



Hope COLLEGE

GLOBAL TRAVEL PROGRAM

***Packing List for
Alaska's Glacier Bay & Inside Passage***

August 28 – September 8, 2021

Weather:

The weather in Alaska can be highly variable. Travelers need to be prepared for just about every type of weather. In late August and early September, the average amount of rainfall in the Inside Passage area of Alaska is about 5 inches for the month. The average high temperature is around 62 degrees and the low will be approximately 40 degrees. However, weather is just that – weather. You need to pack for sun, wind, cold and warm temperatures, rain and even snow.

The Boat:

The M/C Sea Wolf is a World War II Navy Mine Sweeper. It is a wooden hull boat that has been significantly modified to serve as private tour vessel, with ample outdoor viewing areas around the entire boat. The bow and upper deck areas have plenty of room for people to stand and watch for the abundant marine wildlife, glaciers, mountain landscape and the many birds that inhabit the region. If we are lucky, it might even serve as a great viewing area for bears, wolves, moose and other large mammals that roam the shoreline. Standing on the deck of the boat while it is moving can be quite cool. The water in this region never gets too far above 40 degrees. The dining area and living room area are common spaces for guests to hangout. These areas have heaters and generally are warm and comfortable spaces. There are 6 guest cabins on the boat. They are quite small in nature and include a private sink, shower and toilet. Beds are in a bunk format with the top bunk only standing around 50" high with easy to use ladders. Each cabin has its own heating system as well. However, at 10pm the boat typically powers down for the evening. This is to reduce the impacts of the boat generator and engine systems running all evening which can be disruptive to the National park wildlife. Beds are equipped with very nice down comforters and the overall comfort in your cabin will not be an issue. You should dress for what is best for you – both during the day and while sleeping.

What to pack:

Our number one piece of advice for you is to prepare to dress in layers.

Clothes that can dry quickly are recommended.

https://www.amazon.com/s?k=quick+dry+clothing+for+hiking&ref=nb_sb_noss

A rain suit is a must have. Most travelers will find that they wear the rain suit every day as their outer layer. It not only can keep you dry if it is raining, but it also can serve a great wind block layer. Make sure this is a good

quality rain suit. Most of Southeast Alaska is a Temperate Rainforest. The rain suit is a good layer to have on while kayaking as well.

https://www.amazon.com/s?k=Marmot+rain+suit+for+hiking&ref=nb_sb_noss

Long-underwear or some form of base layer is a great layer of clothing to start with.

https://www.amazon.com/s?k=base+layer+for+hiking&ref=nb_sb_noss_2

A warm jacket is highly encouraged. I would avoid a large puffy jacket. You may need to put a rain jacket over the top of it. We must wear a life jacket when kayaking and riding the skiff to shore. So, layers of clothing that provides wind and water resistance plus warmth is key.

https://www.amazon.com/s?k=Hiking+Jacket&ref=nb_sb_noss_2

Having a mix of fleece and long-sleeve shirt options that can be layered with your jacket and/or rain gear is the best way to handle changing weather conditions

https://www.amazon.com/s?k=fleece+jacket+for+hiking&ref=nb_sb_noss_1

Warm hat and gloves

Sun hat if desired

Sunglasses – this will be important for sunny days, helping to limit the reflection off the water

Some people really appreciate having neoprene gloves/waterproof gloves for kayaking. You can get wet hands doing this and the water is cold. Mix in some rain or wind and you will want to cover your hands up.

https://www.amazon.com/s?k=Neoprene+gloves&ref=nb_sb_noss

Warm socks, or layers of socks are recommended. This will help with both warmth and can protect your feet while taking hikes

Hiking shoes/boots will be an important item to have. We will not be doing any extreme hiking, but we will take hikes that could range from 1-2 miles along rocky beaches, through forests, and varying types of terrain. Gortex footwear can be helpful to keep your feet dry.

https://www.amazon.com/Merrell-Womens-Moab-Hiking-Sedona/dp/B01HFJZX00/ref=sr_1_5?dchild=1&keywords=merrell+goretex+hiking+boots&qid=1604506221&sr=8-5

https://www.amazon.com/Merrell-Mens-Moab-Hiking-Walnut/dp/B01HFJYTPU/ref=pd_sbs_309_1/133-3952233-9728944?encoding=UTF8&pd_rd_i=B01HF9ZND&pd_rd_r=5bb43085-24bf-4306-8bbb-8895cdbae1ce&pd_rd_w=oye9p&pd_rd_wg=rVQjZ&pf_rd_p=ed1e2146-ecfe-435e-b3b5-d79fa072fd58&pf_rd_r=E4Y0DE1MVY7YBK7WWCM5&pvc=1&refRID=E4Y0DE1MVY7YBK7WWCM5

Boat shoes will also be helpful to have. This could be any shoe you are comfortable wearing around the boat and they preferably have rubber soles to help with traction on the boat (tennis shoes, slip on mocs, or any comfortable and stable shoe works well). I would recommend a tennis shoe or something you are comfortable wearing in an everyday situation.

Sleep-wear – remember the heat goes off at night.

A variety of t-shirts and long-sleeve shirts can help you layer for temps

Boat clothes & Evening wear – at approximately 5pm each day we will be done with our adventures. Dressing to be comfortable on the boat should be your goal. No need to dress up. Feel free to wear the same thing repeatedly in the evening. No one will judge!

We will be spending one night in Gustavus, the National Park Headquarters, and then a night in Juneau at the end of the trip. We will go out to dinner and explore the town a bit. Again, no need to be dressed up for this but be prepared.

Camera with batteries and memory cards! The type of camera you bring depends on your interests and skill level. One of Travis Williams' hobbies is wildlife photography. He will take pictures throughout the trip and share all of them with the group. If you would like advice on camera gear, please reach out to Travis and will be happy to help you figure out what to bring. Cell phones can serve many of your photography needs. Especially if you are looking to capture video of a calving glacier or feeding whales. Cell phones can work well for landscape shots as well.

Binoculars are available on the boat. However, they will not have enough for everyone. So, if you like viewing birds and wildlife through binoculars you should plan on bringing your own. If you are not big on binocular use, don't purchase them just for this trip. You can always borrow/share a pair. If you are purchasing binoculars, I recommend Nikon Brand. They have both economical options and higher end options. You want them to be fog proof, waterproof and at least 8x42 in magnification. 10x42 is also a good option. Binoculars with smaller magnification are generally not helpful. If your binoculars are too big it can be hard to steady them and keep them focused. Travis will bring a spotting scope that everyone can look through if there is a far-off animal to view.

https://www.amazon.com/s?k=Nikon+Monarch+Binoculars&ref=nb_sb_noss_2

Headlamp and/or flashlight – when the boat powers down at night you may want a light. People often read, play cards, or need to find their way around in the dark. Cell phones do have a flashlight that will work fine if you are comfortable with that. Headlamps are nice so you can be hands-free.

https://www.amazon.com/s?k=Headlamp&ref=nb_sb_noss_2

Bug repellent may be a good thing to have. If it is still warmer summer weather when we are there the flies and mosquitoes can be heavy in areas. I recommend getting Ultrathon. It is a 3M product and it is very effective. It comes in a small tube and a little goes a long way!

https://www.amazon.com/3M-Ultrathon-Insect-Repellent-2-Ounce/dp/B004LA5SUC/ref=sr_1_5?crd=1BS2VLAK0IWIM&dchild=1&keywords=ultrathon+insect+repellent&qid=1604506540&sprefix=Ultrathon+insec%2Caps%2C159&sr=8-5

Sunscreen

Water bottle or Yeti (this is optional) – you will have a coffee mug with your name on it on the boat. They will wash them regularly throughout the day. Coffee, hot water for tea and cocoa, and water are always available.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner will have other drink options. After 5pm you are allowed to drink the complementary beer and wine on the boat.

Hiking stick (if needed). Collapsible is best – that way you can carry them in a backpack.

https://www.amazon.com/s?k=hiking+stick+collapsible&crd=1CJ6757MRZVD5&sprefix=hiking+stick+collapsible%2C156&ref=nb_sb_ss_ts-ap-p_1_18

Backpack or some sort of small bag that you would to carry on a hike (this is ideal for storing/carrying rain gear, binoculars, camera, etc.) We recommend a bag that is waterproof or water resistant. You may choose to have one shared backpack if you are traveling with a partner.

https://www.amazon.com/s?k=osprey+daypack&ref=nb_sb_noss_1

Bring baggies to provide water protection. You can put your camera, phone or other things in the baggies to keep them dry if it is raining.

Electronics – cables, cords, batteries, etc. The boat has standard 110 outlets, but there are not an abundance of plugs in your room. If you have a lot of things to plug in, I recommend a small extension cord with multiple plugs. The boat mostly has 2 prong outlets.

https://www.amazon.com/Cable-Matters-2-Pack-Extension-Outlet/dp/B01MTYL3HS/ref=sr_1_6?dchild=1&keywords=Small+extension+cord&qid=1604506906&sr=8-6

Personal items, toiletries, medications, etc.

Spending money – you will have a chance to spend money in Juneau and potentially at a destination port along the way. Most places will take credit cards. You may want a small to moderate amount of cash for any unique expenditures. For example, the boat often has some things for sale on it. They do not take credit card on the boat. This is completely up to you.

Boots, Life Jackets, Towels, and Bedding:

The sea wolf will provide you with a pair of Neos. These are waterproof, calf-length soft boots that fit over your hiking shoes. These are critical because we will have several “wet landings” where the skiff cannot get all the way on shore and you might need to step into ankle deep water when going to shore. You can take your Neos off while hiking and then put them back on before returning. We will often leave life jackets, boots and non-essential gear laying on the beach while we explore. You may bring your own Neos or boots if you want. Just remember they add bulk to your packing.

https://www.amazon.com/s?k=Neos&ref=nb_sb_noss_2

The boat will provide you a life jacket. You will be required to put this on every time we the leave the boat for kayaking and to take the skiff to shore.

The Boat carries 12 kayaks. They are mostly double kayaks. This will allow you and your roommate to kayak together. You will be given a spray skirt to wear while kayaking. This helps keep the water off of you. The crew will be very helpful in teaching you how to kayak. This will be one of the highlights of the trip.

Each room will come complete with all the bedding, pillows, bath towels and hand towels you will need. The crew can provide more if needed.

Luggage and Travel:

Given the nature of our travel we suggest you pack as lightly as possible (yet bringing the essentials) using a soft-sided duffle type luggage. The boat cabins are small so having multiple, big and ridged sided bags is not ideal. If you have a soft sided duffle you can more easily store it in your room. They will let you store a bag below deck on the boat, but you will not have easy access to it when needed. We have to take a smaller private plane from Juneau to Gustavus. They prefer minimal gear if possible. No real weight restrictions beyond the normal 50lbs limit from the airlines. Just remember we are going to be carrying luggage and using lots of various transportation methods.

https://www.amazon.com/s?k=Osprey+duffle&ref=nb_sb_noss_2

Laundry:

The boat does have a washer and dryer onboard. However, they prefer not to use it unless absolutely necessary. The boat will attempt to conserve water during the trip because it has to carry all the freshwater for cooking, bathing, etc. If we need to use the washer and dryer, they generally would ask that we combine items together to minimize loads. You may also bring travel laundry soap and wash out smaller items in the sink or shower and hang them to dry. They will offer to hang wet clothes in the engine room (which is quite warm!) to help them dry out (this works very well).

WiFi and Internet:

You will not have any internet on the boat. You should plan on not having any internet services for most of the trip. Occasionally a cell phone signal can be received when we are near a more developed community. But this will be minimal! The boat does have a satellite phone and is equipped with all the necessary emergency gear, transponders, etc.

Journal/Notebook:

This is not required, but you may want to have something to journal about the trip, destinations, etc.

General comments on where to buy and what to buy:

This packing list will be submitted to the Outpost in Holland. They are a supporter of the Outdoor Discovery Center and are willing to help you find the right gear. They are a good, local source for many of the items on this list. However, you may find these items on Amazon, at Cabela's, Dicks, or any other outdoor clothing provider. The links shared above are not to suggest you need that very item or brand, rather something like that. North Face, Patagonia, Merrell, Marmot, Columbia, LL Bean, and similar outdoor brands are generally best to purchase. They are typically of the highest quality and designed for hiking in all weather. They also tend to make gear that is designed to be warm, dry and not bulky.

Travis Williams has traveled aboard the Sea Wolf numerous times over the past decade. If you have any questions on gear and what to bring please feel free to reach out to him. He can be reached at 616-368-2907 or travis@outdoordiscovery.org.