

Alaska Heli Ski/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. We may experience warm, sunny conditions during ski days or cooler and even wet weather while in the mountains. Guests should be prepared for a variety of conditions and bring along comfortable clothes for relaxing in lodging and in town.

If an item is listed as “Provided” this is a piece of gear AMG issues to all guests at no extra cost. If you own any of these provided items (I.e. – beacon, shovel, probe) you are more than welcome to bring your personal items. We believe comfort and familiarity with your gear delivers added performance in safety/rescue situations.

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.

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.	-
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 Hardware 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	1		A synthetic mid-weight bottom layer made to wick moisture.	-
Underwear	1 pair		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. 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.	-
Buff / Facemask	1		Useful for both windy, stormy conditions and also UV protection on sunny days. Buff USA make some great multi-functional options.	-
Goggles	1		Having lenses for both dark (sunny) conditions and also low-light is optimal. The alpine white/glacial landscape in Haines is very reflective and can create intense UV refraction on sunny days. Conversely the all-white landscape leaves little contrast when shady/cloudy. Smith Optics makes great goggles with several easy interchangeable lenses.	-
Light Weight Gloves	1		A light-weight pair of gloves for warm/sunny days is essential. The added dexterity of these types is great when thicker/warmer gloves aren't needed. Black Diamond Tour is a great light-weight option.	-
Heavy Weight Gloves/Mitts	1		A warmer glove/mitt for cool, shady, and stormy weather is a must for Alaska! The Recon Mitt is a great choice.	-
Socks	2-4		These should be synthetic or wool. Having a mix of light and heavy weight socks is nice to adjust to variable weather.	-
Ski/Snowboard Boots	1		Don't forget your boots!	-

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Technical Gear

AMG utilizes some of the best equipment providers in the avalanche safety and snowsports industry. We recommend [Black Diamond Equipment](#) and [Backcountry Access \(BCA\)](#) for guests.

Equipment	Quantity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Comments	Rental
Avalanche Airbag Backpack	1		Should have a capacity to carry layers, safety gear, and snack/water Back Country Access and Black Diamond packs are great!	Provided
Ski Poles	1		Lightweight and adjustable length work best. Snow baskets are a must. Black Diamond poles are a great fit.	YES
Skis/Snowboard	1		A pair of skis with at least 100mm underfoot width is recommended for heliskiing in Alaska. Most of our terrain is open, and above treeline. The added float of a fatter ski is ideal for powder skiing and works well charging hard in our alpine terrain.	YES
Avalanche Shovel	1		A sturdy metal blade shovel. Black Diamond makes convenient shovels.	Provided
Avalanche Probe	1		A retractable avalanche probe is used in avalanche rescue. BD has a lot of good avalanche equipment .	Provided
Lightweight Harness	1		Should fit over all layers. Adjustable leg loops are best. Check out the Couloir Harness .	Provided
Avalanche Transceiver	1		Transceivers must use the 457 kHz frequency. Pieps makes good beacons.	Provided
Locking Carabineer	1		Large aluminum locking carabineer (such as the Black Diamond Rocklock) may be used on your harness.	Provided
Ski Straps	1-2		Rubber ski straps to keep your skis/board and poles together while in the helicopter basket.	-

Miscellaneous

Equipment	Quantity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Comments	Rental
Passport	1		Haines is located just 40 miles from the US/CAN border. Bring your passport for added possibilities when not flying.	-
Watch	1		Whether setting an out the door time or for the dinner bell, it's good to stay in the know.	-
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 bottles (Nalgene) work best.	-
Ski Helmet	1		Protect your head during a fall.	-
Sunglasses	1		For around town and during lunch/breaks while skiing.	-
Ear Plugs	1-2		Helps with the noise from the helicopter.	-
Hand Warmers	4-5		A good thing to keep in your pack for those brisk days.	-
Energy/Snacks	0-20		A few extra snacks to supplement lunch may be desirable.	-
Camera	1		Most folks utilize their cellphones now, but a good digital camera is still a nice touch to capture moments from the trip.	-

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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 countless expeditions and in some of the toughest and most challenging environments. We endorse these companies because they make gear that is functional and reliable.



Black Diamond



MAMMUT

We provide the following: avalanche safety equipment, lodging, meals, ski harnesses, radios, and other group equipment.

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

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