

Dear Sockeye Cycle Employees,

We look forward to the 2019 season in Haines and Skagway. Below is some information to help you plan your trip. If you have any questions please get in touch with us.

A great resource to get to know Skagway is the *Skagway Relocation Guide* and can be found on our staff web page or at: <https://www.skagway.org/cvb/page/relocation-guide>

Getting to Skagway

Most of our staff flies into Juneau and connects through to Skagway on a small plane or on the state ferry. Skagway is about a 45-minute flight or a 4-6 hour ferry trip (depending on stops) from Juneau. Due to the arrival and departure schedule at the airport and ferry terminal, it's often necessary to spend a night in Juneau.

Driving up to Skagway is also an option. You can drive to Bellingham, WA and board the ferry with your vehicle for a 3-day trip to Skagway. You can also drive up through BC to Skagway, generally 3-4 days of driving through Canada. Either way is a great trip. The mountain passes may still be snowy in April and there are often long runs between fuel/lodging options, so make sure to come prepared!

What to Bring

Housing:

If you are in employee housing, your room contains a twin bed, dresser, and shelving or a closet. The kitchen is stocked with pots & pans, all dishes and appliances needed. All you need to bring is:

- Bedding for twin size bed & a towel.

Outdoor Gear:

Alaska, BC and the Yukon is a backcountry paradise, so bring your outdoor gear! We recommend:

- Camping gear: a tent, sleeping bag, and sleeping pad will give you many options to explore the area.
- Backpacking gear: an overnight pack, stove, etc. opens up some longer trails and trips.
- A bike! While a bike is provided for work and bikes are available for short trips in town, many people prefer to bring their own bike to get in extra road or mountain biking.
 - If you plan to bring your own bike, it's cheapest to bring it with you on the flight instead of shipping it. We can help with re-assembly when you arrive. Note that storage is tight; if you have a really nice bike we do have secure, storage outside but no indoor storage.

Clothing:

Plan for daytime temperatures in Skagway in the high 40's – mid 60's. We do get some sunny days in the 70's and 80's but the norm is cool and windy. The beginning of the season can still be quite cold at elevation; don't be surprised if we're riding through snow flurries during training! We will provide you with a high-visibility yellow guide jacket, which is water resistant, not waterproof. Beyond your provided guide jacket, you need to bring:

- Good waterproof rain jacket and pants.
- Waterproof shoes/boots; tall rubber boots are best for the really wet days, Gore-Tex hiking boots can work, but will soak through on the wetter days.
- Clothing that can be layered for different weather conditions.
 - Polyester, wool, and fleece layers continue to insulate when wet and are a better choice than cotton.
- A watch for keeping time on tour (a phone will not work for this purpose).
- Cycling jerseys and padded shorts are not necessary on tour, though some guides choose to wear them on nicer days and for personal riding.

- A bike helmet is required for all work riding. Please bring one with you or plan to buy one when you arrive.

Documents:

- A valid passport or passport card is required for work. An enhanced drivers license alone is **not sufficient** as you will be required to surrender that for an AK drivers license (and AK does not offer an enhanced version).
- Please bring all the original copies of your DOT Med Card, first aid/CPR certs, and a hard copy of the Personnel Policy to review during training.

Shipping & Mail

Please do not send personal mail to our shop. We have a PO Box set up for seasonal employees. The address is:

Your Name
PO Box 1338
Skagway, AK 99840

Do not give out this address for bills, junk mail or other important year round documents. Before you leave Skagway you will need to fill out a mail forwarding slip at the post office.

Please **check with us before sending bikes or large boxes/parcels** to this box as we may be able to suggest a more efficient way.

Phones

Cell phones generally work well and can access reasonably fast 4G service. The local cell phone provider is AT&T. Verizon also works well. Cell service works in town but pretty quickly dies outside of town. If you have a nationwide plan, you shouldn't be charged roaming fees.

Internet Access

We have wifi available in the house for personal use. This is meant for everyone to keep in touch via email, and do basic web surfing. We pay by usage and can't have devices constantly connected and regular downloading/streaming data. Usage is limited and may be temporarily disabled to avoid overage charges. There is also free internet access at the local library.

Health Care/Emergencies

While working, you are covered by Worker's Comp insurance for injuries on the job. Skagway has a medical clinic, which can take care of most basic needs. The clinic operates on a sliding scale based on income and accepts many types of insurance. If you are seriously injured and need emergency care, the Medi-Vac flight to Juneau, Seattle, or Anchorage is extremely expensive (generally \$20k +). Regular health insurance may cover this cost in some cases, but we highly recommend that you obtain medical evacuation insurance in addition to any medical insurance you have. The cost is \$125 for a year, which includes air ambulance service in Skagway, <https://www.airmedcarenetwork.com/Alaska/>.

Please call or email with questions as you prepare for the summer!

Sincerely,

Dustin Craney – General Manager
Becky Hill – Office Manager

Updated 1/2/19