

## **DIY Alaska Hunting Packing List**

*\*\*\*This will change for different types of hunts and is written with commercial air from the lower 48 in mind, when you get to Alaska you'll repack at least twice before you fly out\*\*\**

### **Worn**

- O Hunting Pants
- O Hunting Shirt
- O Phone
- O Wallet
- O Hunting boots
- O Sunglasses
- O Hunting hat
- O Hunting jacket

\* Weight is key to this, so bringing a bunch of "civilian" non-hunting clothes is problematic

### **Personal Bag (Carry-on)**

- O Down vest
- O Book
- O Reading glasses
- O Headphones
- O Baby wipes

### **Hunting Pack (AKA carry-on) 27lbs**

*\*\*\* Don't be fooled by people on TV or YouTube, who have multiple hunters, guides and camera crews on their trip that share the load. Famous people will often use a super lightweight pack because they have help. People like us might have to carry 100+ pounds on our own, so you'll need something stout. If I didn't have to fly commercial to Alaska, meaning my pack is my carry-on bag, I would have a Frontier Gear of Alaska frame pack, 90% of the guides I know in Alaska run them. You could carry a friend with a broken leg out on one of those things. Instead I run a Mystery Ranch Marshall. Kifaru is another good choice. Just be careful of playing the ultralight game with your actual pack. And any pack that "moves with you" might move too much to one side whilst you're negotiating a very steep climb or descent and cause you to lose your balance. If you're carrying 90lbs or more in the pack (which is more than 50% my*

*bodyweight) it can get very dangerous. I've been there done that with an expensive "moves with you" ultralight pack and I don't recommend it.\*\*\**

- O Pack
- O Firestarter (cotton balls in Vaseline in old dip tins)
- O Flint and Steel
- O Foil
- O Water purification tabs
- O Knife sharpener
- O Ear plugs
- O Flashlight
- O Mosquito net
- O Water filter + dirty & clean bags
- O Binos
- O Sleeping bag liner
- O Stocking cap
- O Electrical Tape
- O Wind checker bottles
- O Bino cover
- O Small tarp (extra tent fly and emergency shelter)
- O Thermocell
- O Hygiene kit
- O Pack cover
- O ball cap
- O Wicking T shirt
- O Gloves
- O Socks (2)
- O Underwear (2)
- O Neck gaiter
- O Wicking long john top

- O Wicking long john bottom
- O Extra Hunting pants (2<sup>nd</sup> pair, 1<sup>st</sup> pair worn)
- O Extra Hunting shirt
- O Rope
- O 550/para cord
- O Panty hose footy type (2)
- O Long handled ultralight spoon
- O Compass
- O First Aid Kit
- O Electronics Kit
- O Ultralight stool (this thing is money, sitting on the ground for days on end sucks)

### Duffle (Checked Bag #1 – 48.5lbs)

- O Down Jacket
- O Down Pants
- O Overwhites (I brought these for hunting mountain goats, really it was a dust suit, ultralight white material that contractors wear when putting in insulation, all other overwhites were heavy and costly for a one time use)
- O Sleeping bag (temperature rating is up to you based on how hot/cold you sleep)
- O Foam sleeping pad
- O Inflatable sleeping pad (seems redundant to have 2, but without a foam pad under your inflatable pad the inflatable pad will “shrink” overnight and seem worthless it has to do with cold air in the pad is more dense and you’ll believe your inflatable pad has a leak, when it is just the air inside getting colder and “smaller” – solution is to put a foam pad under it)
- O More baby wipes
- O Rifle Ammo (cannot go in the same “bag” as rifle)
- O Pistol Ammo
- O Extra Nalgene water bottle for cooking water
- O Stove (my partner carries the “pots and pans” – split the load)
- O Tent

- O Camp shoes (Crocs)
- O Ultralight chest waders (first part of my hunt was moose from a boat, we hunted in those waders every day, no rain pants, just ultralight waders, yes it's a small pain to roll them down to pee, BUT they simply don't leak. If you're using a boat to hunt a river system, regular boots and wet weather pants = wet legs and feet – once you're wet in Alaska getting dry is hard)
- O Wading boots
- O Big tarp to hang over meat pole
- O Back up battery system for phone and Garmin InReach
- O Dry Sacks (4)
- O Underwear (6)
- O Socks (6)
- O Boot blankets (yep feet get cold sitting on a glassing knob, these things are money)
- O Extra neck gaiter
- O Extra wicking long john top
- O Extra wicking long john bottom
- O Panty hose footy type (3) (been using these things since a mission with the British in 1997 and American Soldiers were having blisters, the Brits had none, why? They were all wearing women's panty hose footys as sock liners – they work, no kidding – I've been using them ever since – life hack type stuff)
- O Contractor Trash bags (6)
- O Extra stocking cap
- O Weather proof parka (you might use a simple rain pain in the lower 48, this is more of a parka)
- O Weather proof pants
- O Layering top (polar fleece hoodie)
- O Laying bottom (wool)
- O Small repair items (sewing kit, gorilla tape, wire ties, etc)

### Rifle Case (2<sup>nd</sup> Checked Bag – 49lbs)

*\*\*\*Take all the factory padding out; you'll be putting your weapons in soft cases inside and filling the rest of the case with gear; all your gear that you cannot carry-on goes in here except the ammo because that must go in a separate locked checked bag; review your airline's policies, don't just take my word. My rifle case is heavy duty and weighs over 20lbs alone. I've watched airline employees drop it so many*

*times I cannot remember, but my rifle has always been fine. The lighter weight case you use, the more risk you take that your weapon will arrive in one piece and still hitting where you zeroed it. \*\*\**

- O Rifle in a soft case
- O Pistol in a soft case
- O Weapon maintenance kit
- O Meat bags (use them loosely for padding around other items)
- O Sling
- O Holster
- O Kill kit (see specific list on my website)
- O Pocket knife
- O Camp saw
- O Small Towel (padding, but also for camp use)
- O Wash cloth
- O Rod & reel
- O Tacklebox (tiny little thing, spoons, spinners and leader material)
- O Mittens (big technical skiing type)
- O Trekking poles
- O Survival Kit (see specific list on my website)

\*\*\* If you've got the weight bring an axe, firewood on the river moose hunt is important

\*\*\*If you've got the weight, bring a big tarp and use it over your tent as a second tent fly; the less rain that hits your actual tent fly the better

\*\*\*You can never have enough food, coffee and bourbon – why? Sometimes you get stranded in Alaska due to the weather. A coffee in the morning and a bourbon before bed are luxuries that are hard to explain until you do it. If you're stranded long enough and run out, you'll understand.

\*\*\*My partner brought the satellite phone and a bear fence for the river moose hunt

\*\*\*You'll buy your food and things that you cannot bring on the plane, like thermocell fuel pods, stove fuel, etc in Anchorage

\*\*\*You're going to repack according to your bush pilot's instructions – this list is only to get you to Anchorage