



## **Gear List for Taste of Winter Camping Expedition:**

This checklist has been developed from years of our experience winter traveling in interior Alaska. This is what we know works for us. That said, personal clothing is indeed personal. Bring what you know to be comfortable and practical. We go by the following principles in choosing our gear:

### **Durable:**

Please note that the kind of camping we do on our trips is “rugged”- we cut wood, gather boughs, and interact with the elements in a way that can be tough on clothes. Clothes may also absorb the smell of smoke, so the tougher your gear, the better.

### **Materials Matter:**

All garments should be wool (preferred) or synthetic because they are light, fast-drying, and warmer when wet. With the exception of canvas outer garments and underwear, cotton is best left at home.

### **Loose = Comfortable:**

Layering is the name of the game, so all clothing needs to be large enough to accommodate a few layers over and under without constraining your motion. Buy outer layers a size or two larger than you usually would. It’s not a fashion show, its about comfort.

Please follow this equipment list and do not bring extra gear. Less weight in the sled equals more fun on the trip. Having lots of items only makes packing and unpacking an ordeal. You can spend a lot of money or a little money on gear, depending on where you go to get gear, how resourceful you are, and how much you want to invest in a winter outfit.

**Having good gear means having a good trip. Please call us with questions, we are happy to answer them!**

## What We Provide (Included in the cost of your trip):

We will discuss this with you on the phone or in emails. Make sure we get the right information about your sizes so we can bring the correct gear!

Item	Details
Expedition Mittens	This mitt should be so large that you can fit two other layers inside of it. We use leather and fur mitts.
Work gloves	We use leather insulated work gloves for camp chores like gathering firewood, spruce boughs, and touching the woodstove. Having warm work gloves protects your expensive mitts!
Snowpants	Basic insulated snow pants for outer layer.
Down Parka with Ruff	These are big, insulated jackets intended to be worn in very cold temps or on rest breaks. A fur ruff creates a dead air space around your face which becomes a warm microclimate where you need it most.
Neos Overshoes	These are waterproof overboots that can be worn on top of ski or other boots.
Sleeping Bag with stuff sack	Rated to -40, these are good ones!
Sleeping pad	We provide caribou and/or foam sleeping pads.
Snowshoes	We've got a variety of snowshoes for you to try.
Skis (if it is a ski trip)	We rent backcountry skis, boots, and poles for you. We need to know your shoe size and arrange in advance to do this if you are doing a ski trip. You are welcome to bring your own skis as well.
Emergency kit	Band-Aids, aspirin, Moleskin, sewing kit. We carry a full medical kit, but a few personal things come in handy.
Hand and toe warmers	We buy them by the box. We generally bring 1 hand and 1 toe warmer/person/day. Let us know if you want more 😊

## What You Should Bring

### Footwear

Check?	Item	Description	Where to get
	Option #1 Mukluks with two sets of felt liners	Mukluks are an essential winter boot. They should be at least 1 size bigger and wider than your actual shoe size to accommodate 2-3 layers of socks and additional wool insoles. If you're having trouble finding, ask us about borrowing some!	Some sizes through Boreal Journeys but you'll be happiest in your own boots. We recommend Steger brand, Arctic or Yukon model for mukluks.
	Option #2 Sorel type shoe pack boot with two sets of wool felt liners	A second best option as long as they have room for extra felt insoles and 3 layers of socks. If you're having trouble finding, ask us about borrowing some!	Sorel brand Caribou model is best.
	Wool insole for either boots	As mentioned above, this is important to have as a backup on the trail if your feet get wet.	Big Rays store in Fairbanks, \$10
	Down Tent booties	For wearing around camp while mukluks are drying, etc. OPTIONAL but nice.	Baffin brand makes nice ones.

### Clothes

Check?	Item	Description	Where to get
	Socks	4 pairs, heavy wool recommended. Bring a variety of sizes and thicknesses so you can layer two or three socks.	We love Darn Tough brand for inner sock and Smartwool, Fox River, Wigwam or other fluffy brands for outer socks.
	Underwear/sportsbras	Enough for the length of your trip, cotton is fine for this, anything comfortable will do.	
	Longjohn bottoms	2 pairs- heaviest wool blend you can get (at least 200 weight). Heavy synthetics are OK.	We like LLBean Cresta Wool and Woolx are both good brands.
	Longjohn tops	2 pairs The ideal longjohn top is merino wool and has a collar with a chest zip for quick ventilation or warming, go for at least 200 weight. For an economy option you can also use thin wool sweaters from thrift shops. Thicker shirts last longer but thinner ones smell less.	Woolx, Smartwool or Icebreaker brand or your local thrift store.
	Fleece top	This is a great second layer over wool longjohns. An additional pair of longjohns will do for this if you're not a fan of fleece, anything light and flexible that you can layer. Zippers help to get	

		layers on and off and add quick ventilation options.	
	Wool pants/ heavy fleece pants	Should fit over longjohn and fleece bottoms.	We get good wool pants from Army-Navy surplus stores and thrift stores.
	“Puffy” Down or primaloft Jacket	While we won’t wear these while moving too often, they are really nice for lunch breaks and other sedentary activities. Ideally, your puffy should be large enough to fit over all other layers.	

### Extremities

Check?	Item	Description	Where to get
	Warm Hat	Fur hats are warmest but wool, or fleece work too. We recommend “musher style hats” that have ear flaps and windproof outer layer and fleece or fur inner layer. Two that can be layered – must cover ears.	Apocalypse design in Fairbanks sells great hats called “explorer hats”. Mad Bomber is another good brand available at Big Rays in Fairbanks.
	Neck gaiter	2- fleece or wool	Buff brand, turtlefur etc. You can easily make your own.
	Baseball hat or visor	A brim works great to cut wind and holdup your ruff.	Anything will do.
	Liner gloves and or mittens	We like to layer thin wool gloves under the big mitts that we provide. They offer decent dexterity, warmth and dry quickly.	Big Rays sells nice ones in Fairbanks for cheap.

### Bags

Check?	Item	Description	Where to get
	Large Duffle Bag	To carry all of your gear in the sled. Should be no wider than 12 inches so it fits!	
	Day Bag/Backpack	To carry items such as extra layers, socks, mitts, face masks etc. Most clients like to have a school-sized backpack to carry a little water, food and layers.	
	Stuff Sacks	To keep your gear compact and organized. Bring at least 2.	
	Toiletries Bag	Should be small, easy to access.	

## Personal Items

Check?	Item	Description	Where to get
	Insulated waterbottle(s)	1.5-2 quart/liter combined capacity. Waterbottle cozies (ie: a sock) can be made or purchased to convert a regular bottle into one that won't freeze on the trail. We provide thermoses.	Hydroflask and Cabelas brand work well.
	Personal toiletries	Think small- you won't need a whole tube of toothpaste. Don't forget tampons or diva cup for menstruation (if necessary).	
	Headlamp	LED, the stronger the better. (120 lumens minimum). Bring extra batteries along in a ziplock, you'll be surprised how much you'll use the headlamp.	We like black diamond brand, but there are lots of good ones out there.
	Sunblock	At least for faces, the snow reflects up and it can burn you quickly!	
	Sunglasses or glacier goggles	UV blocking dark tinted for February-April trips	
	Medications	Inform the guide of your medications and bring a backup supply of essential medications for the guide to carry	
	Glasses or contacts	Each have issues in the cold- contacts can freeze in solution and glasses fog up... if you have both, bring both.	
	Lip balm and hand cream	Jenna makes salve and is happy to share.	
	Handkerchief	A cotton rag or bandana is nice	

## Optional Items

Check?	Item	Description
	Watch	
	Camera, extra cards, spare batteries	You will need to take some extra precautions to keep this working in the cold!
	Cell phone	Some companies get marginal reception from our place, we will have phones and a satellite beacon for emergencies but discourage you from using them on trips. Good for pictures if you keep it warm.
	Knife	For carving or day use.
	Reading material	Nice for cozy nights, we have books available to borrow as well.
	Journal and pencil	Pencils don't freeze.
	Fishing license	This applies if you would like to try out some ice fishing. Talk to us if you're interested. You may not fish anywhere in Alaska without a valid Alaska fishing license.