AT THE EDGE OF THE MAP

Mentawai Packing List

A stay with a Mentawai tribe on Siberut means a muddy jungle trek and a night or three in an open *uma* with no electricity. Use this checklist to pack for it.

Tip: pack clothes you don't mind ruining — mud and leeches win. There is no electricity, no internet and no shop once you leave Muara Siberut.

Items highlighted in yellow are the 10 essentials.

Clothes and Shoes for the Jungle

- [ ] Long trousers you don't mind throwing away
- [ ] Long socks — way more than you think you'll need
- [ ] Quick-drying clothes
- [ ] A wind / rain jacket for the boat and the trek
- [ ] A sweater and long trousers to sleep in
- [ ] Your own boots, if you have very small feet
- [ ] Simple shoes for around the uma
- [ ] A swimsuit (for washing in the river)

Protection and First Aid

- [ ] Mosquito spray
- [ ] Sunscreen
- [ ] Sea sickness pills for the ferry
- [ ] Basic medicines, plasters and disinfectant

Sleeping, Light and Power

- [ ] A small backpack for the things you take into the jungle
- [ ] A dry bag for your phone and electronics
- [ ] A headlamp for night-time trips to the toilet
- [ ] A solar power bank (and spare camera batteries)
- [ ] Eye mask and earplugs — you sleep in an open space
- [ ] A watch

Washing and Toilet

- [ ] Soap and dry shampoo to wash in the river

- [ ] Toothpaste and toothbrush
- [ ] Wet wipes
- [ ] A small mirror
- [ ] 2 towels
- [ ] Toilet paper

Gifts, Snacks and Cash

- [ ] Gifts for the family: cigarettes, or notebooks and pencils for kids (never sweets)
- [ ] A card game like Uno, to play with the family
- [ ] Snacks for the boat and the stay
- [ ] Cash — no reliable ATM on Siberut

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