

Packing List for an Autumn Trip to Greenland

- with excursions

The right equipment can be required to get the best out of a stay in Greenland. The following list is our recommendation for a packing list you may use if you do not have personal experience with the area or the type of tour you have chosen.

The autumn can be both cold and warm. For this reason, we would recommend that you pack the same kind of clothes which would keep you warm on a winter day in central Europe.

About Clothing in General in Greenland

Clothing in Greenland is both practical and informal, so you do not have to pack the “fine garments” in your suitcase on a trip to Greenland. Instead, today’s great choice of outdoor clothes will let you find something practical, smart, and comfortable.

When packing for an autumn trip to Greenland, you should think practical and isolating, both for outdoor and indoor clothing. The same standard of practical clothing applies on a night in a restaurant and alike.

During the Greenlandic autumn, you may always be prepared for the cold. But with the right clothing and certain precautions, you can embrace the cold as a different experience on your trip. Moreover, since the air is rather dry, the cold temperatures do not feel as fierce as they would in Great Britain. This way, minus 15-20 degrees Celsius in Greenland can be quite pleasant!

During the autumn, most travelers to Greenland will spend most of the days outside to collect as many experiences as possible. This implies you should bring along the right type of clothes to keep warm from the top of your head to the sole of your shoe, from the innermost to the outermost layer. So if you, for example, take a tour to the ice cap, you should still wear warm clothes, even though most of the trip will be on a bus.

Daypack

It is always a good idea to bring a smaller day backpack on a trip to Greenland. A daypack is a smaller backpack with a size of 20-30L. It can be used for sailing trips, shorter walks, and just as a handy bag if you suddenly need one. If you have to go hiking on your trip, we recommend a backpack of approximately 30 liters with a hip belt and chest strap. However, you do not need a hip belt and chest strap if you primarily spend time in the towns.

Suitcase or Backpack

On most of our trips, you will not have to carry your luggage very far. You will have to handle your suitcase by yourself at airports and hotels, but in connection with transfers, it is taken from place to place by hotel staff or others. Therefore, you have the choice of bringing a suitcase or a backpack. If you stay in smaller settlements, be prepared for your luggage to be transported on a truck, tractor, or a similar vehicle. Therefore, you should expect the luggage to get dusty, and the potholes in the dirt roads can be rough on a brand-new suitcase.

For Travelers Staying at Glacier Lodge Eqi or Ilimanaq Lodge

If you are lucky enough to stay in one of the beautiful lodges, be aware that you must carry the luggage from the boat to the cabins in a hilly area. Suitcases are not suitable. You should also be aware that you should not pack too heavy since you have to carry your bag yourself.

For travelers to Glacier Lodge Eqi, it is possible to leave some of your luggage at the hotel for luggage storage. Therefore, we recommend that you bring a smaller backpack that you can use during your stay at Glacier Lodge Eqi.

On a round trip with a stay at Ilimanaq Lodge, naturally, you will have all your luggage with you all the way. You can choose to pack in a backpack or a larger soft bag. You can also choose to pack two smaller bags if carrying all your luggage in one bag is too heavy.

Of course, you may be able to get some help if you are traveling with tour guides in groups will, but the main rule is that you have to pack so that you or someone you are traveling with can carry it, preferably in smaller bags and not in suitcases.

Clothing

The layer principle is in true effect in Greenland. The layer principle simply means that one dresses with several layers of clothing. The innermost layer helps to keep the warmth inside but at the same time keeps away the moisture from the body. The middle layer isolates against the cold. Finally, the outermost layer protects against rain, wind, and moisture.

Of course, it is unnecessary to invest in a great amount of new equipment when embarking on an autumn trip to Greenland. However, it is still critical to pack all the possible warm clothing, such as ski clothing, padded winter pants, or an old down jacket, which may be out of style, but still keeps you warm.

Underneath, we have composed a packing list that can give you an idea about the items which can come in handy on a trip to Greenland.

Underwear

Wear warm and long, close-fitting shirts and longjohns. We recommend wool since it keeps you warm even when it is moist.

Fleece trousers or heavy sweatpants

As a middle layer between the warmers and the outer layer. If you have a pair of down-lined winter pants, you can settle for longjohns and padded outer pants.

Sweater or heavy shirt

As a middle layer

Overall trousers

Windproof, possibly padded, and water-repellent. They should be large enough to provide space to comfortably wear a pair of pants underneath.

Thin socks

Wool or synthetic material. We recommend wool – and you are welcome to bring a couple of extra pairs. If you sweat and your feet get moist, it can be heavenly to change to dry socks.

Thick woolen socks

Several pairs and choose the thickest you can get. Boots must be strong, with enough space for socks and moving toes. It is pleasant to own a pair of boots which allows you to wear thick socks. The sole should be rubber since soles made of plastic and mixed materials get very slippery in lower frost temperatures.

Warm sweater

May reach up high on the neck with a zipper. Thick fleece or wool is recommended.

Big windproof jacket

Maybe with a hood and water-repellent material, but it should be able to 'breathe.'

Hat

Wool or fleece (most comfortable), perhaps a ski mask covering the neck, forehead, chin, and cheeks.

Thick woolen gloves

Essential

Big padded mittens

Maybe leather to wear above the thin inner gloves/woolen gloves. With two gloves as two layers, it is possible to regulate the temperature. Mittens are the best way to keep away the cold from the fingers.

Sunglasses

Great to have! Especially in long stretches of snow and on a trip to the ice cap when the sun is shining bright.

Lip balm

Always keep one in your pocket; the air is very dry.

Miscellaneous

Camera

Binoculars

Head torch (diode lamps use less battery)

Extra storage and batteries for the camera

Headphones for the transatlantic flight