

# Backpacking Denali National Park

7 Day Backpacking Adventure

*Denali National Park &  
Preserve*



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Thank you for considering a trip with Alaska Alpine Adventures! We have spent the past 25 years perfecting the art of guiding expeditions throughout the most remote wilderness regions of Alaska with folks just like you. Included below is much of the information you'll need to prepare & plan for your trip. Of course, never hesitate to reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

Before booking a trip with Alaska Alpine Adventures, we encourage you to thoroughly read our Reservation & Cancellation Policies below AND make sure you read and understand your personal responsibilities delineated on the [Safety & Responsibility page on our website](#).

Our policies are intended to be fair, both to our guests and to our small business. Ultimately, we are a small adventure travel company operating on public lands in some of the world's most remote and challenging environments. Our groups are intentionally small, our operating season each year is incredibly short, and each spot on a trip represents an irreplaceable opportunity. The closer to a trip's start date that a guest cancels, the more difficult it becomes to fill that spot, and that is what informs our cancellation policy.

It's also the reason that we **STRONGLY RECOMMEND PURCHASING TRIP CANCELLATION & INTERRUPTION INSURANCE.**

Both [TRAVEL GUARD](#) & [RIPCORDER](#) are good options. We're excited to share Alaska with you, in the most authentic way we believe possible! Thanks so much for understanding, and for choosing Alaska Alpine Adventures. We'll see you in Alaska soon!



Tundra hiking above Backside Lake with views of the Ruth Glacier

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## The Curated Experience

Our incomparable 7-day backpacking trip in Denali National Park is a shorter, but no less spectacular, version of our amazing 10-day adventure through the biggest mountains in North America and the crown jewel of the National Park system! With float plane access from Anchorage, amazing tundra hiking, and unparalleled views of America's highest summit (after all, you'll be only 17 miles from the 20,310' peak), this trip is both suitable for a new Alaska backpacker yet challenging enough for the seasoned wilderness traveler.

This 7-day, 20+ mile backpacking adventure includes 5 full days of backpacking along massive glaciers, past wild creeks, and through virgin wilderness in this most amazing and virtually unexplored area of Denali National Park. Not only does this experience include float plane access via a flight-seeing tour of the mighty Ruth Glacier, but it also allows backpackers the opportunity to experience Denali National Park in a way that few ever have.

In the document below you'll find information on the following:

- Trip Levels and Description of Physical Abilities
- Sample Day by Day Itinerary
- What is Included & What is Not
- Why Travel with Alaska Alpine Adventures
- Travel Info & Getting To and From Alaska
- Reservation and Cancellation Policies
- Gear Lists, Equipment Lists, Rental information
- FAQs

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**The Backpacking Denali** is rated a **LEVEL 2 Backpacking** trip

*Physical conditioning and consistent exercise prior to these trips IS mandatory.*

Physical conditioning and consistent exercise prior to these trips is essential. You will be backpacking and hiking off-trail over steep, hilly, and uneven terrain, often covering more than 6 miles in a day with up to 2000' of elevation gain/loss. You may encounter short stretches of thick vegetation and may also experience Alaska's diverse selection of insect species. You will be camping in a very remote wilderness, sleeping in tents, relieving yourself in places with a stunning view, and sometimes enjoying all of the above in the rain. You will be expected to load and unload your own gear, carry a portion of the group gear, and manage your own physical comfort and well-being. Pre-trip physical conditioning should begin no later than 2 months before departure and should include walking or hiking, preferably with loaded backpack of 30-40 lbs.



Fall colors and happy guests in Denali National Park

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## DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY *(\*Sample)*

**Day 1:** Your trip begins today in Anchorage, Alaska. You'll be staying at the Aloft Anchorage Hotel. You can arrive anytime and transfer to the hotel on their complimentary shuttle. Depending on your arrival time, the remainder of the day is yours to relax after your flight or to explore some of the city's notable sites including the Anchorage Museum of History & Art or the city Park Strip. This afternoon, you'll meet your guide(s) for an orientation and gear check, followed by a group dinner featuring gourmet pizza and local craft brews. The orientation will include a discussion of the route, an introduction to our unique style of Alaska wilderness travel, a familiarization of the principles of Leave No Trace, and a conversation about traveling safely in bear country. Dinner & accommodations included.

**Day 2:** This morning after breakfast, we'll make our way over to Lake Hood Seaplane Base, the busiest float-plane airport on earth, where we'll board a floatplane bound for the Denali National Park and our home for the next 5 nights. This one-hour scenic flight will take us over alpine tundra, braided rivers, and cascading waterfalls. We'll enjoy spectacular views of Mt. Denali, the highest peak in North America as we travel up the mighty Ruth Glacier, to the entrance of the Great Gorge - the deepest trench on earth! Our skilled bush pilot will then take us down to a small lake nestled in a cleft between the Ruth and Tokositna Glaciers, where we will unload our gear on a small beach and then wave the airplane goodbye. We'll set up camp near the lake, bask in the new-found solitude, and then take a short afternoon hike. All Meals Included.

**Days 3-6:** We'll spend the next 4 days headed doing a 30+ mile circuit. Our route will take us through gun sight passes, over open tundra benches, down spectacular creeks, and along big Alaska Range glaciers. We'll camp near small lakes, drink from alpine streams, and walk-through country that has seen few human footsteps. We'll bask in the majesty of the Alaska Range and scan mountain sides for black & grizzly bears as we hike through north America's crown jewel, completely immersed in the wild. When the weather permits, views of north America's highest mountain range will dominate our panorama and we'll savor the incomprehensible vastness of Alaska. By the afternoon of day 6, we'll arrive back at our final camp near the lake, and we'll spend our last evening truly enjoying our final moments of solitude in Denali. All Meals Included.

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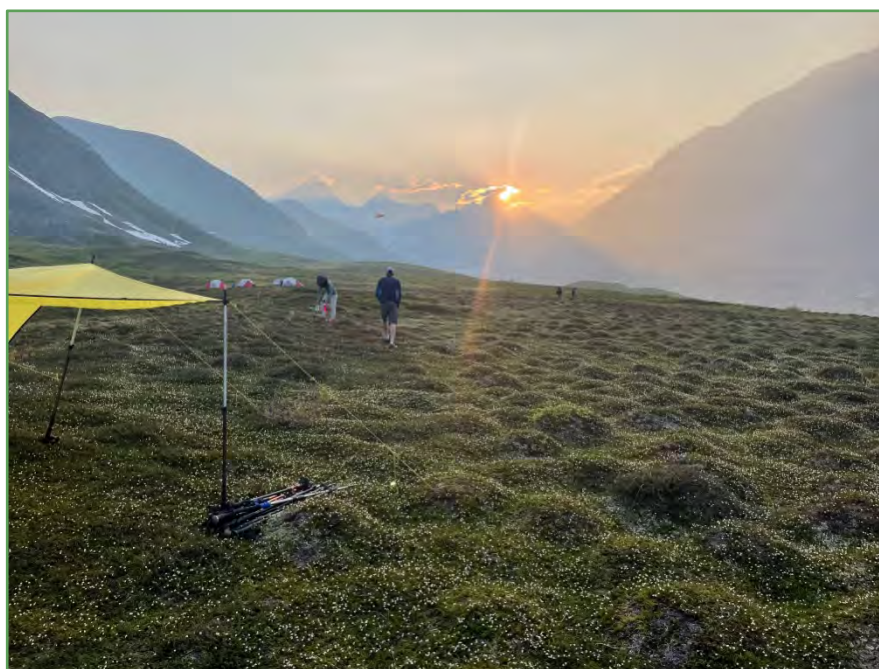
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## Continued DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY *(\*Sample)*

**Days 7:** After a celebratory tundra breakfast and coffee, our bush pilot will arrive at the lake by early afternoon to extract us from the wilderness. Our flight path will take us down the massive Ruth Glacier, over the Tokosha Mountains, along the mighty Susitna River, and back to Anchorage by early afternoon. If you're returning home from Anchorage this evening, please schedule home-bound flights for after 8pm.  
Breakfast and Lunch Included.

\*While Alaska Alpine Adventures endeavors to follow our itineraries as written, odds are in fact slim that you actually will during the camping portion of this trip. The expeditionary factors at play quite often compel our guides to deviate from the written itinerary. Guide considerations could include weather conditions, group preference, individual ability, specific safety considerations, or unforeseeable circumstances; collectively what many have called "The Alaska Factor." Flight times into and out of the wilderness may also vary based on any number of similar factors. Therefore, we strongly suggest that you approach any adventure in Alaska with an open mind.



Heading back to the tents after an amazing dinner & day of hiking

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## What is Included

- **All Group Gear:** Expedition quality tents, group tarp, all cooking equipment & eating vessels and utensils.
- **All Safety Equipment:** Satellite phone, Garmin In-Reach, maps, and medical kit.
- **Water Treatment:** Aquamira (a 2-part) liquid chlorine dioxide system.
- **Trekking Poles**
- **Toilet Supplies:** Toilet paper, trowel, and hand sanitizer.
- **Roundtrip Air Transportation:** Between Anchorage and Denali.
- **Lodging:** Night one in Anchorage.
- **All Meals:** From lunch on 1 one through lunch on day 7 (final day of itinerary).
- **Professional Guide Service:** Maximum of a 4:1 guest to guide ratio.

## What is Not Included

- **Airfare to Anchorage, Alaska:** From your home city.
- **Pre or Post Lodging:** In Anchorage prior to & after your adventure.
- **Personal Gear:** Sleeping bag, sleeping pad, backpacks, rain gear, etc.  
*See equipment Lists and available rental items below.*
- **Trip Cancellation/Interruption Insurance:** HIGHLY SUGGESTED!
- **Additional Lodging:** Any additional lodging in Anchorage due to weather delays.
- **Alcoholic Beverages**
- **Guide Gratuities:** See below.

*"Trip was amazing, exceeded expectations on ALL levels: professionalism, knowledge, food, gear, matching abilities, flight taxi, coolness of guides and owners as well as other guests on my trip. I would not change a thing, I would recommend your company to another, and I DO HOPE to take another trip with you."*

**-Alyssa Gagnon**

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## Traveling with Alaska Alpine Adventures

**GUIDES:** It takes a talented individual to be able to lead an Alaska expedition, and our Alaska guides are true outdoor multi-sport professionals. We hand-select each guide based on their ability to deliver an unparalleled level of customer service, a strong wilderness skill set and background and an insatiable passion for Alaska's wild spaces. Each guide is medically certified as a Wilderness First Responder and carries the necessary qualifications to competently backpack, hike, kayak, canoe and climb throughout Alaska's vast wilderness. When you choose to travel with us, you can rest assured that your trip has been meticulously planned and executed by real Alaskans with authentic Alaska know-how, skill, and ability.

**FOOD:** Our food is excellent – in fact it is something that clearly differentiates us from our competition. We have spent the past twenty-five years fine-tuning our backcountry menu. Breakfasts on our trips could include steel cut oats, egg scrambles, house-made granola and cereal, locally roasted coffee, assorted tea, and cocoa. In order to keep our food as light and compact as possible on our backpacking-specific itineraries, we don't pack full lunches. Instead, we take frequent breaks and snack throughout the day. Our "snack pack lunches" include a combination of energy bars, chocolate, meat, and cheese, and total just over 1000 calories. Dinners could include pasta carbonara, Alaska reindeer rotini, chicken and chipotle enchilada bowls, and more. And a delicious desert experience is always included after dinner.

**CAMPING:** Alaska Alpine Adventures has camped in some of Alaska's most remote and wild places; from the remote beaches of the Alaska Peninsula, the rugged glaciers of the Neacola Mountains, to the open tundra expanses of the Brooks Range. With literally thousands of nights camped in the Alaska wilderness in all seasons, we have refined camp craft to a science. Expedition quality tents, included trekking poles, group-size tarp shelters, and only the best cooking equipment accompany each and every one of our wilderness trips. Not only does including the finest equipment make camp life more comfortable, but it also adds a level of safety to trips that could otherwise be relentlessly unforgiving to the unprepared. In other words, we take our camping very seriously!

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**SMALL GROUPS:** Small groups are the best way to witness the Last Frontier! This wilderness trip is limited to 8 guests. And with a guest to guide ratio of 4:1 you are assured of our commitment to risk management and safe operations. Furthermore, it is a best practice to keep groups exceptionally small to minimize our impact on the Alaskan backcountry by following [Leave No Trace](#) principles.

**GRATUITIES:** Tips to guides are left entirely to your discretion. While any amount is greatly appreciated, tips often range from 5-10% of the trip cost per person and are split among the guides.



Blue glacier pools and caves are just some of the magic of Denali

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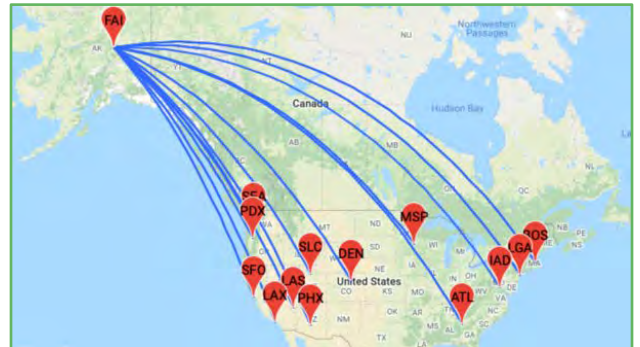
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## Travel Information

### GETTING TO ALASKA

This trip begins and ends in Anchorage, Alaska. Getting to Anchorage is easy. Alaska Airlines, your travel agent, online travel sources, or the carrier of your choice are options to easily arrange roundtrip airfare from international cities or the lower 48.



### BUSH FLIGHTS



All bush flights, both into and out of Denali National Park, are included in the cost of your adventure and your flight will certainly be one of the highlights of your Alaska hiking tour. For most of you, this will likely be your first trip in a bush plane, and a memorable one to be sure! This 1+ hour scenic flight will take us over alpine tundra, braided rivers, and cascading waterfalls; past Denali, the highest peak in North America; and finally over the mighty Ruth Glacier to the entrance of the Ruth Gorge, the deepest trench on earth! Our skilled bush pilot will then take us down to a small lake nestled

in a cleft between the Ruth and Tokositna Glaciers, where we will unload our gear on a small beach and then wave the airplane goodbye.

### ACCOMMODATIONS

Lodging on night one in Anchorage is included in your package (See our Roommate Policy below). You'll be staying in at Aloft in Anchorage. We use Aloft because of its comfortable rooms and convenient location near the airport. The remaining nights will be spent camping in the wilderness.



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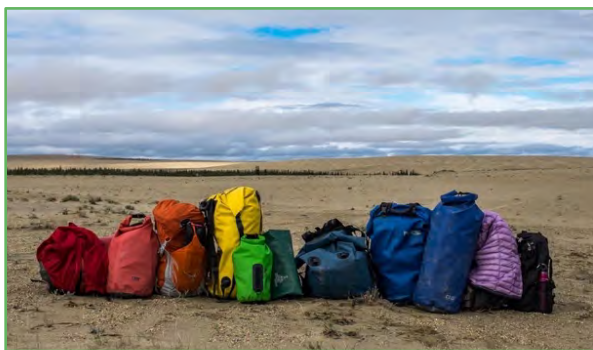




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## LUGGAGE

If you chose to pack and check your backpack, make sure all the straps are cinched and buckled. The baggage conveyors have been known to eat these things! Please keep your luggage tagged, with your name easy to read. Due to limited weight restrictions for the bush flights, we suggest you pack as lightly as possible. If you follow the gear list, you'll be spot-on!

## ROOMATE POLICY

Our trip rates are based on double occupancy in each room. If you request your own room or we are unable to find a roommate of the same gender, a single supplement of \$275 will be applied to your trip rate before your final balance is due (45 days prior to your trip start date). If we find you a roommate prior to your final payment being due, the single supplement will be removed from your balance due.

- Due to limited inventory with our accommodation vendors, a single room cannot always be guaranteed.
- If we find you a roommate after you have submitted your final payment, your single supplement will be refunded.
- If you register 45 days or fewer prior to your trip start date, your single supplement will be due at the time of your registration unless a roommate is available. If a roommate is found prior to your trip, your single supplement will be refunded.
- Please be sure to confirm your rooming arrangements by emailing us or calling 1-907-351-4193

## RESERVATION AND CANCELLATION POLICY



The trip prices listed on our website and in our literature are per person, based on double occupancy and subject to a 3% Land & Water Access Fee. A deposit of \$1,000.00 per person is required to reserve a trip with Alaska Alpine Adventures. The remaining balance is due 45 days prior to the start of the trip. Reservations made within 45 days of the trip starting date require payment in full. Alaska Alpine Adventures strongly recommends trip cancellation insurance available through Ripcord, Travel Guard, or your preferred insurer.

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## **RESERVATION & CANCELLATION POLICY CONTINUED – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**

Alaska Alpine Adventures reserves the right to cancel any trip because of internal reasons including but not limited to inadequate signups, loss of staff due to injury or illness and significant damage/loss of inventory. If Alaska Alpine Adventures cancels a trip due to internal reasons, a refund of the total amount paid will be given. Refunds are limited to the amount actually paid to Alaska Alpine Adventures.

Should your trip departure have to be cancelled or postponed by a force majeure (including but not limited to: weather causing delays or cancelled charter flights, fire, flood, volcanic eruption, pandemic, ongoing or newly introduced travel ban or government statement) Alaska Alpine Adventures and its partner operators are not obligated to provide a refund or offer alternative travel services. Thus, we strongly encourage you to purchase Trip Cancellation & Interruption Insurance so that you are covered in the event of an unexpected change of plans.

If the participant cancels a reservation earlier than 45 days prior to the starting date, the deposit will be refunded, minus a \$500.00/participant administration fee OR the participant can elect to keep the entire deposit on account to be used on a future trip prior to September 20, 2025. If the participant cancels within 45-30 days of the trip starting date, there will be no refund of any costs OR the participant can elect to keep 75% of any payments on account to be used on a future trip prior to September 20, 2025. If the participant cancels within 30-days, there will be no refund of any costs.

## **ITINERARY CHANGES OR DELAYS**

Alaska Alpine Adventures reserves the right to change the itinerary of a trip. Occasionally, weather or other factors may cause delays, destination changes, or make completing a trip impossible. In these circumstances, there will be no refund of fees. Alaska Alpine Adventures is not responsible for any additional costs (e.g., airline flight changes, additional hotel nights, etc.) associated with trip delays or itinerary changes due to weather or other factors.

## **TRIP MINIMUMS**

To assure any Alaska Alpine Adventures departure, a minimum number of participants must sign up. This trip requires a minimum of 4 guests to guarantee departure. However, in the event your departure doesn't meet the minimum we will still operate the trip at below the minimum required for a modest surcharge. Please see our Reservations Page for more information regarding trip minimums.

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## EQUIPMENT INFORMATION – BACKPACKING DENALI

**This document lists ALL clothing, equipment and other gear needed for your Alaska Alpine Adventure.**

Please note that some items will be supplied by Alaska Alpine Adventures; other items you will need to provide yourself. The checklist below contains all of the clothing and gear required for this trip offered by Alaska Alpine Adventures. By following them, you should find yourself well equipped for your adventure. We are always happy to discuss equipment needs with you, so please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

### **TRUST YOURSELF, NOT THE WEATHER!**

We travel light, yet spare few comforts, and the following checklists reflect this dogma. Our lists are based on typical seasonal and environmental conditions you are likely to encounter. Please refer to your particular adventure's itinerary for specific weather conditions you can expect at your destination. Living by the tenant of "hope for the best, plan for worst, and probably get something right in between" has served us quite well and often seems to sum up the Alaska experience. Environmental comfort levels will vary from person to person, so please select your clothing and equipment accordingly and use the following checklists as a guide. It must be stressed that the items listed (or your own favorite substitution) are **MANDATORY** and must be in your possession when you head into the field.

### **OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT SUPPLIERS**

Over the course of many years spent in the most rugged environments, your Alaska Alpine Adventures guides have had the opportunity to put their gear and clothing to the ultimate test - daily use. Our guides have repeatedly found that certain companies produce consistently tough, durable products that stand up to both time and the elements. You can find most of these brands at your local outdoor retailer or online. The Alaska Alpine Adventures website also contains links to suppliers, printable gear lists, and helpful videos. We've also included the gear list below.

### **AVAILABLE RENTAL ITEMS**

Alaska Alpine Adventures rents quality down and synthetic sleeping bags, inflatable air mattresses and Crazy Creek chairs for this trip. Please visit our rental page on our website by clicking [THIS LINK](#) for more info.

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## Packing & Gear Lists

- **Backpack - Men's minimum size is 70L / Women's minimum size is 60L**

The group gear that Alaska Alpine Adventures provides (bear barrel, food, tent pieces, etc.) will occupy a minimum of 18L of your pack! Keep that in mind when purchasing a backpack. If in doubt, err on the side of a larger pack; it will make packing and unpacking much easier each day. We also recommend a professional pack fitting if you are purchasing a new backpack for your trip.

*Guides Choice: The one that fits your body best!*

- **Waterproof pack cover:** Large enough to fit your pack when it's full
- **1L water bottle:** Hydration bladders are acceptable in addition to one wide-mouth, hard-sided bottle.

*Guides Choice: Wide-mouth Nalgene water bottle*

- **Hiking boots for backpacking: Quality medium/heavy-duty hiking boots**

It is very critical that you break in your boots BEFORE you arrive, as traveling with blisters is a painful way to enjoy Alaska!

*Guides Choice: Salomon Quest 4D 3 GTX*

- **Waterproof/breathable rain jacket AND rain pants - *BOTH Pieces are mandatory***

Gore-Tex or similar quality waterproof/breathable GOOD rain gear is essential on any wilderness outing and is probably the most important piece of gear that you have on your trip.

*Guides Choice: Outdoor Research Foray Jacket AND Pants*

## Hiking Layers - Synthetic or wool, no cotton

- **Lightweight wind shirt**

*Guides Choice: Patagonia Houdini Jacket*

- **1 mid-weight long sleeve synthetic top:** Daily use as a base layer shirt that you'll wear all day.

*Guides Choice: Patagonia Capilene Lightweight Crew*

- **1 mid-weight synthetic bottom:** To be worn under your hiking pant or rain pant on a cold/wet days

*Guides Choice: Patagonia Capilene Lightweight Bottoms*

- **1 pair synthetic hiking pants:** Daily use hiking pant that you'll wear all day
- **1 pair lightweight synthetic shorts:** Convertible hiking pant/shorts are OK

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- **1 lightweight T-shirt:** Synthetic
- **4 pair of hiking socks:** Synthetic or wool mid-weight hiking socks.
- **1 warm beanie hat:** Synthetic or wool
- **1 billed hat:** Keeps your face protected from the sun
- **1 mosquito head net**
- **1 pair of gloves:** Synthetic or wool.

## Camp Life

- **Sleeping bag:** Synthetic or down sleeping bag rated to a minimum of 30 F°
  - Available for rent, includes a waterproof compression stuff sack
- **2 waterproof compression stuff sacks:** One large enough to fit your sleeping bag & One large enough to fit your extra layers.  
*Guides Choice: Sea to Summit eVent Compression Dry Sacks*
- **Sleeping pad:** Closed-cell foam pad or inflatable air mattress
  - Inflatable air mattress available for rent
- **Headlamp:** For trips departing after August 1<sup>st</sup>
- **Camp chair:** Crazy-Creek style, soft, folding camp chair or Therm-a-Rest conversion chair kit to fit inflatable mattress.  
*Guides Choice: Crazy Creek Hex 2.0 Original chair*
  - Crazy-Creeks is available for rent.
- **Insulated mug:** Save weight and the bulk & use your wide mouth water bottle for both hot and cold drinks. We recommend wide mouth, as it's easier to pour hot water into for hot drinks.
- **Synthetic underwear:** 3 to 4 pair should suffice
- **1 heavyweight synthetic top**  
*Guides Choice: Patagonia Capilene Thermal Weight Crew*
- **1 heavyweight synthetic or fleece bottoms**  
*Guides Choice: Patagonia Capilene Thermal Weight Bottoms*
- **1 synthetic or down lightweight puffy jacket**  
*Guides Choice: Outdoor Research Transcendent Down Pullover*
- **Camp shoes:** Light-weight Crocs or sport sandals. Used for getting out of your hiking/paddling shoes around camp and crossing streams and rivers.  
*Guides choice: Crocs Original Classic Clogs*

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- **Sacred socks:** Heavy, warm pair of socks to put on at night.  
The name says it all – they're sacred –we keep ours IN our sleeping bag until bedtime. Different than what you'll wear while in camp in your camp shoes, we usually wear a neoprene sock with the crocs or something that can still get wet while walking around camp, if the tundra/ground is wet, or its raining.

## PERSONAL EFFECTS

- Sunglasses with case
- Toiletries
- Personal medications
- Sunscreen/lip protection
- Pack towel
- Book/reading materials
- Camera
- Journal and pen
- Binoculars
- Insect repellent

## ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED ITEMS

- Bandana
- 2 accessory carabiners
- 2 pair synthetic liner socks
- Waterproof gaiters

*Guides Choice: Outdoor Research Verglas Gaiter*

- Small personal drybag to protect your camera and electronics



Hiking on talus down toward the Ruth Glacier

## PACKING AND GEAR VIDEOS

For more information on gear, clothing & packing for your trip. click [THIS LINK](#) to check out Alaska Alpine Adventure's YouTube channel for helpful and informative packing and gear videos.

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Will I be kept safe on the trip?**

Because our trips take place in remote & wild environments, there are inherent risk factors that can't be entirely avoided without compromising the unique character of the activities associated with adventure travel. Obviously, it's not our intention to reduce your enthusiasm for outdoor adventure activities, but we believe it is important for everyone to know in advance that real adventure involves real risk, much of which simply cannot be controlled Alaska Alpine Adventures or Alaska Alpine Adventures' employees. By joining one of our trips, you are representing that you understand, and are accepting of, the risks described in the acknowledgment/release document that all participants are required to sign. You are also representing that you will accept the degree of personal responsibility necessary to participate in adventure travel activities.

### **What about the mosquitoes?**

In case you've heard horror stories... the number of mosquitoes is greatly dependent on hatching season, annual weather conditions, specific locations, and time of year. While you are bound to encounter some mosquitoes during the course of your summer adventure, their numbers rarely present major problems. That said, please arrive prepared with insect repellent and a head net to fend off any bugs that are present.

### **Will bears be a problem?**

Alaska is bear country! There are both grizzly and black bears in most of the wilderness areas of Alaska we visit. We love seeing bears in the wild and consider bear sightings one of the most thrilling privileges common in Alaska's backcountry. That said, traveling safely and taking precautions to minimize a negative encounter are considerations we take very seriously. In addition to conducting a thorough pre-trip bear safety orientation, your guides also take many precautions on all of our trips including: 1) all of our food is packaged to minimize odors – we vacuum seal most of our fresh ingredients and sauces, we pack our food in bear resistant food canisters, and we store our food well away from camp. 2) We make noise when we're hiking in thick brush or when we're hiking in windy conditions to minimize surprise encounters. 3) We keep an exceptionally clean camp and 4) as a last resort guides travel armed carrying pepper spray.

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## Will I see wildlife on my trip?

It's important to keep in mind that while we do have abundant wildlife populations in Alaska, animals are often obscured by the vastness of the landscape, subject to imprecise migration routes and often affected by Alaska's dynamic weather patterns.

While wildlife viewing on our trips has been historically reliable, and we schedule our trips to maximize the chances of seeing wildlife, there are simply too many factors to make any guarantees.

## What will the weather be like on my trip?

Alaska has some of the most dynamic and dramatic weather on the planet. During the summer months in Alaska, average daytime temperatures range from 60° to 80°F. Nighttime and morning temperatures are cooler, but rarely dip below 40°F. Fall arrives early at these latitudes and you'll experience cooler temperatures and fewer hours of daylight in late August and early September. Throughout the summer season, you may experience rain, sun, wind, clouds, and fog on your adventure. We live by the adage "prepare for the worst, hope for the best, and you'll likely end up with some of both".



Dreamy Alaska backpacking under blue skies

Go Big. Go Beyond.

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# Backpacking Denali

7 Day Backpacking Adventure

*Denali National Park & Preserve*

## CONTINGENCY ITINERARY (\*sample)

Please note that occasionally weather conditions prevent us from flying into our basecamp location in Denali National Park. Given the schedule limitations encountered when our air service provider faces weather delays, there are few options available to fly after our scheduled time. If weather looks to be improving AND the air service can accommodate a later flight, we will wait in Anchorage as long as possible. However, If we aren't able to fly into Denali National Park on day one, the itinerary will revert to Lake Clark National Park and continue as follows:

**Day 2:** We'll fly directly from Anchorage to Lake Clark National Park and onto Turquoise Lake - deep in the heart of the Lake Clark Wilderness. After setting up camp along the lakeshore, we'll strike out for a day of hiking in the Grand Canyon of Lake Clark National Park. Our goal today will be the Turquoise Glacier, a 6-mile hike up-valley. As you marvel at the 5000' walls of the canyon and the waterfalls cascading from distant summits, you'll be left speechless by the surrounding majesty. If weather and time allow, our guide will take you up onto the glacier ice for a unique and absolutely Alaska hiking experience. All meals included.

*Distance: 6 miles, Elevation Gain: 800'*

**Day 3:** Today, we'll break camp and head west into the high country. Our destination for the night will be a cluster of alpine tarns nestled beneath jagged peaks with breathtaking views of the Turquoise Lake basin. All meals included.

*Distance: 4.5 miles, Elevation Gain: 2000'*

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# Backpacking Denali

7 Day Backpacking Adventure

*Denali National Park & Preserve*

## CONTINGENCY ITINERARY CONTINUED (\*sample)

**Day 4-5:** We'll pack up camp on the third day, hoist our packs, and begin the trek to Sheep Lick Valley; our home for the next two nights. We'll trade the wide-open expanses of the Turquoise Lake drainage for the intimacy of our river camp, nestled in a glacially carved valley below the sheep lick. While the hike to the Sheep Lick Valley is strenuous and includes a climb of 1500', the hiking itself is on a carpet of open and dry tundra. Glacier erratics litter the landscape and views of the surrounding mountains are simply astounding. By the end of Day 5, you'll be accustomed to real Alaska backpacking and comfortable hiking and exploring this incredible wilderness region of Lake Clark National Park.

All meals included.

*Distance: 6 miles, Elevation Gain: 1000'*

**Day 6:** Today will be dedicated to exploration; we look to the surrounding peaks for inspiration and head out on another day hike that's bound to tire our legs and leave us in awe of Alaska's beauty.

All meals included.

*Distance: 5-8 miles, Elevation Gain: 1500 - 3000'*

**Day 7:** After another great breakfast, we'll again hoist our loaded packs and begin the ascent out of the Sheep Lick Valley. We will be rewarded for the efforts of our climb with spectacular views of Twin Lakes and the Chilikadrotna River, an aquatic highway stretching to Bristol Bay. We'll descend out of the high country and through the boreal forest to the north of lower Twin. Once on the shores of Twin Lakes, we'll pack up our gear, and await the arrival of our floatplane. We'll then return to Port Alsworth before boarding an afternoon charter flight back to Anchorage. If you are departing Alaska on this day, please schedule all homebound flights for after 9 pm.

Breakfast & lunch included.

*Distance: 5 miles, Elevation Gain: 1000'*

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