



Cape St. Elias Lighthouse and Kayak Island Q&A

How do I make reservations for staying at the lighthouse?

Please contact the folks at capestelias.org

Where do we land?

If you are flying in by airplane, the spots we land are about three miles from the lighthouse, so there is a hike. The helicopter landing pad is at the lighthouse itself.

How long is the flight from Cordova to the lighthouse?

About 40 minutes.

Do we need to land at low tide?

The area we land is not affected by the tide, however, the hike to the lighthouse is. There are several beach areas that are much better to cross at low tide. Many people beachcomb and explore on the way if they land at high tide.

How much stuff and people can we bring?

The lighthouse can sleep 8-10 people. The more there is, the more flights you will have. Please refer to our FAQ page for aircraft capacities.

How much can you carry in the airplanes?

It's variable. The landing area is short and has obstacles, so the maximum loads that the airplanes can carry are not available at the landing area that is closest to the lighthouse. The rule of thumb is two people and gear in the Cessna, four people and gear in the Beaver. If your people or gear are especially light or heavy, things can change.

Please note: There is a longer stretch of beach on the north end of Kayak Island. If your group is large, we can use that beach fully loaded as an intermediate stop, there is an additional charge for this.

How much can you carry in the helicopter?

The helicopter has 4 passenger seats, the rear center seat has less room than the other two rear seats. There is a cargo area that has about 3.5 cubic feet of space. If you are traveling to the lighthouse in the helicopter, multiple small bags are much better than one large duffle. The helicopter can carry 900 lbs. to the lighthouse.

Is there drinking water?



Yes. There is a cistern that is spring fed and catchment for rainwater, as well. Standard water purification practices are always recommended.

Are there brown bears at the Cape?

Yes. The best bear protection is between your ears. If you have limited or no experience in bear country, there are many educational resources available. [This one is good.](#)

Do cell phones work at the Cape?

Some do at the lighthouse property, but the service is variable depending on your phone, carrier, etc. Texts can go through sometimes.

How do we communicate with our pilot, our babysitter, etc.?

The most reliable form of communication in this part of Alaska is the Garmin inReach. It allows text messages to be sent and received. Satellite phones are NOT desirable; they are unreliable, unclear, and require that the party calling and answering are both available at the time the call is placed.

Why are the fares one-way?

Many people have variables that change from the flight out to the return flight, i.e., the amount of food, variable departure or arrival dates, some want to use the helicopter to bring in groceries or less mobile members of their party, etc. One-way fares make it easy to customize your trip and plan costs.