

# Alaska Packing List



## Weather in Alaska

In the heart of Earth's biggest temperate rainforest and warmed by ocean currents, Southeast Alaska enjoys mild summers. Expect chilly winds near glaciers and on deck when the ship is underway. Rain, mist, or cloudy conditions are possibilities everywhere, though it does get sunny—locals call it “cloud failure.” Daylight extends well into evening May-August (15-18 hours each day.)

**Average Southeast Alaska temperatures, April–September:** Highs range between 50-65° F (10-18° C) but can soar to 80° F (27° C); lows range 30-50° F (1-10° C). Water temps around mid-40°-50° F (7-10° C).

**For land tours inland in Southcentral Alaska:** Highs are similar to Southeast but can reach highs into the 90s° F; evening lows drop to 25°-35° F (-4 – 1° C); rainfall is considerably less.

Keep in mind weather “averages” are changing; check with weather sources such as the National Weather Service at [Weather.gov](http://Weather.gov) shortly before your trip for current temps and conditions.

## Packing Tips

Weather and your choice of activities are the best guides for packing. The dress code is casual and gear that functions well on other outdoor adventures will also work well in Alaska. Storage space is limited so pack efficiently.

- Dress in layers so you can add/remove layers as conditions change; multiple thin layers are better than one or two thick ones.
- Moisture-wicking/quick-drying fabrics are most effective keeping you warm; keep slow-to-dry cotton to a minimum.
- Chances are it will rain—heavy-duty rain jackets and pants should be made of waterproof fabric (Gore-Tex or a similar fabric) with waterproof taped seams.
- **Rubber boots, aka the “Alaskan Sneaker”, that extend above your calves are a *must*** for heavy rain, ankle-deep water, and/or mud. A very **limited** supply is available on each vessel. For best fit and availability, bring your own. Youth-sized boots are not available. [Watch this helpful video about the Alaskan Sneaker.](#)

“Gear up” using this suggested checklist:

### **Provided On Board**

- Adventure gear & yoga mats
- Hairdryer, towels, toiletries  
(shampoo/conditioner/body wash)
- Refillable water bottles\*
- Sunscreen & insect repellent\*
- Fun and adventure!

### **Clothing**

- Full-length or convertible hiking pants
- Moisture-wicking long & short sleeve shirts  
(polypropylene, merino wool, etc.)
- Thermal top & bottom base layers
- Sweaters, sweatshirts, cozy long-sleeve fleece
- Casual t-shirts, blouses, jeans/khakis, shorts for on board
- Socks (synthetic or wool) for all activities
- Bathing suit

### **Outerwear**

- Waterproof rain jacket and pants
- Fleece or hooded jacket/pullover
- Scarf, gloves, and warm hat (extra gloves for kids!)
- Water-resistant hat that covers your ears

### **Luggage**

- Dry bag for camera, binoculars, snacks, etc.
- Collapsible or nesting luggage recommended to maximize cabin storage space
- Daypack for hiking and skiff rides

### **Footwear**

For wet landings & walking in mud:

- Calf- to knee-high rubber boots

For hiking:

- Waterproof hiking boots with tread
- Or, your favorite hiking shoes with tread

For onboard:

- Comfortable walking shoes

### **Optional Items**

- Travel binoculars with safety strap
- Camera, memory cards, extra batteries/charger, safety lanyard
- Paddling / waterproof gloves
- Water bottle (also available on board)
- Sunglasses & retainer strap
- SPF-rated lip protection
- Insect repellent
- Adventurous spirit!

*\*Please note: if you are going on a pre- or post-cruise land tour, be sure to bring your own refillable water bottle, sunscreen, and insect repellent.*

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8/7/2019

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