



Gear List for Arctic Aurora Photography Tours

Trip Information

Aurora photographers in the Arctic will undoubtedly encounter some cold temperatures and being prepared for those conditions is the key to a successful and enjoyable trip. We may be out in temperatures that range from -40F (-40C) to +15F (-9C). We may experience wind as well, which can make those temperatures feel even colder. Though we won't ever be far from a warm vehicle, or cabin, much of our time will be outside. Warm clothing is extremely important so please pay special attention to that section of the gear list. If you have questions about anything, just ask.

Field Clothing

- Boots - This may be the most important piece of clothing. Insulated, waterproof boots rated to -40 are the best choice. There should be sufficient room for at least one pair of warm socks.
- Warm socks - (I often wear two pairs)
- Long Underwear - Tops and Bottoms, synthetic or wool.
- Sweater - Fleece or wool
- Pants - I choose a lightly insulated nylon hiking pant, but jeans will work in a pinch.
- Parka - A thick, warm, puffy jacket with a windproof shell. A hood is a great to have, but not absolutely necessary. (My choice is a 850 fill down mountaineering jacket with hood.)
- Insulated pants - Puffy pants, or insulated ski-type pants with a windproof, water-resistant shell.
- Neck gaiter - This serves two purposes: keeps your neck and face warm, and keeps your breath from fogging lenses and digital camera screens.
- Warm hat
- Light gloves - choose a pair that you can fit under warmer mittens and have the dexterity to operate the controls on your camera.
- Mittens - With a windproof shell
- Headlamp or flashlight

Personal Gear

- Clothing- Casual winter clothes. Pack sufficient for the length of your trip, but please do not overpack.
- Shoes - running or hiking shoes for when heavy, insulated boots aren't needed.
- Slippers - for inside the cabin in Wiseman.
- Luggage - Duffel bags are better than hard-sided suitcases for packing in vehicles and in limited spaces of the cabins. Wheeled suitcases are not useful on snowy ground.
- Books or Digital Entertainment - Internet access will be EXTREMELY limited. Please pack accordingly.
- Laptop Computer (optional) - If you'd like to work on post-processing your images, please feel free to bring your computer.
- Water bottle

- Snacks - While there will be plenty of food, if you have a snack you particularly enjoy, please feel free to bring some.
- Hand and toe warmers (I will bring some, but you might want extras).

Camera Equipment

- Camera - DSLR, Mirrorless, or a good point and shoot.
- Wide-angle Lens - Fast wide angles are the most frequently used for aurora photography. Look for a lens with an aperture of f2.8 or faster. (Remove all filters.)
- Telephoto for wildlife (optional)
- Tripod
- Spare battery for the camera
- Remote release or timer system on your camera.
- Large plastic ziplock bags to protect your equipment from condensation when we move between cold and warm temperatures.
- Camera case or backpack
- Memory cards

Other (optional)

- Ice grips for shoes
- Binoculars
- Snowshoes (Rentals may be available with prior notice).