



## MULTI-DAY RAFTING EQUIPMENT LIST

\_\_\_\_\_ **HIKING/ RUNNING SHORTS** - Light weight nylon shorts are quick drying and easy to carry. Recommended for riverside hikes and/or a warm day on the water.

\_\_\_\_\_ **HIKING PANTS** - A light wool, synthetic (e.g. nylon) or fleece pant is recommended for camp or day hikes. One combination is to wear shorts over polypro long underwear, all underneath wind/rain pants. While on the river, this is a comfortable system, but at camp you will probably want a regular pair of pants to pull on. Denim, canvas, or any type of cotton is **NOT RECOMMENDED** because it has no insulating power when wet. Please check the label to make sure before arrival.

\_\_\_\_\_ **LONG UNDERWEAR** - Long underwear must be polypro or wool. We recommend bringing a midweight or heavyweight set.

\_\_\_\_\_ **MID LAYER** - Layers are the key to comfort and warmth while on the river and camping. This is the first layer over the polypro long underwear. It can be wool, capilene, “expedition weight” long underwear, a light fleece, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_ **FLEECE** - Another layer! Make this a warm fleece jacket – “wind-resistant” fleece is great for the down-river winds we often encounter. A thick wool sweater or lightweight down jacket can be also be used here, but remember that once down is wet, it loses all insulating ability, so fleece tends to work best in Alaska. Fleece pants are also recommended for being cozy around camp and are great for bedtime if you “sleep cold”.

\_\_\_\_\_ **RAIN JACKET** - This is one of the most important items. Good rain gear will make your adventure much more enjoyable. We recommend bringing either heavyweight coated nylon (such as Helly Hansen gear) or a high quality Gore-Tex jacket (not your 10 year old standby--its just too stormy in Alaska). Exceptional Gore-Tex rain gear is made by Arc'Teryx, Marmot and Patagonia. **PONCHOS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.** Wind and brush makes them almost useless. We will bring some heavy raingear as a backup, but your own will be more comfortable.

\_\_\_\_\_ **RAIN PANTS** – Again, we recommend a heavyweight coated nylon or high quality pair of Gore-Tex rain pants.

\_\_\_\_\_ **SOCKS** – You should have 3-5 pairs of wool or synthetic socks. Sock selection varies on personal preference, but we recommend heavyweight socks to wear inside rubber boots on cold river days and inside your sleeping bag at night. SmartWool, Thorlo

and Dahlgren make excellent socks.

\_\_\_\_\_ RUNNING SHOES OR SANDALS – A pair of running shoes are good to wear around camp, or for a day hike if you prefer them over your hiking boots. Some folks carry sandals, such as Tevas or Chacos, which are good for warm days, but are not good for hiking and not as warm around camp in the evening.

\_\_\_\_\_ HIKING BOOTS – comfortable, sturdy boots or trail shoes for day hikes along the river. Make sure to purchase these well before your trip and break them in so you don't risk blisters while on your adventure!

\_\_\_\_\_ WOOL or FLEECE HAT - Something to cover the ears and keep your head warm.

\_\_\_\_\_ BASEBALL/SUN HAT – A hat with a bill keeps the rain out, too.

\_\_\_\_\_ FLEECE GLOVES - A pair of good fleece gloves is a must for warm hands while on the river and for use around camp. Fleece gloves with WindStopper are best, but regular fleece or even wool gloves work fine as well. If you have neoprene gloves, bring 'em.

\_\_\_\_\_ CAMERA - Bring a good one, especially with a wide angle lens. Don't forget extra batteries, especially if you are bringing a digital camera. Bring plenty of extra memory cards or film!

\_\_\_\_\_ WATER BOTTLE – Nalgene's wide mouth one quart is the best.

\_\_\_\_\_ TOILETRY KIT - Toothpaste, toothbrush, personal medications (please tell us before the trip of any medications you are taking), and a personal first aid kit (with band aids, aspirin, etc.). Other personal items to consider are: chapstick, biodegradable soap, dental floss, wet wipes, a small container of waterless hand sanitizer, tampons or pads, Q-tips, lotion.

\_\_\_\_\_ SUNGLASSES

\_\_\_\_\_ SUN SCREEN/BLOCK – Take note that insect repellent neutralizes most sunscreens, so if you are sensitive to the sun, pick up some combination “Bug&Sun” lotion.

\_\_\_\_\_ INSECT REPELLANT - Since the Wrangell/St. Elias has so much ice covering its surface, the bug problem is nothing like the Brooks Range or other tundra covered regions, but there can be areas with a lot of bugs, so Jungle Juice, BEN's, or some other good repellent with a lot of DEET is important.

\_\_\_\_\_ BOOK - Bring something relaxing to read just before dozing off or for lazy mornings.

\_\_\_\_\_ BINOCULARS - An optional item of course, but nice to have for animal sightings and views of the distant peaks.

\_\_\_\_\_ STUFF SACKS – Optional according to preference, but very handy. You can bring an assortment of sizes for separating different clothing items in your drybag.

\_\_\_\_\_ TOWEL – An optional item that some find useful, a hand towel is generally large enough for drying off after swimming or taking a sponge bath. MSR’s Packtowl is the techie alternative. Cotton is not recommended because it takes so long to dry.

\_\_\_\_\_ DAY PACK - All of our trips have the option for short or long day hikes along the river, and a fanny pack or small daypack to carry lunch, water, binoculars, etc. is a must if you want to participate in these adventures.

COPPER OAR PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING OR YOU CAN BRING YOUR OWN:

\_\_\_\_\_ TENT – We provide sturdy four-season tents on all river trips. If you have a favorite tent you want to bring, it must be free-standing, have at least three poles and a rainfly that comes to within several inches of the ground on all sides. A vestibule (place to store your gear and shoes) is very handy. Your tent must stand up to heavy wind and rain for extended periods of time (not that we wish this on you, but best to be prepared for the worst!)

\_\_\_\_\_ PAD – You can bring your own or use one of ours. A full length pad is best. Therm-a-Rests are great, but remember they can get a small puncture and leak, so we recommend bringing a repair kit. Closed cell foam pads (a.k.a. Ensolite pads) tend to keep you warmer, but are not as comfortable to sleep on.

\_\_\_\_\_ SLEEPING BAG – We have sleeping bags available to rent for \$5 per day or you are welcome to bring your own. It has been known to snow during any month in Alaska. A good three-season sleeping bag rated to 10 degrees is a must. The question is down or synthetic? Down loses its insulating ability once wet, but if you are careful to keep the bag dry, down gives the best warmth to weight ratio. Feel free to call us to discuss this purchase or consult your local reputable gear shop. Our favorite sleeping bags are Marmot, Feathered Friends, and Western Mountaineering.

\_\_\_\_\_ RUBBER BOOTS – We provide rubber boots to all clients, but if you want to bring your favorite pair, feel free. This will be your standard river-wear. They must have enough room to hold your feet plus two pairs of socks. You will step in the water frequently getting in and out of the boat, so make sure they don't leak!

\_\_\_\_\_ DRYBAGS - We provide drybags for your gear while on the river. You will have one large bag (the size of a large trash bag) for items that you only need at camp and a smaller “day-bag” that will be accessible during the day. Your luggage will be shuttled to the take-out to meet you at the end of the trip.