

BLACK MOUNTAINEERING

DENALI EXPEDITION

West Buttress Route | Alaska Range, USA | 6,190m Summit

GEAR LIST

LOCATION
ALASKA, USA

DURATION
21 DAYS

ROUTE
WEST BUTTRESS

GRADE
VERY DIFFICULT

ALTITUDE
6,190M

DAILY ACTIVITY
8-10 HOURS

MANDATORY EQUIPMENT & LAYERING CHECKLIST

Denali is one of the most physically demanding and equipment-intensive expeditions in the world. Climbers must be prepared for severe cold, high winds, glacier travel, hauling heavy loads and living independently on the mountain for an extended period.

All mandatory equipment must be expedition quality, fit correctly and have been tested before departure.

01 | SUN PROTECTION

- [ ] SPF 50+ sunscreen
- [ ] Sun hat
- [ ] High-SPF lip protection
- [ ] Face / nose protection
- [ ] Glacier glasses
- [ ] Goggles

02 | HEAD & FACE

- [ ] Warm beanie / toque
- [ ] Ski / expedition goggles
- [ ] Sun hat / baseball cap
- [ ] Buff / neck gaiter
- [ ] Glacier sunglasses – Category 4 Recommended
- [ ] Face mask or balaclava
- [ ] Spare glacier sunglasses
- [ ] Nose / face protection for high UV exposure

03 | HANDS

- [ ] Lightweight liner gloves
- [ ] Spare liner gloves
- [ ] Mid-weight working / climbing gloves
- [ ] Waterproof expedition gloves
- [ ] Expedition mittens

MANDATORY EQUIPMENT & LAYERING CHECKLIST

04 | UPPER BODY – LAYERING SYSTEM

BASE LAYERS

- [ ] Lightweight long-sleeve base layer
- [ ] Lightweight sun shirt
- [ ] Additional base layer

> *Synthetic or merino wool. No cotton.*

MID LAYERS

- [ ] Active insulation / fleece layer
- [ ] Lightweight insulated jacket
- [ ] Softshell jacket

OUTER LAYERS

- [ ] Waterproof / breathable hardshell jacket
- [ ] Expedition-weight down parka with hood

05 | LOWER BODY

- [ ] Synthetic / merino underwear
- [ ] Softshell climbing trousers
- [ ] Lightweight base-layer bottoms
- [ ] Waterproof hardshell trousers
- [ ] Expedition-weight base-layer bottoms
- [ ] Insulated expedition trousers / down trousers

> *Full-length side zips on insulated trousers are strongly recommended so they can be put on or removed while wearing boots and crampons.*

MANDATORY EQUIPMENT & LAYERING CHECKLIST

06 | FOOTWEAR

SOCKS

- [ ] 4–6 pairs expedition-quality mountaineering socks
- [ ] Liner socks if personally preferred

MOUNTAINEERING BOOTS

- [ ] High-altitude double or integrated expedition mountaineering boots suitable for Denali

> **Examples of the type of boot required include:** *La Sportiva G2 • La Sportiva Olympus Mons • Scarpa Phantom 6000 • Scarpa Phantom 8000 • Millet Everest Summit GTX*

> *Boots must be compatible with your crampons and thoroughly tested before the expedition.*

ADDITIONAL FOOTWEAR

- [ ] Expedition overboots if required for your boot system
- [ ] Gaiters if not integrated into boots
- [ ] Lightweight insulated camp booties

07 | PACKS & EXPEDITION BAGS

- [ ] Large internal-frame expedition backpack – approximately 90–100+ litres
- [ ] Large expedition duffel – approximately 120–140 litres
- [ ] Second duffel / travel bag for equipment left in Anchorage / Talkeetna
- [ ] Waterproof stuff sacks / dry bags
- [ ] Heavy-duty pack liners

MANDATORY EQUIPMENT & LAYERING CHECKLIST

08 | TECHNICAL MOUNTAINEERING EQUIPMENT

- [ ] Mountaineering ice axe
- [ ] Lightweight climbing harness
- [ ] UIAA / CE-approved climbing helmet
- [ ] 12-point steel crampons
- [ ] Anti-balling plates fitted to crampons
- [ ] 2 trekking poles with snow baskets
- [ ] Mountaineering snowshoes
- [ ] 2 × 60cm sewn slings
- [ ] 3 locking carabiners
- [ ] 4 non-locking carabiners
- [ ] Mechanical ascender
- [ ] 2 prusik loops / suitable accessory cord

09 | SLEEP SYSTEM

SLEEPING BAG

- [ ] Expedition down sleeping bag rated approximately -29°C or colder

SLEEPING MATS

Two sleeping mats are required:

- [ ] Full-length closed-cell foam mat
- [ ] Full-length insulated inflatable sleeping mat

ADDITIONAL

- [ ] Sleeping bag compression / dry sack
- [ ] Pillow or stuff-sack pillow – optional

MANDATORY EQUIPMENT & LAYERING CHECKLIST

10 | EATING & HYDRATION

- [ ] Large insulated mug
- [ ] 2–3 × 1-litre wide-mouth water bottles
- [ ] Bowl / insulated food container
- [ ] Insulated bottle covers / parkas
- [ ] Spoon / spork
- [ ] Personal flask / thermos – optional

11 | PERSONAL MEDICAL & REPAIR KIT

PERSONAL MEDICAL

- [ ] Personal prescription medication
- [ ] Personal pain relief
- [ ] Blister treatment
- [ ] Personal first-aid supplies
- [ ] Compeed / similar
- [ ] Any medication specifically advised by your doctor

REPAIR KIT

- [ ] Duct tape
- [ ] Cable ties
- [ ] Therm-a-Rest / sleeping mat repair kit
- [ ] Small sewing kit
- [ ] Boot repair materials
- [ ] Multi-tool / small knife

MANDATORY EQUIPMENT & LAYERING CHECKLIST

12 | PERSONAL & TOILETRIES

- [ ] Toothbrush
- [ ] Toothpaste
- [ ] Hand sanitiser
- [ ] Face / body wipes
- [ ] Toilet paper as advised
- [ ] Pee bottle – minimum 1 litre
- [ ] Foot powder / antiperspirant
- [ ] Personal hygiene products
- [ ] Small quick-dry towel

FEMALE CLIMBERS

- [ ] Female urinary device if desired
- [ ] Menstrual products / menstrual cup according to personal preference

13 | EXPEDITION ACCESSORIES

- [ ] Headtorch
- [ ] Spare headtorch or backup light
- [ ] Spare batteries
- [ ] Power bank
- [ ] Charging cables
- [ ] Ear plugs
- [ ] Camera / phone
- [ ] Journal and pen
- [ ] Garbage bags
- [ ] Personal entertainment for weather/rest days

MANDATORY EQUIPMENT & LAYERING CHECKLIST

14 | PERSONAL EXPEDITION SNACKS

- [ ] Energy bars
- [ ] Sweets
- [ ] Gels
- [ ] Electrolytes
- [ ] Nuts
- [ ] Favourite summit-day snacks
- [ ] Chocolate
- [ ] Personal drink powders

15 | TRAVEL & DOCUMENTS

- [ ] Passport
- [ ] Emergency evacuation / rescue cover
- [ ] ESTA / US entry documentation as applicable
- [ ] Flight documentation
- [ ] Travel insurance
- [ ] Emergency contact information
- [ ] High-altitude mountaineering insurance
- [ ] Copies of passport and insurance documents
- [ ] Expedition documentation supplied by Black Mountaineering

SLED HAULING & EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

Denali is very different from many other high-altitude expeditions. Climbers are responsible for moving significant amounts of personal and expedition equipment up the mountain.

On the lower glacier, this normally involves a combination of carrying a heavily loaded expedition backpack and hauling equipment in a sled.

PERSONAL HAULING EQUIPMENT

- [ ] Large expedition backpack (approx 90–100+ L)
- [ ] Climbing harness suitable for full winter clothing
- [ ] 2 × 60cm sewn slings
- [ ] 3 locking carabiners
- [ ] 4 non-locking carabiners
- [ ] Personal prusik system
- [ ] Trekking poles with large snow baskets
- [ ] Expedition snowshoes
- [ ] Heavy-duty dry bags / stuff sacks for equipment

TEAM EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT (PROVIDED)

- [ ] Expedition sleds & Sled hauling systems
- [ ] Expedition tents (4-season mountain tents)
- [ ] Group cooking equipment & cook sets
- [ ] Stoves and fuel systems
- [ ] Group static & dynamic ropes
- [ ] Snow and glacier protection equipment
- [ ] Group repair equipment & tools
- [ ] Satellite communications equipment
- [ ] GPS & mountain navigation equipment
- [ ] Expedition snow shovels
- [ ] Group medical & emergency equipment
- [ ] Group food and mountain supplies
- [ ] Clean mountain waste management (CMC)

PERSONAL VS TEAM EQUIPMENT & STRATEGY

YOU CARRY [INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY]
Your personal clothing, boots, technical climbing equipment, sleeping system, personal food/snacks, water, personal medical supplies and other personal expedition equipment.

WE PROVIDE / COORDINATE [GROUP EXPEDITION SYSTEMS]
The main group camping, cooking, rope, communication, safety and expedition systems required to operate the team on Denali. Every climber is expected to carry an allocated share of group equipment, food, and fuel.

LOAD HAULING MINDSET [UNASSISTED EXPEDITION]
Denali requires a completely different mindset from a supported Himalayan expedition. There are no porters carrying your personal expedition equipment up the West Buttress. Self-sufficiency is essential.

NOTE: It is important that every climber understands the difference between personal equipment and team equipment.

TEAM MEMBERS SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR:

As the expedition progresses and the terrain becomes steeper, the way loads are transported changes. Equipment and supplies may also be cached as part of the team's acclimatisation and mountain strategy.

CORE EXPEDITION SKILL:
Load carrying is therefore not simply a fitness requirement. It is a core Denali expedition skill.

Heavy Backpack | Expedition Sled | High Altitude | Extreme Cold | Consecutive Days





PRECISION. PROFESSIONALISM. PASSION.

Black Mountaineering Expedition Leadership

PRECISION
Safety & Security

Careful planning, proven logistics, acclimatisation & risk management.

PROFESSIONALISM
Expedition Leadership

Led by Jason Black — Everest, K2 & Denali summiteer (30+ yrs experience).

PASSION
Authentic Experience

Built on a lifelong passion for exploration, challenge and adventure.

DIRECT EXPEDITION INQUIRIES & OFFICIAL WEBSITE

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EXPEDITION PAGE
View Mt Denali Expedition

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