

PIONEER LIFE

Your Guide to Lifestyle & Livelihood At Your Personal Alaskan Wilderness Outpost



What is an Outpost Cabin?



You can look far and wide, but you will find very few if any venues like this in remote Alaska! Outpost cabins are a very popular concept throughout Canada and in other regions and states that have expansive wilderness areas with room to explore. Outposts provide an upgraded alternative to camping and are usually located on lakes or rivers that provide a variety of outdoor activities. The popular term for these accommodations is "glamping," which is the new norm in comfortable off-grid adventure travel

accommodations. The cabins have all the spoils, with the exception of full running water and plumbing systems. We are integrating an outdoor solar shower for the 2020 summer season. Safe drinking water is flown in and restroom facilities feature a contained, scent-free dry flush toilet and a new outhouse. Outpost cabins are fully furnished and fully stocked with all the basics of a little home, so you are completely self-sufficient, warm and safe in the midst of the wilderness. Our Alaska outposts have many comfortable extras such as memory foam mattresses, alternative heat sources, an assortment of Alaska books, games, card tables, etc. The cabins are privately owned, available as fly-in vacation rentals to a set number of 2-4 guests. The Pioneer Outpost include two historic, remodeled log cabins. The Pioneer Outpost is accessed by float plane and are located approximately 15 minutes from Wilderness Place Lodge in the heart of south-central Alaska. Highlights of your stay at the outpost feature rafting, hiking, wildlife viewing, photography, restorative solitude, fishing, kayaking, canoeing, sketching, painting, reading and probably the best night's sleep you've had since forever! All of this in a place all your own in the heart of the Alaskan wilderness!

Where it all began: [Blog Post, October, 2018: "Glamping" at our Outpost Cabins](#)

"THE PERFECT ESCAPE FOR COUPLES, FAMILIES ~ OUTPOST CABINS ~ GLAMPING IN SOLITUDE"

Disconnecting from our mainstream lifestyle is getting more press these days than ever before. Our obligations leave us little to no time for contemplative solitude. "Re-naturing" has become a term describing the essential revolution for a hurried culture to 'get out and go to the woods for a while.'" The greatest power of nature is the dis-connect one experiences from this hustle and bustle from which they came. As we all inevitably are moving to urban centers for work, we're distancing ourselves from natural places, surrounded

more-so by our creation; less-so by God's. That all may seem a little deep, which it is, but no one can deny the peace they feel sitting beside a stream, gazing down from a mountain-top, or hearing the spring songs of a birds in the forest. My wife and I spend as much time as we can seeking out places that offer restoration and a unique perspective. It is in these places we manage to reconnect to something from our childhood – Something that we can't argue that we need more of and makes us feel good.

At Wilderness Place Lodge, we have had guests ask of "wilderness cabins" or retreats that we could recommend outside of their stay at the lodge. Growing up in Minnesota and spending much time in Canada, I have fond memories of family retreats to small outpost cabins on some rural lake. Fishing, paddling, shore lunches and waking to the call of loons are still vivid memories and likely my strongest memories of my childhood. Outpost cabins are great, because they are the perfect complement of a small lakeside cabin, or "tiny house," with the charm and feel of a wilderness campsite in a place all your own. In the past few years, we have been fortunate to acquire two unique fly-in properties on remote lakes not far from Wilderness Place Lodge.



Our latest project is the very cool **Pioneer cabin outpost retreat**. The Pioneer outpost is a restored vintage 1950s homesteader cabin located just 6 miles north of Wilderness Place Lodge on a small lake within easy walking distance of our salmon/trout river. This destination offers the perfect balance of a lakeside cabin retreat with blue ribbon river fishing featuring trout, grayling and salmon. A foot trail connects the lake cabins with the river system, a moderately sloped trail approximately 1/4 mile in distance. There are also kayaks and a canoe to explore the lake. The property offers great views of the surrounding shoreline and Mount Yenlo in the back drop. Pioneer cabin adventures are offered as guided

adventures. Your personal guide will orient you to your cabin and the surrounding area and provide assistance with accessing the river and productively fishing it. Your host guide stays at a separate cabin out of site of the Pioneer cabin to assure your privacy and assure you are alone in peace and solitude. Plan your days as you

please and relax and take in the beauty of this special place. On your final morning, your guide(s) inflates a raft and you will float/fish your way 6 miles downriver to Wilderness Place Lodge. Truly this is a one-of-a-kind experience for those seeking an exceptional Alaska fishing venue in a remote, private setting. For more information on the Pioneer Cabin Outpost, check

out: <https://www.wildernessplacelodge.com/alaska-adventures/pioneer-outpost-cabin.html>

If anyone is interested in these outpost cabins and bundling them with a stay at Wilderness Place lodge, or a few other venues and adventure, we have constructed a new website featuring some of these custom

packages. Please visit our site at <http://www.alaskaadventurecompany.com/bundled-packages.html> So there you go. Get out and nature and re-connect with your inner child!



Welcome to our family "Pioneer" outpost. We hope you enjoy the peace and beauty of this wilderness place!

The Pioneer outpost is a very unique fly-in Alaska camp on the banks of a scenic remote lake with hiking trails connecting a popular trout and salmon river. There are two guest cabins on site: "The Pioneer Cabin" and "The Eagle's Perch." The Pioneer Cabin is the main gathering place with kitchen, spacious gathering areas, and outdoor seating, fire pit and lakeside dock. The Eagle's Perch is the main bedroom cabin located about 80 yards from the Pioneer Cabin with epic views of the lake and Mount Yenlo. The Pioneer Cabin is a privately owned, catered vacation rental destination. The Pioneer experience is ideal for adventurous groups of 2-4 people looking to have a place all their own in Alaska to enjoy the peace and solitude of nature. Overnight stays are available. We also fly Wilderness Place Lodge guests to the cabin for day float trips as an add-on to main lodge packages.

We offer 1+ night stays at our fly-in Pioneer outpost. The experience begins with a scenic float plane trip into the cabin. Relax and enjoy the beauty of this special place! You will be accompanied by your personal guide that will orient you to the area and your cabin upon arrival. Your guide is available as needed to take you fishing on the river, a 400 yard moderate hike from the Pioneer camp. (The trail is a narrow foot trail with uneven terrain. Please be mindful of your limitations when booking an off-grid experience requiring hiking and backcountry navigation). Your guide will stay nearby in a separate cabin out of view of the Pioneer cabins so you can enjoy



peace and privacy. He/She is there for your safety and to assist with orientation, fishing tactics, and anything else you may need help with. Your guide is available as you desire, if you desire. Some people prefer more assistance, while others prefer their independence. Plan each day to your discretion. All food and beverages are included. You cook your own meals in the cabin's kitchen, or on the bbq grill. The Pioneer cabin has all the comforts of home including optional electricity and a wood-fired stove. The only exception is plumbing and running water in the cabin, but we do now have a simple outdoor solar shower you can use at your leisure. Swimming in the lake is another great way to rinse and cool off.

On the final morning of your stay at the Pioneer Cabin, you will depart on a mellow 5-6 mile guided float trip by raft from the cabin down to Wilderness Place Lodge prior to departing back to Anchorage. You will stop and fish your way down as well, including a stop for riverside lunch.



A brief overview... The Pioneer Cabin retreat is located on a small remote lake within walking distance of a world-class trout, grayling and salmon stream in the Sustina Valley. The property is located approximately 70 air miles North and West of Anchorage. The Rockvam and Wendt families purchased this unique wilderness property in spring of 2017. The cabin you are staying in was originally constructed "pre-statehood" in the mid 1950s and is one of the very first homestead cabins to be established in the valley. As you will tell by it's lake

location and proximity to the river, the builder had his pick of prime real estate and was the sole resident of the area for many decades. We have recently discovered there was a small mine claim established on this property patented by the US government in 1934. The marshy swale in the hillside behind the cabin is the location of the private gold excavation.

The cabin logs are hand-scribed from local white spruce trees, milled and fitted on site. As new owners, restoring this relic was a unique and rewarding challenge. Although the walls of the cabin were solid, the foundation needed to be replaced and floor reinforced after the cabin was left uninhabited for the bulk of the past 15 years. The building is now very clean, comfortable, warm, dry... yet not too modern. We did our very best to maintain the "Pioneer feel" to this very cool Alaskan trappers cabin. We hope you enjoy this unique version of "Glamping" in the Alaskan wilderness.

Essential Rules everyone must obey!

- **No campfires on the ground. No large fires please.**
- Burning on the ground can lead to below-ground soil fires and/or ignition of dry grass during drought periods. We take forest-fire prevention very seriously! A small campfire may be built on the provided metal fire basin located by the lake.
- Keep it quiet. This is a peaceful place. Respect the solitude. Whether you're kayaking, swimming, or enjoying a drink on the dock please keep the noise to a minimum. This is out of respect to wildlife on the lake and to the occasional visitors on the opposite side of the lake. Noise carries a long way in this place of peace!
- Leave no trace. Please keep the cabin and the property clean and orderly. We do our best to minimize the impact on the natural resources and also leave the cabin clean for the next visitors.
- Do not throw food scraps on the ground, in the woods, or in the lake. Keep the property clean and keep from baiting in unwanted varmints! All food scraps should be placed in designated sealed containers in the Pioneer Cabin. Clean up any crumbs or food scraps on or around front porch and outdoor areas.
- Please be safe. You are off the grid so be aware that safety is essential as there is no efficient medical response. For any emergence, your guide(s) will have a cell phone available for use. Verizon Cell phones typically will work in the front yard of the Pioneer cabin. Other services do not seem to be as reliable. Your guide host will have access to a phone that works on the property.
- Contact Information: Rusts Flying Service: 907-243-1595 Wilderness Place Lodge: 907-733-2051

What to bring:



Plan for the Weather: Dressing in several layers is important as the weather changes from cool to warm and sunny, you can be comfortable with minimal inconvenience. Our weather can vary from chilly and wet (dipping down to 40 or 45 degrees at night) to warm dry days above 80 degrees, requiring sunscreen. For the most part, our area has fair weather, but come prepared for all possible conditions. And remember that at our latitude of about 62 degrees, we have over 20 hours of daylight in June and July! You can check

the local weather before coming at www.weather.gov and viewing zip code 99667.

Travel Light! When traveling by float plane, baggage space is limited. Also, we have limited space on the raft on your final day float down to Wilderness Place Lodge. **We will be providing you with personal “dry bags” in which you pack your clothing and personal items into for your adventure. All of your gear for your stay should fit in one dry bag per person.** Since our Pioneer trips are short-duration, you should only pack enough clothes for the time you are staying. Keep it light and simple. Any bulky jackets, etc. plan to wear or carry on your float plane trip to the cabin. This will assure ample space in your dry bag for all your basic clothes and personal toiletries.

Also, please leave your hair dryer at home as the small generator is not able to support high wattage items.

We will be providing you with breathable waders and wading boots as per the information you filled out on your online guest questionnaire. Waders double as the lower-half of your rain gear/waterproof pants. Any time spent on the river, you will be wearing your waders.

Clothing and Personal Gear to Plan on Packing:

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| Polarized sunglasses | Light-weight packable rain jacket |
| Synthetic, quick-drying shirts | Synthetic, quick-drying pants |
| Micro fleece long sleeve shirt | Sandals or wading shoes for kayaking |
| Medicines, if required, in original bottles | Personal toilet articles (tooth brush, etc) |
| A few pairs of light wool socks | Light-weight long underwear |
| Light gloves | Thin stocking cap |
| Baseball cap or river hat | Art supplies, or sketch book |
| A good book | Sun Screen |
| Camera! Or video camera | Swimsuit |



Accommodations: The cabins are small, simple and comfortable.

Groups of two will sleep and cook/recreate in the main Pioneer Cabin. Groups of 4 will split up, sleeping 2 in the Eagle's Perch Cabin and 2 in the Pioneer Cabin. All beds feature new comfy memory-foam Serta mattresses, clean sheets, fleece blankets and Pendleton wood bed covers. The Pioneer cabin is stocked with all the basic necessities of home. There is an assortment of Alaskan books and reading material.

Phone: We are lucky to have one remote cell tower nearby. Most Verizon clients should be able to get cell phone reception. We will outfit your guide with a cell

phone to use in case of emergency.

Power: The cabin is wired to run all lights on a 12 volt DC battery system. Lights will work 24/7 inside the cabin provided the battery is charged. If at any time the battery system runs low or dies, you can turn on our portable generator. This will power our battery charger to restore the batteries. A solar panel system will otherwise maintain batteries on sunny days. All outlets in the cabin are AC and powered by an internal inverter system. The inverter also powers our in-cabin cell booster. If you have Verizon cell phones, turning on the booster system will allow for great service within the cabin. There is a switch inside the Pioneer cabin door that turns on the inverter power. Please turn off when not in use as it will drain our battery system! The generator is typically stored in the outhouse building between guest trips. Gasoline is located behind the outhouse building. Be sure the generator fuel tank is filled with unleaded gasoline (provided in red 5 gal. gas can) prior to operating. Turn the switch to start, and then pull the cord. It should start on the first few pulls. After a few seconds, turn the lever switch to run. Do not place the gas can in line with the exhaust to prevent potential fire/explosion hazard. Never run the generator inside.

We ask that you use the generator only as often as is needed to save on fuel. It should be used mainly to charge the battery bank. Should the generator power kick out due to an electrical overload, it will continue to run but only at an idled pace. You will need to go out to the generator and press a small red button on front of unit to reset the max power setting. The generator is there to be used on an as needed basis, but we assume you will find it to be much more peaceful with the generator not running!



Please turn off D/C lights when they are not in use, otherwise they will draw down the battery power supply and then you'll be in the dark! There are some D-cell battery-powered lanterns hanging inside the cabin for convenient, portable light.

When Nature Calls: "Out back" you will find our 3 1/2-star Alaskan Pioneer outhouse. For the true Alaskan Wilderness Experience use this. The outhouse features modern "organic plumbing," cross-current air conditioning and high quality sanitary tissue. We hope this is adequate for you. It's part of the experience here. Sit back and enjoy the call of the loons.

For the Pioneeresses and for those not wanting to wander outside at night, there is a brand-new super-cool Laveo Dryflush toilet located in the small separate room off the back of the cabin. This works very similar to a normal toilet, but it uses no water! Simply do your duties, press the small button on the top right side of the unit and watch the miracle happen! The container bag will inflate, twist and lock off sight and smell forever! Note that you must flush after each use. Since the bags have capacity for only 15 flushes before they need to be changed, we ask that you only use this toilet when necessary. It is as clean and scent-free as a normal toilet. You will be impressed!



Kayaks/boat/paddleboat: There are 3 kayaks and one 2-person canoe on the property for use by our guests. Please be safe and wear life jackets anytime you plan to hit the lake for a paddle. The kayaks are geared for individuals 275lbs and under. Paddles and life jackets are located inside the cabin in the ceiling rafters. Please put the kayaks and paddles back where you found them. Be sure to bring your camera anytime while paddling the lake!

Swimming: Swim at your own risk and be safe. The water is a pleasant temperature and a swim on a hot day is a good way to cool off. The lake bottom is a bit uneven and rocky, so it is not ideal for wading. Be careful of sharp sticks and rocks. Wading shoes are encouraged and/or sandals. We provide Kroc-style sandals for everyone. They are located inside the Pioneer cabin. Please monitor children at all times and swim a safe distance from the dock.

Hiking: There is a hiking trail, approximately ¼ mile that connects the Pioneer cabin to the river. On departure from the cabin you will climb a small hill, approximately 50 feet in elevation gain. The trail then plateaus fairly flat for about 400 yards before then dropping down a steeper hill that descends to the river bed below. We would classify the trail as a moderate hike. Watch your step as there are a number of exposed roots on the trail. Take your time, especially going up and down hills. Your guide is there to assist you and assure your safety. Hiking staffs/sticks are recommended.



Fishing: Your guide(s) will have all necessary spin and fly fishing rods/reels/tackle/fly/flies/etc. for your time fishing in the river. They are there to help you safely and effectively navigate to/from the river, wade the river and effectively set up and target fish species. We primarily hike and wade fish about ½ mile of river. This involves some balance and agility. We highly recommend using your guides to assist with all river fishing needs. They are



there to help orient you in any way to assure a safe and enjoyable fishing experience! We occasionally will have a jet boat available for use by our guides, but this is only possible and necessary during higher water conditions. In low water, wading is the best and safest means of traveling. There are many rocks in the river, so watch your step and use a wading staff. The rocks can be slippery. There are studded wading treads in the Pioneer cabin that you can strap on your wading boots for traction on slippery rocks. Please do not wear these on the cabin decks or in the cabin! They will destroy the floor. Like all rivers, the bottom can have variable terrain, so wading carefully and steadily is the key to safety. Get assistance from others if you need it. Do not wade far out into the river. Much of the best fishing is 10-30 feet from our river bank. On your final day your guides will raft you 5 miles down the river, stopping to fish and dozens of our favorite fishing holes.

Culinary delights: We prepare and provide pack all meals and snacks as part of the Pioneer cabin trip package. Meals of choice are minimally perishable for your safety and ease of handling. We have created some very unique, tasty meal selections that are ideal for your outpost glamping experience. We work with each group staying at the Pioneer cabin to meet dietary needs and preferences. The cabin pantry is stocked with a good selection of non-perishable foods including a snack box, packaged oatmeal, beverage mixes, coffee, tea and a variety of our personal home-made gourmet freeze-dried foods (you'll be amazed by how good they are!)

We purchased our own commercial freeze-dryer in which we can preserve fresh, organic, preservative-free, high-quality cuisine that is safely preserved and stored without refrigeration. Drying of food was a common practice back in the pioneer homestead days as our country was colonized east to west. Freeze-dried food maintains it's full nutritional value and full flavor and preserves without the need for high levels of salt or other nasty preservatives. Therefore, it's healthier and tastier than dehydrated, canned or even frozen foods. To cook, simply boil in water as per the instructions we provide in the kitchen. All freeze-dried foods are stored in the Pioneer pantry in labeled air-tight clear containers. We also have meals in mylar bags "to go" that you can bring with you down to the river. We also have portable "Jet boil" style cook stoves that fit easily in your pack. They are ideal for boiling water to rehydrate our freeze-dried meals either in or away from the cabin. You can add water directly to the mylar bags and eat out of the bag, or use one of the unique vented plastic cook bowls you will find inside the cabin. **All freeze-dried foods are fully prepared and fully-cooked. So, all you're doing is rehydrating and heating. You will honestly be amazed how great the food is and how easy it is to prepare! You'll love it!**

Also in the Pioneer Pantry: We have a good selection of non-perishable pantry foods you can help yourself to such as trail bars, oatmeal, dried fruits, nuts, instant beverages, chips, bread, cookies, instant mashed potatoes, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, etc.

Cooking over the Fire: We also provide fresh meats for those interested in grilling out on the bbq grill or over the fire pit for dinner. These are provided only if requested. To request "grillables" as a dinner option for your stay, please request by filling out our Pioneer guest meal questionnaire below.

Pre-Trip Guest Meal Questionnaire: So that we can best accommodate any special dietary needs and provide what you prefer for meals, we ask that each person staying at the cabin fill out our online meal questionnaire at <https://www.wildernessplacelodge.com/pioneer-meals.html> Thank you!

Cooking Appliances: The Pioneer cabin came equipped with its original 1950s

appliances including refrigerator (**fridge is not in use and disconnected from gas source for safety**) and gas range/oven. We also have added a table-top bbq gas grill (to be used outside on the designated grill table on the front porch), and a Jetboil portable minimalist camp stove. The big white gas range cooktop in the kitchen works great and will be really all you need for frying or boiling water, etc. **Note: These old appliances do not have a pilot light!!! This means you have to light each burner with the hand-held stick lighters located in the kitchen. Light the lighter first, then slowly turn on the gas to the burner. Be sure the burner is completely turned off when done cooking. The oven knobs are removed and disabled. You should have no need for it.**



The propane tank is located outside on the side of the cabin. If you are not getting gas to the range, check to make sure the valve on top of the tank is on (turn counter-clockwise). The Pioneer cabin is also equipped with a small refrigerator. This is to be used for left-overs or any perishables you may have, which are typically minimal.



For the Outside Gas BBQ Grill, there is a spark igniter on the side of the grill to light the burners. Make sure the valve on top of the propane tank under the stove is on. Turn on gas valve on the grill itself and press the sparker button on the side of the grill to ignite.

Water: We will have ample potable water for your stay at the cabin. There is a water dispenser in the cabin for ease of use. The clear 3-gallon jugs are simply placed upside down on the dispenser. We provide ample water for the time you will be staying, but please be aware to conserve water and use primarily for handwashing, drinking and cooking. We have provided paper plates to use so that dishwashing is minimized.

Mosquitoes: Like everywhere in Alaska, there is a good population of mosquitoes at the Pioneer cabin. They are typically not too bad in the front yard, dock or on the lake. When you get back in the woods, the population density increases! Also, during warm days, the mosquitoes flock to the cool and shade, making the cabin an ideal retreat for them. There are burnable mosquito coils stored in the cabin. These are to be burned on the cabin porch on a metal stand or container, inside a coffee can for fire-safety. Coils help to deter mosquitoes from entering the cabin when you open/close the door. Simply light, let burn 10 seconds and blow out. They will smolder and smoke. We suggest lighting one of these coils ASAP upon arrival so the Skeeters don't sneak in. Once they're in the cabin, they're in the cabin. The coils are the best preventative means. You can also spray the screen door with repellent. There is an ample supply of bug spray inside the cabin.

Also, there are bed nets that can be hung and fit over our beds. In case there are a few mosquitoes in the cabin when you lay down for bed, the nets are an effective way to keep them from buzzing in your ear.



Wildlife in the Woods: There is a great diversity of bird life on the lake, on the river and around the cabin. There is a good moose population in the area, otters, beavers and also of course some bears yet we have yet to see one. Moose and bears do not like to be around people and will avoid any "people-noise." Hiking in groups will assure you will not have any encounters. The only thing you should know is to keep all food in the cabin at all times. Do not leave dirty plates, food scraps, soda cans etc. outside overnight. This encourages critters to come closer than we would want them.

Check - Out

We appreciate that all guests do their best to tidy up before they leave the cabin. Here is checklist to see that this is so:

- ✓ Collect all garbage into provided trash bags. Tie off bags and leave in cabin upon departure.
- ✓ Wash all dishes/utensils and return to drawers/shelves in which you found them.
- ✓ Move all chairs/table/furniture back to their original location.
- ✓ Be sure to bring your food cooler with you when you depart. Place all food scraps in the "food bucket" provided in the cabin and keep the lid on. Please do not dispose of food scraps in the woods or in the lake. Keep it clean and keep from baiting in unwanted varmints.

Final reminder: Stuff you should be packing out with you upon departure:

- Your personal gear in dry bags (one per person)
- Food cooler.
- Garbage. Please bag all garbage, tie bag and leave inside cabin. We will remove when we fix the cabin for next guests.
- All of your personal belongings.
- * Since we raft out on the final day following breakfast, it is advised to pack and clean up the evening prior.

Don't forget to fill out your.... **Pre-Trip Guest Meal Questionnaire:** So that we can best accommodate any special dietary needs and provide what you prefer for meals, we ask that each person staying at the cabin fill out our online meal questionnaire at <https://www.wildernessplacelodge.com/pioneer-meals.html> Thank you!

Thank you for visiting The Pioneer Cabin! We hope you enjoyed your Alaska experience, and hope to return someday soon!