

# Alaska Instructor Course: Travel and Logistics

## Course Information:

- **Arrival Date:** May 3rd, 2025 (day before the course start date)
- **Meeting Place:** Anchorage Train Depot, 411 W 1st Ave, Anchorage, AK 99501
- **Meeting Time:** 4:00 PM

## Flight Information:

- **Arrival Airport:** Anchorage International Airport (ANC)
- **Arrival Date:** Minimum morning of May 3rd, 2025
- **Return Flight:** Start evening of May 30th, 2025. You must be at the NOLS Campus until 2:00 PM of May 30th for HR meetings.

## Ground Transportation:

- **Beginning of the Course:**
  - NOLS will pick you up at the Anchorage Train Depot and drive you to the NOLS Location in Palmer. Please, provide your own transportation to the Train Depot.
- **From NOLS to Airport:**
  - NOLS will transport you to the ANC airport or the Anchorage Train Depot, usually at 7:00 PM on the end date of the course. From there, you can take a taxi, Uber, or Lyft to your hotel.

## Accommodation:

- **Before Course:**
  - Arrange your own accommodation for the night before the course starts. NOLS will provide accommodation starting the night of May 4th.
- **After Course:**
  - NOLS offers free accommodation and meals until May 30th. Beyond this date, you can arrange your own accommodation. New instructors may

stay at the NOLS Campus for \$17/day (includes 3 meals/day) + community chores if space is available.

## Preparing for Your Course

1. **Submit Health Form:** Complete and upload your health form on your Dashboard as soon as possible. You can start booking travel once NOLS approves it.
2. **Book Travel:** Arrange your travel to and from the course location.
3. **Ground Transport:** Organize transportation from the airport or other arrival points to the meeting spot
4. **Accommodation:** Book lodging for before your course. You are welcome to stay at the [NOLS AK Campus after the course \(\\$17/day fee with meals included\)](#).
5. **Complete Travel Form:** Fill out and submit the Travel and Logistics form on your Dashboard.
6. **Consider Tuition Protection:** Review and consider purchasing Tuition Protection coverage (see Dashboard for details).
7. **Check Medical Insurance:** Ensure your insurance covers your travels and expedition activities.

### For International Travel:

- **Passport:** Verify that your passport is valid for the entire duration of your trip.
- **Visa:** Connect with the admission officer for the possibility of getting a J1 visitor exchange visa for working after your course in the U.S.A.. For the Instructor Cours only, a tourist visa is the one necessary for participation.
- **Bank Notification:** Inform your bank or credit card company of your international travel.
- **Local Currency:** Obtain some cash in the local currency.
- **Cultural Considerations:** Prepare for any important cultural norms.
- **Vaccinations:** Get any necessary vaccinations.

**Contact Information:** Save NOLS Admissions' contact details for any questions while traveling:

- Phone: 800-710-6657
- Email: [admissions@nols.edu](mailto:admissions@nols.edu)

## Course Start

Your NOLS adventure begins promptly at 4:00 PM at the Alaska Railroad Station in Anchorage one day before the course start date. Look for the NOLS vehicle parked directly in front of the station, located at the corner of 1st and C Streets. From there, we'll embark on a scenic drive to our headquarters in Palmer, located 50 miles north. To ensure a smooth start and adapt to the jetlag, we recommend arriving in Anchorage a few days before your course begins.

Please wait to finalize your travel arrangements until NOLS Admissions has reviewed and cleared your health form.

## End of Course Departure

On the final days of your expedition, we will transport you back to the NOLS Farm in Palmer either late two days before the course concludes or early on the last day. At the Farm, you'll be involved in cleaning and de-issuing course gear, settling any equipment bills, and participating in a comprehensive course debriefing. Showers are available at our campus, and we provide towels and soap. Please note that laundry facilities for students are not available, so plan accordingly. You'll enjoy a final dinner with your classmates at our Main Kitchen.

The day following the end of your course includes a mandatory new employee orientation, which runs until 2:00 PM. This session will help you secure upcoming contracts and prepare for future roles. We recommend planning your departure for the evening of the 30th.

We can arrange a ride to drop-off at either the airport or back at the Train Depot on the 30th evening, but unfortunately, we cannot accommodate individual hotel drop-offs. Many flights depart Anchorage around midnight, and you are welcome to stay at the NOLS Farm for some extra days after your course.

## Pre and Post-Course Anchorage Lodging

To make your stay in Anchorage as comfortable as possible, we've compiled a list of recommended hostels and bed & breakfasts that have a history of providing excellent service to NOLS students. Some of these options even offer transportation to the meeting spot (Anchorage Train Depot) on the morning of the course start date.

## Hostels / Bed and Breakfasts

Based on feedback from previous students, we suggest considering the following accommodations, known for their understanding of the NOLS program and the personalized attention they provide. While NOLS maintains a positive relationship with these locations to support our students, please note that NOLS does not have any formal commercial partnership with them. Space at these accommodations may be limited, so we encourage you to book early to ensure availability.

Bed and Breakfast	Contact
AKBNB Lodging	Email: AKBNBLodging@gmail.com NOLS Host: Krista Scott Reservations: <a href="https://v2.reservationkey.com/akbnblodging/reserve">https://v2.reservationkey.com/akbnblodging/reserve</a>
Anchorage Walkabout Town	1610 E St, Anchorage, AK 99501 • (907) 279-2918 Email – reservations@anchoragewalkabout.com NOLS Hosts: Terry and Sandy Stimson <a href="http://www.anchoragewalkabout.com">www.anchoragewalkabout.com</a>
Base Camp Anchorage Hostel	1037 W 26th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99503 • (907) 274-1252 Email: <a href="mailto:bookings@basecampanchorage.com">bookings@basecampanchorage.com</a> NOLS Host: Ole <a href="https://basecampanchorage.com/">https://basecampanchorage.com/</a>
Jewel Lake Bed & Breakfast	8125 Jewel Lake Rd, Anchorage, AK 99502 • (907) 245-7321 Email: <a href="mailto:info@jewellakebandb.com">info@jewellakebandb.com</a> NOLS Host: Jess and Rob <a href="https://jewellakebandb.com/">https://jewellakebandb.com/</a>

## Hotels and Motels

Here are some reliable options for Anchorage if you prefer to stay in a hotel.

Hotel	Contact
Sheraton Anchorage	401 E 6th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99501•(907) 276-8700

## NOLS

Comfort Inn Downtown - Ship Creek	111 W Ship Creek Ave, Anchorage, AK 99501•(907) 277-6887
Aloft Anchorage	310 W 36th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99503•(907) 273-3000
Clarion Suites Downtown	1110 W 8th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99501•(907) 921-0688
Embassy Suites by Hilton Anchorage	600 E Benson Blvd, Anchorage, AK 99503•(907) 332-7000
Four Points by Sheraton Anchorage Downtown	325 W 8th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99501•(907) 274-1000

### **Anchorage Airport**

The airport code here is ANC. Taxis to downtown typically cost around \$30.

### **Time Zone**

Keep in mind that NOLS Alaska operates on Alaska Time Zone, which is 4 hours behind Eastern Time, 3 hours behind Central Time, 2 hours behind Mountain Time, and 1 hour behind Pacific Time.

### **Driving to Alaska**

While most students choose to fly to Alaska, we understand that some may prefer to drive. If you have any questions about the journey, please reach out to the NOLS Alaska Office or contact our Program Manager at [caio\\_poletti@nols.edu](mailto:caio_poletti@nols.edu) for guidance.

### **If Delayed**

If your arrival in Anchorage is delayed and you miss the pick-up at the train station, here's what to do:

1. Rebook your flight to the next available option.

2. Inform us of your new travel plans by calling NOLS Alaska at (907) 745-4047. We'll assist in making alternative arrangements if needed.

### **Staying in Anchorage**

Anchorage is a vibrant city with plenty of attractions to explore, especially around downtown. While enjoying the city, exercise caution when traveling at night, as you would in any large city. Your accommodation should provide local advice on safe areas and places to avoid.

### **Storage of Personal Belongings and Vehicles**

For your convenience, you may store personal belongings and vehicles at the NOLS facility while you're on your course. While we take precautions to prevent theft or damage, NOLS is not liable for any loss or damage to your property.

### **Student Mail**

Please note that mail cannot be delivered to students while they are in the field. All incoming mail will be held at NOLS until an NOLS vehicle meets your course. To ensure timely delivery, include your course code and name in the address:

*Your Name — Your Course Code (e.g., AKC MM/DD/YYYY)*

NOLS Alaska  
5805 N. Farm Loop  
Palmer, AK 99645

If you wish to send mail, we recommend bringing pre-addressed, stamped envelopes or postcards.

### **Cell Phones**

During activities at the NOLS Campus and while in the field, cell phones and other communication devices (including InReach or similar devices) are not permitted, even as cameras. We also have a strict policy of no Cellphone use on common areas. Store your phone with your luggage upon arrival at the campus. You'll have access to it again once you return from your expedition.

### **Internet and Communication Access**

We offer internet access through a communal computer available for use on evening of the first day and after the graduation evening on the last day of the course. We

encourage you to connect with family and friends to say goodbye the day prior arriving to the NOLS Campus. Prepare to be disconnected from internet and service connections during the course to fully immerse yourself in the experience.

### **Additional Expenses**

#### **Treats on Your Expedition**

You have the option to bring a few personal treats to enhance your expedition rations. Our resupplies via small BushPlanes are weight and volume limited, so consider packing items like chocolate or candy bars, energy bars, favorite teas or coffee, and beef jerky. Although our rations are well-planned, many students enjoy personal snacks.

#### **Travel Money**

Bring enough cash for incidental expenses while traveling to and from Anchorage, such as meals and taxis. Once you arrive at the NOLS Campus, all food and transportation expenses are covered until the end of the course.