



**SUNDOG  
EXPEDITIONS**

# COPPER RIVER



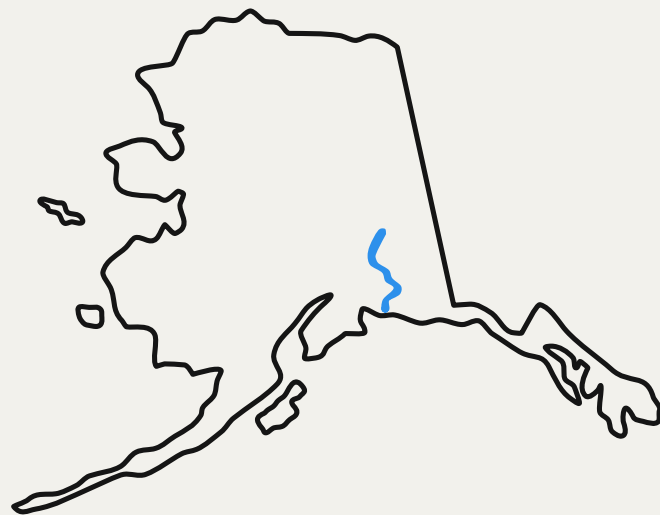
## 7 DAYS RIVER RAFTING ON THE COPPER RIVER, ALASKA

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# INTRODUCTION

**The Copper River is America's 8th largest river by discharge. It forms the eastern border of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve and the western border of the Chugach National Forest. The Copper is a truly unique river with towering ice-capped mountains, large braided river channels, and two massive glaciers that bisect the river. In addition our Copper River trip is bookended by beginning in the tourism-oriented town of Valdez, Alaska and the concluding in the quaint fishing village of Cordova, Alaska. The Copper River has no rival when accounting for its size, remoteness, and dramatic landscapes. We will cover ~100 river miles in 7 days.**





# RIVER DAYS 1-2

## Day 1 -

**You will be picked up in Valdez and driven ~4 hours to the town of Chitina for our put-in on the Copper River. During the drive you will see Keystone Canyon and Thompson Pass, renowned for scenery and heli-skiing across the globe. You will crest over the coastal Chugach Mountains and descend into interior Alaska and the Copper River Valley. At Chitina you will meet the guides and boats. We will do a safety brief, lunch, and start on the water. The Chitina River joins the Copper just below the put-in and we will get our first taste of the size of the Copper. We may also see Alaskans dipnetting for Salmon along the old railroad grade (now defunct) as we pass into Wood Canyon. We exit the canyon for our first night's camp where we will build camp, enjoy the evening, and eat food prepared by the guides.**

## Day 2 -

**Day 2 begins with us having a full breakfast before heading back onto the Copper. We will pass under Spirit Mountain which rises 7000 feet from the river. Afterwards we will begin to make large river-wide crossings where we will begin to appreciate the river dynamics that make the Copper unique. We will have lunch prepared on the river at a convenient stop. At camp you can expect a relaxing afternoon and evening along the river. We will camp in the vicinity of Dewey Creek.**



# RIVER DAYS 3-5

## Day 3 -

We will get back on the water this day and hopefully find a camp where we can lunch-over, that's where we arrive at lunchtime and spend the afternoon exploring and relaxing. We will camp in the vicinity of Cleave Creek.

## Day 4 -

Day 4 tests our navigation skills as we enter the Tasnuna River Delta at its confluence with the Copper River. This section is what defines large volume Alaska rafting and its associated navigation. We will likely stop and scout our path through large sand bars and wooded peninsulas as we continue down river. The river becomes more broad at this point and approaches 3 miles in width. We begin to see the landscape enlarge as we enter the heart of the Chugach Mountain Range and begin to see more glaciers. We will camp around Heney Creek.

## Day 5 -

On Day 5 we pass by the Bremner River and the Bremner Sand Dunes. This unique formation is caused by glacial till from the Bremner River. The Dunes run for 9 miles along the Copper and can be visited if conditions permit. The dunes are known to cause massive sandstorms when there is a stiff upstream breeze. We will continue downriver until we start to enter Baird Canyon where the river constricts but remains placid. We will camp in Baird Canyon.



## Day 6 -

**Day 6 of the Copper River can be one of the most awe-inspiring days on any river trip. We will wake and prepare for a day of glaciers, rapids, and wildlife. We will continue into Baird Canyon until we meet Abercrombie Rapid, this rapid is notorious but very manageable. We may stop in the eddy of the rapid to view Brown Bears fishing along the opposite shore. We will continue into Miles Lake, a lake formed from the constriction of two glaciers; Miles Glacier and Childs Glacier. We will likely see many Harbor Seals in the river at this time and seal rookeries are also usually spotted. We will connect the boats and utilize an outboard motor to have lunch in the heart of Miles Lake. After lunch we will explore the lake and its many icebergs before passing in front of Childs Glacier, a 600 foot tall glacier that enters the Copper River. After we will enter the Copper River Delta where again the river changes character and becomes a massive river delta over 10 miles wide with many braided channels. We will find a good camp in the Delta for our final night on the river.**

## Day 7 -

**We will depart our camp for an early afternoon take out at Flag Point. The trip is not over yet as we have to navigate braided river channels with excellent wildlife viewing. We will begin to de-rig the trip and you will be shuttled to the Reluctant Fisherman Hotel in Cordova. In the evening we will meet for a post-trip dinner before saying our goodbyes.**



# LOGISTICS

**The Copper River trip begins in Valdez, Alaska and ends in Cordova, Alaska. You will need to arrange travel to Valdez via the Anchorage Airport through Ravn Air. We strongly encourage participants to arrive in Valdez 2 days prior to the trip departure to assure that you will not miss any connection to Valdez. Alaska Airlines services Cordova and you can book a flight back to Anchorage or Seattle from Cordova. It is also possible to use the Alaska Marine Highway System (Alaska Ferry) to get to Valdez and depart from Cordova. If you have interest in utilizing the Alaska Ferry System contact us for help with logistics.**

## **Meals:**

**All meals will be provided beginning with lunch at the put-in of the Copper River through lunch at the takeout at Flag Point. During the river trip the crew will prepare wholesome, fresh, and delicious meals including hot breakfasts, lunches on the river, and multiple course dinners. We are able to meet most medically necessary dietary restrictions and allergies.**

## **Equipment:**

**Sundog Expeditions provides all camp and river gear including PFDs, tents, sleeping bags, sleeping pads, waterproof bags, cook and drinkware, rain suits, and waterproof boots. We do not provide personal clothing or toiletries. A full recommended gear list is provided after booking your trip.**



# EXPECTATIONS

**Alaska is notorious as both a landscape of beauty and challenge. The weather in Alaska can be intense at times and tranquil at others. The Copper River has minimal whitewater but is a large river with average summer flows >200,000cfs. There are hazards and annoyances that can wear at even a seasoned river traveler. Sundog Trips are participatory river expeditions into some of the most remote places in North America. You should be reasonably healthy as river trips require physical exertion. The minimum age is 14 years old for the Copper River.**

**Further information including detailed trip logistics and recommended gear lists are provided to participants after booking. For additional information or booking contact us directly through our website and email.**

**IN THE CHALLENGE LIES THE REWARD FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO TRANSPORT THEMSELVES INTO A RIVER TRIP UNLIKE ANY OTHER WITH SUNDOG EXPEDITIONS ON THE COPPER RIVER .**

# WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ON THE COPPER RIVER WITH SUNDOG EXPEDITIONS!



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