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Recommended Lion Hunt Gear List

General Considerations

The best gear you can bring is a pair of lungs and legs in the best shape possible. All the money in the world can't buy gear that will replace fitness. If you smoke, try your best to quit before your trip.

On lion hunts you need to be prepared to 1) cover roads by 4x4, snowmobile, and sometimes hiking, and 2) be able to hike in rough terrain once the dogs are on a cat. This means layers, layers, layers.

The weather during lion seasons is unpredictable but expect lows below zero and highs near freezing or less.

Stay away from cotton, i.e. Carhartt, blue jeans, cotton socks, etc... When cotton gets wet it is useless and it will exacerbate suboptimal weather's effect on your body. Focus on wool and synthetics. There is a lot of newer technology clothing that is lightweight, packable, warm and dries quickly.

We recommend brands and models of specific gear in our lists. Do not construe these recommendations as the only option. We use these items personally. Because we do this for a living, our choices are on the more expensive end of the spectrum. There is always a range of prices on gear that will get the job done.

At the end of this list, we include a list of what our guides carry that can be shared. If you are on a guided hunt you can choose to not carry/bring these items yourself.

Don't hesitate to give us a call about any specific gear questions.

Boots and Footwear

1 Primary pair of waterproof hiking boots.

1 Secondary pair of boots, typically a “pac” boot

- Schnees and Kenetrek pac boots are great. Muck boots are also a good option.

4-5 Pair sock liners

- Thin liner socks will help you avoid
- We prefer ultra-thin, silk liners. Merino wool and synthetics will also work well.

4-5 Pair primary socks

- The best option is heavy wool.
- If you tend to have warm feet, bring lightweight wool socks in place of your liner socks. If the weather is warm, you can just wear the lightweight socks.

Gators (Optional)

- Great in snow and/or rain. Also great when dealing with high, frosty or dewy vegetation
- Keep your boots and feet dryer

Micro Spikes

- In rugged cave country, there is an added comfort in wearing a pair of micro spikes for short, steep traverses

Base Clothing and Layers

Bring enough layers to be comfortable hiking for an hour in 40 degrees and sitting still for 1 hour at 0 degrees.

1 Full set of rain gear

- If you see yourself hunting a lot in the rain (not just waiting it out), purchase the more expensive Sitka or Kuiu gear. It does a good job, is comfortable and is not noisy. We guide using Kuiu Yukon rain gear, but you can get away with lighter options.
- Don't forget rain pants!

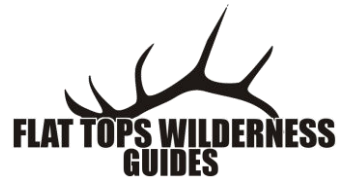
Other Clothing

2 Pairs of gloves

- One light weight and one heavier (wool is best) pair of gloves is optimal.
- We prefer glommits because they allow us to use our fingers. Cabelas Big Game Glommits are a good choice.
- You can also wear dark pig skin leather gloves with separate wool liners for insulation if needed.
- Some of our archers choose to not wear gloves so they are better ready for shooting opportunities.
- Learn to quickly remove or shoot your bow with your chosen gloves.

1 Warm hat and/or baclava

- We usually wear wool beanies, but this is personal preference
- Light fleece hats can be plenty warmth during archery season



Archery/Rifle/Hunting Gear

Bow

Arrows with extra broadheads and fieldpoints

- Work with an archery shop to setup a consistent set of arrows specifically geared towards lions
- We do not make recommendations on arrow specifics because so much personal preference is involved. The important factor is that you have practiced and are confident at varying distances.

Release and an extra release

Arm guard if used

Spare parts for you bow

Allen wrench set

String wax

Rifle - .223 and larger

- 20 rounds of ammo
- Be capable of 100 yard shot.

A small pistol. A .380 pistol or larger is handy to have on lion hunts even if you are intending to harvest with a bow or rifle. Pistols are the only practical option in caves and rock ledges.

Tool Gear

1 Head lamp

- A light with both a red and white light is best. Having multiple bulbs is a good backup and red is better while riding because the horses/mules are more comfortable with it.

1 Small flashlight

Extra batteries and bulbs for all equipment

Binoculars

Knives and game cleaning (Guide will bring)

- We carry replaceable blade type knives as our primary game processing tool. Not having to sharpen and carry sharpening tools is a huge plus.
- Havalon and Razor-lite are good replaceable blade knives
- Some of us use axes for quartering, but your guide or drop camp will already be supplied with them.
- Have a classic fixed blade knife for utility jobs and getting around bone if you need to. We use foldable buck knives with 2-4” blades. Their Omni Hunter is a good knife.
- Small bone saws are not necessary. It’s difficult to saw an elk pelvic bone with these small saws. Learn to short quarter elk (gutless method).

(Not needed on guided hunts. Having a good knife on you is always a good idea, but your guide will perform your field dressing for you.)

6 Game Bags (Guide will bring)

- We can hang your quarters in game bags at base camp in our cool cabin facility.
- Handful of surveyors tape to mark downed game, blood trails or signal your location
- Bags by T.A.G. Bag are pricey but awesome for long-term use. Lightweight too.

(Not needed on guided hunts. We provide game bags in our guided camp.)

Day pack

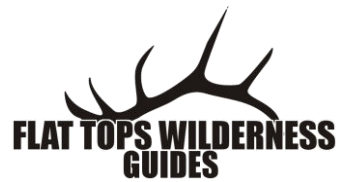
- A comfortable pack in the 1,300-2,200 cubic inch range

Camera

- Bring your charger and/or spare batteries
- The cold can quickly uncharge a charged battery

Water bottle and/or hydration bladder

- Sturdy bladders that go in your day pack are best



Personal Gear

Personal Hygiene and Medication Items

- Make sure you have enough of any prescriptions
- If you have had anaphylaxis (allergic reaction) to bees or other insects, please carry an Epi-Pen at all times.
- Pepto-Bismol and other routine medications can be helpful
- Altitude medication if you have a history of altitude sickness
- Carry personal Aspirin as an immediate treatment for heart attack or pain.
(We carry extensive first aid kits in our guided camps. These include basic medication like Ibuprofen, Aspirin, Pepto, Imodium)

Chapstick and Sunscreen

Sunglasses

An extra pair of eye glasses or contacts if you wear them

Safety Gear

Design a method to carry the bare essential safety gear on your person at all times. We carry small fanny pack type bags with this gear.

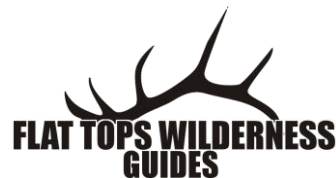
Fire starting capability

- Being able to start a fire quickly, without panic, can save your life.
- We use wax covered cotton balls or wax covered dryer lint as tinder that we always carry. These hold a flame for up to a minute in the worst conditions. Always carry tinder that you are confident using. **Do not depend on starting a fire from natural material.**
- Storm matches and water proof matches are good for starting fires here. High altitude can drastically affect the reliability of lighters.
- Have more than one way to start a fire on your person at all times

2 Heavy Duty Garbage Bags

- 2 mil+ 55 gallon contractor bags are best
- These bags work better than the thin, shiny safety blankets you find in first aid kits
- Cut a hole for your head and wear as a poncho to keep yourself warm and dry
- Heavy duty emergency bags (usually called emergencies bivys) are a good alternative

Extra Batteries and Bulbs for your Devices



First Aid Kit

Our guides carry first aid kits and our camps have first aid kits in them. Do not waste weight by carrying first aid items you won't use or do not know how to use. For example if you don't have any wilderness medicine training, a zip lock bag with Band-Aids, gauze, Neosporin, tweezers, Benadryl, Moleskin, soap and Ibuprofen is plenty.

If you are at risk of a heart attack, bring Aspirin.

Bring an Epi-Pen if you are allergic to any insects. You must get these via doctor's prescription.

Paper Work

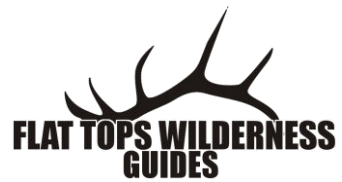
Hunting license and tag

Fishing license if you plan to fish

Anyone born after Jan. 1, 1949 MUST have a Hunter's Safety Card to buy a Colorado hunting license. You must also carry your card with you while hunting!

Any remaining payment for your trip

- **We will not pack in hunters who have not completely paid for their trip.**
- Cash preferred. Cashier's checks are OK. **We do not accept personal checks or credit cards for the remaining balance.**



Important Items Our Guides Carry (Only applicable to guided hunts)

Knives

Radio or other communication

Fire starting capability

Tarp

Bivy bag or contractor's garbage bags

Rope or Parachute Cord

Compass

Surveyors' tape

Elk calls

Game bags

Garbage bags for trash

Game field dressing and quartering equipment

First Aid Kit:

Gauze pads, Combine dressing, Band-aids, Roller gauze, Occlusive dressings, Triangular bandage, Elastic wrap (Ace bandage), Sam splint or Wire splint, Exam gloves, 1 CPR Pocket mask, Blister kit (moleskin, second skin), Splinter tweezers, Medical tape