

David W Shaw Photography Workshops

Photo Workshop Packing List





A Note on Equipment

Weight Restrictions: On trips around Alaska's road system, there are few weight restrictions. If you can get your equipment to Alaska, you won't have any trouble. (Space is still an issue in the van, so please don't overpack.) However, if your trip involves bush flights (like any of the Katmai trips) weight restrictions will apply. Keeping your photo equipment weight under 30lbs and your luggage under 40lbs is a good guideline. Some workshops may require more strict weight limits. If you have questions, please reach out.

Weather Considerations: It can get cold any month of the year in the Alaska, and it can also get quite hot (temperatures in the high 70s and 80s are not uncommon). You need to be prepared for anything. Plan to dress in layers. And most importantly, pack good rain gear!

Stick to the List: If you pack what is listed, you'll have what you need. Please don't stray far from these guidelines and read the notes for each item carefully. There is no room in the Alaska wilderness for poor quality, or poorly maintained gear, so make sure everything you bring is ready for some tough use. As always, call if you have questions.

Gear and Clothing

- Hiking Boots. Sturdy, waterproof, over-the-ankle boots.
- Sneakers, sandals, or comfortable walking shoes. For general wear.
- Knee-high rubber boots. Optional, but very useful on some trips.
- Rain pants. Side zips will help you get them on and off over boots. Breathable (gore-tex or similar), or non-breathable rubberized are both acceptable.
- Rain Jacket. Good rain gear is essential. High quality, good condition, breathable, or non-breathable rubberized jacket. Check that the zippers and seams are in good condition. If your waterproof/breathable jacket is not new, treating before the trip with a product like NikWax TR.Direct, spray will renew the water resistant coating. (I do this regularly with my heavily used rain gear.)
- Day Pack or Camera Pack - something you are comfortable carrying for several hours. If you are using a camera pack as your day pack, make sure you have room for your rain gear, and an extra layer.
- Waterproof rain cover for your pack.
- Duffle bag or soft-sided suitcase. These are much easier to pack into the van, and in and out of airplanes than hard-sided suitcases. Wheeled suitcases are virtually useless on the rough terrain we are certain to navigate, and duffles are much easier to hand-carry.
- Socks. 3-4 pair of heavy wool or synthetic blend hiking socks.
- Underwear. As needed.
- Light-weight Long Underwear. Synthetic or wool, tops and bottoms.
- Hiking Pants. 2-3 pair. Synthetic, fast-drying material.
- Puffy jacket. Warm and compress-able down or synthetic filled jacket. Perfect for cold mornings or evenings.
- Fleece or wool sweater/jacket.
- Additional warm layer - Extra long john top, down vest, or light sweater.
- Shorts and T-shirt - It gets warm sometimes!
- Shirts. 2-3 lightweight, long sleeves, button down or pullover. Synthetic and quick drying.
- Brimmed hat.
- Warm hat. Winter ski hat or similar. Bring something nice and cozy and windproof!
- Neck gaiter. Buff or fleece.
- Warm gloves. Windproof fleece or ski gloves.
- Water bottle or hydration pouch.

- Personal toiletries.
- Flashlight or headlamp. Useful after August 1.
- Mosquito head net.
- Mosquito repellent. Pack in a separate ziplock bag.
- Emergency kit. Selection of band-aids, pain killers, moleskin, sewing kit, duct tape, etc. (We will have a full first aid kit and a repair kit in the group gear, but having a few of your own items is useful.)
- Personal Medications. Consider bringing an extra set and give them to your guide in case yours get lost or mis-placed.
- Glasses or Contacts. An extra set.
- Sunglasses
- Sun screen and lip balm.
- Pocket knife. Optional (remember to pack in your checked luggage!).
- Trekking Poles. Optional, but useful if your trip involves much hiking.
- Reading material.

Photography Equipment

Keep your photography equipment to the minimum you need. My typical setup includes the list below, and nothing more. Bear in mind you'll be carrying all this when we are out photographing and hiking, and weight limits may apply on bush flights.

- 2 Camera bodies. (Or a body and backup point and shoot.)
- Wide angle zoom. 16-35 or similar.
- Mid-range zoom. 24-70, or 24-105.
- Mid-range telephoto. 70-200 or similar.
- Long telephoto. Examples: 100-400, 150-600, 500 or 600 prime.
- Polarizers.
- Several spare batteries.
- Memory cards.
- Tripod.
- Camera pack. With raincover.
- Computer. Optional.
- Binoculars. Optional but useful.

As always, if you have questions about this gear list or specific items you'd like to discuss, feel free to email me dave@david-w-shaw.com, or call 907-590-7023.