

Alaska Homestead Adventures

Homestead Cabin Trip Packing List

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:

All “gear” is provided- that means you shouldn’t have to bring in very big bags. We don’t want you to spend a fortune on winter gear if you live in a warm place, so we offer the following:

- Warm parkas with fur ruffs- you’ll love them.
- Snowpants- Insulated winter pants.
- Warm and waterproof overshoes to go over your boots.
- Seriously warm mittens.
- Hand and toe warmers.



L: Jenna in homemade marten hat and fur ruff. R: Well-dressed guest in hats, down mitts and parka.

Items you should bring:

Don't go buy a new wardrobe, but this gear list is based on years of experience and the more closely you follow it, the more comfortable you will be.

Clothing

All clothing should be loose-fitting and COMFORTABLE.

You should be able to layer your clothing.

Socks	2 pairs/day, heavy wool blend 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- heavy wool or synthetic.	We like LLBean Cresta Wool for men and Ibex for women.
Longjohn tops	The ideal longjohn top is merino wool and has a collar with a chest zip for quick ventilation or warming. For an economy option you can also use thin wool sweaters from thrift shops.	Ibex, Woolx, Smartwool or Icebreaker brand or your local thrift store.
Fleece pants and 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.	
	fleece pants	Something cozy to fit as an extra layer over longjohns if needed.	
	“Puffy” Down or primaloft winter Jacket	We provide parkas, but most folks like to bring their own lighter winter jacket for activities where we are moving and would overheat in the big parkas.	

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”.
	Neck gaiter	Fleece or wool. One should be thick (turtlefur fleece) and one thin (Buff brand 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 two thin wool gloves or mittens. They offer decent dexterity, warm, and dry quickly.	Big Rays sells nice ones in Fairbanks
	Some kind of winter boots	Again, we provide super warm ones, but it is nice to have your own boots. Boots should be large enough to accommodate 2 layers of socks. Our favorite models are Steger Mukluks (Yukon or Arctic model) or Sorel Caribou boots. We like both of these because they have a full wool liner that can be taken out and dried. Waterproof is not as important.	If you plan on buying mukluks, buy them at least 1 size larger and wider than normal to allow for socks and allow extra time for shipping, you cant get them in Fairbanks.
	House slippers	For going outside to pee! We really like down booties or crocs for this, but anything that is easy to slip on will work.	

Other

Check?	Item	Description	Where to get
	Day Bag/Backpack	To carry items such as extra layers, socks, mitts, face masks etc. Most guests like to have a school-sized backpack to carry a little water, food and layers.	

	Led Headlamp + extra batteries		
	Personal Toiletries		
	Journal and/or good book	We do have a small library here that you're welcome to.	
	Camera	Optional. With a durable carrying case. If you want to use a camera in really cold weather, you will probably want to wear it around your neck inside your parka.	
	Medications/supplements		
	Fishing license	This applies if you would like to try out some ice fishing. You can get it online at: https://store.adfg.alaska.gov/	
	Sunblock	For February and March trips. 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	
	Alcohol	We are not licensed to serve you alcohol, but we're happy to haul it if you want to bring your own 😊	



L: Guest gathers water from a hole in the ice on the Tanana River. R: Guest with a burbot that she caught ice fishing

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