

Basic Plein Air Painting Supply List

Below are suggestions to consider when painting outside.

Begin with what you have, then build on as time goes on. The lighter your load, the better.

Portable Easel - a lightweight sturdy easel that can be easily set up outdoors. Depending on the location, you may just want to paint with the paper balanced on your lap and forgo the easel if desired. If this is your choice then use either a block or secure your paper to a backing board.

Watercolor Paper/Sketchbook - choose a sketchbook or watercolor paper that is suitable for your chosen watercolor paints and the size of your paintings.

Brushes - a selection of brushes in various sizes, including a small brush for details and a larger brush for washes.

Watercolor paints - opt for a travel friendly palette or watercolor pans. Think small

Water containers - a collapsible water cup or bottle for holding water

Palette - a portable palette to hold your paints and water

Pencil and eraser - for sketching and making corrections

Paper towels

Garbage receptacle - a bag or other receptacle for your garbage because we want to leave the location in the same pristine condition in which we found it.

Optional but Recommended

Brush roll or Brush holder - to keep your brushes organized and protected

Spray Bottle - for misting paper or palette

Masking Tape - to create clean edges or tape something down in wind

Small Towel or Sponge - to clean spills or brushes

Sun and Bug Protection - to apply or wear, sunscreen, hat and sunglasses and bug spray.

Comfortable Clothing and Footwear

Comfortable folding Chair

Snacks and Water - to stay energized and hydrated. Water to use for painting too

Tripod Stone Bags - used on windy day to prevent easel from blowing over