



Alaska Mountaineering Expeditions 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, Synchronia, 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.

Upper Body Layers				
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, except for a sun shirt while hiking on warm days.				
Equipment	Quantity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Comments	Rental
Base Layers	2		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. Mountain Hardware makes good lightweight, wicking base layers.	-
Tee Shirt	1		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		To be worn over the base layers and should be synthetic or wool (a soft shell is an acceptable substitute). Both Black Diamond and Mountain Hardware offer great mid-weight layers.	-
Heavy Weight Top	1		To be worn over the base layers and medium weight top and should be synthetic or wool. Both Black Diamond and Mountain Hardware make nice thick layers.	-
Expedition Down Parka	1		In a high altitude climate in the mountains, a burly down parka with insulated hood will be your best friend on those bitter cold nights or windy summit mornings. It should easily fit over all layers. A down jacket with a water proof finish is better, because it will keep your down from getting wet. Mountain Hardware makes a great goose down jacket. Please don't hesitate to call us before making any major purchases.	YES

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Outer Wear	1		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. Mountain Hardwear shells are breathable, dry, and windproof.	-
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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	2		One silk weight and one heavy weight bottom layer made of synthetic material that can be layered together to increase warmth.	-
Underwear	2-4 pairs		Synthetic briefs and underwear will keep you comfortable and hygienic during high output. Plan on bringing one pair per 4-6 days of use.	-
Fleece or Synthetic Pants	1		These should be either fleece or synthetic down. If the pants have side zips, it will make your life a lot easier by allowing you to layer without removing your foot wear. We recommend the Mountain Hardwear Compressor Pant or the Black Diamond Stance Belay Pant .	-
Shorts or Lightweight Pants	1		These are optional, but are nice to wear at lower elevations, in town, or as additional layering options. Cotton is unacceptable; synthetic will dry faster and be more comfortable for long periods of wear. A light softshell pant could work as well. Mountain Hardwear makes great pants.	-
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. Mountain Hardwear 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. Mountain Hardwear 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. Mountain Hardwear has a great series of face masks and balaclavas.	-
Goggles	1		Double lens models with vents work best. POC makes some great goggles.	-

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Sunglasses	2		Dark lenses with good side protection are a must. The sun can be very bright , especially with reflection off of the water/snow/ice.	-
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. Mountain Hardware and Black Diamond 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. Black Diamond and Mountain Hardware have durable shell gloves.	-
Expedition Mittens	1		Warm and waterproof expedition overmittens with a removable liner will keep your hands warm on summit day. Black Diamond and Mountain Hardware have toasty expedition mitts.	-
Socks	3-4		These should be synthetic or wool. Having a mix of light and heavy weight socks is nice to adjust to variable weather.	-
Mountaineering Boots	1		Plastic boots with a removable liner work best because they are easy to dry out and extremely warm. They also need to be fully crampon compatible. Koflach , Scarpa or La Sportiva all make good boots. Please don't hesitate to call us before making any major purchases.	YES
Overboots	1		For adding extra warmth. Must be crampon compatible.	-
Gaiters	1		These should fit over your mountaineering boots, and are used to keep snow out. They should be tall and water/abrasion resistant. Black Diamond gaiters work well.	-

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 [Sierra Designs](#).

Equipment	Quantity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Comments	Rental
Backpack	1		Should have a capacity of at least 5,000 cubic inches (or 80 liters), and should be comfortable with 60 lbs. of weight. Mountain Hardware and Black Diamond packs are versatile and rugged. Please don't hesitate to call us before making any major purchases.	YES
Trekking poles	1		Lightweight and adjustable length work best. Snow baskets are a must. Black Diamond poles are a great fit.	YES
Lightweight Harness	1		Should fit over all layers and be comfortable when wearing a pack. Adjustable leg loops are best. The Alpine Bod harness is an ideal harness for mountaineering.	Provided
Crampons	1		Light weight, sturdy, and easily adjustable are best. The Black Diamond Sabretooth works well.	Provided
Snowshoes	1		MSR makes sturdy and durable snowshoes. We use these at lower elevations to stay above the snow and disperse weight on crevasses.	YES

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Avalanche Transceiver	1		Transceivers must use the 457 kHz frequency. Equipment rental is available. Consider the Pieps DSP pro .	YES
Ice Axe	1		Should be light weight. The Raven is a classic.	Provided
Locking Carabineers	2		Large aluminum locking carabineers (such as the Black Diamond Rocklock) are used on your harness for glacier travel and technical climbing.	Provided
Non-locking Carabiners	4		Oval or lightweight wiregate carabiners used for glacier travel and technical climbing systems. We use Black Diamond Carabiners	Provided
6mm Cord	20 ft.		6mm accessory cord used for tying prussic knots.	Provided
Ascenders	2		Black Diamond ascenders or a Petzl tibloc are great for ascending/descending fixed lines and crevasse rescue.	-
Belay Device	1		A standard belay plate can be used for technical climbing and rappelling. The ATC-Guide is a great, versatile option.	-
Helmet	1		Should be light weight and rated for rock climbing/ mountaineering. The BD Vector or Half Dome are great options.	Provided
Large Duffel	1		Used for transporting gear in planes and vehicles on route to trip locale. 'Cordura' or other heavy duty nylon duffel bags are burly and handle large loads with ease. 6000 cubic inches (100 liters) or larger are best. Mountain Hardware and Black Diamond make tough expedition duffel bags.	-

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. In a maritime climate like southeast Alaska, a synthetic fill sleeping bag is a must.

Equipment	Quantity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Comments	Rental
Sleeping bag	1		We recommend a goose-down fill bag with a comfort rating of -20 degrees Fahrenheit. Mountain Hardware 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 (Thermarests 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
Passport	1		You may need this to cross into Canada	-
Watch	1		Should have an alarm.	-
Eating Utensils	-		Bowl & Spoon (Lexan or titanium work well), as well as a 14oz mug with a lid for hot drinks.	-
Headlamp	1		We recommend LED headlamps, because they are lightweight, long-lasting & durable. Bring extra batteries. Black Diamond SPOT or ICON headlamps work great.	-
Toilet Paper	1		Bring your own in a Ziploc bag.	-

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Personal Med-Kit	1		A personal prescription of a broad-spectrum antibiotic like Ciprofloxacin or Azithromycin is REQUIRED . Your kit should also include ALL personal medications, as well as a stash of Ibuprofen, Aspirin, Band-Aids, and Neosporin. A group Med-Kit will be available for everyone, however bringing a personal kit is mandatory. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call us.	-
Blister Kit	1		This should include mole skin/foam and cloth athletic tape for personal use.	-
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.	-
Bottle Insulation	1-2		Closed cell foam insulator to keep your water from freezing.	-
Bandana or ' Buff '	1		Used for extra sun-protection. Your tee-shirt can be used in place of a bandana if you are trying to shave weight (which is a good thing).	-
Stuff Sacks	2-4		For organizing your gear inside of your backpack. Consider using compression sacks for both your sleeping bag and clothes to maximize usage of space. Sea to Summit makes great waterproof stuff sacks.	-
Garbage & Ziploc bags	variety		An invaluable method used to keep your gear dry inside of your pack. (Line your stuff sack with a garbage bag before you stuff your sleeping bag in there).	-

Optional

Equipment	Quantity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Comments	Rental
Summit Pack	-		Used on day excursions, should be between 35L - 55L (many people use their big pack for this purpose). Both Mountain Hardwear and Black Diamond offer some great climbing packs in this range.	-
Locking Carabiners	2		Small, lightweight pear-shaped carabiners used for rescue practice and building anchors. Black Diamond makes great carabiners.	-
Pulleys	2		Climbing pulleys are used to reduce friction on the rope during rescue practice. Black Diamond makes a lightweight option.	-
6mm Cord	20 ft.		Additional accessory cord can be used to build anchors.	-
Technical Climbing Tool	1		A mountain axe with a curved shaft that will allow climbers to ascend steeper pitches and ice. A hammer will also allow climbers to place pitons and set ice screws. The BD Venom with a hammer is a great option for mountaineering as a 2nd tool.	-
Camp Booties	1 pair		A good pair of synthetic fill camp booties will keep your feet warm and dry after big days in winter environments. Sierra Designs makes a great goose-down version with a rubberized bottom.	-
Hand Warmers	4		A good thing to keep in your pack for those brisk alpine starts.	-
Sleeping Bag Liner	1		For increased warmth.	-

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AA and AAA batteries	4 pair		Replacements for both your avalanche beacon but headlamp as well.	-
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Pee Bottle	1		1-liter wide-mouth Lexan with a SECURE LID. Nice to have when there is really inclement weather outside.	-
Energy/Candy Bars	0-20		Bring bars that taste good!	-
Moist Towelettes	0-20		This will be as close to a shower as you will get, we recommend one wipe per day.	-
Book	1-2		Leave the 15 pound hardcover at home.	-
Journal	1		‘Rite in the Rain’ or similar water resistant paper work best.	-
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.	-

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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

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