

Noatak River & Great Kobuk Valley Sand Dunes Combination

12 Day Canoe & Hiking Adventure

*Gates of the Arctic National Park
& Preserve and Kobuk Valley
National Park*



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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](#) & [RIPCORN](#) 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!



We paddle tandem inflatable canoes down the Noatak, just like this

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The Curated Experience

Join us for an amazing combination guided rafting and hiking trip through two of Alaska's most remote national parks. You'll spend the first 6 days of our adventure canoeing and hiking along the Noatak River. The Noatak River is a federally designated Wild and Scenic River as rich with tradition as it is with wildlife, and one that still boasts a completely intact arctic ecosystem. You'll then continue by bush plane southwest to one of Alaska's most obscure and seldom visited national parks, Kobuk Valley National Park. Here you'll spend 2 full days hiking and exploring the park's Great Kobuk Sand Dunes.

Spanning from the heart of the Brooks Range to the Chukchi Sea on the western coast of state, the Noatak River is home to abundant wildlife including the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. Often comprised of close to 500,000 caribou, these nomadic animals cross the Noatak National Preserve and parts of Gates of the Arctic National Park twice a year as they travel to and from their southern wintering areas and northern calving grounds. The Noatak is also arguably one of the largest wilderness river basins and also one of the longest untouched arctic rivers on earth. With class I & II whitewater, the river is fun for both novice and experienced boaters, and the hiking along the river is simply astounding. After 6-days of river life in both Gates of the Arctic and the Noatak National Preserve, we'll then make the bush flight to Kobuk Valley National Park and the Great Kobuk Sand Dunes, where we'll have 2 full days to explore this oddity of the north. We'll spend our days traveling around this obscure landscape with light daypacks. The Great Kobuk Sand Dunes cover 25 square miles and constitute the largest active sand dunes within arctic latitudes. We'll surely marvel at the stark contrast from the Noatak River to the barren landscape that makes the sand dunes as marvelous as they are unique.

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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Noatak River & Kobuk Sand Dunes
is rated a **LEVEL 2 canoeing & hiking** trip

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

Physical conditioning and consistent exercise prior to these trips is essential. While these rafting trips are suitable for a novice, you will be sitting in and paddling through swift water (up to Class II) a two person inflatable sea kayak for up to 4 continuous hours. You will get wet and there's a slim chance you may swim. You also will be hiking off-trail over steep and uneven terrain, often covering more than 10 miles in a day. 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 from our drop-off location to our various camp locations, and manage your own physical comfort and well-being. In general, trip participants must be able to, wear a Type II Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (maximum chest size of 56 inches), climb on and off the boats multiple times each day, paddle or hold on to the boat while navigating whitewater rapids, self-rescue by swimming to a boat or to shore in the event of an involuntary swim in a whitewater rapid, and self-rescue by climbing into a boat with the help of another person in the event of an involuntary swim in a whitewater rapid. Pre-trip physical conditioning should begin no later than 2 months before departure and should include walking or hiking.



Abundance of colorful arctic wildflowers

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

Day 1: Today you are free to arrive in Fairbanks on your own. From the airport, grab the complimentary airport shuttle to Pike's Waterfront Lodge, which is located near the airport on the banks of the Chena River. After checking into the lodge, you'll meet your guide by late afternoon for 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 and accommodations included.

Day 2: After breakfast at the hotel, we'll make our way back to the airport for our bush flight from Fairbanks to Bettles, the gateway community to Gates of the Arctic NP. We'll transfer our gear to an awaiting floatplane for the 1-hour flight to Pingo Lake, near the headwaters of the Noatak River in Gates of the Arctic National Park. After a short portage of equipment and food, we'll set up camp along the river, and if time allows, stretch our legs with an incredible hike into the tundra covered mountains above the river. Hiking in this amazing place will help us gain a sense of the arctic landscape, and the true scale of the Alaskan wilderness.

All meals included.

Distance: 3-5 miles, Elevation Gain: 500'-1000'

Days 3-7: We'll spend 6 adventure-filled days floating and hiking along the Noatak River. Our hikes will venture into the glacially carved mountains that make up this magnificent river drainage. Our days on the river will be spent scouring the hillsides for wildlife and perfecting our paddling techniques with ample opportunities for photographs and fishing. All meals included.

Average Daily Hiking Distance: 6-8 miles, Average Daily River Distance: 15+ miles, Average Daily Elevation Gain: 1500'-3000'

Day 8: After our last day on the Noatak, we'll make camp for the night at the gravel airstrip known as Otter Bar. We'll pack up our boats and stow our river gear one last time before preparing for our morning bush flight to the Great Kobuk Sand Dunes. As we enjoy our last night along the river, we'll tally our wildlife sightings and relax to the sounds of this amazing wilderness.

All meals included.

River Distance: 15 miles.

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Days 9-11: As our small plane lifts off of our gravel runway, we'll bid the Noatak River a fond farewell and make our way toward Kobuk Valley National Park. The Great Kobuk Sand Dune is one of 3 clusters of sand dunes within the national park and is one of the least visited places in the entire national park system. With light day-packs, we'll spend our days exploring the uniqueness of the landscape of the largest active dune field in arctic North America, returning each evening to our comfortable basecamp for a great meal and conversation.

All meals included.

Average Daily Distance: 7-10 miles, Elevation Gain: 500'-1000'.

Day 12: After savoring our morning coffee and our final wilderness breakfast, we'll attempt to absorb the euphoria and recollect the vast expanse of wilderness we've explored. By afternoon, we'll board bush plane for the short flight to Kotzebue, where we'll transfer to commercial flights bound for Anchorage and the conclusion of our adventure. Please schedule all homebound flights for after 11:30 pm.

Breakfast & 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.

"Our guide team was very professional, informative, and always had a winning calm on all aspects of the trip. They were exceptionally hard workers and I only wished that I could have helped more. They were very good on soliciting our input and listening to us when deviations to the planned itinerary had to occur."

~ Walt Bozeman

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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.
- **All Rafting Equipment:** Inflatable canoes, life jackets, paddles, repair kits, throw bags and dry bags.
- **Trekking Poles**
- **Toilet Supplies:** Toilet paper, trowel, and hand sanitizer.
- **One Way Air Transportation:** Between Fairbanks to Bettles Alaska to the wilderness.
- **One Way Air Transportation:** From Kotzebue to Anchorage
- **All Bush Flights:** Between the Noatak River, Kobuk Valley & Kotzebue.
- **Lodging:** Night one in Fairbanks.
- **All Meals:** From dinner on night one through lunch on day 12 (final day of itinerary).
- **Professional Guide Service:** Maximum of a 4:1 guest to guide ratio.
- **Large backpack-style drybag:** For transporting and storing personal gear while on the trip
- **Storage** For your extra travel items while in the field.

What is Not Included

- **Airfare to Fairbanks, Alaska:** From your home city.
- **Pre or Post Lodging:** In Fairbanks prior to or Anchorage 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 Fairbanks, Bettles, Kotzebue or Anchorage due to weather delays.
- **Alcoholic Beverages**
- **Guide Gratuities:** See below.

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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 include steel cut oats, scrambles, homemade granola and cereal, locally roasted coffee, assorted tea and cocoa. Lunches could include an Italian club torta sandwich, asiago bagels and Alaska lox, a curried tuna pita, or perhaps crackers with genoa salami with a roasted red pepper goat cheese spread. We also feature snack mixes (both savory & sweet), and an assortment of energy bars available throughout the day. Dinners could include pasta carbonara, Alaska reindeer rotini, chicken and chipotle enchiladas, and more. And we ALWAYS experience one of Adventure Appetites home baked desserts or gourmet chocolate 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! Don't be surprised if you find yourself waiting out a storm under the group tarp, out of the weather, enjoying hot drinks, sumptuous meals and excellent company, while your guide fastidiously tensions all of the tent guy lines!

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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.



Day hiking from up from the banks of the Noatak River

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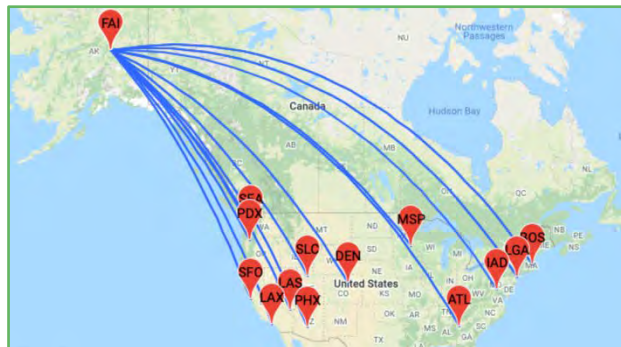
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Travel Information

GETTING TO ALASKA

This trip begins and ends in Fairbanks, Alaska. Getting to Fairbanks 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

Access to Gates of the Arctic and Kobuk Valley National Parks is limited to air travel in a small airplane flown by an experienced bush pilot. This adventure includes the bush flight between Fairbanks and Bettles, Alaska and floatplane flights into Gates of the Arctic necessary for your itinerary. Have your camera at the ready, your trip begins here. For most, this will be your first experience in a small aircraft, and a memorable one to be sure. There's a lot of flying involved in



this trip, including jet service from Kotzebue to Anchorage to conclude the trip.

ACCOMMODATIONS

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



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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. We will be issuing you dry bags to use for the trip, and you'll have ample room. Of course, you're welcome to store any additional clothing items and luggage with us while you are out

in the field. Those items will return from Fairbanks to Anchorage, and we will reconnect you with them at trip's end.

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 – Noatak River & Kobuk Sand Dunes

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, Crazy Creek chairs and waterproof/breathable chest waders 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

- **Daypack - 25L or Larger**

Big enough to carry a water bottle, rain gear, extra layers and any personal effects you may need during the course of the day (camera!)

Guides Choice: The one that fits your body best!

- **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

- **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

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- **1 mosquito head net**
- **1 pair of gloves:** Synthetic or wool.

Boating Layers

In addition to the items listed above, you'll need the following items when you're on the water.

- **Chest Waders with Waist Strap:** Waterproof/breathable waders (no full neoprene waders).
 - Available for rent. Waders come with waist strap & river shoes
- **Thick Wool Socks:** To be worn under your wader's neoprene sock
- **River Shoe:** Ideally an oversized lace-up tennis shoe that will fit comfortably over your thick wool sock & the neoprene bootie on the waders. 2 sizes larger than your normal shoe size is recommended.
****MAKE SURE YOU TRY ON your FOOTWEAR SYSTEM PRIOR TO FLYING TO LAKE CLARK TO MAKE SURE EACH PIECE FITS COMFORTABLY****
- **1 pair gloves:** Neoprene or insulated rubber gloves
Guides Choice: Lamont PVC coated insulated work gloves.

A Note on Footwear: Having warm feet on the river can make the difference between an enjoyable river experience or a miserable one. If you have questions about appropriate footwear, please contact us! We have found this system to not only be economical, but it is also the best system for keeping feet warm and comfortable!

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

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- **Headlamp:** For trips departing after August 1st
- **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-Creeps 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
- **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

- Camera
- Sunglasses with case
- Toiletries
- Personal Medications
- Sunscreen/lip protection
- Pack Towel
- Book/reading material
- Journal & 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 camera

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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.

"This was a bucket list trip, and my first-time backcountry camping. I know, I know - what was I thinking to try this out with a 12-day trip?! I couldn't have done it without the AAA guides and exceptional prep guidance provided on your website (packing list, YouTube videos, etc.). Amazing experience, did not want it to end."

~ Donna Holloway



Chasing the setting sun in Kobuk Valley Sand Dunes National Park

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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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Noatak River & Kobuk Sand Dunes

12 Day Canoe & Hiking Adventure

Gates of the Arctic & Kobuk Valley National Park

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".



Colorful boats lined up on shore along the Noatak River

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