Essential Picnic Checklist

Follow this outdoor dining checklist and you'll be the best-prepared picnicker at the beach or park.



For Toting and Seating:

- [ ] Picnic basket or canvas bag
- [ ] Picnic blanket (preferably waterproof on the bottom)
- [ ] Portable picnic table (if that's the kind of picnic you're having!)
- [ ] Cooler
- [ ] Picnic chairs (if anyone in your group is not happy on the ground)

For Serving:

- [ ] Plates
- [ ] Napkins
- [ ] Drinks (including lots of water)
- [ ] Cutting board (also useful as a level serving surface, perfect for drinks)
- [ ] Salt and pepper
- [ ] Utensils (including serving utensils)
- [ ] Cups
- [ ] Bottle opener
- [ ] Sharp knife (even if you don't plan to cut things, it's still a good idea)
- [ ] Mustard, mayo, ketchup, etc., if needed (a great way to make use of extra packets from a takeout place)

For Cleanup:

- [ ] Paper towels (and maybe wet wipes)
- [ ] A couple of dishtowels (always handy, and useful to buffer and support dishes in transport)

- [ ] Extra plastic containers or sturdy zipper-top bags for packing up dirty utensils, leftovers, etc.
- [ ] Trash bags

Other Essentials:

- [ ] Sunscreen
- [ ] Hats
- [ ] Insect repellent
- [ ] Flashlight (if you plan to be out into the evening hours)
- [ ] Sport or activity equipment (Frisbees, balls, bubbles, water guns ... whatever the crowd likes)

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