



SKI BASECAMP EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT LIST

MULTI-DAY TRIPS

The following is a complete list of personal equipment required for any of our Ski Basecamp Expeditions. We do make some recommendations for particular brands or items, but if you are unsure of any items you own or intend to purchase, please contact us.

We highly recommend that you bring as much of your own gear as possible so you can practice with it or break in your own gear for future use. If you want to invest in a piece of gear but aren't sure what's right for you, consider renting from us for this trip to learn more and practice with it before purchasing.

If you need to purchase items on this list, please make those purchases well in advance. While Anchorage has quality gear shops, consider them only as a backup for emergencies or last-minute items (unless you are from Alaska), as they may not have the item you need in stock. **There are no gear stores in McCarthy.**

Rentals: We have a limited supply of rental equipment available. Please make arrangements with us in advance.



SKI EQUIPMENT

Included with your trip are a set of crampons for you to use as well as ropes for the full team.

- **SKIS WITH TOURING BINDINGS:** AT, telemark, or split board - your setup needs to be suitable for uphill travel and downhill skiing. Leashes are required for glacier travel.
- **BOOTS:** Touring or telemark - they must have a full-range "walk" mode. Regular alpine ski boots will not work.
- **POLES:** Adjustable poles with powder baskets (ex. Black Diamond Traverse).
- **SKINS:** Fit to your skis (ex. Black Diamond Mohair Mix).
- **SKI CRAMPONS:** Compatible with your bindings.
- **(2) SKI STRAPS:** Orange rubber Voile straps work great.



AVALANCHE SAFETY GEAR

- **TRANSCIEVER:** Modern, single frequency [457 khz] transceiver, preferably less than five years old. A digital 3-antennae model is required (ex: BCA Tracker 3, Mammut Pulse Barryvox, Peips DSP).
- **SHOVEL:** Lightweight avalanche shovel with a metal blade. Extendable handle is recommended. (ex. Black Diamond Transfer 3, VoileTelepack).
- **PROBE:** A Dedicated probe - ski pole probes are not sufficient. (ex. Black Diamond Quickdraw Tour Probe 280, Ortovox 240 HD PFA).



TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT

- **ICE AXE:** Lightweight 55-70cm mountaineering axe recommended (ex: Black Diamond Raven).
- **BOOT CRAMPONS:** 10- or 12-point mountaineering crampon, steel is preferred (ex: Grivel G10).
- **HARNESS:** Lightweight alpine harness with adjustable leg loops (ex: Black Diamond Couloir). Your harness needs to be less than 10 years old and in good condition.
- **(2) LOCKING CARABINERS:** Pear-shaped biners are recommended (Petzl Attache).
- **(3) NON-LOCKING CARABINERS:** Wire gate biners are recommended (Black Diamond Oz).
- **(2) CORDETTES:** 6mm or 7mm nylon static cord, one 15-20' in length (5-6m), and 30' in length (9-10m).
- **EXTRA RIGGING:** 5mm cord, 30' in length (9-10m).
- **CLIMBING OR SKIING HELMET:** Required for ski mountaineering programs.

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MULTI-DAY TRIPS

+ PACKS + BAGS

- **LARGE DUFFEL BAG:** 110 liters+, used primarily for transporting your personal equipment (ex: Patagonia Black Hole Duffel).
- **DAY PACK:** 30 to 40 liters, should have some sort of ski attachment system (A-frame, vertical, diagonal, etc). Optional: Avalung or airbag pack.
- **OVERNIGHT PACK:** 60-90 liter internal frame pack. (Ask your guide if you need this for your trip.)
- **SLEEPING BAG:** Down or synthetic, rated to 0° F. Keep in mind that not all bags are created equal, and manufacture's ratings tend to be subjective. Take into consideration how warm you sleep, and feel free to err 10° on either side of 0.
- **INFLATABLE PAD:** Full length (ex: Thermarest Prolite Plus).
- **CLOSED CELL FOAM SLEEPING PAD:** Full or 3/4 length (ex: Cascade Designs Ridgerest).

+ HEAD + HANDS

- **SUNGLASSES:** Glacier glasses or dark tinted wrap-arounds - they should have full UV protection. Bring an extra pair as a backup.
- **GOGGLES:** Preferably with low-light lenses (amber or rose) and UV protection.
- **WARM HAT:** Fleece, wool or synthetic beanie.
- **SUN HAT:** Baseball cap, visor, etc.
- **FACE PROTECTION:** A neck gaiter (ex. Buff Merino Wool) is very versatile, providing protection from the sun, cold, and wind. Other options include a neck gator or balaclava.
- **LIGHT GLOVE:** Fleece, softshell, or synthetic liner glove.
- **SKI GLOVE:** These should be wind and water-resistant winter gloves.
- **EXTRA GLOVES:** Bring another pair either as a backup for wet gloves or a heavier, warmer pair.

+ UPPER BODY

There are many possible layering combinations for your upper body. The goal is simply to have a system that is functional in a wide range of weather conditions, from extreme cold to intense heat, strong wind, heavy rain and snow...or beautiful sunny weather.

- **SUN SHIRT:** Short or long-sleeved, light synthetic fabric (ex: Patagonia Sun Hoody or Mountain Hardwear Canyon Shirt).
- **BASELAYER TOP:** Light to medium weight synthetic fabric, long-sleeved (ex: Patagonia Capiline 1 or 2 or Merino Wool).
- **LIGHTWEIGHT INSULATING LAYER:** Light fleece or synthetic layer (ex: Patagonia R1 Hoody).
- **SOFTSHELL OR FLEECE JACKET:** Great outer layer for cold or windy conditions (ex: Patagonia Ascensionist Jacket).
- **LIGHTWEIGHT DOWN OR SYNTHETIC INSULATED JACKET (OPTIONAL):** Lightweight and compressible (ex. Patagonia Nano Puff or Black Diamond Stance Belay Jacket).
- **SHELL JACKET WITH HOOD:** Gore-tex or equivalent waterproof fabric.
- **INSULATED PARKA:** Down or synthetic with a hood (ex: Patagonia DAS Parka).

SKI BASECAMP EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT LIST

+ LOWER BODY + FEET

- **BASELAYER BOTTOMS:** Medium weight (Patagonia Capiline 2 or Merino Wool).
- **SOFTSHELL PANT:** Comfortable for touring, climbing, and skiing in all day. Breathability is more important than weather protection, built-in gaiters are a plus (ex: Patagonia Backcountry Guide Pant).
- **HARDSHELL PANT:** For adverse weather. These should have full side zips (ex: First Ascent Rainier Storm Shell).
- **INSULATED PANTS (OPTIONAL):** A nice luxury item for wearing around camp (ex: Mountain Hardware Compressor PL Pant).
- **SOCKS:** Bring at least four pairs of socks (wool or synthetic) that work well with your ski boots. Keep in mind that warmth comes from good circulation, not heavy socks. Your ski boot liners provide plenty of insulation.
- **CAMP BOOTIES OR SNOW BOOTS:** Give your feet a break from ski boots when hanging around camp (ex: Forty Below
Camp Booties or Sorrels).

+ REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- **MESS KIT:** A cup, bowl, and spoon. This doesn't have to be fancy, and even Tupperware will do!
- **PERSONAL TOILETRY KIT:** Toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, q-tips, a small bottle of hand sanitizer, baby wipes, and menstrual items. Your guides will set up a latrine at your camp and stock with toilet paper.
- **PERSONAL FIRST AID KIT:** Band-Aids, blister repair, anti-diarrheal (Imodium), antacid, ibuprofen or aspirin, any personal prescription medications (please discuss these with us prior to the trip). Your guides will come prepared with a well-equipped group first aid kit for dealing with bigger issues.
- **SUNSCREEN/BLOCK** - Even on an overcast day, the sun can be surprisingly persistent and sunscreen becomes especially important when you live on the white and super reflective snow. It will burn the bottom of your nose and chin! Sunscreen with Zinc works especially well. Consider a stick-form, instead of a lotion, to more easily reapply with gloves on.
- **CHAPSTICK/LIP BALM** - With SPF protection.
- **WATER BOTTLE(S) + INSULATORS:** We'll provide you with a 16oz souvineer Nalgene and we recommend supplementing it with one 32oz wide-mouth bottle. An insulated cover with a lid such as those offered by Outdoor Research is recommended for at least one bottle to keep it from freezing.
- **CAMERA:** Bring a good one, especially with a wide-angle lens. Don't forget extra batteries and extra memory cards for all the pictures you'll take!
- **KNIFE:** The Swiss Army knife is the old standby, although the new multi-tools are acceptable, as long as they have a knife. Keep it simple and small.
- **HEADLAMP:** Small LED headlamp recommended (ex: Petzl Tikka) - headlamps are only required in August and September.

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+ OPTIONAL ITEMS

- **REPAIR KIT:** KIT: We strongly suggest carrying a small repair kit with items specific to your ski or split-board equipment. Extra binding parts (including mounting screws), an extra tip loop for your skins, an extra pole basket, etc. Other great MacGyver items are bailing wire, zip ties, and duct tape.
- **SKI AND/OR SKIN WAX:** Your guides can tune your skis before you head out into the backcountry, but it's always nice to bring some extra wax along. Skin wax is great to prevent warm summer snow from glomping up on your skins during travel.
- **HAND/TOE WARMERS:** Chemical hand and toe warmers can help your appendages on a cold day.
- **WATCH:** Consider an altimeter watch to track elevation and make weather predictions.
- **EYE MASK + EAR PLUGS:** There are no black-out blinds on our tents, so if you think you might have trouble sleeping under the midnight sun or next to a noisy tent mate, consider an eye mask and ear plugs to assist.
- **THERMOS:** Consider a 16oz thermos for additional warmth throughout the day or at camp (Thermos, Hydroflask)
- **STUFF SACKS:** Optional according to preference, but very handy. Bring an assortment of sizes for separating different clothing items. We strongly recommend that you keep your clothing, sleeping bag, and anything else you don't want to get wet in waterproof stuff sacks. A large trash compactor bag (with a couple of backups) can be used to line the entire inside of your pack for a cheap alternative.
- **PEE BOTTLE OR URINATION DEVICE:** A designated (and well-marked!) bottle can save you a trip in the middle of the night. Women might consider a wide-mouth Nalgene or a female urination device such as an EllaPee or a Freshette can be helpful when wearing a harness. If considering such a device, look for something with a longer hose, and regardless of your anatomy, if planning on using a pee bottle, practice in the shower first!
- **BOOK:** Bring something to read just before dozing off or for rest days. Small, light paperbacks are best but if you're careful an e-reader will work well too!
- **JOURNAL + PENCIL:** Bring a notebook and writing utensil to take notes - Rite In The Rain makes waterproof notebooks of different formats.
- **BINOCULARS:** Nice to have for animal sightings and views of the distant peaks.
- **COMPASS:** An option for you (not for us!), but if you don't know how to use one, here's a great chance to learn! A compass such as the Silva Ranger with compensation for declination is very handy.



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MULTI-DAY TRIPS

+ GROUP EQUIPMENT

- **TENTS** - We will provide tents for you or you can bring your own. If you plan to use our tents, be aware that you will likely be paired up with another group participant. If you'd like to bring your own tent, it needs to be a 4-season tent with a vestibule (ex. Mountain Hardwear Trango II). We will also be bringing a cook tent (Black Diamond Mega Mid) as an additional shelter for mealtimes or "indoor classroom" experiences.
- **FOOD** - We supply all the food on our multi-day trips and most of it will already be prepacked when you arrive. You will be given the chance to pick out snacks for yourself during orientation and you'll want these easily accessible during the day. Depending on the length of your trip you can expect to fill a half-full gallon zip lock bag with snacks.
- **COOKING EQUIPMENT + FUEL**- We'll bring everything we need for cooking delicious meals in the backcountry. We'll use lightweight gear and pack just enough fuel to last the trip (plus extra for emergencies).
- **TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT**- We will be supplying ropes, snow pickets, ice screws and any other group technical equipment we need for this trip.
- **TOILET SUPPLIES** - Your guides will dig out a latrine in the backcountry and stock it with toilet paper for you to use. You may choose to bring additional wet wipes if you want to.
- **SAT PHONE/INREACH** - Your guide will have a satellite communication device for coordinating bush flights and to use in emergencies. You do not need to bring your own emergency location device but can if you want to. We highly encourage you to disconnect as much as possible when you're out in the backcountry and often find that folks underestimate the strong tether they feel to the outside world when they know they can or are expected to send a daily text to their friends back home.

Your guide will go over all your gear with you during orientation but if you have any questions while planning and packing, please don't hesitate to reach out!