

En plein air kit list

Suitable clothing:

Sturdy shoes for walking, cardigan/jumper (as sitting can make you cold), sun hat and sun cream (if you're lucky enough to get sun), mac or large umbrella (large umbrellas are harder to carry but better to sit under if you are quite away from the car, they are also a useful sunshade).

For your comfort:

Folding chair or rug or cushion.

Drinks and food.

Hay fever tablets etc.

Glasses (for sun and for seeing – don't leave them in the car!)

Camera

Mobile phone

Kitchen roll

Sensible bag or bags to hold it all AND carry it from location to location

Drawing equipment:

Drawing board, with masking tape or clips.

*Easels are not necessary unless you're planning on painting for more than an hour or two in one sitting.

Sketchbook or single sheets of paper (make sure your paper is suitable to your materials; cartridge paper for sketching, thicker paper if you intend to add water, smooth paper for pencils or pen drawing)

Pencils (HB, B, 2B to 8B depending on your preference)

Willow Charcoal (for quick large sketches)

Rubber/ putty rubber (for charcoal)

Colouring pencils or

Watercolour/ ink-tense pencils (you will also need water and brush or a water brush pen) or

Pastels or

Oil pastels or

Pens various size tips (0.3, 0.5 permanent /non-permanent)



Painting equipment:

Small pan of paints or

Several tubes of primary colours and a sap/olive green

Bottle of water and pot (you can now buy dog drinking bottle and bowl that fold together, great for taking out and about)

Pallet for mixing colours

Watercolour paper or individual sheets (approx. 300gsm)

If you are planning on using Acrylics or other mediums then you probably have a set of equipment you know you couldn't come without. If you're new to a medium stick with what you know or use the kit suggested above.



What to do when the public come for a nose!

Don't get flustered. If your viewer thinks they know it all and have done this sort of thing themselves or has a relative/friend who's always painting, then nothing you have to say or offer is going to impress them. Be polite and ignore them, they'll soon get bored and move on.

Most other people are probably interested in why you're there and what you're doing. Maybe explain this is your first time or you're a beginner. Have a chat, most people are usually pretty impressed that you're out there sketching or painting. Don't be surprised if you get comments like; 'I could never do that' or 'You're very clever'.

Don't forget you have to start somewhere, and even Turner had some off days!.....Well probably.