RIVERS AND OCEANS KONGAKUT RAFTING EXPEDITION

PACKING LIST

As we travel through the Alaskan Arctic, temperatures can vary widely, both over the course of a trip and 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 or renting 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.

Contact Alaska Outdoor Gear Rental (907-830-0232) for rentals of sleeping bags, heavy-duty rubberized rain bibs, knee high waterproof boots and other gear you may need. They offer a delivery service to hotels in Fairbanks. That said, the difference between renting gear for two weeks and buying it may not be that large.

Due to plane weight limitations, plan for **your personal gear to weigh less than 50 lbs total**, which includes the three dry bags you'll be using. **One small "day dry bag"** (about 20 liters, 1 lb empty) for daytime essentials and **two larger dry bags** (70 liters and 50 liters; approx. 4 lbs total) for the rest of your gear. Tents will be packed separately but **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 (optional)
    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 – can be rented; lighter-weight fishing waiters can also work. Please call to discuss.
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/sun)

4. **Footwear**
    a. 1 pair rubber boots (knee-high for wet conditions and in the raft) XtraTuf are light and good for walking (mens womens) - can be rented
    b. 1 pair lightweight hiking boots/shoes (for day hikes and camp) quick drying and gore-tex are nice.
5. **Sun Protection & Miscellaneous**
    a. 1 sun shirt (lightweight, tightly woven fabric) - sun hoodies are great
    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

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 (w/ stakes) provided (4.7 lbs/person) See photos below
    b. 1 comfortable sleeping bag (rated to 20°F or less) can be rented (6 lbs)
    c. 1 inflatable sleeping pad provided (2 lbs) Agnes Divide 72 x 25 x 3.5 inch, R4
    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 – Helinox High Back Zero (1.5 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 mediations 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 – small amount for travel
    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

5. **Lighting** (only needed in August and later)
    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 pair binoculars (for wildlife spotting - highly recommended, we will bring a spotting scope for camp)
    c. 1 battery pack (to recharge electronics)
    d. 1 camera (with extra batteries and memory cards)
    e. Watch (optional but helpful when daylight lasts all night).
    f. Personal pfd (lifejacket) - if you want to bring your own, you can definitely bring it, if it fits within your 50lbs. Otherwise, it will depend upon our final logistics.

Important Reminders:

- **Layering is key**: Weather can change quickly in Alaska. Be sure to pack layers to stay warm, dry, and comfortable.
- **Waterproofing:** Gear that absolutely must stay dry, such as your sleeping bag and electronics, should have redundant waterproof protection. A trash compactor bag inside your sleeping bag stuff sack works well.
- **Sun and Mosquito Protection**: Even though it's cold, the sun can be strong, and mosquitos can be an issue, especially in summer months.

Tent for 2 people (tent has two vestibules for gear):



Inside With pads:



1 Person Tent (tent has two vestibules for gear):



Inside with pad

