

## Ötzi the Iceman and Today's Equivalent Gear!

In 1991, two German tourists found a mummified body in the Ötztal Alps on the Austrian-Italian border. It proved to be 5,300 years old and was dubbed "Ötzi the Iceman." His clothing and personal gear teaches us what's important:

- Underwear: A leather loincloth.
- Shirt or coat: Vertical leather strips sewn together with sinew.
- Pants: Goatskin leggings, made like the coat, with suspenders.
- Belt and pouch: Belt made like the coat; pouch (see contents below).
- Moccasins: Bearskin bottoms, leather uppers, grass insulation inside.
- Winter coat/cape: Woven grass and linden tree bark.
- Winter hat: Bearskin cap with leather chin strap.
- Fire starters: Flint and iron pyrite for making sparks.
- Tinder: Dry fungus and parts of a dozen other plants.
- Hand axe: 99.7% copper axe head with yew handle and leather binding.
- Fixed-blade knife/sheath: Flint knife with ash handle and sheath.
- Backpack: Framed wooden backpack.
- Stuff bags: Two birch bark baskets.
- Bow: Unfinished 72" yew longbow, est. 160-lb. pull.
- Arrows: 14; 2 broken flint-tipped, fletched; 12 unfinished wood shafts.
- Quiver: Animal skin quiver.
- Bowstring: 2-ply cord from bast (lime tree). Coiled in bottom of quiver.
- Spare points: Spare arrowheads.
- Twine: Spare sinews.
- Pouch contents: Flint scraper, flint awl, flint drill, antler for flint knapping (?), two mushrooms (including birch fungus, probably medicinal).
- Toilet paper: Moss.
- Berries: Snack food.

Ötzi's gear, with modern equivalents, shows what is important to bring when hiking in cold weather. What was important then is just as important now.

Despite all his preparation, Ötzi died from an arrow in the back. He had his own weapon, a longbow with arrows, but his bow had not been completed and none of his 14 arrows was shootable. He was not prepared to defend himself with his bow. Situational awareness: The location of the wound suggests to me that he was not aware he was being stalked and never saw his killer.