

WHAT TO PACK

Whenever and wherever you travel in "The Last Frontier," clothing is always a primary consideration. Emphasis should be based on comfort because the dress code is informal and casual. A layered technique is extremely good here.

Is Alaska cool or warm in the summer? Rainy or dry? Chances are, it will be a little bit of everything during your visit. Temperatures in Alaska during the summer range from 60°F-80°F. Nighttime and early mornings are cooler, from the 40's - 50's. Late August and September departures could encounter cooler temperatures and slightly fewer hours of sunlight, as fall arrives early at these latitudes. An August bus ride into Denali National Park, for example, can start out in warm sunshine and reach Eielson Visitor Center in a driving snowstorm. The suitcase of a well-packed summer traveler will include items to cover most situations.



• **Long-sleeve shirts and pants** -- These provide warmth and general protection against mosquitoes. The convertible type pants are nice.



• **Fleece jacket and gloves** -- This is a versatile item for layering your clothing during early morning or late night chills.



- **Rain jacket and pants** -- Chances are good that it'll rain sometime during a weeklong visit. Don't expect prairie-style torrents.



- **Sturdy socks and good walking shoes**-- Many tourist area trails are covered in asphalt or are boardwalks. But adventurous travelers may want to head up a rocky or muddy trail, of which there are hundreds.

- **Watch** -- During summer's long days, it's easy to lose track of time. Of course, that may be why you're coming to Alaska in the first place.



- **Brimmed Hat** -- For sun protection. Some who don't enjoy a hooded jacket prefer a rain hat.



- **Sunglasses** -- The summer sun rises in the northeast and sets in the northwest, so no matter what you have planned it will involve facing the sun sometime. Passengers on cruise and tour boats will find sunglasses especially helpful.



- **Insect Repellent** -- Creams and pumps are more environmentally friendly than aerosols



- **Day Pack** -- This will come in handy for day hiking and van travel. This is not a frame pack, but a smaller day pack variety with two shoulder straps that you carry on your back. Large enough to hold rain gear, extra sweater, water bottle, lunch, binoculars and anything else you would take on a day hike.



- **Luggage** -- We recommend you use duffel bags made of materials such as cordura, canvas or nylon. Due to limited space in our luggage compartments, please limit your gear to two medium size (24" x 12") duffels or one large size bag (30" x 14") and one medium bag. Duffels are not mandatory, but they do store easily in our vehicles. You can find some duffel bags with wheels for easy travel.



Your Alaskan journey can provide photos for a lifetime of memories. Don't forget to bring a camera and plenty of film (we suggest you have a case or pouch of some kind to carry your camera in) Bring extra batteries for your camera. Some cameras take special batteries that may be difficult to find in Alaska. In case you have a digital camera, it is worth it to have a memory card that has at least 128 Megs.

A few words about dressing up

Alaska is a casual place, formal dress is quite uncommon. A few high-dollar restaurants encourage guests to wear jackets and ties, but you'll be welcome just about anywhere in slacks (and often in jeans). Around Denali and the other big parks, you're welcome to come as you are.

OPTIONAL ITEMS

FIELD GUIDES: For local flora and fauna. See the recommended reading section for our recommendations.

SPORT SANDALS: Comfortable for saunas, lake dips, and van travel.

TRAVEL ALARM CLOCK: Battery operated.

BINOCULARS: Highly recommended and some guests feel that these are mandatory!

HIKING POLES: Wooden hiking sticks are available at most lodges. If you prefer to bring your own hiking poles, please bring ones that pack easily (telescoping).

BOOT GAITERS: The Cordura variety made by Outdoor Research work well. Gaiters offer protection for your legs and pants from water, insects and brush while hiking on the tundra.

LIGHT ROBE AND/OR SLIP-ON SHOES, BATHING SUITS: For your stay at the Lodges, where the hot tub is outside. Anything comfortable and packable works, these items will make your evenings in the lodges just a little more relaxing.

If you have any questions or concerns about any items on this list please do not hesitate to contact us. You will not have an opportunity to purchase more items once we start our trip.