



Alaska Steelhead Co. Packing List

The weather in Alaska is highly variable and unpredictable. The old saying “if you don’t like the weather, just wait 5 minutes” rings true in Alaska. You can literally experience what seems like 4 seasons in one day and you will be much happier if you are prepared for it.

Clothing

Your clothing is important, you know yourself best and the elements you can handle, so use your best judgment when packing.

- ☐ **Light to Heavy Wool or Synthetic Underwear:** Light to heavy weight are good to have (No Cotton). Your lightest thermal tops and bottoms are most commonly worn early in the season. For later in the season, bring heavier layers in addition to the lighter layers to cover all of your bases.
- ☐ **Light to Midweight Jacket:** (fleece, Primaloft, synthetic down, wool, etc...)

- ❑ **Mid to Heavyweight Jacket:** (down, synthetic down, wool, etc...).
- ❑ **Breathable, Waterproof Rain Jacket:** This is an absolute must and can make or break your day, so make sure your current jacket doesn't leak.
- ❑ **Breathable Waders:** There is possibly no other piece of equipment that can make your trip more comfortable and enjoyable than good waders that don't leak. It is imperative that you have waders that don't leak. If you have been or are having problems with your current waders... you will need to buy a new pair or make very sure that your current ones are not leaking.
- ❑ **Sturdy Wading Boots:** NO FELT SOLES (They have been banned in AK). Also, if you buy new boots make sure you break them in because we do some hiking on the small rivers. If you have new boots make sure to bring moleskin in case of blisters. ALSO, NO STUDS ON BOOTS THAT CANNOT BE REMOVED. You will be in a boat part of the time, and cannot wear studs in a boat. If you are concerned about stability while wading, there are boots with removable soles. We recommend Korkers with Alumatrax or something similar for wading stability and Sticky rubber for the boat.
- ❑ **Casual Boots:** A pair of boots to wear around the lodge/cabins and a pair of slippers is always nice too. We all wear Bogs or Muck boots but they tend to be overkill for the lodge and cabins the majority of the time. Deck boots/Xtratuffs seem to

be the favorite, but by NO means do you need to go out and buy anything new.

- ☐ **Billed Hat:** For sun and eye protection.
- ☐ **Beanie or Stocking Cap:** For cold mornings or when you need a quick warmup.
- ☐ **Fingerless Gloves:** If you tend to fish in gloves when it's cold to be safe. Again, you know yourself. Bring fingerless gloves if you tend to fish in gloves when it is cold.
- ☐ **Lightweight Gloves:** Not necessary, but nice to have
- ☐ **Insulated Under Wader Pants:** Layering under waders varies, but a nice insulated pant is a good choice.
- ☐ **Insulated Wading Socks:** Bring multiple pairs, you want to stay warm but don't want to cut off circulation so try on waders and boots with socks before you leave.
- ☐ **Polarized Sunglasses:** If you have low light sunglasses in addition your everyday pair, bring both.

Personal Items

- ☐ **Medications**
- ☐ **Ibuprofen, pain meds, etc...**
- ☐ **Toiletries**
- ☐ **Camera Gear:** These days a phone is almost all you need, but if you have camera gear remember battery charger, computer or SD card so you are able to take more pics than you normally would. GoPro and charger if you have one.
- ☐ **Cell Phone Charger**

- ☐ **Waterproof Phone Case:** Hand if you have one
- ☐ **Hand Sanitizer & Wipes:** For mother nature's restroom.
- ☐ **Headlamp or Flashlight**
- ☐ **Sunscreen**
- ☐ **Cash:** For gratuities for your guides, chef and staff.

Gear

- ☐ **Pack:** Small Backpack or big waist or sling pack (waterproof to keep layers dry)
- ☐ **Water Bottle**
- ☐ **Basic Fishing Tools:** Hemostats, nippers, split shot (BB - 3/0)
- ☐ **Fluorocarbon Line:** Your preferred tippet can also be used. We recommend 10lb, 12lb, 15lb and 20lb. We prefer Super FC Sniper or P-line. Tippet you would use for Trout is not the proper fluorocarbon material needed for Steelhead because it needs to be stiffer and more abrasion resistant. **(optional)**
- ☐ **9ft 0x, 1x and 2x Salmon Steelhead leaders.** 2 of each is plenty. **(optional)**
- ☐ **Large and XL Thingamabobbers** in 3 packs. **(optional)**
- ☐ **Standard Spey Flies:** Your favorite patterns for swinging in Pink, Purple, Black, Orange as well as your favorite Black & Olive Trout streamers for the smaller rivers **(optional)**
- ☐ **Size 10, 12 and 14 mil Trout Beads:** in Tangerine and Light Roe **(optional)**
- ☐ **Owner hooks in size 4 and 6 (optional)**

- ☐ **9-10' 7 or 8 weight Single Handed Rods:** With reels and floating line to match. (optional)
- ☐ **11' 7 or 8 weight Switch Rods:** With reels and floating line (RIO Switch line ONLY) to match. **(optional)**
- ☐ **12'6 – 13'6 7 or 8 Weight Spey Rods:** with reels and line (Skagit or Scandi preferably) to match. **(optional)**
- ☐ **An assortment of Varied Rate Sinking Tips** (5 is typically how they are sold). We use very light tips so make sure you have an intermediate tip and heavier from there. **(optional)**