

WATERCOLOR TECHNIQUES *for the Wild*

- ✓ **WET ON DRY** Add color to a dry page for sharp edges
- ✓ **WASHES** Use your brush to lay down a light background tint
- ✓ **LAYERING** Let one color dry, then paint over it
- ✓ **SPLATTER** Use a toothbrush or fingernail to create wild texture (optional but fun)
- ✓ **PALETTE MIXING** Combine primary colors to create earthy tones

Keep it light.
Let the water move.
Dont overwork.



CREATIVE MINDSET *Checklist*

- ☐ I'm here to observe, not be perfect.
- ☐ I expect unexpected things (bugs, wind, drying weirdness)
- ☐ I want to feel the place, not just paint it
- ☐ I'm allowed to play
- ☐ Its okay if no one sees this but me



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STAY *Inspired*

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See you on the trail



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INTRO TO NATURE *Watercoloring*



A FIELD GUIDE FOR OUTDOOR ARTISTS



WELCOME *to the trail*

Whether you're a seasoned artist or just starting to explore creativity outside, this guide is your gentle companion to bringing watercolors into the wild. There's no right way to do it just your way. It's about noticing more, slowing down, and letting the outdoors flow into your art.

Lets get you started.



WHAT YOU REALLY *Need to Get Started*

No studio? No problem. Heres what to pack:

- ✓ Pocket watercolor set (812 colors is perfect)
- ✓ Refillable water brush
- ✓ Watercolor travel sketchbook or postcard pad
- ✓ Binder clips (for holding pages open)
- ✓ A small towel or reusable napkin
- ✓ Lightweight mat or camping stool (optional)
- ✓ Ziploc for trash and storage
- ✓ Small spray bottle (optional for misting paints)

Tips

Use a fanny pack or side pouch in your hiking bag to keep your art gear easily accessible.

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SETTING UP *on the Trail*

Find your spot:

- ✓ Look for shade or indirect sunlight to protect your eyes and paints
- ✓ Avoid high wind areas (hilltops, ridgelines)
- ✓ Use your towel or mat as a stable base
- ✓ Keep water brush handy no need for rinse cups
- ✓ Clip your pages so they dont flap or buckle



Comfort is creative fuel.

YOUR FIRST 3 *Painting Prompts*

1. Color Hunt

Find 5 colors in your view and paint simple swatches. Try to match them as closely as you can.

2. Quiet Scene

Pick something still like a rock, a shadow, or a fallen leaf. Sketch it slowly. Use minimal lines.

3. 30-Second Shapes

Close your eyes, take a breath, then draw the shape of the trail or horizon in one continuous line.