

Chilkat Guides, Ltd.

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Clothing & Equipment - Kongakut

The remote and pristine wilderness of the arctic National Wildlife Refuge we travel through is a combination of arctic tundra and the Arctic Coastal Plain. Dramatic Weather and summer sun are parts of this unique region. There is no reliable way to predict the weather; therefore it is crucial to prepare for all possibilities.

We strongly urge you to use synthetic or fleece items because they remain warm when wet and they dry quickly. We also rely on a layering system, which means wearing light layers close to the body with warmer layers added as necessary. The gear you bring, as well as being physically and mentally prepared are directly related to your enjoyment of the trip.

Base Layers

- 2-3 **Sets** of light/medium weight synthetic long underwear
- Underwear – as many as you think you will need (non-cotton fabric recommended)
- 1 – 2 **Sets** expedition weight tops & bottoms (synthetic or wool)
- 2 – 3 Cotton T-shirts
- 2 Long sleeve shirts (synthetic is best, but one cotton shirt will do)

Outer Layers

- 2 Light weight pants (fleece, synthetic or wool)
- Shorts – light and quick drying (also nylon pants with zip off legs)
- Sweater – thick wool or fleece
- Windbreaker jacket (nylon or light weight Gore-Tex)
- Bug netting for your head

Extremities

We provide heavy-duty rubber gloves, kitchen glove style.

- 5 – 7 **Pairs** of socks – Synthetic or wool blend (Warm, dry feet are happy feet!)
- 2 **Pairs** of warm gloves – wool or fleece
- Liner glove (thin fleece/polypro to fit inside the rubber gloves)
- Baseball or brimmed hat (for sun and rain)
- Wool or fleece hat (fleece headbands are great for cold ears)

Foot Gear

We provide rubber boots & felt insoles.

- Hiking boots - with good ankle support
- Camp shoes – athletic, running or sport sandals

Rain Gear

(Complimentary)

- Heavy-duty, vulcanized (seam sealed), rubber rain gear **Gore-Tex is not suitable!**
- (optional) bring light weight rain gear for hiking

Miscellaneous Necessities

- Sleeping bag – rated 10° (*Available for rent*)
- Daypack (1800-2100 cu. in.) lined with a thick plastic compactor bag **A MUST!**
- 3 Carabiners – to attach items to the boat (D-shaped metal rings w/latch, found at climbing stores)
- Water bottle
- Moisturizing lotion (heavy duty; the silty environment is hard on the skin)
- Sunblock & lip balm (plus a spare)
- Spare glasses or contact lenses
- Sunglasses ("Chums" or "Croakies" to keep them attached to you)
- Insect repellent
- Thick compactor, garbage bags (to line your daypack)

Recommended Items

- Neck gaiter
- Binoculars, camera & film (faster film speeds are better for most river conditions – 400 ASA)
- Personal beverages & alcohol
- Misc... reading material, notebook & pen, cards, neoprene socks & gloves, handi-wipes, wash cloth (or small towel), biodegradable soap, bandana, small flashlight, pocket knife
- Personal, favorite snack items

Available for Rent: (*Supplies are limited, please reserve early*)

- Sleeping Bag (\$35)
- Single Tent (\$25)

We Supply:

- Dry bags – two NRS 2.2 cu. ft. outfitter bags
- Shared Tent
- Sleeping pad
- Rubber boots & felt insoles
- Rubber gloves
- Lifejacket
- Optional camera box (military ammo can)

We supply two rubber dry bags that are quite large. Clothes are packed into one rubber dry bag, and your sleeping bag, sleeping pad and a few small items will go into the other dry bag. These dry bags are not accessible while we are on the river, however your daypack will be. Daily items you will need in your daypack are: hat, gloves, extra socks, warm layers, rain gear, water bottle, sun screen, lip protection, sun glasses, etc. They will stay dry better if you line your daypacks with a thick, plastic compactor garbage bag. Cameras and binoculars can be stored in an optional waterproof ammo can wrapped in a scarf or hat. (Pelican cases are specialized, waterproof boxes for your camera and belongings, if you have one bring it!) The dry bags will be handed out at the pre-trip orientation meeting, you will then need to re-pack your personal gear into the dry bags. Pack your changes of clothing in "complete outfits" so that you don't need to empty your whole dry bag to get a simple shirt.

If you have any questions, please call us at (907) 766-2491 or send us an email at raffalaska@chilkatguides.com