

Alaska Adventure Unlimited

Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your vacation! We are excited you have chosen to join us this summer. Health and safety is a collective concern and requires a collective effort, so please carefully review the suggestions below. We look forward to hosting you and your travel guests.

Important Notes Before Departure

- Please review for accuracy all confirmation documents AAU has provided you.
- Please check with your cellphone service provider to verify if and where your device will work in Alaska.
- Please make sure we have your cell number on file so we can contact you in case of an emergency or a time delay during your tour.

Weather

Average AK Temperatures (°F)

	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau
May	54°	66°	58°
June	62°	70°	61°
July	65°	72°	64°
Aug	63°	66°	62°
Sept	55°	54°	56°



It's a good idea to plan for four types of weather: warm, cool, cold, and (occasionally) wet. Alaska's vast size, varied topography, and geographical location can result in a wide range of conditions. During the summer months, high temperatures in the inland area near Denali National Park can reach 90°F. However, walking among glaciers generally means cooler temps (with more breezes blowing). Further along the coast in Anchorage, the weather is normally pleasant and sunny, but slightly cooler. Average temperatures across the state hover in the high-60s during peak season and the mid-50s in the spring and fall. Please note: because of our cooler climate, air conditioning is not standard in Alaska! Some accommodations and some activities provided by vendors may not have air conditioning. Please prepare for possible warmer weather in June/July.

Dressing For Alaska

Touring Alaska's towns, an umbrella may be cumbersome. A lightweight raincoat, however, frees up your hands – perfect if you'll be carrying around a camera, purse, or bottled water.

Dressing in layers is the way to go. Pack some short-sleeved shirts; a pair of shorts; sweat shirts; long-sleeved shirts; jeans; a jacket; and sturdy, comfortable, light hiking shoes or rubber-soled walking shoes. Break in shoes before you travel to avoid discomfort / blisters. Be sure to bring extra socks and a second pair of shoes so your first pair of shoes has time to dry if they get wet.

There is no need to bring formal wear as our tours are casual all the way. We want to show you the "hands-on" Alaska we have come to know and love. If you are connecting with a cruise ship, you should bring a separate bag with your formal wear that can be stored in the luggage trailer. Because of storage and transportation limitations, luggage is limited to one case (max 50 lb.), one “carry-on” style case, plus a type of small backpack or tote for day use.

Packing Checklist

The biggest factor to consider is Alaska's weather, of course. But activities at sea and ashore may also require special packing. The following checklist includes some additional suggestions to help you get started. This is by no means comprehensive, but it's a good place to begin.

- Binoculars (one pair per passenger, AAU also supplies some in vehicles)
- Camera (extra digital cards, camera cords, and batteries)
- Disposable water camera for rafting
- Supportive, comfortable walking shoes (closed toe, 2 pairs)
- Thermal socks / extra socks
- Hat or other ear covering
- Gloves (cool days can present themselves on a glacier or on the ocean)
- Heavy jacket (depending on your dates of travel, needed May & late Aug- Sept)
- Light jacket/windbreaker (rain repellent, needed all summer dates)
- Rain jacket, rain poncho, or umbrella (if preferred)
- Sweaters, sweatshirts, long & short-sleeved shirts
- Jeans or convertible zip-away bush pants & shorts
- Medications & extra prescriptions
- Sunglasses (glaciers are bright!), extra pair of glasses, contacts
- Government-issued photo I.D. (passport, driver's license, state-issued I.D., military I.D.)
- AAU PDF confirmations (can download PDF to your phone)
- Soft-sided day bag (highly recommended, small flight-seeing planes have 30lb. bag limit)

Sunny Days

Because Alaska sits near the top of the globe, the sun can shine for as many as 20 hours a day during peak season! Your travel day will usually begin at 8:00 AM and end at 8:00 PM. Evening hours with sunlight will be available for photos and leisure time. If you have difficulty sleeping in light, you may consider bringing a good-quality sleep mask to keep light out. If you are traveling in August there will be darker evenings, as we lose about five minutes of light per day as we head into our long winter. Northern lights will only be visible in late August/early September.

Hours of Daylight and Twilight in Anchorage



Covid-19 Protocols

No one likes Covid, but it is a reality that needs to be addressed in our current times. There are various opinions on Covid, masks, and vaccinations; small group travel necessitates patience with others who may have different views. Currently, there are no testing requirements for U.S. citizens traveling to Alaska. **For non U.S. citizens traveling to Alaska, please check the U.S Centers for Disease Control's website for up to date entry requirements, as they are rapidly changing.** AAU does not require proof of vaccination and information regarding vaccination status of individuals on or guiding your tour will not be made available. With visitors arriving from across the U.S. and overseas, AAU requests the following:

- Please consider using masks, hand sanitizer, and good hygiene practices (like washing your hands and social distancing) on your airline flights to Alaska and, as appropriate, on your tour.
- Be sure to bring a couple of masks that can be disposed of; some vendors may be requiring them to enter their stores or participate in their activities.
- AAU will offer hand sanitizer in each vehicle, however, we suggest bringing your own as well.
- If you have or develop Covid symptoms, we will require and make available Covid testing. **If you test positive for Covid during a tour, for the safety of the other guests and tour operators, you will be unable to continue the tour.**



Full Circle

If you are on the "Full Circle Alaska" tour, you will need to bring a small soft-sided bag (such as a gym or duffel bag) for your overnight at Kennicott. This bag can not be heavier than 30 lb. We suggest one change of clothing, good shoes, rain gear, a light jacket, camera, travel essentials, and a good book (no TV available). **YOU MUST BRING & WEAR A MASK ON THIS FLIGHT.**

Identification

- All international guests must have a valid passport or other secure, accepted document to enter or re-enter the U.S.
- A valid passport is required for all air travel between the United States and Canada. A passport is NOT required for U.S. citizens traveling to Alaska, NOT stopping in Canada.
- U.S. and Canadian citizens will need to present either a government-issued photo ID (such as a driver's license or passport) at the airport in order to fly.



- U.S. cruise guests who travel by air to embark in Vancouver for Alaskan cruises, and Canadian cruise guests who travel by air to embark in U.S. ports ARE required to have valid passports for all cruises. Foreign nationals should contact their cruise line to obtain details regarding current identification/ travel requirements.

- Alaska Rail requires a state-issued photo ID or driver's license for boarding. Passports are also accepted.

We're looking forward to hosting you!



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Gratuity Guidelines:

It is customary to tip your AAU guide \$20 per person / per day at the completion of your tour. Recommended guidelines are always at your discretion. It is customary to tip a flight seeing pilot, river guide, or Denali Park guide \$10 at completion of each activity.

Does Alaska take U.S. Currency?

Alaska is the 49th state in the U.S. We do take U.S. currency. Most local businesses honor two major credit cards: Visa and Mastercard. Limited businesses will accept American Express.

How much do meals cost?

It depends on where you eat and what you like. On average, meals can cost (per person):

Breakfast - \$6-\$12 | Lunch - \$10-\$15 | Dinner - \$23-\$40

We suggest bringing an average of \$35 - \$50 a day / per person for meals. We do include many meals on our tours, so this recommendation may be excessive.

Can I see the northern lights in the summer?

Usually not, because of the long hours of daylight in the summer here. To see the northern lights, it needs to be dark and clear out. The best time to see them is in the winter between November - March. However, our September Denali Fall Colors tours do present opportunities to see them, if the conditions are right.

Are Mt. Denali and Mt. McKinley the same thing?

Yes! Denali, the "High One," is the name Athabascan native people gave the massive peak that crowns the 600-mile-long Alaska Range. Denali is also the name of an immense national park and preserve created from the former Mt. McKinley National Park.

What is the time difference in Alaska?

4 hours behind the U.S. Eastern Time Zone 2 hours behind the U.S. Mountain Time Zone
3 hours behind the U.S. Central Time Zone 1 hour behind the U.S. Pacific Time Zone

Tidal Safety:

The tides of Cook Inlet have the second greatest tidal range in the world, with a maximum range approaching forty feet. While these tides are impressive to watch, they can also be very dangerous. DO NOT WALK OUT ONTO TIDAL FLATS.

Mosquitoes:

Jokingly referred to as Alaska's "state bird," mosquitoes are present from April to September, but they begin to die off in June and are about gone in July. AAU guests are usually surprised at how few mosquitoes we see on tour, but it is always wise to use good insect repellent (each vehicle has repellent). Most activities operate in open areas, minimizing any effects.