

Lake Clark Unexplored

4 Day Basecamp Hiking Adventure

*Lake Clark
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!



Morning views from the kitchen tent

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The Curated Experience

Hiking and camping in Alaska doesn't get much better than this! Located 150 miles west of Anchorage and accessible only by float plane, Turquoise Lake boldly epitomizes the heart and soul of Lake Clark National Park. Nestled in a stunning amphitheater beneath 6,000' walls of rock and ice, our basecamp at this glacial lake offers some of Alaska's best hiking, reliable wildlife viewing and even some decent fishing.

All you need is a light daypack to explore this amazing place. Imagine spending your days exploring the vast tundra and returning to camp for a delicious lakeside meal under the midnight sun.

Our rustic wilderness campsite location, situated right on the beach of Turquoise Lake, puts you right in the epicenter of the Alaska & Aleutian Ranges and in a place where you will feel humbled by the solitude, beauty, and unspoiled wilderness of the incomparable Lake Clark National Park.

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

"Food was amazing, I've been backpacking and camping for many years, I have never had such good and excellent meals on a trip. The best part of the meals with the socializing, hanging out underneath the tarp on a wet cold day and having the best time hearing people's stories getting to know them and sharing excellent food."

~Jorge Garay

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The Lake Clark Unexplored
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.



Enjoying a beach break on the shore of Turquoise Lake

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

Day 1: Your adventure begins this morning in Anchorage. From Merrill Field, located in the heart of Anchorage, you'll fly west through the glacially carved splendor of Lake Clark Pass, one of the most spectacular bush flights in Alaska, arriving 1-hour later in Port Alsworth, where you'll transition to floatplanes for the flight to Turquoise Lake. We'll establish camp along the shore of the lake and position our tent doors to frame the views. With light daypacks filled with the essentials, we'll head out on an afternoon hike into the high country to get a lay of the land. As we enjoy our dinner back at camp, we'll discuss the upcoming hikes and head to our tents filled with excitement for the days to come. Lunch & Dinner included.

Distance: 3-5 miles, Elevation Gain: 1500-2500'

Day 2: The options are staggering! We have the full days to choose hikes that best suit our desires. Whether crossing the mighty Mulchatna and exploring the country to the north, or making an ascent of 5500' Crag Peak, we are sure to find true adventure. Our guides know the country well and will be happy to suggest hikes to their favorite locations! All meals included.

Distance: 6-10 miles, Elevation Gain: 2500-3500'

Day 3: Saving the best & biggest for the last full day, we set out early from camp for a visit to the magical sheep lick – a mineral lick where sheep have been known to congregate in groups of 20 to 30. As we make our way over open tundra and up Deserted Valley, our anticipation of seeing these amazing creatures is sure to quicken our pulse. With any luck, the sheep will grace us with their presence, allowing us to see nature at its finest. All meals included.

Distance: 10-12 miles, Elevation Gain: 2500-3500'

Day 4: While enjoying a leisurely morning and delicious breakfast, we'll break down camp and await our float plane. We'll return to Port Alsworth and will then pay an afternoon visit to the Lake Clark National Park visitor's center where you'll have a chance to purchase maps and postcards before boarding an afternoon charter flight to Anchorage. If you are departing Alaska on this day, please schedule all homebound flights for after 9PM

Breakfast & Lunch included.

Distance: 5 miles, Elevation Gain: 600'

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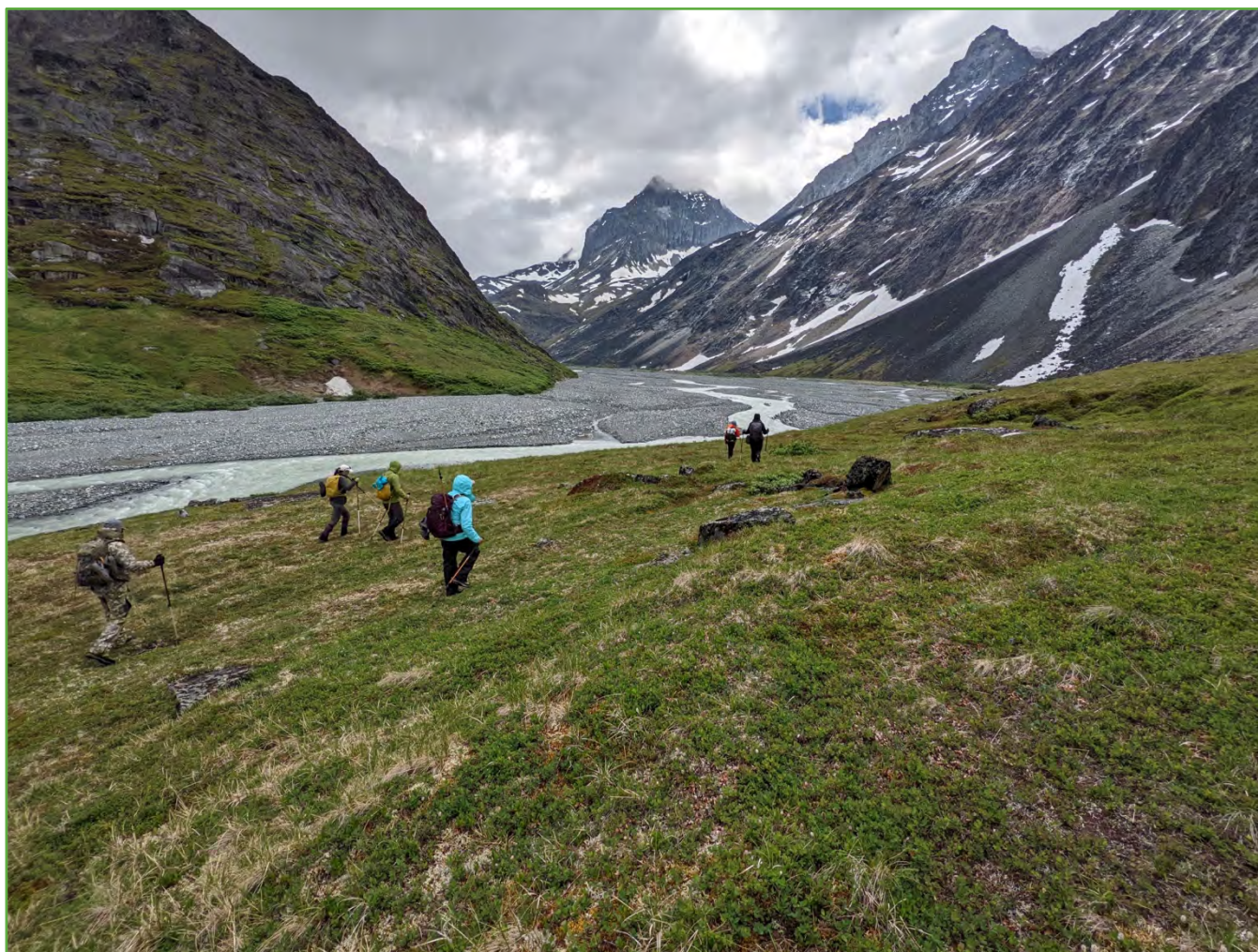


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*While Alaska Alpine Adventures endeavors to follow our itineraries as written, odds are in fact slim that you actually will during the camping portion of this trip. The expeditionary factors at play quite often compel our guides to deviate from the 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.



Day hikes up the Turquoise Glacier Delta

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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 Port Alsworth.
- **Roundtrip Floatplane Flights:** Between Port Alsworth to Turquoise Lake.
- **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 Port Alsworth 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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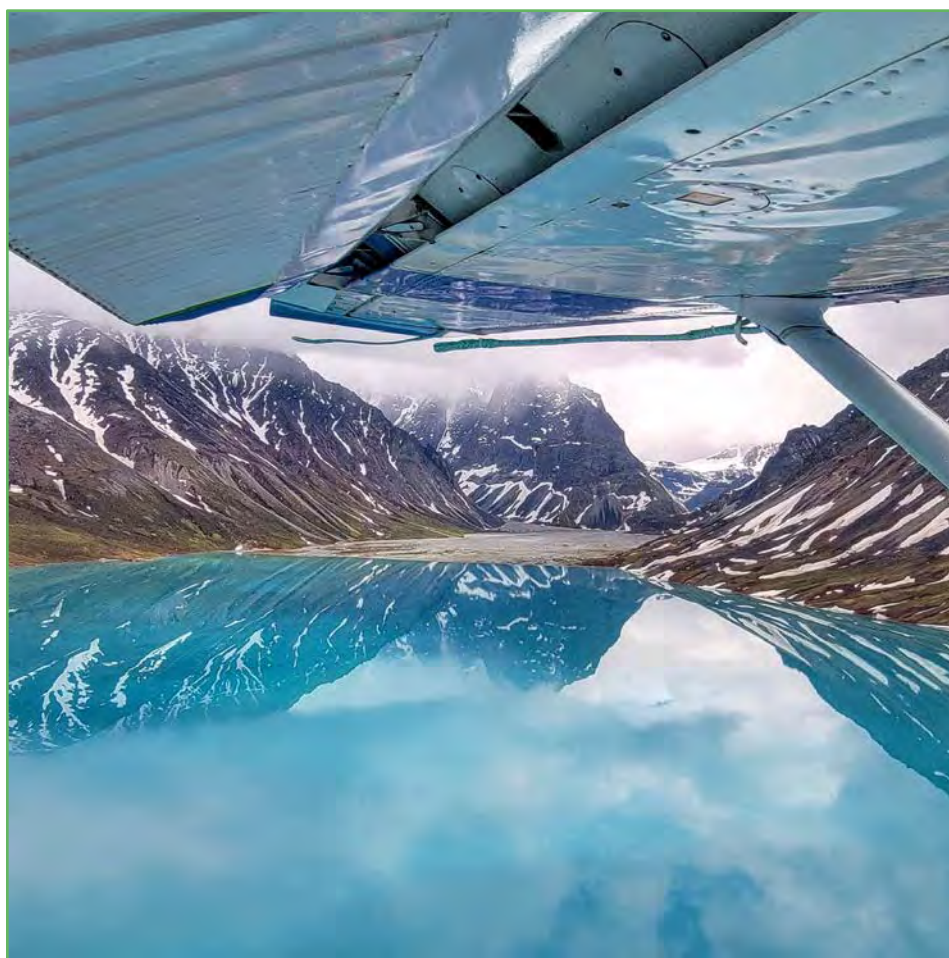
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SMALL GROUPS: Small groups are the best way to witness the Last Frontier! This wilderness trip is limited to 8 guests. And with a guest to guide ratio of 4:1 you are assured of our commitment to risk management and safe operations. Furthermore, it 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.



No better way to get excited about your trip, than the flight over Turquoise Lake

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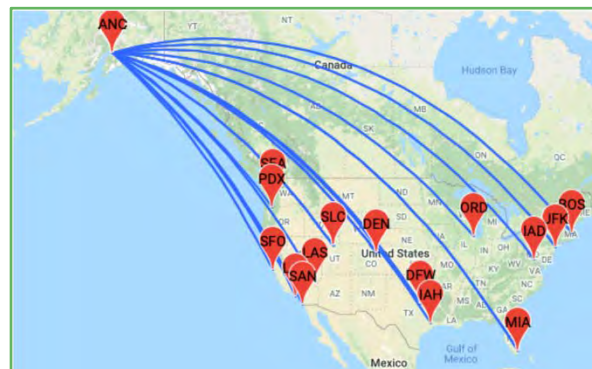
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Travel Information

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

Access to Lake Clark National Park is limited to air travel in a small airplane flown by an experienced bush pilot. This adventure includes internal bush flights between Anchorage and Port Alsworth and any float plane flights necessary for your itinerary. Have your camera at the ready because your expedition begins here! This may be your first experience in a small aircraft and will prove a memorable one to be sure. The flight to Lake Clark takes you through the southern portion of the

Alaska Range with towering peaks and tumbling glaciers right off the wing tips. The 150-mile flight to Port Alsworth, Lake Clark National Park's gateway community, takes approximately an hour and twenty minutes.

ACCOMMODATIONS

This is a real wilderness camping trip and you will be sleeping in backpacking-style tents for the three nights within the wilderness of Lake Clark National Park. You will need to bring a sleeping bag, rated to 30 degrees F. or warmer, and a sleeping pad (see included equipment list for details). There will be no hot running water, showers, beds, or cabins. This is "real" Alaska and you will be completely immersed within it for the 3 nights



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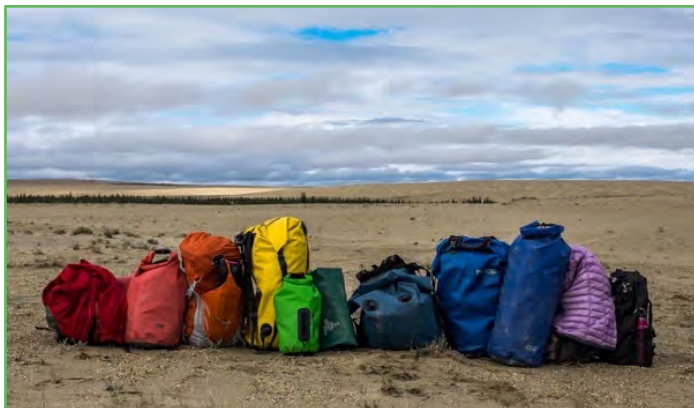
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LUGGAGE

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. 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.



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 – LAKE CLARK UNEXPLORED

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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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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- **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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PERSONAL EFFECTS

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



Evenings at the lake can be so serene & peaceful

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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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".



Could you call this home for a few nights?

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