

SUGGESTED PACKING & READING LIST

Weather in Alaska is unpredictable, so adequate outdoor clothing is essential. From mid-February through mid-March, daytime temperatures normally range from 15°F to 30°F (-9°C to -1°C) in the Anchorage area, but temperatures are sometimes well below 0°F (-18°C) and can increase to as warm as 45°F (7°C). Precipitation is infrequent in the interior of the state, but substantial along the coast (50+ inches / 127+ centimeters). Additionally, the weather can change rapidly.

Our recommendation for clothing is layering, 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
- _____ **Shirts** – T-shirts, long sleeve flannel/fleece shirts, or turtlenecks
- _____ **Sweaters** – Warm wool/fleece sweaters and/or vests
- _____ **Pants** – Snow pants or snow bibs (waterproof)
- _____ **Coats** – Warm winter coat with a windbreaker shell and hood
- _____ **Boots** – Winter boots (such as Sorrels or Pacs)
- _____ **Slippers/Moccasins** – For wearing around the lodge
- _____ **Hats** – Hat; wool knit or fleece for warmth
- _____ **Scarves** – Warm scarf or neck warmer
- _____ **Gloves** – Warm gloves or mittens
- _____ **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, batteries & cables), lip balm, lotion, polarized sunglasses & lanyard, sunscreen, travel alarm, water bottle, and heavy-duty Ziploc baggies for keeping gear dry.

Luggage limitations – 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 the 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.