

THE 48-HOUR ESCAPE PLANNER

A simple weekend decision system for choosing where to go, what to do, and what you actually need - without turning Friday night into a research project.

GO SOMEWHERE WORTH YOUR WEEKEND.

1. Define the weekend before choosing the destination

TIME	What time can you actually leave? _____ Must be home by: _____
RADIUS	Maximum drive each way: ____ hr ____ min
BUDGET	Total weekend budget: \$_____
ENERGY	Easy / Moderate / Push me a little
OVERNIGHT	Day trip / Camp / Hotel / Flexible
COMPANY	Solo / Partner / Friends / Dog / Family
NON-NEGOTIABLE	One thing this weekend needs to include: _____

Rule: the destination should fit the weekend. Do not redesign the weekend to justify the destination.

2. Compare three realistic options

Pick three possibilities that fit the constraints above. Score them quickly instead of researching twenty places.

OPTION	TRAVEL	COST	WEATHER FIT	EFFORT	EXCITEMENT	TOTAL
1. _____	___/5	___/5	___/5	___/5	___/5	___/25
2. _____	___/5	___/5	___/5	___/5	___/5	___/25
3. _____	___/5	___/5	___/5	___/5	___/5	___/25

Fast decision check

- ☐ Does it fit the real departure and return window?
- ☐ Is current access/opening status confirmed?
- ☐ Do weather and seasonal conditions still make sense?
- ☐ Are permits/reservations/fees understood?
- ☐ If bringing a dog, are current dog rules confirmed?
- ☐ Would you still want to go if the photos were less impressive?

3. Build the 48 hours

FRIDAY / ARRIVAL

Leave: _____ Arrive: _____

First stop / check-in / camp setup: _____

Dinner plan: _____

SATURDAY / MAIN DAY

Morning: _____

Main activity: _____

Backup if weather changes: _____

Dinner / evening: _____

SUNDAY / RETURN

Morning: _____

One last stop: _____

Leave for home: _____ Home by: _____

4. Pack for the actual plan

Start with essentials. Add gear only when the activity, weather, destination rules, or your comfort actually require it.

ESSENTIALS	COMFORT	ACTIVITY-SPECIFIC
☐ Water ☐ Food / snacks ☐ Weather layer ☐ Navigation ☐ Power / charging ☐ Required permit / reservation ☐ Basic first aid	☐ Camp chair / blanket ☐ Coffee setup ☐ Extra layers ☐ Pillow / sleep comfort ☐ Book / game ☐ Camera	☐ Hiking ☐ Paddling ☐ Beach ☐ Snow ☐ Dog gear ☐ Camping ☐ Other: _____

Before you leave

- ☐ Recheck current closures / conditions
- ☐ Download directions or maps if service may be weak
- ☐ Confirm reservation, parking, permits, or entry requirements
- ☐ Tell someone the plan when appropriate
- ☐ Save one backup option nearby
- ☐ Take the weekend instead of continuing to plan it

Keep this planner. Reuse it every time you have 48 hours and no idea where to go.

Version 1 - designed as a practical planning tool. Always verify current access, regulations, fees, closures, weather, and safety information from authoritative sources before a trip.