

Get ready for the Kongakut River!

As we travel through the Alaskan Arctic, temperatures can vary widely, both over the course of a trip and even within a single day. Expect temperatures ranging from the **20s to the 80s**, with the potential for cold rain, snow, and warm, sunny weather. Conditions tend to be colder closer to the ocean.

The following saying is popular in Alaska: *there's no bad weather, only bad gear*. The best way to stay comfortable is to follow the packing list closely. Most of the required items can be found in your own closet, though it may be worth purchasing a few key pieces specifically for this trip, such as a warm insulated jacket and reliable foul-weather gear. If you have any questions while preparing, don't hesitate to reach out.

Please plan for **your personal gear to weigh less than 50 lbs total**, which includes your lifejacket/pfd (~3 lbs) plus the two dry bags you'll be using **one small "day dry bag"** (about 20 liters, 1 lb empty) for daytime essentials and **one larger dry bag** (about 110 liters; approx. 4 lbs empty) for the rest of your gear. Tents will be packed separately but **do count toward your total weight**.

1. **Base Layer** (for warmth)
 - a. 2 lightweight long underwear tops (wool or synthetic)
 - b. 1 heavyweight long john bottom (wool or synthetic)
2. **Mid-Layer and Warmth**
 - a. 2 of the following: fleece jacket, down sweater, midweight jacket
 - b. 1 pair heavy wool or fleece pants must fit under your rain pants and over your long underwear
 - c. 1 extra down vest (optional)
 - d. 5-6 pairs wool or synthetic socks (mixture of mid and heavyweight)
 - e. Gore-tex socks to wear over hiking socks to help keep feet drier when hiking
 - f. 1-2 pairs gloves (wool or fleece for camp use)
 - g. Over-mitts/neoprene gloves - either waterproof or something that keeps you warm when wet. Dishwashing gloves work well if they are big enough to go over a lightweight glove
3. **Outerwear**
 - a. 1 waterproof, breathable rain jacket (Gore-Tex or similar)
 - b. 1 pair heavy-duty rubberized rain bibs (for rafting) like Grudens or something similar
 - c. 1 pair light weight rain pants (for hiking)

- d. 1 Down or synthetic puffy parka or ski jacket, Hooded is best. Thick down jackets with over 1 inch of insulation.
- e. 1 Quick dry pants for camp and hiking
- f. brimmed hat (for sun protection)
- g. 1 warm hat (for cold weather)
- h. 1 neck gaiter (for warmth)

4. Footwear

- a. 1 pair rubber boots (knee-high for wet conditions) XtraTuf are light and good for walking ([mens](#) [womens](#)). Some people like to add insoles.
- b. 1 pair lightweight hiking boots/shoes (for day hikes and camp)

5. Sun Protection & Miscellaneous

- a. 1 sun shirt (lightweight, tightly woven fabric)
- b. 1 pair of shorts (for warm weather)
- c. 1 T-shirt (for warmer days)
- d. 1 mosquito head net (optional, but highly recommended)
- e. ID and credit card - most likely will not need but sometimes flights change routes.

Rafting & Camping Gear

1. Camping Essentials (please let us know which of the provided gear you plan to use versus bring of your own)

- a. 1 3- or 4-season tent (with stakes) provided (9 lbs)
- b. 1 comfortable sleeping bag (rated to 20°F or less) can be rented (6 lbs)
- c. 1 inflatable sleeping pad provided (2 lbs)
- d. 1 pillowcase for making pillow from clothes at night
- e. 1 set of stuff sacks (for organizing gear)
- f. 1-2 trash compactor bags (for waterproofing clothes and sleeping bag)
- g. Chair for camp provided – crazy creek style (2 lbs)

2. Day Gear

- a. Personal water bottle (at least 1 quart, some people prefer two)
- b. Backpack for day hiking around 20 liters, some people like waterproof daypacks which doubles as their "day dry bag" while rafting.

Practical Items

1. Meds

- a. 1 backup supply of special medications in separate containers (if needed)
- b. Any over the counter medications you use daily

2. Toiletries/Lotions

- a. Personal toiletries: Go small when possible like a little tube of toothpaste.
- b. Toilet paper in ziplock bag. - amount depends upon individual use for the trip
- c. 1 lighter (for lighting toilet paper)
- d. Sunscreen, lip balm
- e. Hand Cream/balm
- f. Mosquito repellent - double bag. 35% DEET is popular

3. Glasses

- a. 1 set of glasses or contact lenses (extra pair if needed)
- b. Sunglasses with good retainer strap and tough case

4. Trekking poles - not required but extremely popular for the rough walking and stream crossings

5. Lighting (only needed in August and later. Even in a tent you will not need a headlamp in June/July)

- a. 1 headlamp or flashlight
- b. 1 spare set of batteries for your headlamp

Optional

1. Fishing Gear (if interested)

- a. 1 small folding backpack fishing rod
- b. 1 reel with 6-12# test line
- c. Assorted fishing lures (spinners with orange dots, kastmasters)
- d. 1 Alaska fishing license (required if you plan to fish)

2. Other Optional Items

- a. 1 bug shirt – [Original Bug shirt](#)
- b. 1 pocket knife
- c. 1 pair binoculars (for wildlife spotting - highly recommended, we will bring a spotting scope for camp)
- d. 1 battery pack (to recharge electronics)
- e. 1 camera (with extra batteries and memory cards)
- f. watch (optional)

Important Reminders:

- **Layering is key:** Weather can change quickly in Alaska. Be sure to pack layers to stay warm, dry, and comfortable.
- **Waterproofing:** Be prepared for rain and wet conditions. Gear that needs to stay dry should be packed in waterproof bags or dry sacks.

- **Sun and Mosquito Protection:** Even though it's cold, the sun can be strong, and mosquitos can be an issue, especially in summer months.