



WHAT TO BRING

Pack to be Zero Waste. Plan ahead and prepare before your trip with these tips.

General Day Supplies

Remember that you want to be able to carry your supplies efficiently! Come prepared with a setup that is compact enough to carry around. Striking a balance between comfort and efficiency is the key.

- **Backpack** to hold all your supplies and keep your hands free as you walk around.
- **Clipboard or piece of foam board** for support under your paper or sketchbook.
- **Portable stool, camping chair, sitting pad, or towel** to sit on.
- **Weather-appropriate attire** (packable waterproof jacket for unexpected rainstorms).
- **Sturdy, water-resistant hiking shoes or boots.**
- **Sunscreen, sunhat, and sunglasses.**
- **Personal first aid kit.**
- **Bug repellent.**
- **Lunch, snacks, and plenty of drinking water** (a reusable bottle is handy for refilling).
- **Bicycle** (optional; but can be helpful to bring to get around Yosemite Valley).

Essentials

- **Warm jacket and rain jacket**
- **Long underwear**
- **Dry fit shirts**
- **Hiking pants**
- **Hiking shoes and socks**
- **Headlamp and flashlight**
- **Hats**
- **Gloves**
- **Sun protection**
- **Toiletries**
- **Bathroom kit**

Camping Gear

- **Tent w/ rainfly and stakes**
- **Sleeping bag and pad**
- **Gear repair kit**
- **Camp sandals**
- **Camp stove and fuel**
- **Cookware and utensils**
- **Snacks and meals**



Essential Art Supplies

- **Watercolor paints**
- **Watercolor paper & sketchbook**
- **Brushes**
- **Paper towels**
- **Pre-cut mat board frame**
- **Pencil**
- **Eraser**
- **Water containers**
- **Water mister**

Optional Art Supplies

- **Painters tape**
- **Binder clips**

WATERCOLOR PAINTS that have dried into pans or wells make setup and breakdown quick and easy. Both student- and professional-grade paints are fine; professional-grade pigments tend to be more vibrant and lightfast, but student-grade paints work well for this retreat too. Reliable brands include Winsor & Newton, Daniel Smith, Sennelier, Schmincke, and Holbein, though any brand you're comfortable with is fine.

At a minimum, a functional palette includes two sets of three primary colors — a warm set and a cool set — plus a few earth tones for natural mixes. Greens and other colors are optional, since most can be mixed from your primaries and earths. Pre-made palettes are convenient, but if you'd like to craft your own, here's a simple starter palette of versatile pigments:

- **Blues**
 - Ultramarine Blue
 - Manganese Blue
 - Cerulean Blue
- **Yellows**
 - Hansa Yellow Medium
 - Quinacridone Gold
- **Reds**
 - Quinacridone Rose
 - Pyrrol Scarlet
 - Alizarin Crimson
- **Earth Tones**
 - Burnt Sienna
 - Yellow Ochre
 - Jane's or Payne's Grey
- **Greens**
 - Phthalo Green
 - Sap Green

SKETCHBOOK/PAPER: Use a dependable 140-lb cold press watercolor paper. Zach personally uses Arches Watercolor Paper (white, cold press, 100% cotton, 140-lb), which handles multiple wash layers well — but any comparable brand works fine.

A 7"x10" or 9"x12" block is ideal — big enough for composing but still manageable outdoors. Smaller journals/sketchbooks are great for warm-ups, but bring a larger block too for more intentional painting during the workshop.

BRUSHES: You will want a small, versatile brush set that covers big initial washes and finer details as the painting progresses. A few essentials:

- **Round brushes (sizes 4–10):** A medium-to-large round is the workhorse for this workshop — at minimum, a reliable No. 10, ideally with a small range down to size 4. Synthetic, sable, or hybrid all work well; choose what feels good without overspending.
- **Mop brush (optional but recommended):** A high-quality squirrel mop, size 3/0 or 2 (roughly equivalent to a 6–12 round), holds a strong water charge, points well, and snaps back nicely — similar to sable at a lower cost. Synthetic mops are a solid alternative too.
- **Flat brush or hake (¾"–1", optional):** Useful for blocking in large shapes or creating clean, chiseled edges, though not essential — the workshop won't rely heavily on this tool.

PAPER TOWELS, sponge, or a cloth will help to clean your brushes and lift pigment from washes.

PRE-CUT MAT BOARD FRAME: Bring a pre-cut mat board with a set internal window — handy for quick measuring in the field. Just lay it over your paper, trace the window lightly in pencil, and your artwork's dimensions are set.

Zach likes common frame sizes like 5x7 or 8x10, so finished pieces can go straight into a frame with no extra trimming.

PENCIL and ERASER: Mechanical pencils make plein air work simple and efficient — you can refresh your lead instantly and keep sketching without breaking your flow. For artists who draw directly on watercolor paper, a kneadable eraser is a must. Its soft texture lifts graphite cleanly without scuffing or harming the surface of the paper.

WATER CONTAINERS: You'll need two small cups to hold water while painting and two containers to carry water. Collapsible cups are terrific for saving space, but not necessary for the workshop. Nalgene bottles or soft water bottles are great for carrying water — you'll need one to refill your water cup and one to carry out dirty paint water.

SMALL WATER MISTER to rehydrate dried pigments. Helpful when painting in harsh sunlit areas.

OPTIONAL:

- **PAINTERS TAPE** to create clean borders on your paintings.
- **BINDER CLIPS** to hold paper down in variable outdoor conditions.