

# Alaska

## Destination Guide

### PACKING REMINDERS

- All travel documents, identification, medications and prescriptions (including glasses), valuables, electronic devices, and charging cords should be in your carry-on bag, NOT in your checked luggage.
- Don't pack "his and hers" suitcases. Mix items for each person between all your checked bags.
- Liquids, gels, and powders in your carry-on luggage are restricted. Review the current TSA regulations at [TSA.gov/travel](https://www.tsa.gov/travel).
- Airline baggage fees may apply to checked and carry-on luggage. Visit your airline's website for pricing and details about baggage quantity, size, and weight. Please review the luggage policies for all parts of your trip, including motor coach tours, rail travel, and transfers.
- Use sturdy luggage that can withstand handling throughout the trip, and place identification tags on the outside and inside of all bags. Also include a copy of your travel itinerary inside each checked bag.

### CREDIT / DEBIT CARDS

- In addition to the purchase price applied to your card, hotels, cruise lines, and car rental companies may place a hold on an additional amount to cover potential additional charges. Holds may not be released until 5-10 business days after travel, and funds may not be available to use during that time.
- Debit cards—even those that offer a credit option—may NOT be accepted by some hotels or car rental companies.
- Advise your card company before you travel, otherwise out-of-state purchases may be flagged as fraudulent activity.
- If you will travel into Canada, be aware of potential fees charged for foreign transactions or currency conversion.

### RENTAL CARS

**LOCATIONS** – Rental cars are available in a variety of locations, including airports, hotels, and local agencies in smaller towns. One-way rentals are often available, but at an extra cost.

**ROAD RESTRICTIONS** – Many rental companies will not allow their vehicles to be driven on non-paved roads, including gravel highways. Carefully follow the guidelines in your rental agreement.

**SAFETY TIPS** – Beware of large wildlife, such as caribou or moose, in the roadway. Gas stations may be farther apart in remote areas, so fill the tank at each opportunity.

### OTHER TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

**PRE-BOOKED TRANSFERS, TOURS, AND SHUTTLES** – Follow the instructions in your travel documents for pre-booked transportation.

**AIR TAXIS, HELICOPTERS, AND FLIGHTSEEING** – Smaller aircraft will have stricter luggage restrictions and travel may be affected by weather. Due to weight and balance requirements, flight operators may ask for the weight of each passenger. Some flights may set passenger weight limits for safety reasons.

### CELL PHONES

Most major US providers offer service in Alaska, but reception may be limited in remote areas. Ask your carrier about coverage and fees for service in Canada.

## CLOTHING AND GEAR

Alaska's average high temperatures from spring to early fall range from 50°–70° F, but conditions can change quickly. Be prepared for sun, rain, and wind—often in the same day—and pack appropriately for your planned activities.

**LAYERS** – Dressing in layers allows you to adjust based on weather changes. Your best bet is a thin base layer in a moisture-wicking material, a slightly looser middle layer in a warmer material, and a breathable but wind- and water-resistant outer layer.

**PROPER FOOTWEAR** – Lightweight hiking shoes or boots with good traction are recommended, and don't forget to break them in before your trip. Socks in a non-cotton material help keep your feet warm and dry, and bring an extra pair in your daypack to swap in case your feet get wet.

**ACCESSORIES** – Add a wide-brimmed hat, a thin pair of gloves, a lightweight scarf, sunglasses, and a fold-up umbrella, and you'll stay comfortable in almost any conditions.

**EXTRAS** – Other useful items include binoculars, extra memory cards and a waterproof case for your camera, collapsible trekking poles, and small first aid kit. Specialty equipment may be provided by your tour operator or available for rent locally, saving room in your luggage.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

**MOTION SICKNESS** – Alaska's roads, railways, and seas can cause motion sickness. Pack your preferred motion sickness medication and take it at least a half hour before travel begins. Try to sit facing forward in any vehicle, avoid getting overheated, and don't ride on an empty stomach. Ginger or mint gum may also help.

**INSECTS** – Avoid bites by wearing light-colored clothing that covers your arms and legs. Consider using an insect repellent with DEET and apply it regularly.

**WILDLIFE** – Alaska's amazing wildlife is exciting, but can be dangerous without the proper precautions. Always remain aware of your surroundings, follow all directions from your guide and on posted signs, and maintain an appropriate distance from wildlife. Do not get between a mother and her young. Never attempt to touch or feed animals in the wild.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR TRAVELERS TO CANADA

Individual travelers are responsible for complying with all documentation and entry requirements for travel, and for any penalties that result from denied boarding or refused entry. Review current travel requirements at [Travel.State.gov](https://www.travel.state.gov).

PLEASE NOTE THAT SOME TRAVEL LIMITATIONS MAY APPLY EVEN IF YOU ARE IN POSSESSION OF A VALID PASSPORT. These circumstances may include, but are not limited to:

- \* A minor traveling without parents, or with only one parent
- \* Pregnancy
- \* Active military service
- \* DUI/DWI conviction
- \* Child support or other legal issues
- \* Criminal history

*Please advise your Travel Specialist if you have any concerns about your travel plans.*