

Equipment CHECKLIST:

Clothing. People are always asking us what to bring. The main thing to keep in mind with the weather here in Haines, is that it can change drastically. Temperatures are often unpredictable. However, one thing is fairly certain — IT WILL BE COLD! Just how cold is anyone's guess. The best strategy is to dress in layers. Wear warmer clothing in the mornings, then as the day warms up, remove layers as required. We highly recommend polypropylene or Capilene® undergarments. Nothing can beat the warmth of a down-filled parka with hood. When it's really cold, a wool balaclava pulled down over your face feels great. During the month of November, we can see temperatures from 0F to 30F, and outside of that range. Be prepared as we will spend the majority of the day outside. Take a moment and review the Haines general info document to be a little more familiar with the typical weather.

Rain gear. Rain is not uncommon along coastal areas in Alaska. Goretex® will keep you dry when snow turns to rain. The best advice one can give — be prepared. And, don't forget some type of moisture protection for your equipment.

Footwear. There are many different brands out there that will provide you with the appropriate footwear. You should be looking at something that will provide you with protection down to -20 at a minimum. Even though it is a rare event to get that cold here, it has happened. Make sure you select a good pair of socks and have plenty of extras. You will want to have a fresh pair for each day.

Gloves and mittens. In cold weather, a pair of fingerless wool gloves over nylon liners will keep hands warm while allowing enough dexterity for operating a camera. A pair of loose fitting wool mittens easily fit over the fingerless gloves and liners. When it's time to take pictures, the mittens can be removed in a split-second. Hand warmers are also a great thing to have. I usually have one in each of my coat pockets so that I can slip my hands into it between shots.

Hat. Good for protecting the body against rain and snow.

Photography equipment A good sturdy tripod is a MUST when using bigger lenses. Don't skimp when purchasing a tripod. In general, bring all of your equipment. As sure as you leave something behind, you'll wish you had it with you. Wide angle lens are useful when photographing the landscape. Flash is often helpful in removing harsh, mid-day shadows and illuminating subjects in the shade. As for back-up, an extra camera body is always good insurance. Most participants use photo backpacks or a vest for carrying their equipment. It's also a good idea to bring along your camera manual. A remote trigger will be handy for photography the action of the eagles fighting for a fish, and make sure you have a good rain jacket for your camera and lens. Some of the best images of the eagle are captured while the snow is flying and you don't want to be sitting out of this action.

Digital shooters. The best advice we can give when using digital equipment is BACK-UP, BACK-UP, BACK-UP. In addition, bring plenty of batteries, flash cards, and ample facilities for media storage as well as your battery chargers. A laptop is a big plus. Bring an extra large garbage bag that your camera will fit in, to help moving it from the cold, to the indoors to avoid moisture in the camera.

Know Your Equipment. Knowing how your camera functions will eliminate headaches for both you, and your workshop leader. It's particularly important to understand your camera's metering system and its various priority modes (manual, aperture, shutter, auto, etc.). We will discuss many different ways to use the setting on your camera, and if you know how to work around the menus, you will spend more time capturing gorgeous images. ALWAYS CARRY YOUR CAMERA MANUAL WITH YOU.

Film Users. Bring plenty of film. Keep in mind, when selecting the ISO, clouds/overcast can be an issue here and change your lighting conditions quickly.

Binoculars: A good pair of binoculars can be a great asset when attempting to locate birds.

Eyeglasses and contact lenses. A spare pair of prescription eyeglasses or contact lenses is great insurance if something happens to your regular pair.

Flashlight. A Mini-Maglight is great when digging out photo equipment before sunrise.

Basic first aid kit. Include a few items such as Band-Aids™ and antiseptic ointments.

Sewing kit. As sure as you find yourself in the back country, you'll rip your shirt or trousers, or find it necessary to replace a button. Besides, it's good to have a sewing needle along for those times when it becomes necessary to remove an unwanted splinter or thorn.

Medicine. Don't forget to bring prescribed medications, as well as medicine for upset stomachs, headaches, etc. If you're like us, you may want something to take when you eat too much.

Notebook and pencils. Great for recording photo data, as well as making notes about places visited.

Backpack. Carry all your extra backup clothing. We can have quick weather changes here in SE Alaska. It is always best to have extra protection. It can go from snow to rain in a matter of minutes.

Hand and Foot Warmers. They are very good for doing what they were intended for, but they also work great to help keep your batteries warm on your camera. These can be purchased here locally and we can show you how to put them to use. The warmers with a sticky side are our favorite and will help protect your batteries against the cold which will diminish battery life.

The Ten Commandments of Photo Workshop Ethics

- I. *Thou shalt not smoke in vehicles while on tour.*
- II. *Thou shalt not disturb wildlife, including doing anything to attract an animal's attention.*
- III. *Thou shalt not discard litter of any kind.*
- IV. *Thou shalt not collect objects from national parks and wildlife refuges, including feathers, bones, and antlers.*
- V. *Thou shalt avoid abrupt movements and loud talking in the presence of wildlife.*
- VI. *Thou shalt avoid leaving the proximity of the group for the purpose of getting closer to wildlife.*
- VII. *Thou shalt stay with your group at all times.*
- VIII. *Thou shalt be sensitive to the needs and interests of everyone on the tour.*
- IX. *Thou shalt be on time for all events.*
- X. *Thou shalt not take anything too seriously. A carefree mind is the essence of fun for all.*
- XI. *Thou shalt be positive and encouraging to your fellow students when critiquing.*