

Expedition Guides

Weather: We will e-mail you three days before your expedition begins with the most up-to-date weather and sea condition forecast.

Remember that some of the most dramatic lightings occur before and after storm periods. Unfortunately, we cannot predict what the weather will be like on your expedition. Weather predictions seem to be a bit tricky in SE Alaska as the forecast can change from day to day, and as we all know, a forecast is the best guess. We have come to rely on www.wunderground.com, and we use the Windy app for wind and sea forecasting. Statistically, in August, the highs average 62F and low temperatures average 49F. With half the days of the month experiencing rain. After all, we are exploring the Tongass, the largest temperate rainforest in the world.

KNOW YOUR CAMERA

The single best way to get the most from your expedition is to be comfortable with your camera.

Here are some camera proficiencies that will allow you to spend less time in the field struggling with settings possibly missing shots and more time capturing the amazing scenes as they unfold and improving your photography skills.

Practice these skills beforehand!

- ✓ Selecting the aperture, shutter speed, and ISO values in manual mode and use these dials fluently.
- ✓ Be able to use Aperture Priority and Shutter Priority modes, and also to adjust exposure compensation.
- ✓ Changing the number of focus points from multipoint to single point and know how to move it around the viewfinder and live view.
- ✓ Shifting the focus method from single shot to continuous, and from autofocus to manual focus.
- ✓ Displaying the live view histogram and or exposure metering in live view.
- ✓ How to display the electronic level/virtual horizon and gridlines in live view.
- ✓ Displaying the RGB histogram in image playback.
- ✓ For mirrorless cameras, turning on focus peaking.
- ✓ Finding and setting Auto ISO settings and options.
- ✓ Setting a 2, 5, or 10-second self-timer. It is handy to reduce camera shake if you don't have a remote trigger.
- ✓ Enabling auto-bracketing for 3, 5, or 7 exposures, with increments of 1–2 stops.
- ✓ For DSLR shooters, activating live view and easily zoom in for critical focus. If you only use live view, then also make sure you're comfortable with using the viewfinder.

GEAR AND PACKING

- ✓ Pack your gear so that your go-to lens is handy and ready to go. Consider storing that lens on the camera body.
- ✓ Make sure your lenses and sensors are clean.
- ✓ Check the recommended gear list for your expedition, talk to your pro, and ask questions so that you don't over or under pack.
- ✓ Ensure you have all cords, adapters, and other accessories that you'll need during the expedition. Consider bringing a small travel power strip (some of the lodge rooms have very few outlets).
- ✓ Pack all your lithium batteries in your carry-on bag so that you are complying with flight regulations. Consider using Lipo Safe Bags.
- ✓ Make sure to set the date and time of your cameras to local time.
- ✓ Set your camera so it will only fire with a memory card in the slot. You never know when you might forget to put the card back in the camera.
- ✓ Pack in soft-sided luggage. It packs into our vehicles and vessels better than hard plastic luggage.

CLOTHING AND WEATHER GEAR

Besides your camera backpack and luggage, you will want to bring a day bag for extra clothes, medications, sunscreen, and personal need items.

While you don't want to overpack, it's always good to understand that it will be colder, windier, and wetter than you expect. You will want to dress in layers. Temperatures on the water are generally 5-10 degrees below what is forecast. Rain pants are strongly recommended. Extra set of gloves in case the first gets wet.

Bring an extra pair of socks during each segment of the expedition as we will be spending time in tidepools, streams, and the muskeg.

Make sure your boots are properly fitted and broken in. Calf high waterproof boots are best. Ask us if you have any questions about your footwear.

WHAT TO BRING

Be sure to check the guide we send you before your expedition for updates to these lists.

These are a MUST!

- ✓ MEMORY CARDS

You'll want to have plenty of these—ideally enough that you won't have to format any while on the workshop. Don't forget a card reader!

✓ PLUG ADAPTERS

If you are traveling internationally, you will likely need adapters for your plugs.

✓ LENS CLEANING CLOTH

✓ CAMERA RAIN COVER

✓ BACKPACK

You'll want a comfortable camera backpack for carrying all of your gear.

✓ CAMERA MANUAL

Bring the manual for your camera! TIP: get the PDF and store it on your smartphone.

✓ BOOTS/SHOES

Sturdy, broken-in waterproof Calf High rubber soled boots.

✓ STURDY TRIPOD

A Tripod on the boat is not recommended; however, you may want one during our land portions. Be sure you also have adjustment tools, if needed.

✓ BALLHEAD AND CAMERA / LENS PLATES

You'll need ballhead plates for all of your various cameras and telephoto lenses (with collars), as well as the tools required to install and remove them.

✓ CAMERA STRAP(S)

✓ TWO CAMERA BODIES WHEN POSSIBLE

Brand does not matter. Why two? In case of accidental damage or electronic failure you will have a back-up. With an additional set-up ready to go you can quickly adjust if the action is at a different range than expected.

✓ BATTERIES

Bring plenty of batteries for your cameras and chargers as well. Our boat is equipped with USB outlets and 110 AC outlets. You may want to bring a power bank to recharge your batteries.

✓ LENSES

For most landscape and wildlife expeditions, a wide-angle zoom (16-35, 17-35, 17-40), a general-purpose zoom (like 24-70 or 24-105), and a medium telephoto zoom (like 70-200) are just perfect. Canon, Sony, and Fuji all make 100-400mm lenses that are great for wildlife. It's quite acceptable to use the Sigma or Tamron 150-600 lens as well.

RECOMMENDED: WE ALWAYS TRAVEL WITH THESE

✓ RAIN JACKET, BEANIE, NECK GAITER, GLOVES

You will need at least a light rain jacket, a beanie, a neck gaiter, and 2 pairs of gloves.

✓ WATERPROOF BOOTS OR OVERSHOES

Sometimes you want to stand in a tidepool or stream. We recommend a rubber boot that comes up to mid-calf. In Southeast Alaska, XtraTuff boots are a famous brand. Locals call them Sitka Sneakers.

✓ FILTERS

You may consider bringing a circular polarizer (for cutting reflections) and a few ND filters (for long exposures).

✓ SUNSCREEN, BUG REPELLENT

Because you never know.

✓ WIDE BRIM WATERPROOF HAT

To ward off the sun and helps you to see the camera LCD.

✓ SPECIALTY LENSES AND CAMERAS

You may want to bring macro, tilt-shift, extreme, and wide-angle lenses. Go Pros or similar action cameras.

✓ POCKET KNIFE / LEATHERMAN / RRS MULTI-TOOL

Be sure you don't carry it on the plane!

✓ SENSOR CLEANING SUPPLIES

Sensor cleaning swabs and fluid. Bulb blower.