



Alaska West Trip Planner

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Our Location

Alaska West operates a fixed base tent lodge located in the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, 5 miles upriver from the Alaska Native village of Quinhagak, on the banks of the Kanektok River in far western Alaska along the coast of the Bering Sea.

Quinhagak is a coastal community located in the southernmost reaches of Kuskokwim Bay. It is 425 miles WSW from Anchorage, 75 miles due South of the hub village of Bethel and 190 miles WNW from Dillingham.

The Togiak National Wildlife Refuge encompasses over 4 million acres of land managed to conserve fish and wildlife populations and habitats in their natural diversity. The refuge is mainly comprised of coastal flats, river flood plains and high tundra plains. The area is habitat to caribou, wolves, moose, brown and black bear, foxes, beaver, muskrats, minks, river otters, voles and porcupines. Over 200 bird species nest in the refuge including golden and bald eagles, peregrine falcons, murrets, numerous species of waterfowl and shorebirds. Willow and cottonwood make up the scrub forests along the riverbanks and the tundra is flush with lichen, berries, dwarf trees and grasses. From the river the world looks lush with a short forest of spindly trees, bushes and grasses, but gain 15 feet of elevation and look out over the treetops and the view is a vast flat tundra plain pocked with an uncountable number of ponds and lakes, that runs every direction until it crashes into the sea, bumps into a mountain or drops into a river's path.

Welcome to Alaska West

Travel

Travel to Alaska West includes two main steps.

1. Flying to Anchorage, Alaska on any major carrier at least one day prior to your trip.
2. Travel from Anchorage to Quinhagak.

Anchorage to Quinhagak Charter

Each season Alaska West arranges and organizes a charter flight from Anchorage to Quinhagak. The details and exact itinerary are generally sent to all of our guest two months before the season starts. We begin operating in mid-June.

Charter Schedule

The charter typically departs Anchorage early to mid-morning on Sundays and flies to Quinhagak. The flight time is roughly 1.5 hours. The return flight back to Anchorage will leave Quinhagak as soon as the charter is loaded and arrives back in Anchorage 1.5 hours later. Arrival times are generally early to mid-afternoon. **We highly advise making reservations for home on the last Sunday of your trip, any time after 6:00PM.**

Booking the Charter

We reserve a seat on the charter for every angler booked into Alaska West. We'll make the reservation for you and send the itinerary/pricing on your final invoice 60 days before your trip. For the 2018 season the charter is estimated at \$850 per/person. Payment for the flight will be due with your final invoice. **For passengers reserving flights on the shuttle, we will need your legal name and DOB.** We will contact you for that information 30 days before you arrive.

Baggage

Each passenger is allowed (at no additional cost) two checked bags, weighing no more than 50 pounds total. The two bag limit allows for an additional 50 pound fish box per passenger for the return flight.

Arriving in Quinhagak

On arrival in Quinhagak, passengers are met on the airstrip by Alaska West staff and transported by bus from the airstrip to the boats for a 25 minute boat ride to camp. **It is advised to have protective clothing at hand on arrival for the ride upriver.** There is very little protection from the elements until you arrive at camp.

Alternate Travel Options

Feel free to call to the Anchorage office at, 1-800-344-3628 to inquire about travel options or if you have any questions about our shuttle program.



Staying in Anchorage

Most trips to Alaska West require at least one overnight in Anchorage. The following hotels are popular with our anglers each have special Alaska West rates. The hotels are listed from lowest rate to highest. Please feel free to contact us, if we can provide any additional information about accommodations in Anchorage.

Puffin Inn

4400 Spenard Road
907-243-4044

<http://www.puffininn.net/>

The Puffin offers more economy prices. It is located close to the airport, offers freezer service and has a shuttle. The hotel is located on Spenard Road within walking distance of the Millennium.

Coast International Inn

3450 Aviation Avenue (next to the Millennium)
800 544-0986

<http://www.intlinnanchorage.com/>

This is the closest hotel to the airport. Good food and local bar, great customer service. They provide 24 hour shuttle service to the airport and have a huge freezer.

Lakefront Hotel

4800 Spenard Road
907-243-2300

<http://www.millenniumhotels.com/millenniumanchorage/index.html>

The Lakefront is a above moderately priced hotel. It is located on the shore of Lake Hood and certain rooms have beautiful views of the largest seaplane base in the world. The hotel offers freezer and shuttle service.



Our Facility

Alaska West Camp

We call it a "tent camp" because it is made up of a combination of permanent and semi-permanent structures designed to combine comfortable living, eating and lounging areas, located right on top of a phenomenal river. Most of the buildings have vinyl coverings and we call them tents.

Dining Tent

The dining tent is a spacious 24'x 60' heated structure with wood floors and is always kept neat and clean. Our kitchen has the state of the art equipment such as gas ranges, convection oven, microwave, refrigerators and freezers.

Lounge Tent

The lounge is great place to relax after a full day of fishing. The lounge has an open wireless Wi-Fi network for the satellite internet access, telephone, satellite television and a shared computer. There is a fly tying bench and a limited supply of fly tying materials, tools and vises for guest use.

Drying Tent

This heated tent serves as a place to hang wet waders, coats, boots and wet raingear.

Gazebo/Viewing Deck

This split-level wood structure is located close to the dining and lounge tents and has a great river view. The bottom area is open aired and enclosed with fine mesh bug screen and is a great place to sit and enjoy the midnight sun without being bothered by bugs. Directly above is the viewing deck.

Showers and Restrooms/Outhouses

Camp showers have hot and cold running water with a sink basin and chair. Clean towels are provided. Restrooms are indeed outhouses. They are cleaned daily and are strategically located near the tent-cabins.

Tent Cabins/Sleeping Quarters

The sleeping quarters are 10 x 12 steel framed, vinyl covered tents. They have wooden floors, doors and screened windows and heaters. Each cabin is furnished with two single beds with full bedding, nightstand, hang-down bug net, lantern, carpeted floor and clothes hangers. The housekeeping staff will come through daily to make beds, empty trash and tidy up to ensure your new home stays neat and clean.

Electrical Devices

Due to our remote location, we have a limited supply of electricity. Please rely on battery-powered devices. Electricity for recharging batteries is available in our lounge tent during daytime hours.



Fishing Program

Our typical day starts at 7:00 AM with a buffet-style breakfast. At this time fixings are put out for you build yourself a custom-made lunch. You may also request a shore lunch—a lunch of fresh-caught fish and trimmings cooked for you, by your guide, right on the shore of the river! If you choose to have shore lunch it is best requested the night before so your guide can get prepared in advance. Shore lunch adds about 20 minutes of cooking time to your lunch break. Your guide and boat will be ready to leave camp at 8:00 AM and will be at your service until 6:00 PM, when all boats are due back to camp. Appetizers are put out at 6:30 and dinner is served at 7:30. Boats are 16 to 18 foot flat-bottomed john boats and are powered by 40 HP jet outboards. Each is equipped with bow and stern anchors, two swivel seats and life jackets. A cooler is on board to store lunches and drinks. Boats are used in several different ways. While fishing for salmon you might fish from the boat. Anchoring up and swinging or stripping flies can be very effective. Back trolling plugs or spin 'n' glows for kings is deadly. Fishing for trout can be done from our boats as well. Both seats are removed and your guide rows you down river 'drift boat style' and you cast while floating. This method is a wonderful way to see the river and cover water. While fishing from the boat is fun, most anglers also choose to fish from the wader-friendly gravel bars. This is where the jet boat shines! We can also run over very shallow water and access many small side channels that can be hiked up and fished from shore with your guide.

Taking Fish Home

Alaska West adheres to all state fishing regulations, including catch and release on all rainbow trout. Alaska West allows anglers the opportunity to take home fresh frozen, vacuum-packed salmon packaged in a wet-lock waxed box. In an effort to apply reason to our use of this resource, Alaska West allows each angler to take home up to 50 pounds of cleaned (un-smoked) salmon in any combination of sockeye, chum, pink or coho. We have a catch and release policy on King salmon of any size.

Gratuities

Tipping is customary at Alaska West. All tips are pooled and divided evenly between the entire staff. The average tip per angler for a week of fishing is about 10% of the trip price. We encourage you to tip at a level that you feel is consistent with the service that you received. Tips are collected at the end of the trip. Alaska West prefers cash for tips, but credit cards are also accepted.

Alcohol Policy

The village of Quinhagak is 'dry' meaning that it is illegal to possess alcohol within city limits. Violators of this tribal law face fines and/or embarrassment. At Alaska West we do not provide alcohol to our anglers. Alaska West respects local residents' alcohol concerns and advises interested persons to call our office at 800-344-3628 for more information on this sensitive issue.



Fishing License Info

All guests at Alaska West are required to have a current Alaska fishing license. We strongly recommend you purchase your license online prior to your trip.

Purchasing licenses online:

1. Go to this page on the ADF&G web site, <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=license.fgstore>
2. Enter your personal information and click Continue at the bottom of the page.
3. Click Sport Fishing & Hunting License.
4. Follow the instructions from there and print at least one copy on your home computer.

License Notes

Assuming you don't live in Alaska, you need to purchase a Nonresident 7 day Sport Fish license. The 'start date' should be the date you arrive at Alaska West, and you should pick a start time of 12:00 noon.

Packing

Alaska West is located in remote bush Alaska. You can purchase certain items in the village store, but the selection and availability is very limited. Tobacco products, film, batteries and fishing gear should be purchased in advanced of your trip. Use Anchorage as your last supply stop. We recommend water-repellant luggage with soft sides.

Always have your rain gear near or at the top for easy access. Weather in Alaska is very unpredictable. No matter when you visit, be prepared for highs in the 70s and lows in the 40s. July is typically the warmest month, with cooler temperatures in June and August. Always be prepared for rain and wind. Camp clothing should be casual and comfortable. Remember to keep all important medications separate from your luggage.

Because we are exposed to the elements even around camp, warmth and dryness should be considered in all clothing choices. We recommend layering your clothing for warmth and versatility.



Tackle Recommendations

Kings

Single hand rods - 9' 10-12 wt.

Reels - Large, high capacity fly reels capable of holding at least 200yd of 30lb backing with very sturdy drags.

Lines - 1. Changeable tip sinking lines with tip sink rates from 150gr-500gr.
2. Weight forward floating lines for anglers interested in indicator fishing.

(tropical saltwater lines are NOT designed to perform in this environment)

Two Hand Rods/Spey - 12'6"-14' 8-9 wt.

Reels - Large, high capacity fly reels capable of holding at least 200yd of 30lb backing with very sturdy drags. Reels should be larger than what is recommended for the rod's line weight to accommodate large diameter spey heads.

Lines - Skagit style spey heads matched to your rod. Rio Flight, S/A Skagit Extreme, or Airflo Compact Skagit are recommended for spey heads. Running lines should be at least 30lb. and 100'-150' in length. Rio Slick Shooter or S/A Sharkskin are recommended for running lines.

Leaders - 4-8 ft. of 15-25lb.

Fly basics - Unweighted anadromous flies with a large profile. Weight is not needed when fishing with sinking lines and affects casting. Tube flies are preferred but not necessary. Flies tied from Marabou or spun Craft Fur are most common. Flies tied with rabbit are very effective but are more difficult to cast with a double hand rod. Colors that work best are Chartreuse, Flo. Red, Flo. Orange, Hot Pink, Cerise, Black, King fisher Blue and Purple - in solid colors or in combination. Hooks should be a minimum of sz. 1/0. For both tube flies and articulated patterns we recommend the following hooks: Gamakatsu Octopus, Gamakatsu Finesse Wide Gap or Owner SSW



Chums

Rods - 9' 8-9wt.

Reels - Large arbor reel with a good drag that balances the rod and holds at least 100 yards of 20lb. backing.

Lines - Weight Forward Floating. Rio Cold Water Clouser or S/A Tapered GPX are recommended.

(tropical saltwater lines are NOT designed to perform in this environment)

Leaders - 8-9ft. Tapered leaders with a heavy butt section ending in 20lb. tippet.

Fly basics - Hot Pink, Cerise, Flo Orange, Flo Red or Chartreuse flies tied with Rabbit Strips, Craft Fur or Marabou – in solid colors or in combination. Flies should have heavy dumbbell eyes and be tied on a sz.1/0-sz.2 heavy salmon hook.

Sockeye

Rods - 9' 8-9wt.

Reels - Large arbor reel with a good drag that balances the rod and holds at least 100 yards of 20lb. backing.

Lines - Weight Forward Floating. Rio Cold Water Clouser or S/A Tapered GPX are recommended.

(tropical saltwater lines are NOT designed to perform in this environment)

Leaders - 8-9ft. Tapered leaders with a heavy butt section ending in 20lb. tippet.

Fly basics - Unweighted, sparsely tied creations tied on sz.1 heavy, short shank hooks.



Pinks

Rods - 9' 6-8wt.

Reels - Large arbor reel with a good drag that balances the rod and holds at least 100 yards of 20lb. backing.

Lines - Weight Forward Floating. Rio Cold Water Clouser or S/A Tapered GPX are recommended.

(tropical saltwater lines are NOT designed to perform in this environment)

Leaders - 8-9ft. Tapered leaders with a heavy butt section ending in 15-20lb. tippet.

Fly basics - Hot Pink, Cerise, Flo Orange, Flo Red or Chartreuse flies tied with Rabbit Strips, Craft Fur or Marabou – in solid colors or in combination. Flies tied with heavy dumbbell eyes and be tied on a sz.1-sz.4 heavy salmon hook work great. Hot pink poppers are great for pinks on the surface. Foam bodies with Marabou or Rabbit tails, tied on heavy salmon hooks are most common.

Silvers

Rods - 9' 8-9wt.

Reels - Large arbor reel with a good drag that balances the rod and holds at least 100 yards of 20lb. backing.

Lines - Weight Forward Floating. Rio Cold Water Clouser or S/A Tapered GPX are recommended.

(tropical saltwater lines are NOT designed to perform in this environment)

Leaders - 8-9ft. Tapered leaders with a heavy butt section ending in 20lb. tippet.

Fly basics - Hot Pink, Cerise, Flo Orange, Flo Red, Chartreuse, Purple or Black, solid or in combination flies tied with Rabbit Strips, Craft Fur or Marabou in solid colors or in combination. Flies tied with heavy dumbbell eyes and tied on a sz.1/0-sz.2 heavy salmon hook work great. Hot pink poppers are great for taking Silvers on the surface. Foam bodies with Marabou and Rabbit tails, tied on heavy salmon hooks are most common.



Rainbows and Dollies

Rods - 9' 6-7wt.

Reels - Large arbor reel with a good drag that balances the rod and holds at least 60 yards of 20lb. backing.

Lines - Weight Forward Floating. Rio Cold Water Clouser or S/A Tapered GPX are recommended.

(tropical saltwater lines are NOT designed to perform in this environment)

Leaders - 8-9ft. Tapered leaders with a heavy butt section ending in 10-15lb. tippet. 15-25lb. for Mouse fishing.

Fly basics - Sculpin Patterns, Smolt Patterns, Mouse Patterns (tied with stinger style hooks only – no fixed hooks), Flesh Flies, Beads, Glo-Bugs, Bead head, rubber legged nymph patterns.

Grayling

Rods - 9' 5-6 wt.

Reels - Large arbor reel with a good drag that balances the rod and holds at least 60 yards of 20lb. backing.

Lines - Weight Forward Floating. Rio Grand or S/A Tapered GPX are recommended.

(tropical saltwater lines are NOT designed to perform in this environment)

Leaders - 8-9ft. Tapered leaders with a heavy butt section ending in 8-12lb. tippet.

Fly basics - Bead head nymphs, Elk Hair Caddis, Bushy Attractor Patterns, Mini Mice.



Contact Information

Mailing Address:

Alaska West

200 West 34th Ave, PMB 1170

Anchorage, AK 99503

Reservations and information: 1-800-344-3628 or 907-563-9788

Email: info@deneki.com

Anchorage office:

Bryan Burke bryanb@deneki.com

Cell Phone: 907-440-8898

Alaska West camp (early June – early September)

Alaska West camp address - SUMMER SHIPPING ONLY

Alaska West

P. O. Box 130

Quinhagak, AK 99655

