



## How to Pack Like a Cowboy

So you're ready for a cowboy vacation. Maybe you're headed out on a cattle drive, or horsepacking in the backcountry. You might even be thinking about climbing aboard a bucking bull. But before you begin your journey, you have to pack, and packing right can make all the difference. Here are a few packing tips to help ensure your cowboy vacation is one heck of a ride.

—Nicholas LoVerde

### >Fast and Light

Pack fast and light. You don't see cowboys with roller luggage hanging from their saddle. Working as a ranch hand or riding on longer pack-trips requires a packing system that's pared down to the essentials: Mess kit, sleeping gear, clothing (in layers), toiletries, flash light, and canteen.

### >Know your Gear

Call ahead and ask what you'll need and what is provided. Most likely the adventure company will send you a gear list, but give them a call and they might give you a few more tips or direct you to which brand or model works best. Don't second-guess the list—they've done this a lot.

### >Prepare for the Worst

Just because you're going to live like a cowboy

doesn't mean that your gear should be straight out of the Old West. Lightweight rain gear in modern materials will keep you dry and warm, and even the cowboys of old would have appreciated some bug spray.

### >Bring a Book

You're on an adventure vacation, but that doesn't mean you can't take in some relaxation. And what's better than reading around a crackling campfire under the clear, starry sky? Or bring a journal and scribble down your own cowboy tales.

### >The Cowboy Attitude

Enjoy your adventure, and remember to bring the cowboy values of hard work, humor, love of the land, and willingness to tough it out. It's the most important thing you can pack.