

# Packing your backpack

With a backpack, organization and easy access are key. Use these essential packing tips as a guide.

**Store essentials** such as sunscreen, a compass, maps, and guidebooks in an outer pocket

**Waterproof bags** should be used to store items that must stay dry, particularly spare clothing and your sleeping bag

**Carry your** water bottle upright where it's accessible

**Lighter items** such as sleeping mats and bags should remain at the bottom of the backpack

**Pack raingear** at the top where you can get it quickly

**Keep first aid** items accessible

**Heaviest items** should sit between your shoulder blades and as close to your back as possible

**Store fuel bottles** upright and outside the pack

**Put your tent** in a waterproof stuff sack and strap it to the outside of your backpack

