

# CRESCENT LAKE LODGE

## *Alaskan Hunting and Wilderness Adventures*

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**Crescent Lake Lodge** is located about 250 air miles west of Anchorage, and 50 river miles, (18 air miles), south of the village of Sleetmute, on a lake, a short portage from the Holitna River.

The Holitna River is a remote river system in western interior Alaska. Although this system receives little attention, it supports one of the most productive fisheries in the entire region. The Holitna and its headwater tributaries, the Chukowan and Kogrukluks rivers and Shotgun Creek drain the Kuskokwim Mountains, Shotgun Hills and parts of the Nushagak Hills and Taylor Mountains.

The Holitna's largest tributary, the Hoholitna River, drains parts of the Lime Hills, Nushagak Hills, the Door Mountains and Taylor Mountains before emptying into the Holitna about 30 miles above the Holitna's mouth, which empties into the Kuskokwim River just above the village of Sleetmute.

We have hunted, lived and trapped in this area since 1973. A limited number of hunters are taken at any one time and in any one season. This assures the hunter of having more attention paid to details and more reliable support in the field for resupply, air transport and emergencies.

In addition to hunting and fishing, the lodge also offers float trips, trekking, canoeing, kayaking and rafting, photo safaris, wildlife viewing and birding. Winter activities include: x-country skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling.

We will do our best to tailor a visit to meet your needs!





## *Hunt!*

**Moose · Caribou · Black Bear  
Brown Bear · Dall Sheep  
Wolf · Wolverine**



**Hunting;** Our hunting camps are placed in remote areas selected for the abundance of game. Like you, we love hunting and will do our best to ensure success on your hunt so you'll have the memories of a lifetime.

Hunting in Alaska can be more challenging than hunting in many other parts of the world, due to the remoteness, unpredictable weather and topography. These obstacles are offset by the abundance of wildlife and spectacular scenery.

## Crescent Lake Lodge Hunting Information

If you are a non-resident alien, you must be accompanied by a licensed guide to hunt Brown/Grizzly Bear and Dall Sheep.

We fly you from the lodge to your hunting area and you and your trophies back to the lodge. We provide your camp including tents, cots, sleeping pads, food, cook stove and lanterns. You must provide your personal hunting gear and sleeping bag.

### Costs Not Included In The Hunt

Big game tag fees and license  
 Cost of shipping hides, horns, antlers, meat, fish and other trophies  
 Hunter transportation from Anchorage to the lodge and return trip

Harvest Tickets are required for Moose, Caribou and Sheep, as well as big game metal locking tags and should be obtained when you purchase your hunting license. They are required by law and you must have them in your possession when you hunt these animals.

License Type	Cost
<b>NR Hunting</b>	<b>\$85</b>
<b>NR Hunting &amp; Sportfishing</b>	<b>\$135</b>
<b>NR Alien Hunting</b>	<b>\$300</b>
<b>NR 14 Day Sportfishing License</b>	<b>\$30</b>
<b>NR 3 Day Sportfishing License</b>	<b>\$15</b>
<b>NR 1 Day Sportfishing License</b>	<b>\$10</b>
<b>Annual Sportfishing License</b>	<b>\$50</b>
Nonresident Big Game Tags	
<b>Black Bear</b>	<b>each \$225</b>
<b>Brown Bear, including grizzly</b>	<b>each \$500</b>
<b>Caribou</b>	<b>each \$325</b>
<b>Moose</b>	<b>each \$400</b>
<b>Wolf/Wolverine</b>	<b>each \$175</b>
Nonresident Alien Big Game Tags	
<b>Black Bear</b>	<b>each \$300</b>
<b>Brown Bear, including grizzly</b>	<b>each \$650</b>
<b>Caribou</b>	<b>each \$425</b>
<b>Moose</b>	<b>each \$500</b>
<b>Wolf/Wolverine</b>	<b>each \$250</b>

## Recommended Equipment & Clothing

Rifle (preferably at least .30 caliber) with telescopic sights  
binoculars  
2 warm shirts  
1 or 2 lightweight shirts  
1 or 2 regular trousers  
1 sweater  
1 hunting jacket  
6 pair heavy socks  
3 pairs of gloves (1 really warm)  
1 wool, fleece or fur cap  
1 pair of camp slippers or gym shoes  
1 lightweight rain suit or 3/4 length rain jacket (NO PONCHOS !)  
1 pair ankle-fit hip boots (Ranger or LaCrosse are recommended)  
1 water-repellent duffel bag  
1 soft gun case  
1 backpack with frame  
1 sleeping pad (foam or Thermarest)  
1 sleeping bag rated to at least 0 degrees F. (Holo- or Qualofill are recommended. Down absorbs humidity.)  
1 toilet kit & necessities  
1 hunting knife  
1 pair of sunglasses  
1 sharpening stone or steel  
1 small flashlight  
1 camera with film  
2 or 3 boxes of ammo  
Insect repellent (Cutters or Ben's 1000)

**Personal items:** scope covers, rifle cleaning gear, medicine, reading glasses, novels, etc.

If you are going on a spring bear hunt, you should bring some warm boots/felt packs, warm hat and gloves and a tube of sunblock. Sunglasses are a must, and a rifle with a caliber of at least one of the .300 magnums is recommended for these bears.

If you are going on a late fall hunt (September 20 or later), you should bring a pair of warmer boots and a warmer hat.

**Binoculars:** Much time will be spent glassing from vantage points. Get the best you can find, 8X to 10X is best. I consider the Zeiss 10X40 optimum for this area.

**Spotting Scope:** *Optional*, your guide will have one. Go for quality.

**Rifle Scope:** Again go for quality, and 2X to 4X is recommended. Variables are fine but keep them on the lower setting unless time and distance allow for a higher setting.

# CLIENT INFORMATION

We wrote this information down for prospective clients, to answer frequently asked questions and to clarify information you have read in the brochure, or seen on our website.

## **Anchorage**

We have associates in Anchorage who can arrange a Bed and Breakfast at about \$95 per day. They can also drive you from the airport to your hotel, to buy licenses, tags, and gear, and then to the airport for flights to and from the lodge. Cost for this service is about \$25/hour, which is very reasonable when used by more than one person. We can give you the name, phone, and fax number for these people and we can make arrangements for them to help you.

If you prefer, you can make your own arrangements for lodging and transportation in Anchorage. Most hotels offer limousine service to and from the airport.

## **Seasons/License & Tag fees/Harvest tickets**

Open seasons sometimes change from year to year. These are out of our control. For example, we have combination hunts through September and into October. Moose season closes at different times in different areas. In one of your favorite areas, the moose season is September 1 – 25. If a hunter books a hunt for September 21 – 30, he has only 5 days to hunt moose, and the other animals remain open. However, moose are deep into rut then, and it's a very productive part of the season.

Presently, each client can take 2 caribou, 3 black bears, 5 wolves, 1 wolverine, and 1 each of brown bear and moose in one hunt, if he has the appropriate locking tags. Here is a list of present seasons for the different areas we hunt in:

	<u>Unit 19A</u>	<u>Unit 19B</u>	<u>Unit 17B</u>	<u># of Animals</u>
Moose	Sept. 1 – 20	Sept 1- 25	Sept 1-15	1 moose
Caribou	-----August 1 – April 15 -----			2 caribou
Brown Bear /	Sept 1- May 31	Sept 1 – May 25	Sept 20 – Oct 10	1 brown bear
Black Bear	----- No Closed Season -----			3 black bears
Sheep	----- August 10 to September 20 -----			1 sheep
Wolf	----- August 10 – April 30 -----			5 wolves
Wolverine	----- September 1 to March 31 -----			1 wolverine

Moose, caribou, and sheep have a harvest ticket requirement. You must get these tickets at the same time you purchase your license, along with big game metal locking tags – one for each animal. A hunter can use a more expensive locking tag on a less expensive animal, if he lacks that particular tag.

It is best to buy all the tags you think you may need when you buy your license in Anchorage. These can sometimes be purchased near the area we hunt in, depending on availability, at one of the few license vendors in this area of the state.

## **Weather/Flying**

Clients should arrive in Anchorage at least two days before the hunt begins, and fly to the lodge that day or the next. Then we'll have time to get you to your spike camp the day before your hunt begins. This is important, since **it is illegal to hunt the same day you have flown.** For example, if your hunt dates are Sept 1 – 10, you should arrive in Anchorage no later than Aug 30, then fly to the lodge, and out to the camp Aug. 31, and start hunting on September 1. We generally make the arrangements for clients' flights between Anchorage and the lodge.

Unpredictable weather is one thing that no one likes or ever gets use to, but it must be accepted. **The weather is the boss.** The weather absolutely affects flying safety and animal movement. The best we can do is to work around it. A wise bush pilot does not push the weather if he wants to live. And the wise client doesn't push the pilot for the same reason. If you were to ask any pilot in Alaska what causes the most accidents, he would tell you, "pushing the weather." Wind, fog, icing, and sometimes, early snow are the biggest factors.

The major airlines are aware that the weather often causes people to miss their flights out of Anchorage, and they are very accommodating in rebooking.

### **Trophies**

The hunters pay costs for the shipping of trophies. This is how it normally works; at the end of the season all trophies are flown together from the lodge to Anchorage. There, an expeditor or taxidermist prepares the trophies for shipping. When the trophies are ready, the expeditor, who already has the hunter's name, phone, and fax, notifies each client of his cost. When payment is received trophies are shipped. If trophies are going to Europe, it is important for the client to get this payment to the expeditor as early as possible. It is much cheaper when your trophy can be shipped in one container with those of other hunters, rather than shipping single trophies.

### **Charter Flights; Flying from Anchorage to Lodge and Return**

We make the arrangements for the flights to and from the lodge and we'll communicate this information to you before you leave home. We will give you the name and phone number of the air taxi, and the time you are flying to the lodge. You notify the air taxi of your arrival in Anchorage, so they can confirm the time your flight to the lodge leaves. If you have contacted one of my associates in Anchorage, they will take care of this for you. Clients bear the cost of these air taxi/charter flights. We normally arrange these flights so that you pay a seat fare. The round trip price has been about \$700 USD. Passengers are limited to 80 lbs baggage, with overage at additional cost. These prices change frequently due to increased costs.

There are also daily flights from Anchorage to the nearby village of Sleetmute via Aniak, Alaska, from where we will bring you to the lodge. If only one or two clients are traveling, sometimes this is a more economical means of travel. Cost for this varies between \$500 and \$600 round trip per person. There is a baggage limit of 40 lbs, with overage costs at about \$1.00/lb.

Usually the air taxi/charter flight is preferable in all ways. We will let you know which will be more economical for your particular hunt and we will make the arrangements.

### **Rifle cases/ Personal Gear**

If you are flying by air taxi, leave your hard rifle cases in Anchorage at the hotel. They take up too much room in the plane, and it may keep necessary equipment from getting on the flight. If you bring it, it will be left at the lodge anyway. If you fly commercially from Anchorage to Sleetmute, you will be required by the airline to use the hard rifle case.

Also, try to keep your personal gear to a minimum. Bring plenty of wool socks, and a couple of changes of clothes. Look at the list in my Hunt Information brochure and decide what's most important to you. Of course, warm, dry, feet, hands, and head are the main concerns. It is better to dress in "layers," rather than having to carry around a heavy coat.

## Taxidermy

It's a good idea to decide prior to the hunt which taxidermist you will use so we know where to have your trophies shipped.

This will save lengthy correspondence and phone calls later. You should also decide on the types of mounts for each animal so your guide can properly prepare the trophy.

## Reservations & Deposits

Your deposit is your guarantee of a booking reservation. One half of the cost of the hunt is required to secure a booking date. *Book your hunt as early as possible.*

## References

We are obligated to respect our clients privacy however we will provide references on request.

## Other Seasonal Activities

Canoeing	Hiking/Trekking
Kayaking	Small Game/Birding
Swimming	Photography Expeditions
Fishing	Cross-Country Skiing
Camping	Snowmobiling

## Contact Information

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