

Alaska Homestead Adventures

Winter Camping Trip Packing List

This checklist has been developed from years of our experience winter traveling in interior Alaska. This is what we know works for us. That said, personal clothing is indeed personal. Bring what you know to be comfortable and practical. We go by the following principles in choosing our gear:

Durable:

Please note that the kind of camping we do on our trips is “rugged”- we cut wood, gather boughs, and interact with the elements in a way that can be tough on clothes. Clothes may also absorb the smell of smoke, so the tougher your gear, the better.

Materials Matter:

All garments should be wool (preferred) or synthetic because they are light, fast-drying, and warmer when wet. With the exception of canvas outer garments and underwear, cotton is best left at home.

Loose = Comfortable:

Layering is the name of the game, so all clothing needs to be large enough to accommodate a few layers over and under without constraining your motion. Buy outer layers a size or two larger than you usually would. It's not a fashion show, its about comfort.

Please follow this equipment list and do not bring extra gear. Less weight in the sled equals more fun on the trip. Having lots of items only makes packing and unpacking an ordeal. You can spend a lot of money or a little money on gear, depending on where you go to get gear, how resourceful you are, and how much you want to invest in a winter outfit.

Having good gear means having a good trip. Please call us with questions, we are happy to answer them!

What we provide:

All “gear” is provided- that means you shouldn't have to bring in very big bags. We don't want you to spend a fortune on winter gear if you live in a warm place, so we offer the following:

- Warm parkas with fur ruffs- you'll love them.
- Snowpants- Insulated winter pants.
- Warm and waterproof overshoes to go over your boots.
- Seriously warm mittens.
- Hand and toe warmers.

What You Should Bring:

Footwear

Check?	Item	Description	Where to get
	Option #1 Mukluks with two sets of felt liners	Mukluks are an essential winter boot. They should be at least 1 size bigger and wider than your actual shoe size to accommodate 2-3 layers of socks and additional wool insoles. If you're having trouble finding, ask us about borrowing some!	Some sizes through Boreal Journeys but you'll be happiest in your own boots. We recommend Steger brand, Arctic or Yukon model for mukluks.
	Option #2 Sorel type shoe pack boot with two sets of wool felt liners	A second best option as long as they have room for extra felt insoles and 3 layers of socks. If you're having trouble finding, ask us about borrowing some!	Sorel brand Caribou model is best.
	Wool insole for either boots	As mentioned above, this is important to have as a backup on the trail if your feet get wet.	Big Rays store in Fairbanks, \$10
	Down Tent booties	For wearing around camp while mukluks are drying, etc. OPTIONAL but nice.	Baffin brand makes nice ones.

Clothes

Check?	Item	Description	Where to get
	Socks	4 pairs, heavy wool recommended. Bring a variety of sizes and thicknesses so you can layer two or three socks.	We love Darn Tough brand for inner sock and Smartwool, Fox River, Wigwam or other fluffy brands for outer socks.
	Underwear/bras	Enough for the length of your trip, cotton is fine for this, anything comfortable will do.	
	Longjohn bottoms	2 pairs- heaviest wool blend you can get (at least 200 weight). Heavy synthetics are OK.	We like LLBean Cresta Wool and Woolx are both good brands.
	Longjohn tops	2 pairs The ideal longjohn top is merino wool and has a collar with a chest zip for quick ventilation or warming, go for at least 200 weight. For an economy option you can also use thin wool sweaters from thrift shops. Thicker shirts last longer but thinner ones smell less.	Woolx, Smartwool or Icebreaker brand or your local thrift store.
	Fleece top or wool sweater	This is a great second layer over wool longjohns. An additional pair of longjohns will do for this if	

		you're not a fan of fleece, anything light and flexible that you can layer. Zippers help to get layers on and off and add quick ventilation options.	
	Fleece pants or something similar	Should fit over longjohn and fleece bottoms.	
	"Puffy" Down or primaloft Jacket	While we won't wear these while moving too often, they are really nice for lunch breaks and other sedentary activities. Ideally, your puffy should be large enough to fit over all other layers.	

Extremities

Check?	Item	Description	Where to get
	Warm Hat	Fur hats are warmest but wool, or fleece work too. We recommend "musher style hats" that have ear flaps and windproof outer layer and fleece or fur inner layer. Two that can be layered – must cover ears.	Apocalypse design in Fairbanks sells great hats called "explorer hats". Mad Bomber is another good brand available at Big Rays in Fairbanks.
	Neck gaiter	2- fleece or wool	Buff brand, turtlefur etc. You can also make your own.
	Baseball hat or visor	A brim works great to cut wind and holdup your ruff.	Anything will do.
	Liner gloves and or mittens	We like to layer thin wool gloves under the big mitts that we provide. They offer decent dexterity, warmth and dry quickly.	Big Rays sells nice ones in Fairbanks for cheap.

Bags

Check?	Item	Description	Where to get
	Large Duffle Bag	To carry all of your gear in the sled. Should be no wider than 12 inches so it fits!	
	Day Bag/Backpack	To carry items such as extra layers, socks, mitts, face masks etc. Most clients like to have a school-sized backpack to carry a little water, food and layers.	
	Stuff Sacks	To keep your gear compact and organized. Bring at least 2.	
	Toiletries Bag	Should be small, easy to access.	

Personal Items

Check?	Item	Description	Where to get
	Insulated waterbottle(s)	1.5-2 quart/liter combined capacity. Waterbottle cozies (ie: a sock) can be made or purchased to convert a regular bottle into one that won't freeze on the trail. We provide thermoses.	Hydroflask and Cabelas brand work well.
	Personal toiletries	Think small- you won't need a whole tube of toothpaste. Don't forget tampons or diva cup for menstruation (if necessary).	
	Headlamp	LED, the stronger the better. (120 lumens minimum). Bring extra batteries along in a ziplock, you'll be surprised how much you'll use the headlamp.	We like black diamond brand, but there are lots of good ones out there.
	Sunblock	For February and March trips. At least for faces, the snow reflects up and it can burn you quickly!	
	Sunglasses or glacier goggles	UV blocking dark tinted for February-April trips	
	Medications	Inform the guide of your medications and bring a backup supply of essential medications for the guide to carry	
	Glasses or contacts	Each have issues in the cold- contacts can freeze in solution and glasses fog up... if you have both, bring both.	
	Lip balm and hand cream	Jenna makes salve and is happy to share.	
	Handkerchief	A cotton rag or bandana is nice	
	Fishing license	This applies if you would like to try out some ice fishing. You can get it online at: https://store.adfg.alaska.gov/	

Optional Items

Check?	Item	Description
	Watch	
	Camera, extra cards, spare batteries	With a durable carrying case. If you want to use a camera in really cold weather, you will probably want to wear it around your neck inside your parka.
	Knife	For carving or day use.
	Reading material	Nice for cozy nights, we have books available to borrow as well.
	Journal and pencil	Pencils don't freeze.
	Alcohol	We are not licensed to serve you alcohol, but we're happy to haul it if you want to bring your own 😊

