

Equipment list

Back to the Wild



Below is an equipment list with items we highly recommend you bring on the journey. To enjoy the trip to the fullest, comfortable and good equipment is essential. So be a bit picky about what you bring on our trip, make sure it is adequate for arctic conditions.

Your guide will supply all the necessary gear such as kayak, paddling jackets, paddles, spray skirts, life vests, dry suits, etc. There is, however, a few more things you need to bring and consider on a multi day kayak trip. One thing is key - pack only the things you really need. All your gear needs to fit into the storage of the kayak plus all the gear like tents we need for camping and food. After a great day out in the field, a good night's sleep is key to waking up and doing it all over again, so pick a good sleeping bag that fits your height and weight and make sure that the comfort rating is appropriate for the conditions you are about to experience. The comfort we recommend is around -10°C. The down bags pack better, are lighter and warmer, but have to be stored in a dry bag. The synthetic material copes better when it gets wet and soggy. A sleeping mat is very important. First of all you have to make sure it works, meaning it does not leak and is set for comfort rate to -5°C so it will isolate you and your sleeping bag from the cold arctic ground. Either take an extra pillow with you or use the pillow duvet you use to stuff your down jacket in.

Clothing & Footwear

Non-cotton, wool long sleeves and tights (base layer)

Base layers are designed to keep you warm despite they might be wet from sweating, for example - therefore they must not be cotton but instead a lightweight wool or other fast-drying fiber. Base layers will also keep you warm if, for example, your outer layers are not entirely windproof or waterproof. If there is one thing to stress, it is that having several light layers to choose from, or use in combination with each other, is far more valuable for regulating body temperature than having one or two heavy layers that might make you too cold or too hot, but never just right. It is recommended to bring a selection of long-sleeve shirts and pants for lightweight base layers, so you have a few extras.

Wool sweater, fleece or PrimaLoft jacket (mid layer)

A wool layer is always nice to have as additional warmth. It should not be your heaviest winter sweater, but just something you feel could make you warm and cosy if you had a persistent chill. It is recommended to bring a light- to medium-weight wool sweater or a fleece or prima loft jacket.

All-purpose or fleece pants (mid layer)

When you are on land, and if it's dry, the waterproof pants (outer layer) layer won't be necessary, but you'll need more than a base layer. It is recommended to bring a pair of light, loose breathable pants as a sort of all-purpose pants. Fleece pants can be useful if you easily feel cold. Jeans are strongly discouraged.

breathable light jacket (outer layer)

When you're on land, and if it's dry, the waterproof jacket layer won't be necessary, but you'll need more than a base layer. It is recommended to bring a light jacket, or even a vest. Lightweight puffy jackets work well.

windproof & waterproof jacket and pants (outer layer)

Whether it's to protect you from wind and rain on land or from ocean spray while sailing, having good outer layers to protect against the elements will make the difference between a pleasant and unpleasant trip. It is recommended to bring both a windproof/waterproof jacket and a pair of windproof/waterproof rain pants. Gore-Tex is a leading manufacturer of breathable and waterproof layers.

gloves for paddling. Neoprene is great.

warm hat and light (fleece) gloves

A bit of wind, a mammoth iceberg nearby, and even fog can have more effect on the air temperature than you might imagine, and it can be magnified when sailing or standing a few hundred meters above sea level. Even though it is summer and there is not a single patch of snow to be found, you still need to be prepared with a few of the more 'wintery' items. It is recommended to bring a warm hat and gloves. As a light version, a buff to wear around the head or neck is also useful.

 hiking boots

Footwear is of the utmost importance in Greenland. It must be comfortable yet supportive, as it is what protects your feet and will keep you going all day long. So bring your favourite hiking boots, that you will likely use across all land based activities. Good hiking boots have high ankles support, are waterproof or water-resistant and are non-skid / have a sole with good traction (good for both rocky terrain and wet boat decks). It is good if they are worn-in as it is not ideal to break in brand new shoes and have blisters on the first day. Remember that you need to pack the boots into your kayak on kayaking days, so big and bulky boots are not ideal.

 Change of clothes to wear in the camp

Other gear

 60-80 litre backpack or duffle bag

It is recommended to pack your gear in a backpack. Many of the towns have simple dirt- or rocky roads which are not exactly ideal for pulling luggage with wheels. If you do not own a backpack, prefer a duffle bag over a hard shell suitcase.

 backpack (20L to 30L)

We recommend a 20-30L backpack with no metal frame (foam back is perfect). There are many light versions like for trail running and day hiking. You will only carry few personal items during those days, so the pack can be very simple. Couples can also share a pack together. The importance is that they are easy to stow in a kayak.

 dry bags for your clothes and gear

all your gear has to be packed in smaller dry bags that can fit in the kayak 5-10 litre, preferably in different colours

 sleeping bag, down or fibre, comfort from -8°C to -15°C

aim for a light weight and warm bag. We recommend goose down with high "fill power" or top of the line synthetic bags.

 sleeping mat, -5°C **bug repellant, head net & after bite**

The Arctic summer is notorious for small pesky insects like mosquitos and flies. They will not be a problem when kayaking, but once we hit land, they'll surely find us soon enough. Only a light breeze will give natural respite from the bugs. It is recommended to bring bug repellent, after bite and a mosquito head net. Not very fashionable, but oh-so-functional. Please note: it should be possible to purchase bug repellent in the local Pisiffik grocery store, pending product availability, however it will be the strong, chemical, non- environment-friendly stuff. If you prefer a natural-based product, you should bring your own.

 sun protection including dark sunglasses **water container, bottle or thermos (0,5 -1 litre)** **camera/binoculars**

There's going to be no less than 10,000 amazing things to see and remember - icebergs that look different from every angle, diving whale flukes, flocks of birds gathering around a fishing boat for free giveaways, small colourful houses perched at the edge of the hill and the world and fantastic geological rock formations. It is recommended to bring whatever camera or looking device you wish, whether that's a smartphone, snazzy camera, or selfie stick.

 small pillow or pillow duvet **spork and plate** **ear plugs**

- personal medication**
- lighter**
- personal first aid kit incl. blister care**
- a towel – a light-weight and packable one**
- toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, biodegradable soap)**

Optional

- pocket knife**
- headlamp**
- aperitif or other heart-warming spirits**
- Power bank / solar phone chargers**

What we provide

- tents**
- kayaks**
- paddling jackets**
- spray skirt**
- paddles**
- life vests**
- dry suits**
- neoprene shoes**
- pogies**

In case you have any further questions regarding the equipment to bring to the tour please do not hesitate to [contact us](https://greenlandtours.com/en/contact-us/) (<https://greenlandtours.com/en/contact-us/>).

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