
Gear / rental	
Contingency	