

HAINES RAFTING COMPANY

BOOKING INFORMATION

Please read these materials thoroughly. The better you are prepared mentally and physically, the more fun you will have on this trip. This packet includes information on:

1. **Booking Instructions**
2. **Preparing for Your Trip**
3. **Pre-trip Meeting**
4. **Wilderness/ Expedition Etiquette**
5. **Transportation**
6. **Trip Equipment List**

How to book your trip

Please fill out and return the [Trip Registration Form](#). We will email you a trip invoice with a payment link for the deposit.

We require a \$500 per person deposit to reserve space. The reservation is not confirmed until we receive your deposit payment.

Final payment is due 90 days prior to the trip start date.

For your final payment we will accept personal checks or bank transfers. We also accept credit card payments with a 3.5% charge to cover processing fees.

If you have questions at any point in this process, just call or send us an email. We will be happy to answer your questions, give more details, or refer you to further resources as soon as we can. As our guest(s), we want you to feel prepared, confident, and excited about your upcoming Tatshenshini or Alsek River rafting trip. Happy planning.

We look forward to traveling with you!

Preparing for your trip

Travel/cancellation insurance: We strongly urge that you purchase travel/cancellation insurance. [The Expedition Broker](#) (877 260 8352) is a good local resource for buying travel insurance.

Travel to Juneau and Haines, AK

Alaska Airlines has good service into Juneau from the lower 48. Haines is 70 miles from Juneau and is accessible by air taxi or ferry. There is no road to Juneau.

Air taxis are fast, but flights are weather dependent and thus there is a risk of delay or cancellation.

Alaska Seaplanes: <http://www.flyalaskaseaplanes.com/>

We recommend taking the ferry to Haines. It is a fun trip. Ferries run most days in the summer but check the schedule *before* booking your flights to Juneau.

Alaska Marine Highway: <http://www.dot.state.ak.us/amhs>

Alaska Fjordlines Ferry <http://www.alaskafjordlines.com>

Pre-trip logistics – Haines, AK

You need to arrive in Haines in time for a pre-trip meeting at 4 pm the day before your trip. We will have a room reserved for you at the Hotel Halsingland for that night. This room is included in the price of your trip. Rooms are double occupancy unless you request otherwise.

We will rendezvous at the hotel at 4:00 PM the day prior to your trip start date.

To arrange shuttle service from the airport or ferry terminal we recommend calling or emailing the Haines Shuttle van service (<https://www.hainesshuttle.com>). You will need to contact them in advance to schedule a transfer.

End of trip logistics – Yakutat, AK

This trip ends in Yakutat, Alaska. Weather permitting; we will fly you to Yakutat in time for the afternoon flight on Alaska Airlines to Juneau. You need to arrange this Alaska Airlines flight on your own. Please note that the weather at Dry Bay, where the rafting ends, occasionally prevents charter flights from landing, if the weather precludes safe flying, the charter will be delayed until the weather improves. Any costs caused directly or indirectly by this aviation delay will be solely your responsibility. Relatives and employers should be made aware both of delay possibilities and the fact that you cannot contact them from the wilderness. There is no cause for alarm if you are delayed and your family need not worry but please ask someone at home to help re-book hotel reservations, adjust flights etc. should you be delayed. We are happy to keep your family apprised of your situation but can't orchestrate your travel plans in the unlikely event that you are delayed at trips end. Did we mention getting Trip Insurance...?

Passports are required

U.S. citizens traveling to and from Canada are required to present a passport at the border. **It must be valid for six months beyond completion of the trip.**

Citizens of countries other than the U.S. should check with the consulates of Canada and the US for entry requirements.

If a minor is not accompanied by all parents or legal guardians, it is mandatory that the parent or legal guardian traveling with the minor carry with them a notarized document from each parent or legal guardian, not on the trip, granting his or her approval for the minor to travel on the trip.

Participants with previous felony convictions or DUI violations should contact Canada Customs for entry requirements. A DUI is a felony offence in Canada and convictions in the last 10 years will preclude entry into the country.

Special notes on luggage

You should plan to travel with duffle bags rather than luggage. We will provide each person two waterproof bags to help keep your gear dry on the trip. We will pack your duffles away till the end of the trip. Pack your clothing and gear in heavy compactor or Ziploc-type bags. At your pre-trip meeting your guide will explain the best way to pack your stuff in the dry bags. You should bring your own waterproof day pack to carry personal items such as cameras, binoculars, rain gear etc. A small to medium day pack (backpack) lined with a garbage compactor bag will suffice.

You may bring extra luggage with you to Haines at the start of the trip but there is \$48 per bag fee to return them to Juneau.

Maps: Your guide will have detailed topographic maps for everyone's use. You can also order your own set through: Geophysical Institute, Geo-Data Center, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, 907/474-6960. Another option is to order custom maps from: mytopo.com

Gratuities: If your guide(s) did a great job, which we are sure they will, a per-person tip of 5 - 10% of the trip price is very much appreciated. Plan ahead – there isn't a bank at the end of the trip.

Concerns, requests, or confusion? Let's talk about it. Please don't hesitate to pick-up the phone. Feel free to contact us with questions about your trip. We have years of experience and are happy to share our knowledge. You are our guest, not just a customer.

Pre-Trip Meeting

Please plan on attending a mandatory pre-trip meeting on the afternoon prior to Trip Day 1. A thorough and unhurried pre-trip meeting is critical to the success of your trip so please plan your travel so that you can give your full attention to the meeting.

During the meeting we will also distribute any rental gear you have requested, answer your questions, discuss safety and brief you on the logistics for the following day. The meeting usually takes about 90 minutes.

When: 4 pm on the day before your trip's start date.

Where: Rendezvous at the Hotel Halsingland in Haines, AK.

Transportation: The following morning we will depart from the hotel early bound for the Yukon Territory.

Leave No Trace

Leave it as you found it: if you get the feeling that you are the first person to ever set foot on the shore.... it is because those who came before respected the wilderness. We ask that you help us preserve the wilderness experience for those who will come after.

Bathroom: With a little effort and planning, we can prevent fecal contamination and prevent others from seeing signs that we have traveled through. We will pack-out all our solid human waste on this trip.

Tent sites: When choosing a tent site, look for places that will not require moving rocks or uprooting bushes. When we leave a camp we try and put everything back just how we found it. Being sure to pick up any garbage no matter how small.

Souvenirs: Please resist the understandable urge to take natural objects like feathers, bones and antlers. If these things seem plentiful, it may be because they have been left in place by other conscientious travelers.

Campfires: We enjoy campfires as much as anyone and will have them nightly as the site conditions permit.

Soap and washing: We provide soap and hand sanitizer, and ask that you always wash your hands after going to the bathroom, and prior to handling food.

Remoteness: Our trips are in remote regions, far removed from civilization and rescue. Quite possibly, this is the most remote you will have ever been. Help each other and accept that offered hand. Always remember where you are, and how long it could take to be rescued.

Free time: There is ample free time on our trips. If you want to go off alone, it can be very rewarding. Please, however, be aware of the inherent risks and responsibility of wilderness travel. Please also tell us where you are going and take a can of bear spray if you go alone.

Bears: Rule #1-- Watch where you are going. Rule #2-- Watch where you are going. It is wise to move slowly and noisily while walking through brushy areas. It is also important to keep a clean camp and to properly store food. Your guides will carry bear deterrent (pepper spray). There will be a detailed briefing at the beginning of your trip about living in bear country.

The cook area & food storage: Your guide(s) will designate a “cook area” and will camp closest to it. Clients should set up their tents farther away from the cook area, without surrounding it. To reduce smells (attractants) overall, your toiletry items and snack food will be stored on the rafts at night with all of the other “smelly stuff.”

Water filter: We provide a water-filter and strongly encourage you to use it. If you choose to drink untreated surface water you might be fine, but...

Communications: We carry a satellite phone for medical emergencies and for the safe conduct of every trip. We do not use them for any other reason. In addition to the satellite phone, we also carry a satellite texting device (inReach).