

# Backpacking the BT or, Gear I Use

*by Darryl R. Smith (Buckeye)*

From time to time the question of gear comes up around the camp fire or as one is hiking along in the company of like-minded folks. Gear seems to be a topic that is always on one's mind, always shared with others, and always debated. If you are looking for a definitive guide or the ultimate gear list, you'll never find it, because one's personal tastes are just that, personal. We like what we like. Sure, we all try the latest or lightest gear, but if the latest and lightest doesn't work for your own needs, or is well beyond your budget, you will fall back on the old reliables.

The following list then should not be taken as me telling you what you should do. It is a list I used on a four day, three night backpacking trip along the Buckeye Trail in May of 2012, and it worked for me. I tend to go towards the ultralight side of things, but I would not say I am an ultralight backpacker. The list below has nearly everything I carried (I am missing about a pound of snacks, do not have my phone, map, or a small book listed, and water is not listed either), but my total pack weight, including water, was under twenty-four pounds.

Obviously if I was going for a longer trip my pack weight would increase. Weather and length will decide what modifications to the below list I might make. For example, a six day, five night trip on Isle Royale saw my pack weight climb to twenty-eight pounds as I carried some warm weather clothing (gloves, beanie, and down vest) and more food.

ITEM NAME	CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	QTY	WEIGHT	WEBSITE
GoLite Malpais Trinity	clothing	rain jacket	1	7	golite.com
GoLite Race Hat	clothing		1	2	golite.com
GoLite Siskiyou	clothing	pants	2	9	golite.com
Icebreaker BodyFit 150	clothing	wool underwear	2	2	icebreaker.com
Keen Nome 3/4 Crew	clothing	socks	2	2.5	keenfootwear.com
RedRam	clothing	short sleeve t	2	5.5	redram.com
RedRam	clothing	long sleeve t	1	7	redram.com
SmartWool Liners	clothing	socks	2	2	smartwool.com
Vibram Five Finger Classic	clothing	camp/water shoes	1	10.6	vibramfivefingers.com
Enertia Trail Foods	cooking	pouch	1	1.8	trailfoods.com
Light My Fire	cooking	spork	1	0.38	
Snow Peak GigaPower	cooking	stove with fuel and matches	1	10.3	snowpeak.com
Snow Peak Trek 700 Titanium	cooking	cooking pot	1	4.8	snowpeak.com
Garmin GPSMAP 60CS	electronics	GPS unit	1	7.5	garmin.com
Olympus Pen E-PM1	electronics	camera	1	9.34	olympusamerica.com
Enertia Trail Foods	food	meals	6	4	trailfoods.com
GoLite Jam 50L	pack	pack	1	32	golite.com
ZPacks	pack	Multi-Pack	1	2.8	zpacks.com
ZPacks	pack	pack cover	1	1.2	zpacks.com
ZPacks	packing system	medium dry bag	1	0.65	zpacks.com
ZPacks	packing system	large dry bag	1	0.9	zpacks.com

*continued*

ITEM NAME	CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	QTY	WEIGHT	WEBSITE
Henry Shire Tarptent Rainbow	shelter	tent	1	34	tarptent.com
Tyvek	shelter	groundsheet	1	8	
Cocoon Hyperlite Pillow	sleep system		1	2.7	
Liner	sleep system	silk liner for sleeping bag	1	4.1	
Montbell UL SS 5	sleep system	sleeping bag	1	18	montbell.us
Pacific Outdoor Equipment Peak Oyl Lite	sleep system	sleeping pad	1	19	
First Aid	toiletries		1	2	
Pills	toiletries	vitamins and case	1	1.1	
Soap/Sanitizer	toiletries		1	3.8	
Toiletries	toiletries	toliet paper, wipes	1	3.5	
Toothpaste and brush	toiletries		1	1.3	
Washrag	toiletries		1	3	
Gerber Mini Paraframe	tools	knife	1	1.4	gerbergear.com
Princeton Tec Fuel LED Headlamp	tools	headlamp	1	2.75	princetontec.com
MSR DromLite	water/water system	4.0 liter reservoir	1	5.1	cascadedesigns.com/msr
MSR Hydration Kit	water/water system	For DromLite reservoir	1	2	cascadedesigns.com/msr
MSR HyperFlow	water/water system	water filter	1	10.5	cascadedesigns.com/msr
Water Bottle	water/water system	Buckeye Trail - One liter	1	3.8	

*Weight – in ounces*