

Gear & Packing List

Polar Bear

Pond Inlet, Nunavut · Spring · Mar — May · Polar Bear (*Ursus maritimus*)

Prepared by Dispatch Hunts. Questions on any line item — call your advisor on 406-580-5366 before you buy.

Outer shell — wind & snow

- Expedition-weight parka rated to -40°F with a fur-trimmed hood
- Insulated bib or salopette overtrousers with full-side zips
- Hard shell jacket and trousers (Gore-Tex or equivalent) to layer over insulation
- Windproof over-mitts, sized to wear over your gloves

Insulation layers

- 2 × heavyweight merino or synthetic base layer tops and bottoms
- 1 × lightweight base layer set for travel and sleeping
- Heavy fleece or wool mid-layer jacket
- Down or synthetic sweater to wear under the shell
- 4–6 pairs heavy wool socks plus 2 pairs thin liner socks

Extremities — the part people get wrong

- Arctic pac boots rated to -60°F with removable liners, one size up for thick socks
- Spare boot liners — wet liners do not dry out on the ice
- Insulated mitts (warmer than gloves) plus thin liner gloves for rifle work
- Balaclava and a neck gaiter
- Insulated hat with ear coverage, plus a spare
- Goggles and quality glacier sunglasses — glare off sea ice is brutal
- Chemical hand and toe warmers, a generous box of them

Sleeping & camp

- Sleeping bag rated -40°F or colder, down preferred
- Closed-cell foam or insulated sleeping pad
- Head torch with spare lithium batteries — alkaline cells fail in the cold
- Insulated vacuum flask and a wide-mouth water bottle
- Toiletries, lip balm with SPF and heavy barrier cream

Rifle & optics

- .300 Win Mag through .375 H&H; .338 is an excellent middle ground
- 40–60 rounds of premium bonded or partition ammunition in a hard case
- Low-power variable scope with capped turrets, lens cloths and covers
- Sling, a soft case for the sled and a hard case for the airlines
- Binoculars in 8× or 10× — leave the spotting scope at home

Documents & admin

- Passport valid at least 6 months beyond travel
- Canadian firearms declaration (CAFC 909) completed but UNSIGNED — sign it at the border
- Copies of your tag, licence and CITES paperwork, kept separate from the originals
- Travel, medical and emergency-evacuation insurance covering remote Arctic travel
- Prescription medication in original labelled packaging, doubled up

Notes from the field

- Pack soft duffels, not hard cases — hard cases ride badly on a komatik sled
- Baggage allowance into Pond Inlet is limited; confirm weights with your advisor
- Nothing cotton. Cotton holds sweat, and sweat is what makes you cold
- Batteries, phones and cameras live inside your parka, not in an outer pocket
- Build layers you can shed — you sweat travelling and freeze while glassing