

Full List - Ski Gear & Clothing Check List



Our clothing and equipment is vital to the safety, success and comfort of any trip. Please make sure you have everything on this list, all is mandatory unless stated otherwise. Please bring only high quality, proven items. Have your boots broken in and make sure everything fits and works well for you before the start of a trip. You shouldn't need anything else not listed here but if there is an item you would like to bring just ask. Please let me know if you have any questions.

NC = Nick's choice. PG = Patagonia clothing company. BD = Black Diamond equipment company.

Section 1) Day ski trips

Clothing: All clothing must be wool or synthetic, absolutely no cotton.

- Ski Socks.** Fit with your boots, thin is generally better. NC: PG or Voormi ski socks.
- Underwear.** NC: light-weight merino wool or synthetic.
- Base Layer Top.** Light-weight to mid-weight, avoid dark colors - hot with sun. NC: PG. Voormi.
- Base Layer Bottom.** Light-weight to mid-weight. NC: PG. Voormi.
- Mid Layer Top.** NC: PG R1 pullover. Voormi Access pullover or High-E hoodie for colder temps.
- Sun Hoodie.** For April-summer trips. NC: PG sun hood. Voormi River Run sun hoodie, light color.
- Hard Shell Top (Gore-Tex).** NC: Gore-tex Pro - Patagonia, Outdoor Research or Arcteryx.
- Hard Shell Ski Pants (Gore-Tex).** With built in ski-boot gaiter, zippered vents, pockets.
- Belt** and/or Suspenders, Required if stowing beacon in pants.
- Insulated Puffy Jacket with Hood.** NC: PG Macro Puff for winter or Micro/Nano for spring.
Have 2 puffy's and puff pants for cold winter temps (Macro puff hoodie and Nano puff pullover).
- Gloves, 3 pairs:** Thin gloves, mid-weight shell & warm shell. Bring extra. NC: BD - Trekker glove for thin. Tour or Legend glove for mid. Crew or Guide glove for cold temps.
- Mittens.** For the extra cold days.
- Warm Hat & Buff / Balaclava.** Must cover ears. NC: PG. Voormi Thermal Beanie. Buff neck gaiter.
- Sun Hat.** Not necessary Nov-Jan in Alaska.
- Sunglasses.** NC: Julbo with polarized photo-chromatic lens (changes category 2-4)
Light lens great for stormy days and mid winter months (changes category 1-3).
Category 4 lens if on glacier in the springtime.
- Sunglass lanyard.** NC: Chums or Croakies.
- Ski Goggles.** Have low-light and sunny lenses. NC: Julbo with category 1-3 photo-chromatic lens.
- Ski Helmet.** Required. NC: Dynafit TLT. Smith Summit. Salomon MTN Lab.

Touring Gear:

- ___ **Backpack.** 30-35 Liters. Large enough to fit everything INSIDE, including probe, shovel & water bottles. Avalanche airbag or Avalung optional. NC: BD Cirque 35L.
- ___ **Boots: AT Ski / Snowboard.** Good to have a professional boot fitter find you the best boot for your foot and ability. Intuition boot liners increase performance, comfort and warmth. Consider a custom foot bed. NC: Dynafit boots with Intuition Tour Wrap and Sidas “flash fit” custom insoles. But remember the best boot is the boot that fits your foot the best.
- ___ **AT Skis / Split-board.** Avoid heavy skis/boards. NC: Voile SuperCharger or HyperV8 for winter, the UltraVector is good for late spring/summer skiing. Choose the Hyper versions for weight savings to make skinning up easier.
- ___ **Bindings.** Tech bindings ideal, brakes recommended or have leashes. Have boot & DIN properly adjusted on binding. NC: ATK Raider Evo 11 or 13. Split-boards: Voile or Spark bindings w/ heel lock or hard boot setup.
- ___ **Skins.** With tail clips. Cut to your skis / split-board. NC: Voile or Pomoca. BD. G3.
- ___ **Fresh Ski Wax.** Required for multi-day trips. Use “all temp” wax or warm/cold snow for conditions.
- ___ **Ski Poles.** With snow baskets. NC: Voile CamLock 2 (or 3 piece for split-boarding).
- ___ **Ski Strap.** 1 required, a few recommended. NC: Voile Ski Strap 20-25”.
- ___ **Ski Crampons.** For late March through summer. NC: Dynafit or match for your binding type.
- ___ **Avalanche Beacon.** **Must be** a modern three-antenna with current software update and **less than 10 years old.** Fly with it in your carry-on bag to prevent damage. Replace batteries at 50%. NC: Mammut Barryvox / Barryvox S.
- ___ **Extra beacon batteries.** new name brand Alkaline with LR03 stamp. Stack them like logs together with electrical tape covering ends, if the ends touch each other or other metal they will drain.
- ___ **Probe.** High quality, durable. 280cm minimum. NC: BD QuickDraw Tour 280cm. BCA 300cm.
- ___ **Shovel.** Quality avalanche shovel, absolutely **No Plastic** and **No Cheap** brands such as “Life Line”. NC: Voile Hoback Mini D handle.
- ___ **Water bottles and Thermos.** 2 liters total. Filled with water. Wide mouth. No Camelback hose type, they freeze and leak. NC: 1L Nalgene and 1L GSI Vacuum Thermos for winter. Two 1L Nalgene’s for spring.
- ___ **Water bottle insulation covers.** For winter-spring trips. NC: Forty Below bottle boot.
- ___ **Trail Food.** For all the day(s) plus a little extra. Except for multi-day overnight trips, you provide your own lunches and snacks. Easy to eat and high in fat and calories. In the backcountry lunch starts after breakfast and ends before dinner. Nick’s favorites: nut, fruit & chocolate trail mixes. Sandwich. Bars. Dark Chocolate. Shot blocks or Gu gels w/ caffeine. Store in a small stuff sack. For long trips have variety. About 2,000+ calories per day.

- ___ **Headlamp.** Carry extra batteries. Lithium batteries recommended as they last way longer, are lighter, work better in cold and give 100% power until dead. (For avalanche beacon, name brand Alkaline must be used). NC: BD Storm rechargeable w/ extra lithium batteries.
- ___ **Compass & Inclinometer.** Not mandatory but recommended. NC: Suunto MC-2.
- ___ **Sunscreen.** SPF 30+. Not necessary Nov-Jan in Alaska. NC: Dermatone. Neutrogena.
- ___ **Lip Balm w/ SPF.** add spare for multi-day trips. NC: Dermatone Lip Balm.
- ___ **Personal Medications,** if applicable. Please let Nick know of Any medical issues / medications.

Optional:

- ___ **Extra clothing.** 2nd puffy jacket and puffy pants for cold days. Wind shell jacket.
- ___ **Soft Shell Ski Pants** optional but recommended for April and later trips, they must have a cuff/gaiter that seals to your boots. Note that you must have hard shell (Gore-tex) pants packed for the trip.
- ___ **Camera.** Extra battery. Avoid large heavy SLR's. No drones please.
- ___ **GPS unit.** Can be [Gaia gps app](#) premium on your phone with maps downloaded for field use.
- ___ **GPS maps downloaded.** Select "Gaia Topo (feet)". Also "Slope Angle" & "USGS Topo" is useful.
- ___ **Phone lanyard.** Optional but recommended to not loose your phone in Mtns or into the water.
- ___ **Multi-Tool.** Knife, pliers, scissors. Keep it light. NC: Leatherman Juice S2.
- ___ **Small Personal First-Aid Kit.** Blister repair, athletic tape, gauze, bandaid, Ibuprofen, Tylenol...
- ___ **Travel boot dryer.** Plug in to dry your boots out each night. NC: Peete Go Portable.
- ___ **Nikwax or MountainFlow Eco Skin Treatment.** Required for spring-summer.
Apply before trip. No wet skins, no globing and it increases glide without loosing grip.
Otherwise have Glob Stopper or MountainFlow Eco skin wax bar.

For May-June road side ski touring trips:

- ___ Hiking/trail running shoes with separate socks than your ski socks for approaches.
- ___ Ice axe for self arrest. Short 50-55cm mountaineering axe. NC: BD Raven Ultra 55cm.
- ___ Sun hoodie, light base layer, sun gloves and soft-shell ski pants.
- ___ Warm temp ski wax and skin treatment.
- ___ Bear Spray if you have it otherwise Nick has extras.

Section 2) Ski Mountaineering Trips:

For trips on glaciers. Required in addition to above items.

- ___ **Backpack.** 35-45 Liters. Large enough to fit everything INSIDE, including probe, shovel & water bottles. Avalanche airbag or Avalung optional. NC: BD Cirque 45L.
- ___ **Helmet.** Light skiing/climbing helmet. NC: Salomon MTN Lab or new Petzl Meteor.
- ___ **Harness.** Lightweight. NC: Mammut Zephir Altitude, Petzl Altitude/Tour or BD Couloir.
- ___ **Ski Crampons.** For late March through summer. NC: Dynafit or match your binding type.
- ___ **Ice Axe.** Lightweight & Short (55cm). NC: BD Raven Ultra 55cm.
- ___ **Boot Crampons.** Lightweight. NC: BD Contact or Neve.
- ___ **3 Prussic cords. (5mm) 4ft. 6ft. & 12ft. lengths.** Note: cord length is single line w/ no knots.
- ___ **1 Cordellete. (6mm) 20 feet.** For anchors.
- ___ **1 “double shoulder” length sling.** (48 inches / 120cm). Dyneema/Nylon blends are best.
- ___ **1 “single shoulder” length sling.** (24 inches / 60cm) To be used as a gear sling. Optional.
- ___ **8 Locking Carabiners.** Munter (pear shaped). NC: Petzl Attache.
- ___ **3 Non-locking Carabiners.** Wire gate are best. NC: Petzl or Wild Country Helium.
- ___ **Belay Device and Locking HMS carabiner.** Optional. NC: BD ATC-Guide & Petzl Attache.
- ___ **1 Ice screw & V-threader tool.** 19-21cm w/ thread & tip protector.
NC: Petzl or BD aluminum ice screw with a homemade V-threader from a coat hanger.
V-threader tool: Petzl Multihook.
- ___ **Pulley.** Petzl Micro Traction.
- ___ **Ski Binding Leashes.** Used for glacier travel.
- ___ **Pack Leash.** 9 ft. of 4mm cord.
- ___ **Gaia GPS or other app** for your smartphone, **downloaded maps** for the zones we may go to.
- ___ Optional: **Snow Ascent Plates** (These are Not snowshoes). Ask Nick if we might want these.
NC: Verts, strap on or Billygoat Tech w/ BD aluminum strap on crampons.
- ___ Optional: Extra Pulley, prussic minding style. NC: Petzl Mini Prussic Minding Pulley.

Section 3) Overnight Multi-Day Ski Trips:

In addition to section 1 items. If on glacier add Ski Mountaineering section 2 items also.

Expect temperatures that could get down to minus 20° F. during winter months, otherwise down to 0° F. would be expected. Every gram and ounce adds up, consider every item you bring.

- ___ **Backpack.** 75 Liters. Large enough for all gear to be INSIDE pack including shovel, probe, water bottles, sleeping pad, all tent parts and group gear. (Foam pad can be on outside).
NC: BD Mission 75L or Hyperlight Mountain Gear Porter 85L.
- ___ **Sleeping Bag.** w/ compression sack. Down preferred for its light-weight and compressibility. Sleeping bag temp depends on the trip and time of year, ask Nick.
[0°F minimum in winter, Oct-April] [0° to +15°F May - July] [+15° to +30°F summer]
[-20° to -40°F with Gore-Tex type outer fabric for cold Arctic trips / high altitude]
NC: Mountain Hardwear Phantom 0° or Phantom +15° or Wraith minus-20°.
- ___ **2 Sleeping Pads.** Therm-a-Rest type air mattress **AND** closed cell foam pad.
NC: Thermarest NeoAir XTherm or Prolight Plus regular length **and** Thermarest RidgeRest.
- ___ **Bowl and Spoon.** NC: Sea to Summit bowl with lid and spoon, no fork or knife needed.
- ___ **Mug.** For hot drinks. 10-12 oz light-weight.
- ___ **Toilet Paper, Hand Disinfectant, Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Floss, Feminine Products...**
No soaps, towels or deodorant (deodorant actually makes you smell worse on long trips!)
Small pack towel and Dr. Bronners in a tiny Nalgeene container ok for week long trips.
- ___ **Pee bottle.** Mark it! Nalgene or NC: 32-48oz collapsible Nalgene Cantene.
- ___ **Pee Funnel.** For women. Recommended: “pStyle” or “Freshette”. Practice with before the trip!!
- ___ **Camp Booties.** or Foam footbeds for ski boot shells and insulated booties/socks.
- ___ **Extra Socks & Sleeping Socks.** Stuff 1 pair in bottom of sleeping bag to sleep with every night, these are designated sleeping socks. For trips longer than 4 days bring a fresh pair to use.
- ___ **VBL Socks.** Optional, this is personal preference, it doesn’t work with everyone. Nick likes vapor barrier socks to keep moisture out of boot liners and it actually makes you sweat less.
- ___ **Puffy Pants.** For winter or glacier trips. NC: Arcteryx Atom LT or Mountain Hardwear.
- ___ **Zip-Lock Bags.** Freezer quality or strong “bread bag” type. To store TP, extra socks, electronics etc.
- ___ **2 Lighters.** NC: Bic brand or waterproof butane.
- ___ **Battery Pack & Cords.** For using phone GPS app and other electronics.
- ___ **Car Bag.** Shower kit and towel to keep in car for trip return with clean street clothes and shoes.

Ask if we will be using sleds to haul gear, if so the following is needed:

- ___ **Sled Duffle.** Lightweight w/ handles. Nick's choice: REI Roadtripper Duffle XL.
- ___ **3 extra carabiners.** 2 non-locking, 1 locking.
- ___ **Pack sled haul loop,** 6 ft. of 5mm cord.

Section 4) Additional Gear, Only for Fly-in Base Camping Trips:

- ___ **Travel Duffle.** To travel and fly with, then to store your pack & extra things when at camp.
NC: Patagonia Black Hole 120 liter. If using sleds you can use the sled duffle instead.
- ___ **Dry Bags / Trash Bags / Zip-Locks.** To store extra clothes and electronics to ensure they stay dry.
- ___ **Puffy Pants.** NC: Mountain Hardwear Compressor pant or Arcteryx Atom LT pant.
- ___ **Extra:** Base Layer Change, Socks, Clothes & Gloves.
- ___ **Extra:** Glacier Sunglasses w/ case & Ski Goggles. Glasses wipe cloth.
- ___ **Extra:** TP, Wet Wipes, Hand Disinfectant, Sunscreen, Lip Balm.
- ___ **Thermos and/or Mug.**
- ___ **Camp Entertainment.** Paperback book, Kindle, iPod, cards...
- ___ **Battery Pack, Solar Charger & Cords.** For using phone GPS app and other electronics.

Notes For All Trips:

- For all overnight trips we need to do a gear check together before our trip. If you can't decide or are unsure on some items then bring them both and we can decide during the gear check.
- This list has been created as a good representation of what we need for an Alaskan ski trip. However, each individual trip might have its unique details.
- You know your own body! If you get extra cold easily then have extra warm clothing and sleeping bag. If you drink a lot of water then consider bringing bigger water bottles.

Group Gear Provided For All Trips:

- First-Aid Kit**
- Repair kit**
- Bivy Tarp**
- Rescue Sled**
- Communication.** Phone and Satellite Messenger device. FRS radios.
- Snow Study tools**
- Navigation.** Map, Compass, Altimeter, GPS.
- Ropes and group climbing gear.** (If ski mountaineering trip).

Overnight Group Gear Provided For:

- Tents.** If you want to bring your own it must be a newer high quality 4-season tent with ample guy lines equipped with snow anchors. We must set it up together and check every detail before the trip.
- Kitchen Tent.** For Base Camp style trips.
- Cooking gear & Fuel.** Stoves, Pots etc. Stove repair. Water filter if traveling off snow.
- Sleds.** For glacier travel trips, complete with rigging. (you provide 3 extra carabiners noted above)
- Food.** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. Bring about 1 pound of your favorite snack food.
Please provide any food allergies, your appetite level and if you drink Coffee or Tea?

Shops and Rentals in Alaska:

- AlaskaMountaineering.com - Mountaineering store in Anchorage. **Backcountry rentals:** Alpine touring skis, AT boots, skins, poles, beacon, probe, shovel.
- HoardingMarmot.com - Good used gear store in Anchorage. **Backcountry rentals:** Alpine touring skis, AT boots, split-board, skins, poles, beacon, probe, shovel. Receive 10% off with your AGC trip booking.
- blueandgoldak.com - Snowboard shop in Anchorage. **Split-board rentals.**
- summitskico.com - Ski shop in Anchorage.
- PowderHoundAK.com - Girdwood ski shop and **professional boot fitting.**
- Whenever possible, please support *your* local outdoor gear stores.

Section 5) Additional Gear for Professional Avalanche Courses:

- ___ **Notebook / Guide Field Book.** Write-in-the-Rain #311. Have SWAG cheat sheet.
- ___ **2 Mechanical Pencils.** NC: Bic .9mm
- ___ **Snow Crystal Card & Magnifying Loupe.** NC: Snow Metrics card & Carson 17.5x loupe.
- ___ **Thermometer.** Celsius, digital is nice but have extra battery.
- ___ **Snow Saw.** 35cm long. NC: BCA snow saw, G3 Bone Saw or MSR snow saw.
- ___ **ECT Cord.** 3-4 meters (10 feet) of 2-3mm cord with overhand knots tied every 15cm.
- ___ **Inclinometer.** NC: Suunto MC-2 compass w/ clinometer. Or the MC-2G global needle.
- ___ **Paper Map of area, Compass & Altimeter watch.**
- ___ **GPS.** Gaia or other app for Phone w/ [maps downloaded](#).
- ___ **Phone battery charger stick and cord.** Lithium that will charge phone 2 times, bigger for long trips.
- ___ **Medical, Trauma & Airway Management Kit.** Along with medical training (WFR & CPR).
- ___ **Repair Kit.** For bindings, boots & poles.

Section 6) Additional Gear for Ski Guide Training:

Include section 5 and any other applicable sections.

- ___ **Bivy tarp.** Sil-nylon ultra-light tarp large enough for group (8'x10').
- ___ **Rescue Sled.** NC: Function Before Fashion Ski Guides Rescue Tarp or similar.
- ___ **Rope.** 40-70m ~ 8mm "half rope" or "low-stretch / semi-static." Length varies for the objective.
- ___ **Belay Device.** NC: Black Diamond ATC-Guide and Petzl Attache carabiner.