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Cape St. Elias/Lighthouse Q&A

Q: How do I make reservations for staying at the Lighthouse?

A: Please contact the folks at www.capestelias.org

Q: Where do we land?

A: If you are flying in by airplane, the spots I land are about 3 miles from the lighthouse, so there is a hike. The helicopter landing pad is at the lighthouse itself.

Q: How long is the flight from Cordova to the Lighthouse?

A: About 40 minutes.

Q: Do we need to land at low tide?

A: The area I 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.

Q: How much stuff and people can we bring?

A: That's up to you, the lighthouse can sleep 8-10 people. The more there is, the more flights you will have.

Q: How much can you carry in the airplane?

A: The landing area is short and has obstacles, the rule of thumb is 2 people and gear in the Cessna.

Q: How much can the helicopters carry?

A: The R66 helicopter can carry about 950 lbs. to the Cape helipad, and has 4 passenger seats. The AS350 Helicopter can carry about 1400 lbs. to the Cape helipad and has 5 passenger seats. Space in the helicopters is limited, multiple small, soft bags are the best.

Q: Is there drinking water?

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

Q: Can we fly with fuel?

A: Yes, with restrictions, you MUST advise the pilot. The Cape has a functional stove and is supplied with propane, so it is not necessary unless you are camping away from the lighthouse.

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Q: Are there brown bears at the Cape?

A: Yes. If you have limited or no experience in Bear country there are many educational resources available. This one is good:

<https://www.udap.com/mm5/Bear-Safety-Tips>

Q: Can we fly with bear spray?

A: Yes, You MUST advise the pilot.

Q: Can we fly with firearms?

A: Yes, you MUST advise the pilot.

Q: Do cell phones work at the Cape?

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

Q: How do we communicate with our pilot, our babysitter, etc.

A: 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 as they are often unclear, and they require both parties be available at the same time.

Q: What is the weather like?

A: Coastal Alaska weather is highly variable. It can be hot and sunny, or blowing a gale, please plan and pack accordingly.

Q: Does the weather get too bad to fly?

A: Yes, Ridgeline Aviation is a visual operation, so if the weather is not good enough, we don't fly. Therefore, please don't plan important life events around your trip to the Cape. If it's not flyable, your job, babysitter, graduation, wedding, etc. will have to wait.

Q: If our trip gets canceled for weather, is there still a charge?

A: No, weather cancellations are fully refundable.

Q: What is 2026 Pricing for the Cape?

A: The Cessna is 750.00.

The R66 Helicopter is 1750.00

The AS350 Helicopter is 3000.00

All fares are one-way.

Q: Why are the fares one-way?

A: Many people have variables that change from the flight out to the return flight (food, mobility, pack weight) this lets people customize their trip.