

Chilkat Guides, Ltd.

P.O. Box 170, Haines, Alaska 99827 • Ph. 907-766-2491 • Fax 907-766-2409
raftalaska@chilkatguides.com • www.raftalaska.com



Greetings from Haines, Alaska!

Thank you for your interest in Chilkat Guides, Ltd. and the adventure trips we offer. We are anticipating another exciting season in the wilderness and hope you will join us! In this packet you will find a sample itinerary of our Alsek River adventure as well as registration forms and gear lists. You can find additional information about our Tatshenshini, Alsek, and Kongakut trips on our website at www.raftalaska.com.

For current dates and prices for Tatshenshini, Alsek and Kongakut trips visit our dates and prices page by clicking here: <http://www.chilkatguides.com/dates-prices/>

Trip price includes: transportation to the put-in, bush flights, all food on the river, shared tent, sleeping bag and pad, life jacket, rain gear, rubber boots, gloves, and dry bags.

Let the daily rhythm of the river set the pace while you soak in the breathtaking scenery and experience wilderness camping in the last frontier. Journey down river in the comfort of an 18-foot raft and relish the serenity of an untamed Alaska. Take the opportunity to hike to the ridge for a view like no other. At the end of the day, enjoy “camp gourmet” meals by the fire and learn from our knowledgeable and experienced guides. The adventure awaits, we look forward to guiding your journey.

Kind Regards,

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Alsek River System

In the northwest corner of North America, the boundaries of Alaska, British Columbia and the Yukon Territory converge to form the largest protected landmass on earth. Amidst these glacier-filled ranges the Alsek and Tatshenshini Rivers flow from mountains to sea through one of the most spectacular wilderness areas on the planet. From the Yukon interior to the coast of Alaska, the "Tat" and Alsek wind through breathtaking scenery passing wildlife and glaciers on the way. Join us as we explore the biodiversity of this region from the vantage point of the river. It will be a trip you will never forget!

- DAY 1

The first day of our Alsek trip is a travel day and all participants need to be in Haines by **12:00 noon**. We will have a trip orientation at 12:30 p.m. and hand out river gear. After the meeting there is time allotted to pack your dry bags and purchase any last minute items. At 2:00 pm we begin the 3-hour drive to the put-in camp in Haines Junction Yukon Territory (don't forget your passport). We'll plan on camping at the put in for an early start the following morning.

- DAYS 2-3

After a riverside breakfast and breaking camp we board the rafts on the calm waters of the Dezadeash River, setting a mellow pace for the first few days of the trip. We gain some down-river momentum at the convergence of the swift moving Kuskowalsh River, thus signifying the beginning of the Alsek River. From here we meander our way into the *ice age wilderness*, a sparse environment ripe with the scars of recent glacial activity.

- DAYS 4-5

Now we begin nearing the glaciers. Along shore the exposed lava rocks become less common and are replaced by stratified sedimentary rocks. We also get our first taste of rapid waters here as the river drops into an iceberg-studded lake formed by the retreating Lowell Glacier. In the summer of 1997 this glacier surged forward at the amazing rate of one-quarter mile per week, almost closing off the outflow of the river. We plan to have a layover day here for soaking up the scenery and hiking up Goatherd Mountain. The top awards an incredible view of the Lowell Glacier as it reaches 40 miles into the mountains, its blue surface striped with curving lines of rock moraine.

- DAYS 6-9

As we leave the Lowell Glacier behind, the river flows rapidly amongst ever narrowing valley walls that show signs of powerful geologic forces at work. We will encounter the largest rapids of the trip here. The river continues at a rapid pace, winding its way toward the Tweedsmuir Glacier. It is here that the glacier pushes the river against the adjacent mountain creating the infamous Turnback Canyon, non-navigable to rafts. A helicopter will shuttle our gear and us over the turbulent waters, providing a spectacular aerial view of the glacier country and a peek at the seldom seen rapids of the canyon. After re-inflating the rafts we will continue downstream, passing the Vern Ritchie and Battle Glaciers. Not far downstream is the expansive confluence area of the Tatshenshini and Alsek Rivers.

- DAYS 10-13

The total volume of water is now in the range of 50,000 to over 100,000 cfs, five times more water than the Grand Canyon. The remote border cut between Canada and the U.S. will be visible just upstream from the fabulous Walker Glacier. This glacier is so named for the fact that when conditions are right, visitors may actually be able to walk on the glacier surface. For the remainder of the trip we will be in a remote region of Glacier Bay National Park. Alsek Lake, the largest lake in the park, and some of the tallest mountains of the coast range provide a dramatic backdrop as we make camp and enjoy our final days. Our trip officially concludes in Dry Bay, a small but important seasonal fishing area on the coast. Here we will say goodbye to the guides and fly by small bush planes to Yakutat to meet up with scheduled jet service.

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Life On The River

The Alaskan wilderness is a vast and varied part of the world with inherent characteristics that you will need to understand before setting out on an extended trip. Safety is of primary concern in these remote regions, as is environmental preservation. Our guides are very experienced in these areas and it is important that you pay attention to the pre-trip safety briefing, as well as advice they may offer throughout the trip.

These time tested tips make our trips run safely and smoothly, please read them carefully. We will review these matters before putting on the river, so please ask for clarification if there is anything you do not understand.

Medical Needs – Please be up front about any medical needs and discuss special medical concerns with the trip leader.

At the Put-in – Be patient with us the first day as we stow everything on the rafts. Choose a guide to ride with for the day and present them with your two dry bags. The last items loaded onto the rafts will be your daypack.

Arriving to Camp – When we arrive at camp the Trip Leader will lay out the camp scene with specific spots for tents, kitchen and toilet facility. Everyone then forms a fire line to help ease the unloading of all the group camping and personal bags. We carry the group gear to the kitchen area then choose a tent site and relax!

Choosing a Campsite – Find a tent site near camp, not too close to the cooking area but not too far away. Avoid obvious game trails, leaving a wildlife corridor open. Try not to destroy vegetation in tent placement, use existing tent spots when available. Also try to use existing trails as you move about camp to minimize impacts.

Tents – Winds can pick up unexpectedly! As you put up your tent use the heavy tent stakes that we supply. Please don't dig a trench around your tent. In the morning, it is a good idea to dry out your tent, but be sure to keep it staked down while drying so it doesn't blow away.

Human Waste – Liquids go into the river and solids go into the portable toilet facility. A private latrine area will be provided. Wash your hands at the hand wash system afterwards. Cleanliness is very important.

Bears – Keep the camp area clean. Pick it up and dispose of any food dropped regardless of how small. If you want to go for a walk, discuss it with a guide first; don't go away from the camp by yourself, hike in groups of at least four people and make noise on hikes, especially in dense brush. If you spot a bear, notify a guide immediately and gather everyone together. In camp, bring any personal food to the kitchen at night for us to store away. ***Do not have food in or near your tent!***

Firewood – Gathering firewood is one of the required camp chores. Please collect only down and dead wood that is the thickness of a wrist or smaller.

Meals – By the end of a long day on the river we all get a little hungry. A table for snacks will be set up as soon as possible and we ask that you don't hover in the kitchen while we are cooking. Once meals are called please wash your hands and proceed to the line.

Dishes – We have a five-bucket dish washing system; organic waste goes in the first bucket, then a warm pre-wash, a hot wash, a hot rinse and a sanitizer. After washing, put your plate, bowls and cups in the dish drying net under the table and leave your utensils in the sanitizing bucket. We welcome your help with cleaning the group dishes.

Garbage – It is essential that everyone understand the need to pick up any items that may fall on the ground. We burn paper garbage, collect metals and aluminum cans and save all other garbage in a collection system of bags.

Mornings – If you are an early riser, you are welcome to quietly get the morning fire going and put the coffee water on. Do check your watch to see what time it is though as the sun sometimes rises at 3:00 AM. Coffee call is a wake up call, come get a warm drink and then go back to start packing your personal gear. Breakfast call will follow. The guides will begin breaking down the community camp, at which time you should finish packing your bags and tent. Once rafts are loaded, choose a guide to ride with and bring your personal gear.

On the River – It can't be stressed enough that dressing in layers is the secret to being comfortable on the river. Wear your light layers close to your body and have progressively warmer layers either on you or in your daypack. It is very difficult to get into your dry bag during the day, so keep your daypack handy with extra socks, clothes, raingear, etc. Store your camera and binoculars in a waterproof container when not in use. Both your daypack and ammo can, will be near you on the boat. We will keep your hiking boots in a dry bag that stays with the boat you are riding on that day.

Personal Hygiene – Hand washing before eating or assisting in food prep and after visiting the toilet facilities is essential as a bug can easily be passed throughout the group in a short time. The usual shower system is the bucket and bowl method. Water will be heated over the fire and poured into a five-gallon bucket. You can then take your bucket and bowl to a private area for an improvised shower/bath.

General Information –It is very important to stay well hydrated, so drink plenty of water. Don't forget to put on sunscreen, the long days and the reflection off the water can be very intense. When you take off your lifejacket, be sure to secure it from blowing away with the sudden winds. We keep a small library of books available for additional education, don't hesitate to ask for reading material.

Hiking – Hikes are lead regularly by guides and all are invited to come along. We ask that you please do not wander off on your own without first telling someone and preferably taking someone with you. Hiking trails should be used when available. Do not take shortcuts especially on switchbacks as this causes erosion. When in open areas without trails try to step on rocks or gravel and avoid moist or vegetated ground.

Wildlife – Wildlife viewing is one of the biggest draws to the outdoors, but careful attention is required to maintain the safety of both people and animals. It is important that we never feed any wild animal even squirrels or birds. Teaching wild animals to associate humans with food can endanger you and the animal.

Cultural Considerations – Native peoples and other explorers are known to have used many of the areas we travel through. It is important that we not disturb any artifacts or cultural sites we encounter.

Drinking Water – Hydration is key and it is easy to get behind on your fluid intake. Water is boiled or filtered while out on the river and is readily available.

Wind – Winds can pick up in a matter of seconds and un-skated tents or loose clothing items can be lost. Make sure to secure all belongings and gear before leaving unattended.

Relaxing – Breathe deeply to fill your lungs with the unpolluted air, notice the lack of extraneous sounds, marvel at the spectacular mountains and sky scenes, fall into the relaxing rhythm of the rolling river and finally, enjoy to the fullest every moment of this unique adventure of a lifetime.

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Clothing & Equipment - Alsek

The remote and pristine wilderness we will be traveling through is in a temperate rainforest. Rain is an integral part of this unique region and weather can range from horizontal, driving rain to sunny and 75°. 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, wool 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.

*This is an international trip; we will be passing through Canadian customs. **Everyone** must bring a **current passport**. Non U.S. citizens must have a **re-entry visa** for the **U.S.** & **Canadian visas**, where applicable.*

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 Lightweight 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 lightweight Gore-Tex)

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 *We provide heavy-duty, vulcanized (seam sealed), rubber rain gear*

Miscellaneous Necessities

- **Passport**
- Sleeping bag – rated 10/20° (*complimentary if needed*)
- 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
- 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*)

- Single Tent (\$100)

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 bag, and your sleeping bag, sleeping pad and a few small items will go into the other. 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. We will fly any clothing and baggage doesn’t go with you on the river to Juneau where it will be waiting for you upon conclusion of the trip. If you have any questions, please call us at (907) 766-2491 or send us an email at raftalaska@chilkatguides.com

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Trip Registration

PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN THIS PAGE TO CHILKAT GUIDES

Full Name _____ River & Trip Date _____
(Name you go by) _____ Home phone # _____
Address _____ Business phone # _____
_____ Email _____
Citizenship _____ Date of Birth _____ Passport # _____
Gender _____ Height _____ Weight _____
How did you hear about Chilkat Guides, Ltd. _____

In case of emergency, please notify:

Name _____ Name _____
Address _____ Address _____
_____ _____
Phone # _____ Phone # _____

Medical insurance carrier:

Policy #/ group/ agent:

With whom, would you like to share
your, hotel room and/or tent?

If you are traveling independently what accommodations can we reserve for you?

Single tent = \$100

RIVER GEAR REQUESTS

Please reserve the following **complimentary** gear for me:

- Rain Gear SM M L XL XXL
- Shared Tent
- Sleeping Bag
- Sleeping Pad
- Rubber Boots (shoe size _____)

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Client Profile - Alsek

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Name: _____

List your other wilderness camping trips/expeditions. *(None required, we're just curious.)*

What river rafting or canoeing experience do you have?

What is your present state of health?

Describe your physical activities.

Can you swim?

Are you taking any medications?
PLEASE be specific.

Do you have any allergies?

Are you a vegetarian or vegan?

Do you eat/like fish?

Do you prefer coffee, tea or cocoa?

Do you have any dietary restrictions or food preferences?

Tell us about your interests, skills or areas of expertise (i.e. botany, geology, photography, etc.)

Anything else we should know about you?

TRAVEL ITINERARY

Juneau -

Arrival Date _____

Arrival Time _____

Accommodations _____

Transportation to Haines-

Name of Ferry _____

Airline Company _____

Arrival Date _____

Arrival Time _____

Yakutat (Alaska Airlines flight #66 to Juneau)

Departure Date _____

Destination _____

Last day of the trip, unless you prefer otherwise.

Juneau -

Departure Date _____

Departure Time _____

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VISITOR'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISKS – Rafting & Hiking

In consideration of the services of Chilkat Guides, Ltd their officers, agents, employees, stockholders, owners, volunteers, participants and all other persons or entities associated with those businesses (hereafter collectively referred to as "CG") I agree as follows:

Although CG has taken reasonable steps to provide me with appropriate equipment and skilled guides so I can enjoy an activity for which I may not be skilled, CG has informed me that this activity is not without risk. There are certain risks in each activity, including physical, emotional and other injury; illness; paralysis; loss and damage to third parties and to equipment and other property as well as to myself; permanent trauma; and death. CG does not want to frighten me or reduce my enthusiasm for this activity, but believes it is important for me to know in advance what to expect and to be informed of the risks. The following further describes some, but not all, of these risks:

The risks include, among other things, the hazards of walking on uneven terrain; slips and falls; being struck by objects dislodged or thrown from above; using the equipment for the activity; forces of nature, including lightning and weather changes; exposure to insect and animal bites and attacks; cold including hypothermia; drowning; my own condition and any medical or physical condition I might have; the physical condition of other participants; and the physical exertion associated with this activity. The risks of rafting also include the hazards of tides and currents and exposure to the elements.

Furthermore, CG employees have difficult jobs to perform. They seek safety, but they are not infallible. They might be unaware of a participant's fitness or abilities. They might misjudge the weather, the elements or the terrain. They may give inadequate warnings or instructions, and the equipment being used might malfunction. They also might be negligent in other ways.

I am aware that rafting and hiking entail risks of injury and death to any participant. I understand that the description of these risks is not complete and that other unknown or unanticipated risks may result in injury and death. I agree to assume and accept full responsibility for the risks identified herein and those risks not specifically identified. My participation in this activity is purely voluntary; no one is forcing me to participate, and I elect to participate in spite of and with full knowledge of the risks.

I acknowledge that engaging in this activity may require a degree of skill and knowledge different from other activities and that I have responsibilities as a participant. I acknowledge that the staff of CG has been available to explain to me more fully the nature and physical demands of this activity and the risks, hazards and dangers associated with it.

I certify that I am fully capable of participating in this activity. Therefore, I assume and accept full responsibility for myself, including all minor children in my care, custody or control and assume all of the risks for injury, death or loss of personal property and expenses as a result of those risks and dangers identified herein and those risks and dangers not specifically identified, including but not limited to those resulting from my negligence in participating in this activity, and I voluntarily release, forever discharge and shall be estopped from bringing any and all claims, demands and causes of action which are connected with my participation in this activity. In the event that I file a lawsuit against CG I agree to do so solely in the State of Alaska and I further agree that the substantive law of Alaska shall apply in that action without regard to conflict of laws rules.

I agree that if any portion of this agreement is found to be void or unenforceable, the remaining portions shall remain in full force and effect.

I have carefully read, clearly understood and accepted the terms and conditions stated herein and acknowledge that this agreement shall be effective and binding upon me, my heirs, assigns, personal representative and estate and for all members of my family, including minor children.

Signature

Date

Signature of Parent or Guardian, if participant is under 18 years of age

Signature

Date

Chilkat Guides, Ltd. - Visitor's Acknowledgement of Risks