

YUKON

Pre-Departure & Travel Information

Reminders

Please make sure you have completed the following before your course departure date:

- Registration Form (needs to be submitted along with a deposit to secure your space on a course)
- Health Form (30 days prior to departure)
- Rental Equipment Form (30 days prior to departure)
- Release, Acknowledgment of Risk and Indemnity Agreement (30 days prior to departure)
- Travel itinerary to IWLS office (30 days prior to departure)
- Copy of Passport to IWLS office (30 days prior to departure)
- Paid in Full (90 days prior to departure)

Canada

Taught in the Yukon Territory, this course visits Kluane National Park, which is part of the largest protected wilderness area on earth. The scale and size of this northern land is overwhelming, inspiring a sense of awe and power in visitors. With its mountains, lakes and large system of interconnected glaciers, this area offers great backpacking and wilderness exploration.

The Yukon River has been one of the main channels for travel and exploration in the north country for millennia. From natives using the river as a trade route and for salmon fishing to gold rushers floating it to access the interior, the river is part of Western lore. With its slow moving channels and deep, swift gorges, the Yukon is a great river to explore and learn on.

Arrival Information

Day 0: Pre-trip meeting at 6pm at Alaska Mountain Guides Expedition Center in Haines

Day 1: This is the start date listed on the website. Meet at Expedition Center in Haines at 9:00 AM.

We will have an IWLS representative available for pickup the day prior to the start date of the course. If you are arriving early in the morning or late in the evening please contact us for special arrangements. Again, please notify the IWLS office of your expected arrival or flight information as soon as possible and let us know of any delays for changes.

Airline Tickets

Make certain that your ticket matches the full name on your passport. Plan your arrival in Haines no later than 6pm the night before your course start date. If time permits, we recommend arriving one day early to provide leeway for any flight or baggage connection trouble. Please make certain that we have your flight and arrival information so that we can meet you at the airport! Always reconfirm your flights within 72 hours of departure time.

Airline Routing and/or Other Travel Options

The easiest way to get to Haines is from Juneau, the state capital. Alaska Airlines has daily scheduled flights from Seattle; flight time is about 1.5 hours. From Juneau there are many flights daily with local commuter airlines that make the 35-minute trip to Haines. The ferry also runs from Juneau to Haines in about 4 hours.





Baggage

Typically you are allowed two 50 lb. bags at no extra charge. For bags weighing 50-70 lbs. there is usually an additional charge per bag. It is often cheaper to have two bags over 50 lbs. than a third bag. If you travel through other countries for a stopover you may be charged excess baggage fees for anything over 44lbs. (20 kilos) each flight. If possible, pack your backpack and gear inside a large duffle bag.

Photocopy all Documents

Make certain to copy your passport, airline tickets, credit cards, traveler's checks, immunization book, etc. This can be very helpful in the event that anything is lost or stolen. It is also a good idea to send an electronic copy of your documents to a personal email account.

Passport

A passport is required for all international travel with IWLS. Please make a photocopy of your passport and send it to the IWLS office. Check the expiration date of your passport and have it renewed. Some countries will not allow you to enter the country if your passport expires within 6 months of your return date.

Visas

No visa is required before arriving in the country.

Immunizations

There may be some suggested immunizations based on the location of your course. We recommend that you check with your doctor for the most current immunization information. Another good resource is the [CDC website](#). If you have received immunizations, either in the past, or for this trip, make certain to bring your immunization book/card.

Currency

In Mexico the exchange rate is about ten pesos to one dollar. Traveler's checks and cash are both easily exchangeable. ATM's with the Cirrus network are widely available and work well. You can usually withdraw up to \$300 a day from your account, check with your bank before traveling.

Sending Money

We recommend bringing at least \$500 USD for international courses and \$250 for domestic courses in cash or travelers checks. This money is to cover any personal expenses before or after your course. If you are planning on traveling in-conjunction with your course the suggested amounts above may not be enough. Always carry a credit card for emergencies as well, however they are not accepted in all locations so make sure you have enough cash for the necessary expenses.

Time Zones

The course takes place in the Pacific Time Zone (east coast time minus 3 hours).

Climate

During your course you can expect a moderate northern climate with variable conditions. In general you can expect cool temperatures throughout the course.





Photography

A small, lightweight, 35mm camera with three to ten rolls of film, depending on how much you like to shoot, is recommended. If you use a digital camera consider how many batteries and memory cards you will need to bring. Remember to keep the bulk and weight to a minimum.

Food

Snack food may be difficult to locate in international locations so flexibility is key. Avoid all foods washed with water as many sources may be contaminated, examples of these foods are lettuce and unpeeled fruits and vegetables. Your instructors will provide you direction in your food choices but the decision of what to consume is ultimately your responsibility.

Cultural Considerations

When travelling internationally special attention needs to be paid to local customs and laws. For example in some Latin American cultures it is considered unacceptable to wear shorts in public. Another consideration would be the display of wealth in an impoverished area, this can be seen as disrespectful and possibly lead to unwanted confrontation. We recommend reading up on the customs of the area that you are travelling to prior to your departure, The Lonely Planet is an excellent resource. Please consult your instructors for information specific to your location.

Medical

Please consult your physician and have them complete the health form provided by IWLS. If you require any personal medications, or, have any pre-existing medical problems, make certain to re-confirm with your guide upon arrival. Furthermore, IWLS requires that all students have their own health insurance. Individuals are solely responsible for any medical costs, including all associated rescue, evacuation, and transportation costs. Please take time to review your medical insurance policy. Make certain that your coverage extends to the location of your course, and that it provides coverage for any potential, associated, costs. Many policies will provide coverage for travel abroad for a small additional fee. AIG travel guard, listed below, offers temporary health insurance for an additional fee.

Medications

Please make sure you have the following medications for personal use on your IWLS course:

- All prescription and/or non-prescription medications you are currently taking.
- A broad-spectrum antibiotic prescribed by your doctor (this is required).
- Aspirin or Ibuprofen

The following high altitude medications are required, in conjunction with the general medications listed above, for all IWLS courses that go above 14,000ft. (Mexico Volcanoes, Ecuador Volcanoes, Aconcagua, Kilimanjaro, Nepal):

- Acetazolamide, also known as Diamox can be taken to help in the acclimatization process and/or to relieve the symptoms of Acute Mountain Sickness or AMS.
- Dexamethasone, also known as Decadron can be taken to relieve the symptoms of High Altitude Cerebral Edema or HACE.

Travel Insurance



Travel insurance is required for international courses and highly recommend for domestic courses. In many case travel insurance will cover medical expenses, evacuation costs, lost baggage, travel delays, and other costs in the event you need to cancel your trip. We have worked with almost every provider of travel insurance and feel strongly that the Adventure Travel Protection Plan from AIG/ Travel Guard is the best one available. It is one of the only plans that covers high altitude climbing and has significant benefits if purchased within 15 days of making your trip deposit. Details can be found on [our website](#).

**FOR THINGS YOU CAN'T
IMAGINE WHEN TRAVELING,**

**AIG Travel
Guard**

Will there be a place for me to store my things while I'm on the course?

Yes, we have a secure location at our Expedition Center in Haines for extra gear storage during your course

What should I bring on the first day?

All your personal clothing and equipment for your course.

Training and Fitness

Your course will consist of long days of moderate activity which will require good aerobic (endurance) conditioning. You should create a well-rounded work out plan prior to your course which combines endurance, strength, flexibility and balance. Depending on the nature of your course the training program will vary slightly but the underlying principle should be aerobic conditioning. Examples of aerobic exercises include running, cycling, Nordic skiing, and swimming. Ideally you want to start your work out with a warm up of 5-10 minutes at 50-60% of your maximum heart rate, then continue for another 20-60 minutes at 65-80% of your maximum heart rate, and finish with a cool down of 5-10 minutes at 50-60% of your maximum heart rate. This should be practiced 3-4 times a week for up to eight weeks before your course start date. A strength training workout (ie. weight-lifting) could be a good supplement to your work out plan, but not a substitute. Good conditioning will not only improve your chances for success but will also improve the quality of your course. Don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions on specific training programs. The possibilities are endless, so get creative and have fun!

Here are several activity specific workouts you can do to supplement your conditioning:

Ski Mountaineering – Go downhill skiing with a light weight pack and skin up hill with a 40-50lb. pack.

Mountaineering – Take long day hikes carrying a 40-50lb. pack while wearing your plastic boots.

Backpacking – Take long day hikes carrying a 40-50lb. pack while wearing your hiking boots.

Sea Kayaking – Build up your core strength and upper body with push-ups, sit-ups and pull-ups.

Rock/Ice Climbing – Build up your upper body strength and balance with push-ups, sit-ups and pull-ups

Our Instructors

IWLS instructors are widely recognized as some of the very best in their field and have practical leadership experience from around the globe. They are well trained and have an uncommon enthusiasm for sharing their skill and knowledge, borne out of a passion for outdoor exploration. IWLS leaders are technically skilled,





IWLS

International Wilderness Leadership School

passionate about wilderness, and committed to each and every student. Their dedication insures each student an educational experience that will exceed their expectations!

In addition to the technical skills, IWLS instructors are equally experts in the “softer skills” of risk management, client care, and group dynamics. Not only will they insure a quality experience for each student, but will also work to impart this judgment to them.

