

BOOK #004

The Smart Traveler's Alaska Packing Guide

Chapter 2 — The Layering System

One of the best packing strategies for an Alaska cruise is learning how to dress in layers. Rather than packing one heavy coat, you'll be much more comfortable wearing several lightweight layers that you can add or remove throughout the day.

Base Layer

Start with a comfortable, moisture-wicking shirt. This layer helps regulate your body temperature and keeps you comfortable whether you're exploring a port or enjoying time on deck.

Mid Layer

A fleece jacket, light sweater, or insulated vest adds warmth when temperatures cool, especially in the morning or evening.

Outer Layer

Finish with a waterproof or water-resistant jacket. Rain showers are common in Alaska, and a quality shell also protects you from cool ocean breezes during scenic cruising and glacier viewing.

Accessories

A lightweight knit hat, thin gloves, sunglasses, and a small daypack are excellent additions. These items take very little room in your luggage but can make a big difference in your comfort.

Why Layers Work

Weather conditions can change quickly as your ship sails from one port to another. Layers allow you to adapt without carrying bulky clothing or returning to your cabin throughout the day.

Aimee's Insider Tip

After four Alaska cruises, I rarely wear every layer at once. I simply add or remove pieces as the weather changes. It's one of the easiest ways to stay comfortable while keeping your suitcase light and organized.