

Typical Brown Bear Trip Itinerary

1. Meet in an online webinar about a month before the trip to discuss
 - a. Photo equipment to bring
 - i. Camera body of choice
 - ii. 300 – 400mm lens or zoom of that focal length
 1. Shorter focal length could possibly work, especially if you have a tele extender / converter.
 2. At a minimum I'd bring a lens of length 200mm
 - iii. Wide angle and or "normal" focal for "other" shots
 - iv. Tripod for sure
 - v. Rain gear for your photo gear – nothing fancy, just practical
 - vi. **Your camera manual** if this is also a learning trip for you
 1. I will bring the manuals for the Canon 7D, 1DMIV, and 5DM2, so if you have any of these cameras, no need to add to your weight with your manuals, unless you want to take notes
 - vii. Digital Storage and potentially a backup for your digital memory
 - viii. Battery chargers
 - ix. Filters (if you so desire – don't purchase these if you don't have them already)
 1. Polarizer
 2. Split Neutral Density
 - b. Clothing – layered is best. Plan for rain and be pleasantly surprised if it doesn't.
 - i. Lodge has boots, but you can bring your own if you have the room/weight
 - c. Baggage constraints – limited to 50 pounds total
 - d. Questions you may have
 - i. Dietary concerns
 - ii. Mosquitos – some but manageable.
 - iii. Cell Phone coverage – minimal depending on carrier
 - iv. Sunscreen – bring it
 - v. Alarm clock if you need one
 - vi. Water bottle
 - vii. Cap or hat (for sun and rain)
 - viii. Gloves

Goal here is ***no*** surprises for you. You'll arrive knowing what to expect (except for the weather) in this workshop.

2. Check in on the phone the night before the workshop in Anchorage

We recommend you arrive the night before

3. Meet at the small aircraft airport adjacent to the Anchorage International Airport sometime early morning of the day we fly to the lodge – typically around 8 a.m. More specific directions to be provided upon booking. Weather can be a factor here since these are small planes.

4. Approximately 1-1.5 hour flight to the lodge from Anchorage (small variances, depending on weather)

Note: Small aircraft with no standup room nor bathroom facilities. Plan your morning coffee accordingly.

5. Land on the beach near the lodge and transport via ATV to the lodge facility
6. Bear safety briefing at the lodge by the guide/lodge owner. At times we may be as close as 30 feet from the bears. Safety is paramount.

7. Photograph before lunch if time permitting, else lunch around noon and a plan to photograph immediately after lunch.
 - a. During lunch we'll talk about lighting and exposure topics. Also we'll discuss possible camera settings for the upcoming shoot

8. Photograph the bears!

9. Arrive back at the lodge in time for shower/clean up before dinner.

10. Dinner together and discussion of day's shoot.

11. Post shoot picture evaluation – after dinner for about 2 hours
 - a. Best 5 images from each for discussion
 - b. Discussion of various naming and storage topics

12. Next morning breakfast somewhere between 7 and 8
 - a. Discussion of that morning's lighting and grey card usage

13. Photograph the bears! – and hopefully cubs, too

14. Repeat this schedule

15. One day / partial day will include a boat trip (approximately 1.5 hours each way) to a nearby island to photograph puffins! Weather plays a big role on the time and duration of this trip. Lunch provided via box lunch on this day.

Differing photo topics for evening discussions

- a. Aperture preferred vs Shutter speed preferred modes
 - a. Manual mode
- b. RAW image processing
- c. Lightroom basics
- d. Bridge basics
- e. Minimalistic workflow process

Note: We may have to share the lodge common areas with other photographers, which could mean we do not have a photo evaluation each and every night.

- Departure to arrive back in Anchorage mid-day, weather permitting. It could be possible to shoot the morning of departure.