

Checklist for field-work – Supplemental to From Desk to Field

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Here are our recommendations for which items are the most important to bring in the field. The list is created by us with the help of our followers on Instagram.

Tools:

The company/museum you work for will provide tools, from trowels, to rulers and shovels. But it can be nice to bring some of your own gear, especially if you have trowel preferences.

- Personal trowel (set) - different trowels for different needs, see Maria's explanation below:

I prefer to have my own personal trowel with me. I also have two other trowels than the classic one; a rounded and a squared one. The round is good for cleaning up profiles since it does not create marks, and the square one is good when you dig profiles that can be difficult with a shovel.

- Foldable rulers – you can never have enough of them, and they are vital for the documentation process.
- Compass – the one I have on our phone is great, but when the weather is bad, it nice to be able to leave it in a pocket and use a compass instead.

Bonus: A pro-tip for bad weather and phones: Put it in a finds bag that fits in size. You can still touch-screen when it is in the bag.

For detailed work – cleaning or excavating delicate objects – like human or animal bones
- Most of these tools will be available to you, but it might be nice to bring your own, if you have them.

- Brush kit
- Bamboo skewers (the small ones used for BBQ)
- A dental tool set (metal tools)
- Set of clay modelling tools (wood or plastic)



Clothes:

The museum/company provides the basic safety gear, or outerwear and shoes, so you are set with rain clothes should it rain, but besides the outerwear you might need to bring the following.

The museum should also provide kneepads and mats, but it might be nice to bring your own.

- Insoles for your shoes - are a good idea as the boots can be a little different from what you are used to and you are on your feet all day, and in the winter, the steel toe cap can make your feet feel very cold.
- *Winter clothes tips:*
Layers are your friend. It is better to remove clothes than not having enough clothes. Thermal underwear, wool jumper, and something warm for your head and neck, e.g., a balaclava, or a hat and scarf. Thick socks.
- *Summer tips:*
A hat, or a cap that offers shade to your face. A spare T-shirt in in your locker, and a thin shirt. A scarf to protect you from the sun. Some places allow you to wear shorts – but we do not recommend it, you risk cuts and scrapes to your legs and your knees will be thankful for the fabric between them and the knee-pillow/soi

Equipment – in the field and in your locker:

- Sunglasses, if they allow it at the site, if not you can use them in the breaks!
- A sling bag/fanny pack - to have your water, and other good things with you
- Earplugs – archaeology is quite noisy, take care of your ears
- Ear phones – if allowed on site, can be good on long days of wet sieving and in the field. Even though you work with other people, you might sometimes be far from each other.
- Water bottle, and remember to have enough for a whole day!
- Thermos for cold or hot drinks
- Pencils and markers – weather/waterproof
- A small notebook – for observations
- Snacks – for your pocket and your locker
- A pocket knife/Swiss knife

In your locker:

Most museums provide, sun cream, coffee and tea – but it is always nice to bring your own.

- A mug – for the breaks
- Moisturiser – your hands will thank you!
- Sun cream – both for winter and summer
- A box with a stash of emergency things and food– personal meds, pads, snacks, cup noodles etc.
- Instant coffee/tea bags

