

Parks of the Peninsula

12 Day Hiking Adventure

*Katmai National Park &
Aniakchak National 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!



Always keeping safety first - we love watching these big bears!

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12 Day Hiking Adventure

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The Curated Experience

As featured in the May 2014 issue of Outside Magazine, join us this summer for a truly exploratory hiking expedition into the seldom visited Aniakchak National Monument & Preserve, located along the volcanically active "Ring of Fire" in the heart of the Aleutian Mountain Range. Combine it with 3 nights at the world-famous Brooks Camp in Katmai National Park, including a tour of the Valley of 10,000 Smokes, and you're in for one of Alaska's most amazing hiking and national park experiences.

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

"Mostly what I remember, though, is the feeling of a different rhythm taking hold, not of the wristwatch but of natural places. Each day as we hike, the sun sets a little sooner. We see salmon gather in the bays, sniffing for their home rivers—and see bears come down to the shore, ready to flick their sushi onto the sand. My fancy GPS watch dies; I don't much care. I go days without thinking of e-mail or my iPhone. This is what we want from our Akiachak's, isn't it? Places that help us shake off the dross and find a surer and more ancient pulse."

~ Christopher Solomon - Outside Magazine, May 2014

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Parks of the Peninsula trip is rated a **LEVEL 2 Hiking** 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 hiking off-trail over steep and uneven terrain, often covering more than 10 miles in a day with up to 3000' 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 from our drop-off location to our various camp locations, 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.



Looking toward Vulcan Dome in the Aniakchak crater

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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 any time before 4pm 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 and accommodations included.

Day 2: After breakfast, you'll meet your guide, load up and transfer to the airport for the flight to King Salmon, a small fishing town on the Naknek River near the Bering Sea coast. Once in King Salmon, you'll gather gear, and board a float plane bound for Brooks Camp. Here, you'll have a chance to view the famous brown bears of the Brooks River, camp at the famous campground, and prepare for tomorrow's bus ride and tour of Katmai's Valley of 10,000 Smokes.

All meals included.

Distance: 2-3 miles, Elevation Gain: 200'

Days 3: This morning we board the Valley of 10,000 Smokes bus and leave this outpost of civilization behind. The 26-mile bus ride will take you along Margot Creek, through a beautiful boreal forest, across two more creeks, and eventually to the Three Forks Visitor Center. It will be here that we leave the rest of the tourists behind, and step foot into the Katmai wilderness. The Valley's eerie landscape reflects the power of the eruption that buried the valley floor under 700 feet of pumice and ash and dotted the surface of this lunar-like topography with thousands of steam vents (fumaroles). Nearly a century of harsh weather has enhanced the beauty of the Valley of 10,000 Smokes, and one can now gaze into river canyons hundreds of feet deep where the layers of pumice and ash have been slowly eroded by the channeled rain and snow melt. As we hoist our day packs and head to the valley floor, we will immediately see the effect that this powerful and historic event had on the landscape.

All meals included.

Distance: 6 miles, Elevation Gain 500'

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Parks of the Peninsula

12 Day Hiking Adventure

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DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY continued (*Sample)

Day 4: Today we'll spend the day exploring the area around Brooks Camp, Brooks Falls, and the Dumpling Mountain trail. The Dumpling Mountain Trail is a an 8-mile roundtrip hike with 2500' of elevation gain & loss. Reaching the summit along this straightforward trail offers incredible views of Naknek Lake, Brooks Lake, and the Bristol Bay region.

All Meals Included.

Distance: 8 miles, Elevation Gain 2500'.

Day 5: After breakfast at the campground, you'll then board a floatplane destined for Surprise Lake within the Aniakchak Caldera. As we unload our gear and establish camp on the shores of the lake's azure waters, you are sure to be awestruck by the magnitude of your surroundings. With mountains surrounding you on all sides, the outside world will suddenly seem distant and detached, and you'll never forget the overwhelming feeling of solitude as the float-plane lifts from the lake and disappears over the crater rim.

All meals included.

Days 6-II: We'll take the next four days to explore this surreal wilderness on foot. With light packs containing the day's essentials, we'll head out in search of incredible vistas, wildlife, and solitude. Whether climbing to the caldera's rim, climbing to the summit of Vent Mountain, or scanning for wildlife along the lake shore, you are sure to experience a wilderness like nowhere else on earth!

All meals included.

Hikes will average 6-8 miles in length with 1000-3000' of elevation gain & loss.

Day 12: By noon we'll be ready for the skilled bush pilots to whisk us back to King Salmon. In his article in Outside Magazine, writer Christopher Solomon best sums up the flight out. "I press my forehead to the window and stare for a long time as the ramp finally climbs higher and higher, until it vanishes in a smother of white clouds. I look up. Gabe and Dan are smiling. For a moment we grin like idiots at one another. Then we press our foreheads against the cold of the Cessna's tiny portholes. Seeing all this, some of our fellow passengers look out their windows, perplexed. If you hadn't been there, it would be easy to think there was nothing worth seeing at all." From King Salmon, we'll conclude our adventure with a flight back to Anchorage. Please make certain that you schedule all home bound flights from Anchorage for after 11:00pm. Better still, we suggest staying in Anchorage this night.

Breakfast & lunch included.

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*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.



Katmai bear fishing for salmon

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What is Included

- **All Group Gear:** Expedition quality tents, group tarp, all cooking equipment & eating utensils.
- **Safety Equipment:** Satellite phone, maps, Garmin InReach, and medical kit.
- **Large, Backpack-style Drybag:** For transporting and storing personal gear while out on this trip.
- **Water Treatment:** Aquamira (a 2-part) liquid chlorine dioxide system.
- **Trekking Poles**
- **Toilet Supplies:** Including portable loo, toilet paper, trowel, and hand sanitizer.
- **Roundtrip Bush Flight Transportation:** Between Anchorage and King Salmon.
- **Roundtrip Floatplane Flights:** From King Salmon to Katmai.
- **Lodging:** On the first night in Anchorage at Aloft
- **Brooks Camp:** 3 nights at Brooks Campground.
- **Valley of 10,000 Smokes Tour**
- **Professional Guide Service:** At a maximum 4:1 client to guide ratio.
- **All Meals:** From lunch on day 1 through lunch on the final day of the itinerary.
- **Luggage Storage:** For your extra travel items while in the field.

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 or King Salmon 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, egg 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 daily snack packs with an assortment of energy bars, chocolate, meat and cheese. Dinners could include pasta carbonara, Alaska reindeer rotini, chicken and chipotle beef 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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12 Day Hiking Adventure

Katmai National Park & Aniakchak National Preserve

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.



Enjoying sunset looking over Surprise lake in Aniakchak caldera

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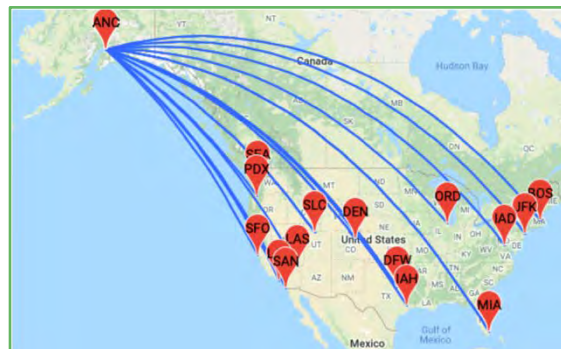
12 Day Hiking Adventure

Katmai National Park & Aniakchak National Preserve

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



Access to Katmai and Aniakchak is limited to air travel in a small airplane flown by an experienced bush pilot. This adventure includes flights between Anchorage and King Salmon, Alaska on either Alaska Airlines or Katmai Air, as well as floatplane flights into Katmai & Aniakchak. Have your camera ready, your adventure begins here. This may be your first experience in a small aircraft, and a memorable one to be sure! The flight to Aniakchak takes you across the southern Aleutian Range with towering peaks

and tumbling glaciers below the aircraft. The 200 mile flight to King Salmon, Katmai National Park's gateway community, takes just over an hour. After arriving in King Salmon, you will then be taken by bus to Katmai Air's floatplane base located along the world famous Naknek River. Here you and your guide will board Katmai Air's floatplane for the flight to both Brooks Camp and then the Aniakchak Caldera on Day 5.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Lodging on night one is included in your package. We use the Aloft in Anchorage. Prices are double occupancy (see Roommate Policy below). Aloft is comfortable and has a complimentary airport shuttle. The remaining nights will be spent camping in the wilderness!



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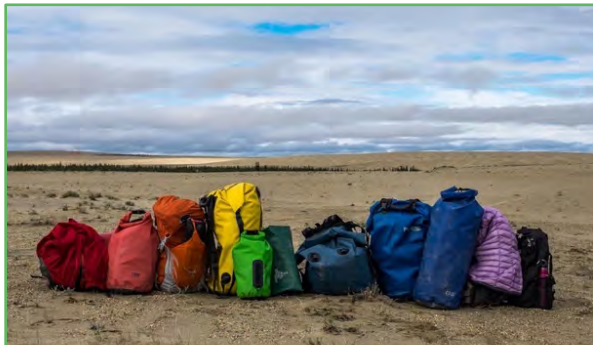


Parks of the Peninsula

12 Day Hiking Adventure

Katmai National Park & Aniakchak National Preserve

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. During the morning orientation & gear check on Day 1, we will issue you large backpack style dry-bags for you to use during the trip. 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! Of course, you're welcome to store any additional items at our shop while you are out in the field.

ROOMMATE 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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12 Day Hiking Adventure

Katmai National Park & Aniakchak National Preserve

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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Parks of the Peninsula

12 Day Hiking Adventure

Katmai National Park & Aniakchak National Preserve

EQUIPMENT INFORMATION – PARKS OF THE PENINSULA

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 for this trip. Please visit our rental page on our website by clicking [THIS LINK](#) for more info.

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Parks of the Peninsula

12 Day Hiking Adventure

Katmai National Park & Aniakchak National Preserve

Packing & Gear Lists

- **Daypack - 25L or Larger:** Big enough to carry a water bottle, rain gear, extra layers, and any personal affects you may need during the course of the day (camera!)
- **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: 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.
- **1 warm beanie hat:** Synthetic or wool
- **1 billed hat:** Keeps your face protected from the sun

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Parks of the Peninsula

12 Day Hiking Adventure

Katmai National Park & Aniakchak National Preserve

- **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 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-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
- **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.

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12 Day Hiking Adventure

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PERSONAL EFFECTS

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



Day hiking from our basecamp

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

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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Parks of the Peninsula

12 Day Hiking Adventure

Katmai National Park & Aniakchak National Preserve

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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Parks of the Peninsula

12 Day Hiking Adventure

Katmai National Park & Aniakchak National Preserve

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".



Katmai Bears and a foggy sunset

Go Big. Go Beyond.

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