

## What Should I Bring To Alaska? Allison Dupuis

- Light Rain Gear – like a jacket with a hood on it
  - It rains fairly often, but it's usually just light drizzle
- short sleeve and long sleeve t-shirts – about 4-5 short sleeve and 2-3 long sleeve – if you know you are going to buy a lot of t-shirts there, don't bring too much
- pants – about 3-4 (like jeans and such)
- shorts – about 2-3 – there is a recreation center on campus that is fun to go to during the week at night and play basketball, flag football, etc. Bring money to the rec since you aren't a member, but I think it was only \$5. Also, shorts are good for most of the hikes you will do.
- socks – don't bring thick socks unless you really want to – 5-6 pair of regular thickness should be just fine
- scrubs – or pants like them...just a couple of pair to lounge in or go to class in if you want
- shoes -
  - tennis shoes – great for hiking or everyday
  - water boots – for certain labs, unless you don't mind wearing your tennis shoes and getting them completely wet...but bring another pair of tennis shoes in this case, as it takes a couple days to dry
  - flip flops – for class or just walking around sometimes
- clothes to go to the bar in on the weekends – like 2-3 shirts and jeans you already packed
- booksack - obviously for class, but also useful for hiking if you would like to bring it
- water bottle – optional, but nice on 4-5 hour hikes
- laptop – if you have one, bring it – it's nice to have for class, tests, homework, etc. If you don't own one, you can rent it from the University just like at LSU
- camera and memory card – This is a must! The scenery is so amazing and you will do so many fun things, that you will want to have your camera with you at all times!
- journal – Obviously, this is optional. But with all the fun things you will be doing, you might want to document them in a journal so you can remember what you did and when you did it.
- Cash and credit card/debit card – of course there are ATM's, but there aren't many banks there so it might be nice to bring some cash and a credit/debit card that you can use while

there. However, there is a Walmart and another store similar to it called Fred Meyer that you can go to and get cash back just like in Baton Rouge if you need.

-As far as toiletries and groceries are concerned –

-Toiletries – just bring as much as you think you need for the ferry ride or the first 3 or 4 days there (aka – travel sized things). Like I said before, there is a Walmart and Fred Meyer that you can go to and within your apartment of 4 people, you can just get one big container of each thing you need (like toothpaste, shampoo, etc.). This is a lot easier for packing and it saves some money by splitting the cost with your roommates.

-Groceries – You are in an apartment that has a kitchen but is not furnished with cooking supplies or utensils. You can buy a few small things like plastic cups and silverware and just get soap to wash and reuse them. On the other hand, you will be fed every meal in the cafeteria during weekdays, so you shouldn't need much in the apartment anyway. Use your own judgement. You will want to get together (maybe 2 apartments, or 8 people, per container) and buy some laundry detergent to do laundry. There is a place to do laundry by the apartments (connected to the lodge) which is really nice. The laundry machines and dryers take quarters only, but there is a machine upstairs in the lodge that will exchange \$1 or \$5 for quarters if you need.

## Fun Things To Do In Your Free Time

-Some fun things we did – (make sure you plan these events early, like a week in advance or more – this way, you can let Dr. Stickle or any other professor know when you will be doing things as a group that can maybe be worked around class; also, it's just good to plan it out early so you can do as much as possible and have the time to do it)

-zip-lining – Go to [Alaskazip.com](http://Alaskazip.com) and check out group rates. This was something really fun that a lot of us did and for us it cost around \$120 a person. This is a rough estimate though.

-fishing – Quite a few of us went on a chartered fishing trip that one of the guys researched. This was a one day event (we did it on a Sunday) that cost us about \$180 each. This is also a varying price depending on what company you go through and how many people do it. A lot of people caught coho and chum salmon while fishing. Some people sent their's home, and with the rest of it we had our own salmon bake. There is a cool outdoor place by the apartments that you can cook the salmon.

-kayaking – You can rent kayaks from the recreation center or other places (rec was the cheapest at \$5 a kayak) and kayak in the bay or on the lake. Also, canoeing is an option.

-hiking – This is definitely something you will want to do at least once a week while you are in Alaska. Some fun trails that we did include West Glacier Trail, Auk Nu Trail, and Mount

Roberts Trail. You can get a hiking trail book anywhere downtown or borrow one from Dr. Stickle and they tell you where they all are and the difficulty of them. One of the favorites was definitely the West Glacier Trail...if you veer off the trail a bit and climb over a mountain, you can get on the Mendenhall Glacier!

-camping – At the top of the Auk Nu Trail, there is a cabin called John Muir Cabin. He was a famous Naturalist. You can rent the cabin out at like \$30 a night, and you can fit like 10 people in it and you get it from 5pm-10am. This is a very fun experience. There is wood to build a fire, a pilot light and heater for inside, and bunks to sleep in. You will want to bring water, warm clothes, a pillow, blankets/sleeping bags, and a flashlight with you. Also, we brought a computer for music and stuff to make smores and hotdogs. Those are optional though.

-swimming – I know, you think I'm crazy. And yes, the water is very cold. However, for those of you who are really adventurous, bring your swim suits! The lake by the cafeteria (Auke Lake) is a good spot to swim. Also, on your last day of lab at Sunshine Cove, you can go swimming in the ocean! And you may even get to swim with Stellar Sea Lions like we did. Not everyone went swimming, however, but on warm days it is something fun to do for a short period of time.

-Alaskan Brewery – You can take free tours of the brewery with a big group, however you do have to be 21 to take the tour or sample the free beer. If you just want to go to the gift shop, you can be under 21. If you do want to take the tour, call ahead earlier in the day and let them know how big your party will be and when you will be going. You can go every day if you want and just sample the beer for free! Alaskan beer is really good too!

-Ice Climbing – Go with a guide service (WBS)

-Places to go –

-Some good places to eat are -

-Near Campus:

-Hot Bite – good for burgers and shakes

-Chan's Thai Restaurant – exactly what you think it is; this place is really good and buying one meal will feed you for 2 or 3 because of the proportions

-Waffle Co. – breakfast foods, sandwiches, coffee and tea drinks, etc.; this place is probably the best priced and two favorites are the omelet and the eggel; the omelet is a half waffle, half omelet and the eggel is a bagel with eggs in it. Both are great!

-The Sandbar – This a good place to get fish and chips

-Downtown:

-Pizzeria Roma – has great pizza

-Hangar on the Wharf – you can get pretty much anything here; if you like crab legs, come here

-Pel Meni – That’s the only part of the name I can understand...this is a great Russian place and the best deal downtown. For \$5, you get a perfectly sized order of homemade Russian dumplings that are awesome! And they’re open late, so you can get them after the bar.

-Of course there are many other great places to get something to eat, but these are just some suggestions from favorites we had.

-Fun bars – (sorry guys, 99% of the bars were all 21 and up...but the apartments can be just as fun at night to hang out in, and the lodge is always great because they have couches and a big tv with a dvd player and games like foosball, air hockey, pool, and they have a piano)

-Near Campus:

-Squires – This is a cool place to hang out after class or on the weekends. They always have a couple of Alaskan beers on tap at a time and there are pool tables and lots of dart games set up

-Downtown:

-The Viking – This was probably our favorite bar. There is a room in the front with free karaoke and a room in the back with a dance floor.

-Imperial – We only went here once. It was ok, but it’s no Viking.