

SUGGESTED PACKING & READING LIST

Weather in Alaska is unpredictable and can change rapidly, so adequate outdoor clothing is essential. From mid-May through mid-September, average daytime temperatures normally range from 50°F to 79°F (10°C to 26°C), but temperatures are sometimes lower or higher. Precipitation is infrequent in the interior of the state, but substantial along the coast (50+ inches / 127+ centimeters).

Our recommendation for clothing is layering with “moisture wicking” sports clothing, so you can shed or add clothing as the weather changes. Here are some of the layers we suggest; how many of each item you bring should depend on how sensitive you are to cooler weather.

- _____ **Long Underwear** – Top and bottom; synthetic (Polypropylene or Capilene) preferred over cotton
- _____ **Socks** – Wool socks with synthetic liners
- _____ **Bathing Suit** – For saunas and hot tubs, plus the occasional cold plunge
- _____ **Shirts** – T-shirts, flannel/fleece shirts, lightweight long sleeve shirts, or turtlenecks
- _____ **Jacket/Sweaters** – Pile or fleece-insulated jacket and/or wool/fleece sweater
- _____ **Pants** – Comfortable and durable jeans or khakis, fleece pants to wear under waders (if applicable), convertible pants/shorts, and/or a pair of walking shorts
- _____ **Rain Gear** – A good quality, two-piece suit with hood; coated nylon with factory-sealed seams or Gore-Tex
- _____ **Shoes/Boots** – Athletic shoes and/or comfortable, sturdy and water repellent hiking boots
- _____ **Slippers/Moccasins/Sandals** – For wearing around the lodge
- _____ **Hats** – Wool knit or water-wicking fleece hat for warmth, plus a brimmed hat for sun protection
- _____ **Gloves** – Lightweight wool or pile; fingerless types are good for fishing
- _____ **Dressier Clothing** – Never used in the backcountry and not necessary even in the nicest restaurants in the cities; however, this is a matter of personal taste.
- _____ **Day Pack** – Very handy for carrying valuables and extra layers
- _____ **Flashlight** – Or headlamp and extra batteries. Some lodges operate on generator power which is turned off at night.
- _____ **Miscellaneous** – Binoculars, camera (with extra film/memory cards & batteries), fishing gear (most is provided by the lodge or guide, but you may want to bring your own waders), insect repellent (Ultrathon with 32% DEET), insect head net (optional), lip balm, polarized sunglasses & lanyard, sunscreen, travel alarm, water bottle, and heavy-duty Ziploc baggies for keeping gear dry.

Luggage Restrictions – Are imposed when travelling in seaplanes or other small aircraft. If your trip includes such flights, please refer to your itinerary. All luggage utilized for these types of flights should be soft-sided. In most cases, it is possible to store excess luggage either with your hotel or flight service provider.

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There are many books on Alaska. The following are a few of those we have found most interesting, and in the case of tabletop books, the most photographically striking. Most are available at major bookstores or from: **Epicenter Press**, (Tel: 800-950-6663; www.epicenterpress.com) or **Graphic Arts Books**, (Tel: 503-254-5591; www.graphicartsbooks.com).

Alaska, by James Michener – The epic story from the trek across the land bridge to modern day life by the author who spent three years living and travelling in Alaska.

Alaska from the Air, Photography and text by Fred Hirschman – Fly above the glaciers, the mosaics of colorful wildflowers, the herds of caribou, and more.

Alaska's Inside Passage, Photography and essays by Kim Heacox – Beautiful tabletop book on this classic sheltered island waterway.

Alaska's Natural Wonders, by Robert Armstrong and Marge Hermans – The northern lights, the glaciers, earthquakes, and volcanoes explained.

Alaska's Wildlife, Photography and text by Tom Walker – Tabletop book presenting an incredible collection of both well-known and unusual species.

Bush Pilots of Alaska, Photography by Fred Hirschman, text by Kim Heacox – A window into the way Alaskans get around to live, work, and play.

Caribou Wanderer of the Tundra, Photography and text by Tom Walker – In this tabletop book, Walker captures this elusive animal in stunning photography and words.

Drifting Home, by Pierre Berton – Memories from this famous Canadian author of his float down the Yukon River to his boyhood home in the Klondike.

Good Time Girls, by Lael Morgan – The story of the Alaska and Yukon gold rushes from the perspective of the prostitutes, dance hall girls, and entertainers.

Jon Van Zyle's Sketchbook – Four seasons of sketches and journal entries by this Alaska homesteader.

Moments Rightly Placed, An Aleutian Memoir, by Ray Hudson – A memoir of Hudson's years as a schoolteacher in an Aleut village.

Riding the Wild Side of Denali, by Miki and Julie Collins – Adventures with horses and huskies on the flanks of North America's highest mountain.

Tales of Alaska's Bush Rat Governor, by Jay Hammond – Autobiography of the bush pilot and fisherman turned extraordinary governor.

Two Old Women, by Velma Wallis – An inspirational tale of two elderly Indian women who are left to die in the wilderness but refuse to go quietly.