Materials list for Plein Air Watercolorist

You may have you own materials and that is perfectly fine. This is a list of what I use and the reasons I choose these materials. The Plein air painter has some different needs than the studio painter and must be conscious of weight and bulk.

**PIGMENTS** transparent watercolor / professional grade
I use pigment that comes in tubes. I choose these because the color comes out like toothpaste and readily mixes with little effort. The cakes require quite a bit of scrubbing and wear and tear on brushes to get deep rich colors. I recommend you buy colors in tubes, they are available at all art stores and I recommend buying small tubes, 5 ml of the following colors:
I use Holbein, Winsor & Newton,, and Shmentke professional colors

Cadmium (yellow warm yellow)  
Lemon yellow (cool yellow)  
Yellow Ochre (opaque light brown)  
Burnt sienna (reddish brow)  
Alizarin Crimson (cool red)  
Cadmium red light (warm red)  
Ultramarine blue (warm blue)  
Cobalt blue (warm unique blue)  
Cerulean Blue (cool opaque blue)  
Cobalt Turquoise  
Viridian green (cold green)  
neutral tint  
Chinese white or Jaune brilliant for regaining lost highlights

**Palette**
A palette for watercolor plastic palettes are fine I prefer a metal palette like Holbien makes but they are substantially more expensive. A good palette will have small areas to squeeze out pure color and larger areas for mixing and diluting. Look for something like the ones pictured. These are excellent for travel as they fold. Keep a damp sponge inside to keep the color pliant. For working in the studio I use a John pike palette as it has a cover and large areas for diluting color

Holbien metal pallets can be found here and are excellent for travel
https://www.artxpress.com/commerce/catalog/spcategory.jsp?category_id=1473
I have been using this palette for traveling and find it very good. Available at this site: http://www.shysart.com/

Brushes (watercolor)

Watercolor brushes are specially designed to hold amounts of liquid and still keep a fine point. Arguably Squirrel is the best natural hair, sabalette is made of nylon but very good at holding water and much cheaper. My recommendations below. Note the quill is a Princeton Neptune a synthetic nylon sold at dickblick.com http://www.dickblick.com/products/princeton-neptune-synthetic-squirrel-quill/

Quill (mop) brush (squirrel) size 6 or 8
Great as a general purpose brush. Excellent for washes, and calligraphy. I use mine for 80% of my painting.

Round sabalette 4, 8
Good to have 2 or 3 different sizes. I use them for smaller areas, detail, calligraphy, general texture Dickblick online here

Flat sabalette 1/2", and 1"
Good for flat washes, broad applications of color, edge work, architecture... Utrecht website here

Others include a fan brush for texture, a rigger for fine lines and details.
Brush Caddy pictured above to the right helps keep your brushes in good health.

**Paper**

**Saunders Waterford** or **Arches** 140lb. **rough** or cold pressed paper (professional grade) 22" x 30" cut or torn into 1/2 or 1/4 size sheets.
I use this paper because it is consistently good. It stands up to many layers, has a wonderful tooth and ultimately serves my expressive and spontaneous style.

To hold and transport your paper I recommend **corrugated plastic**, sold cheaply in art stores. It is cheap durable, waterproof, light weight, and cuts easily. Also popular is Watercolor board, or gator board. Or prepared Masonite. These work well but are heavier and more expensive, and more difficult to cut.

1" Masking tape to hold the paper down.

**Other:**
- Masking tape,
- Sketch book 9 x 12,
- 4B pencil,
- Kneaded eraser

Water jar plastic,
Small spray bottle or atomizer
Paper towels
Soft sponge
Small pocket knife or palette knife for scraping paint
Scrap paper for drills and warm ups.

*For working outdoors*
Portable **watercolor** easel - I recommend this as it allows you to tilt the paper to different angles to control your washes, paint hands free, and allows you to step back from your work evaluate from a proper distance with ease.

I use a combination of a tripod easel made by manfrotto with a traveling attachment made by sun-eden

Sun-Eden Traveling Adapter
Fits to any tripod.
Find it here: http://www.sun-eden.com
They also make the shelf shown below. I have tested both and found them to be very durable.

For the ultimate enthusiast Other things that you may find add to your comfort are this chair made by Sahara and an umbrella made by easyL and of course a Sherpa to carry everything easily back and forth