

Watercolor Supply List for Plein Aire Painters

A small folding chair, water containers (collapsible are available), easel, paper towels, small spray bottle, hat, insect repellent, sun block, drinking water, snacks, lunch, cell phone.

Optional: umbrella for rain or sun, tiny folded plastic raincoat, a rolling cart (and bungee cord) or a backpack to carry supplies, jugs of water (usually found on site at your hotel), sweat shirt or layers of clothing, depending upon weather.

Watercolor Paper (Arches, Artistic, Richeon): A smaller block (16 x 20 or less) or paper pre-cut and taped to a small portable board.

Watercolor brushes in a very small brush container: I usually carry one or two #10 or 12 rounds, one smaller round brush for detail work, one 1" flat and a 2" wash brush.

Sketch book, pencils, erasers, camera: I sketch and take photos immediately on site in case I must leave the location.

Pre-filled palette: some folks like the possum palette with lids for paints or a travel pan palette. Bring additional colors of your choice. All paint must be packed in your luggage. I dry my palette out and wrap it in a sealed plastic bag.

Pack lightly and take only what you must have to be comfortable and productive. You cannot take watercolors through security, so I pack everything in sealed plastic in my luggage. You can protect your paper with your thin board (I use a very lightweight plastic carryall board from Cheap Joe's). I take a very large suitcase and can usually get my tiny chair, easel and supplies in along with the few clothes I take. I have also packed all my supplies into a carefully labeled box and tagged the cardboard box as my second piece of luggage. In my experience, supplies overseas are very pricey.

Patience and a sense of humor.

Catherine Hillis, WATERCOLOR SUPPLY LIST, 2010.

There is no substitute for good quality paper and paint.

Papers: Arches, Artístico or Richeson 140 lb. cold-pressed paper , a board (to attach your paper to),and plain masking tape (for mounting paper to the board)

OR

One good quality watercolor “block” 140 lb, cold pressed, 11” x 14” or larger)

Accessories: Water container, paper towels, pencil and kneaded eraser, a spray bottle for water, sketch book, camera

Palette: I like to use a square or circular covered palette with wells around all sides.

Brushes: One #8 or #9 or #10 or #12 round brush

One 1” flat; one 2” wash brush

Any fine brushes that you like for detail work (riggers, or fine round tip brushes)

Tubes of watercolor paint: Use professional grade paints such as Richeson, Quiller, Winsor-Newton, Da Vinci, Holbein, Rembrandt, etc. Cotman and Grumbacher Academy paints are *student grade* and won’t provide the transparency you’re looking for. Buy good quality paints and paper and your product will be first rate! If you already own watercolors, bring what you have and you can fill in later. Please try to have the underlined colors. Feel free to use professional grade pan colors, too.

Yellows:

Cadmium Yellow

Aureolin Yellow

Quinacridone Gold

Burnt sienna

Reds:

Quinacridone Rose

Cadmium Red

Permanent Alizarin Crimson

Blues, Violets:

Quiller Manganese Violet

Raw Umber Violet

Prussian or Thalo Blue

Quiller Ultramarine Blue

Cobalt Blue

Quiller Cerulean Blue

Manganese Blue

Greens

Perylene green

Viridian green

Sap Green, Hooker’s Green or Permanent Green

Turquoise