

Tips for Virgin Burners:

1. Three essentials you should always have on you when outside of your camp: Water, Dust Protection (goggles + mask), and a Drinking Cup. Experience proves that the cup is the most important of the three as almost all bars on the playa do not supply cups.
2. Sunscreen. Just because almost everyone wears sunscreen does not mean you get to slather it on anybody but you. And ladies, please don't forget the "Girls!" Almost nothing will wreck your Burning Man like a set of lobster-red mammaries.
3. Coconut Oil is NOT the best sunscreen! Yes, it is all-natural and can be used in a pina colada in a pinch, but it provides no protection from the ultra-violet radiation that burns skin.
4. Photos and Videos: it is very important to ask first before you take a photo or video. Just because the guy is cross dressing in the most fabulous "Sex and the City" outfit, does not mean his boss in the default world will see it the same way. Pictures can end careers.
5. After three days of playa dust, your feet may crack and bleed. The playa dust is a dessicant and may cause excessive drying and cracking of your feet. Not everyone has this problem. Play it safe: **wear enclosed shoes**, change your socks daily, wash your feet in vinegar, and apply lotion to them every night until you know what your feet will tolerate.
6. Hot stiletto heels do not work out on the Playa. Although sex in hot stiletto heels works the same way as the default world.
7. Ear plugs if you want to sleep, condoms if you do not.
8. Water. I know the Burning Man Survival Guide recommends bringing 1.5 gallons of water per person per day. Realistically, one could get by with one gallon per day. Excess water at the end of the event, if it's clean, can always be sprinkled onto the Playa and need not be hauled out.
9. You will loose weight. The arid climate suppresses apetite in some. DO your dieting before Burning Man so you have plenty of room for adult bevies and cheese cake every day baby! But no matter what, you will loose weight.
10. Bacon. It's crack for burners. Best gift ever. I will say it is the salt in the bacon that makes it sooooo..... Yeah! Salt is one mineral your body needs. Usually in the default world the diet of Americans is way overkill on the salt. On the playa your body will be in hyper-drive processing water (beer, bloody mary's, mai tais, etc.) and it may dilute your electrolytes. A cup-o-noodles,

roman salt bombs, and three cups of water over an hour in the shade will fix anyone.

- 11.If that don't fix you, it's going to be a double I.V. of saline water at the med tent (where they will be making you drink water.)
- 12.Drink water!
- 13.Piss Clear!
- 14.Don't forget your ticket
- 15.It is 4,000 feet elevation. Yep, sorry you Colorado people, you're going to have to drink more to get that buzz on. You sea level people, write your playa address on your arm because you are going to get fucked up quick.
- 16.The stakes for your tent are not big enough. Bring steel spikes six inches to a foot long.
- 17.Sew fabric into the mosquito netting of your tent to cut down on the dust.
- 18.If you are a lazy-ass like me, collapse your tent when you leave it. That will keep out the dust.
- 19.Or do it "sparkle pony style": sleep with the old creepy guy in the RV.
- 20.It gets cold. No shit, really, it does, I froze my ass off last year. In some years the temperature has dropped below freezing at night.
- 21.Hide your dam keys! (outside of your locked car, ya dolt!) and not in your pocket were they're going to fall out at 2:30 and E-tard camp. (Where?!)
- 22.Make triplicate copies of your car keys (one to loose, one to hide, one to use). (Only if you have a particularly aggressive form of ADD.)
- 23.Illuminate thyself! **Light your sorry ass at night.** You only have to hit or be hit by a bike once to figure out that it hurts.
- 24.When I say "light your ass" I mean not with that head light on the forehead you use for the dishes or for reading a book. It blinds people and is excessively annoying.
- 25.Don't bring a book. (No shit, really I have seen people do it.) Burning Man is a place to be inspired to write a book, not read one.
- 26.Bikes, If you like to travel far. But think simple and cheap. Bring one with "fat-tires" because it is really sandy/dusty out there and skinny ten-speed tires will sink into the sand. There is nothing more humorous then that guy with the 10k dollar mountain bike with a broken widget that no bike person

has seen out side of China.

27. There is a good chance your bike will “disappear” if you can't be bothered to lock it. Most of the time it is because you were too fucked up to remember where you left it. Or someone else was too fucked up to remember where they put theirs, so they take your unlocked bike. Most of the time you only have to secure your bike enough so that a drunk person cannot hop on and ride. (A stick in the spokes works well unless you are prone to drinking and forget your theft-deterrence efforts.)
28. Every year people leave unwanted bikes at the end of the event. There are three businesses in Reno that accept unwanted bikes. Bikes at the end of Burning Man are something of a burden, not a high theft “were taking it to a pawn shop in Reno” item. No one “stole” it, I just don't want to hear it.
29. You could bring a tire repair kit, or just ride the rims. Playa does not hurt bike rims--too much.
30. Bring Altoids. For kissing--it just tastes better than wet nap.
31. Use the empty Altoid tin for cigarette butts. I know you do not smoke, but it still is the no 1. MOOP item out there. They make great gifts for smokers. Either give it to the smoker or take their butt and put it in the tin.
32. Gifts: No one likes cheesy gifts like a glow stick with “love” painted on it. It is not art, it is garbage. Services and labor are a gift, the best gift you will ever give.
33. Wet naps make great gifts, providing you also provide a place to dispose of said wet nap.
34. Figure out a way to collect MOOP (garbage) 24/7. Pocket, bag, tin, purse, eat it..... Just pick it up.
35. Do not wear any clothing from “Frat Boy U.” Nothing shuts down the creative gifting process and/or spontaneous interaction than looking like a frat boy. If you are into them, or are one, try Daytona Beach on spring break. You will have a much better time.
36. Costumes. You will see some of the best in the world out there. However, do not be a costume snob. That artist who just got done with his/her mega huge installation that took him/her a week of 14-hour days to build may not have had the time or inclination to care how groovy he/she looks at the moment. Remember not everyone is who they appear to be.
37. Except for that one guy in a police uniform--his “costume” is real. Ask him

nicely to tell you all the stories of the really dumb Burners who offered him drugs.

38. The "Stupid Tax." If you smoke pot in public and get a \$200 ticket, well, you're stupid. Sorry, it's something you're going to have to live with. That pot may be legal in your state and/or you have a medical marijuana card does not make it legal to toke on the playa. The police came up with that term "Stupid Tax," not me. The term applies to those who think they can do drugs openly without getting caught. If you do illegal drugs, do them in the privacy of your own tent.
39. Too much food. Yes, you will bring too much food; everyone does. If that turns out to be you, then cook for everyone in front of you and share so there are no leftovers. Wet garbage starts to stink. No leftovers, no wet garbage, get it?
40. No, rotting "fresh" produce is not a "gift." Go easy on the produce unless you are prepared to pack every last rind or core out in your own car. Apples last longer than lettuce, and Twinkies last forever! That squirt cheese wiz in a can is just kinky!
41. One of the biggest impacts Burning Man has on the environment is the trashing of the highway leading to the Playa. This is mostly from folks who pack their garbage on the top of their vehicles, not suspecting that 50 mph speeds will shred whimpy garbage bags or blow them out from under whimpy tie downs. Don't carpet 200 miles of road to Reno with Burning Man garbage. When you pack your car think about leaving extra space so you can get in ALL your new gifts to the landfill. Use only Contractor Clean-Up Bags...beefy garbage bags 2 to 3 mil thick.
42. IMPORTANT: The road heading to Gerlach, after you have left the Interstate, has very soft shoulders. Your car may get stuck if you pull all the way off the road. Helping that cute Burner stuck on the side of the road is awesome, but you both may be calling AAA.
43. Bring a tennis ball or rebar cap to place on the end of your bike's kickstand so the kickstand won't sink into the Playa and cause your bike to flop over.
44. Put your keys on a necklace, and put a key in a hide-a-key on your vehicle. (Or just hide your car keys in your tent.)
45. An umbrella for keeping the sun off while walking around is awesome.
46. Rain boots in case it, well, rains. They work great to keep the mud off your feet.

47. BUT, If it does rain hard you might be better off bringing a bucket so you can number 2 in it if you can't make it to the porta-john.
48. Here is another note on rain: the survival guide says that you should not ride your bike in the rain. They say that because you can not physically do it (try it, I dare you.) You will also jack-up your hand brakes pretty bad. Like rip the things right off the bike with the sticky mud.
49. I do wear some heeled boots for dress-up time out there, but I also carry a "Playabag" with comfy Keds and a change of socks in case the boots get to be too much.
50. Whoever invented bike baskets was a genius. Have one on your bike for your "Playabag."
51. What else is in my Playabag? Water, my cup, a non-melting snack, bling gifts, wet naps, sunscreen, a water squirt bottle (there is no better gift than a good squirt) and tissue. (My goggles and dust mask are already on my face ;-)
52. Bring a heavy coat! Yes, you might not need it, but much better to have it in case it gets cold. My first year out was freezing and I had a big coat. People kept crawling into it with me, so there's that, too ;-)
53. The best daytime clothes are clothes that are wispy, cotton and light colored and which cover your body, like a long sleeve bathing suit cover-up. It keeps you cooler than no cloths, believe me. They are usually see-through so you can have fun with that.
54. Read the damn Survival Guide! I even gave you a nice link for it. Last year's guide works. Believe me, the guide does not change that much....<http://survival.burningman.com/>