



## Alaska Backcountry Skiing/Snowboarding Equipment List

The weather in Alaska can be volatile. Clothing systems need to be capable of meeting the demands of an ever-changing environment. A layering system, which allows articles of clothing to be added or subtracted as the weather changes, has proven most versatile. The clothing items listed below will layer together to provide appropriate insulation in the most demanding conditions. Because it can snow or rain, materials used in clothing should keep you warm even if they are wet. Synthetics such as polypropylene, Capilene, Synchilla, fleece, and pile are best, wool will also work. Cotton is unacceptable. Please test out your gear before you arrive in Alaska.

If you own any of the following “provided” personal gear, we encourage you to bring it to your trip. This will allow you to become proficient with the gear you will continue to use post trip.

<b>Upper Body Layers</b>				
Upper body layers are some of the most important components of a good layering system. They should be comfortable, lightweight and breathable. Cotton is unacceptable.				
Equipment	Quantity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Comments	Rental
Base Layers	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	One silk weight and one heavy weight top made of synthetic material that can be layered together to increase warmth. A light-colored silk weight (white/tan/light blue, etc.) is a good idea because it will decrease the amount of solar radiation (warmth) that your shirt absorbs. Conversely, your mid-weight base-layers should be darker so that they do absorb the sun’s warmth. <a href="#">Mountain Hardwear</a> makes good lightweight, wicking base layers.	-
Tee Shirt	1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	To be worn as a sun shirt while hiking at lower elevations. Synthetic fabric is the way to go, and can double as a bandana or extra sun protection under a baseball cap.	-
Medium Weight Top	1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	To be worn over the base layers and should be synthetic or wool (a soft shell is an acceptable substitute). Both <a href="#">Black Diamond</a> and <a href="#">Mountain Hardwear</a> offer great mid-weight layers.	-
Heavy Weight Top	1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	To be worn over the base layers and medium weight top and should be synthetic or wool. Both <a href="#">Black Diamond</a> and <a href="#">Mountain Hardwear</a> make nice thick layers.	-
Outer Wear	1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A jacket made of waterproof / breathable material such as Gore-Tex is vital for keeping you warm and dry. It needs to fit over all layers. <a href="#">Mountain Hardwear shells</a> are breathable, dry, and windproof.	-

**In Alaska and the world’s great ranges!**

1.800.766.3396  
WWW.ALASKAMOUNTAINGUIDES.COM





## Lower Body Layers

Lower body layers should be versatile and easy to change into and out of under changing weather conditions.

Equipment	Quantity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Comments	Rental
Base Layers	1		A synthetic mid-weight bottom layer made to wick moisture.	-
Underwear	2-3		Synthetic briefs and underwear will keep you comfortable and hygienic during high output.	-
Outer Wear	1		Pants made of waterproof / breathable material such as Gore-Tex are vital for keeping you warm and dry. They need to fit over all layers and should have side zips. <a href="#">Mountain Hardware</a> shell pants and bibs work great.	-

## Head, Neck, Hands & Feet

Keeping your extremities warm & dry is crucial. We lose a massive percentage of body heat through our heads, and our hands and feet are the most susceptible to inconveniences like frostbite and trench-foot. Developing a system that works for your specific needs takes time; this guide is a good place to start.

Equipment	Quantity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Comments	Rental
Warm-Hat	2		Should be made of synthetic material or wool, cotton is unacceptable. Should layer underneath a climbing helmet. <a href="#">Mountain Hardware</a> has a wide selection of warm hats.	-
Sun-Hat	1		The sun can be very bright (especially with reflection). The more protection your cap offers from the sun, the better.	-
Balaclava or Neoprene Face Mask	1		Used to protect the face from wind/snow, and can be a real life-saver under stormy conditions. <a href="#">Mountain Hardware</a> has a great series of face masks and balaclavas.	-
Goggles	1		Double lens models with vents work best. <a href="#">POC</a> makes some great goggles.	-
Light Weight Gloves	1		Windstopper fleece works best. Work gloves with a water proof palm are nice to have along when dexterity is more important than warmth. 'Dura-Therm' or like models (synthetic glove with rubber palm & fingers) work well, just ensure you find the warmest model available. <a href="#">Mountain Hardware</a> and <a href="#">Black Diamond</a> make great gloves.	-
Heavy Weight Gloves/Mitts	1		Removable shell is a must. These should be warm, water-proof and breathable, with removable liners for easy drying. <a href="#">Black Diamond</a> and <a href="#">Mountain Hardware</a> have durable expedition gloves.	-
Socks	2-3 Pairs		These should be synthetic or wool. Having a mix of light and heavy weight socks is nice to adjust to variable weather.	-
Ski Boots	1		Don't forget your ski boots!	-

**In Alaska and the world's great ranges!**

1.800.766.3396  
 WWW.ALASKAMOUNTAINGUIDES.COM





## Technical Hardware

For technical gear we recommend [Black Diamond](#). We run their equipment on every mountain trip we operate, and find it to be among the best in the industry. For tents and sleeping bags we recommend [Mountain Hardware](#).

Equipment	Quantity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Comments	Rental
Large 75-80 Liter Backpack	1		To be used during the initial move to set up camp and on the final day hauling everything out. There are a variety of different brands that offer 75-80L. <a href="#">Black Diamond &amp; Mountain Hardware</a> both have options for this type of bag	YES
Small Touring Backpack 30 Liters	1		This backpack will be used for various ski tours throughout the trip. You'll need room for warm layers, snack, water, your shovel and probe, and the possibility for a few extra items for technical climbs. <a href="#">Black Diamond</a> has several great 30-40 liter options.	NO
Ski Poles	1		Lightweight and adjustable length work best. Snow baskets are a must. Snowboarders should look at poles capable of collapsing and stowing in their backpack. <a href="#">Black Diamond poles</a> are a great fit.	YES
Skis/Snowboard	1		We recommend fat width skis (110mm underfoot). Please don't hesitate to call us with any questions. <a href="#">Black Diamond</a> makes solid skis. Snowboarders are strongly encouraged to bring split-boards.	-
Touring Skins	1		<a href="#">Black Diamond</a> has some great skins for skiers, snowboarders should look at <a href="#">Voile Snowboard Skins</a> .	-
AT Ski Boots / Snowboard Boots	1		A ski boot that is touring compatible with a walk mode is essential. It is important that all footwear is tested, and worn in prior to your trip.	
Avalanche Shovel	1		A sturdy metal blade shovel. <a href="#">Black Diamond</a> makes convenient shovels.	Provided
Avalanche Probe	1		A retractable avalanche probe is used in avalanche rescue. BD has a lot of good <a href="#">avalanche equipment</a> .	Provided
Lightweight Harness	1		Should fit over all layers. Adjustable leg loops are best. Check out the <a href="#">Couloir Harness</a> .	Provided
Avalanche Transceiver	1		Transceivers must use the 457 kHz frequency. <a href="#">Pieps</a> makes good beacons.	Provided
Locking Carabineer	2		Large aluminum locking carabineer (such as the <a href="#">Black Diamond Rock lock</a> ) may be used on your harness.	Provided
Ski Straps	1-2		Rubber ski straps are always a great item to keep around for lashing your skis & poles together or attaching them to your backpack.	-

In **Alaska** and the world's great ranges!

1.800.766.3396  
 WWW.ALASKAMOUNTAINGUIDES.COM





## Sleeping Bag & Pads

Having a good sleep system is essential in the mountains. While down bags are very warm and pack incredibly small, they lose all insulating properties when they get wet.

Equipment	Quantity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Comments	Rental
Sleeping bag	1		We recommend a synthetic fill bag with a comfort rating of 0 degrees Fahrenheit. However, on bigger mountains and in early season a down bag is more appropriate. <a href="#">Mountain Hardware</a> bags work well. Please don't hesitate to call us before making any major purchases.	YES
Sleeping pads	2		A system of one compact inflatable pad ( <a href="#">Thermarests</a> work well) and one closed cell foam pad works best to insulate when sleeping on snow.	YES

## Miscellaneous

Equipment	Quantity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Comments	Rental
Watch	1		Should have an alarm.	-
Lip Balm	1-2		Should have some type of SPF protection.	-
Sunscreen	4-8oz.		Should be SPF 30 or higher and be waterproof.	-
Water Bottles	2		Wide mouth 1-liter Lexan bottles ('Nalgene') work best.	-
Bandana or ' <a href="#">Buff</a> '	1		Used for extra sun-protection.	-
Passport	1		Some of the descents cross into Canada. Remember to bring your passport!	-

## Optional

Equipment	Quantity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Comments	Rental
Snowshoes	1		For snowboarders opting against the use of split-boards. Please make sure the snowshoes fit and work well with your boots.	
Ski Helmet	1		An insulated ski helmet can protect your head during a ski fall.	-
Sunglasses	1		If you choose to wear sunglasses instead of goggles on a calm day.	-
Ear Plugs	1-2		Helps with the noise from the helicopter.	-
Hand Warmers	4		A good thing to keep in your pack for those brisk days.	-
Energy/Candy Bars	0-20		Bring bars that taste good!	-
Dry Sacks	1-2		For organizing your gear inside of your backpack and keeping your gear dry. <a href="#">Sea to Summit</a> makes great waterproof stuff sacks.	-
Camera	2-4		Digital or Film. If you are buying a digital camera; one with a view finder allows you to take photos when it is too bright to see the screen and helps save batteries. A camera that is compatible with AA's allows you to bring extra batteries that don't cost an arm and a leg. Bring an extra memory card.	-

**In Alaska and the world's great ranges!**

1.800.766.3396  
 WWW.ALASKAMOUNTAINGUIDES.COM





## Additional Information



We use gear from these select companies on every trip we run! Their gear has proven itself again and again on the highest mountains, roughest water, and steepest ice. We endorse these companies because they make gear that is functional and reliable.



We provide the following: tents, group climbing equipment, expedition first aid kits, cooking equipment, and trip food.

Please don't hesitate to call us with any questions 1.800.766.3396

In **Alaska** and the **world's great ranges!**

1.800.766.3396  
WWW.ALASKAMOUNTAINGUIDES.COM

