

Greenland Ski & Dog Clothing & Equipment List

Purchasing new clothing & equipment for a polar expedition is often a harder challenge than the expedition itself. There are so many new products on the market. Add to this your “tried & true” favorite items that you’ve used for years and one often becomes overwhelmed by the choices. The recommendations we offer in this equipment and clothing list are based on gear that we have personally used on Polar expeditions; we know it works! **Do not hesitate to contact if you have questions about clothing & equipment.**

In the list below you will note that we emphasize “*systems*.” An excellent one-piece wind suit or a great ski boot is worthless if not used in a proper system. All your “systems,” whether it be clothing, sleeping or skiing, will need to be tested to insure that all the items are compatible with each other.

NorthWinds will supply:

- Tents: Hilleberg tent customized with snow flaps, vents, drying lines
- MSR stoves mounted on stove board, pots, & cooking items, and stove fuel
- Navigation: guide will have GPS, compass and watch
- Communication: Iridium phone & solar recharging panel
- First Aid kit
- Crevasse rescue equipment: climbing harness, carabiners, climbing rope, prussic, webbing slings, etc.
- 1 to 3 traction kites (made by Conceptair, these “First” kites are great beginner kites), kiting harness

NorthWinds supplies the following items for you to keep:

- 1 pairs of goggles with wind-stopper nose guards
- 1 fur ruff to be sewn onto your wind jacket
- 2 Nalgene water bottles with insulated covers
- 2 neck gaiters (fleece neck tube to protect lower face). We do not recommend neoprene face masks.
- 1 quick dry washing cloth

Clothing System

On an expedition across the Greenland ice cap from mid-May to mid-June, you can expect temperatures to fluctuate between -25°C to 0°C with wind chills it can drop to -30°C! Your clothing system needs to wick away perspiration, protect you from the wind and insulate you from the cold.

Body

- 2 sets of top & bottom long underwear; 1 pair light-weight, 1 pair mid-weight. Capilene polyester is excellent; untreated polyesters, wick-able polyesters (polypropylene) and the new smart wool are good. Patagonia makes a good capilene; Lifa by Helly Hansen is excellent.
- 1 set of top & bottom expedition-weight fleece, 100 – 200 wt.
- 1 fleece jacket or pull-over 200 – 300 wt.
- 1 windproof jacket & pants (or one piece suit) made of Gortex or other wind-proof breathable fabric such as Ventile or a nylon/cotton blend. Look for good ventilation such as full side zips on pants and underarm zips. The hood needs a wire support around the rim or be stiff enough to hold a fur ruff. A ruff is extremely important for protection from the constant headwinds. (NorthWinds supplies a fur ruff.) If you choose bib pants or a one-piece suit we recommend a through-the-crotch zipper; this will necessitate that the under layers also work with this system with crotch zips or slits. Please add zipper tabs to all zippers (about 2" long) to enable you to operate zippers with mitts.
- 1 mid-weight down parka with insulated hood.

Optional:

- Vest: down, fleece or fiberfill
- If you are prone to cold feet we recommend you bring 1 pair of insulated pants with full side zippers to enable you to put them on or off without removing your ski boots. Pants can be quilted down, fiberfill or a fleece lined shell.

Head

- 2 hats; must offer insulation, wind protection and cover ears. A fleece with a wind-shell cover is great. Lowe makes a good one.
- 1 pair of sun glasses that block side light such as glacier glasses or wrap around glasses. Eye protection must block 90% of UV rays.

Optional:

- 1 polypro or fleece balaclava
- 1 wind-stopper head band (can double as eye cover to block out the 24 hour light)

Hands

- 2 pairs of polypropylene glove liners; one thick, one thin
- 2 pair insulated ski glove or wind-stopper glove, large enough to fit over liners
- 1 pair expedition over mitts; down or fiberfill, large enough to fit over any of the above gloves.

Feet

- 2 pair polypropylene sock liners; one thick, one thin
- 2 pair thick socks; smart wool or synthetic blend to fit over liner

Optional:

- 1 pair of camp booties or down booties for quick trips outside tent
- 1 pair (plus 1 spare) VBL (vapor barrier liner) socks

Ski System

Boots & Bindings

Many ski boot & binding systems have been tried, many have failed, none are fail proof. The system that has proven the best is a stiff back-country ski boot like the Meindl or Alpina with a Rotefella NNN BC ski binding. This is the best system for serious skiers.

- 1 pair Meindl or Alpina (Alpina boots need an insulated over boots, screwed on)
- 2 pairs of Rottafella NNN BC (step in) bindings; one mounted on skis, one spare

Skis & Poles

- Skis: You need a back-country (BC) cross country ski with full metal edges. We can recommend: Black Diamond Aurora (indestructible but heavy), Fischer Europa 99 or 109, Madshus, Asnes BC. We recommend a ski with a with a no wax base. If you choose to bring a wax ski you will also need to bring a range of waxes from a cold -20 C to + 5 C.
- Poles: Ski poles must be strong but not heavy, handle straps should be adjustable to fit your large expedition mitts. A nice option is to have adjustable poles like the Black Diamond "Traverse" or "Expedition."

Sleeping System

Although wind-chill temperatures can be -30°C it is surprisingly warm in the tent due to a greenhouse effect caused by 24 hours of sunlight. We also add fully insulated tent floors (made of thin evizote pads) that help keep out the cold. For seeping you will need:

- 1 Sleeping bag rated to -20°C
- 2 full length sleeping pads: a closed celled foam (like a Z-rest or a Ridge Rest with an self-inflating pad (like a Therm-a-Rest).

Personal Items

Bring the minimum that you will need!

- personal toilet kit: tooth brush, small tube of tooth paste, comb or small brush, hair elastics for long hair, nail file or nail clippers....etc.
- 2 chap stick Recommend Dermetone
- 2 skin cream the dry polar conditions causes skin to crack on hands and flake off body like dandruff
- 1 small sun screen
- women - tampex or tampons
- small personal first aid kit for blisters, minor aches and pains
- vitamins (optional)

Other optional items:

- camera, film & spare batteries (lithium batteries last longer in the cold).
- your own Iridium phone (or Simm card for Iridium phone. We can arrange rental of phone and Simm cards.
- Mini disc player (music) & extra batteries
- paperback reading books
- 1 expedition journal pen or pencil
- Crazy Creek chair, Therm-a-rest makes a nylon cover to make your sleeping matt into a chair