

## Exposure Alaska

### Gear List – Sea Kayaking

#### What to plan for...

Your sea kayaking adventure could be 3 days of beautiful sun or 7 days of pouring rain. You should be prepared for anything. The right gear is essential for your safety and enjoyment.

The best advice that we can give is **"Bring what's on this list!"** You might not use it all, and that would be great.

No matter what the weather, the day usually ends with a comfortable camp, a hot meal, and dry clothes.

We would like you to have enough clothes to get soaking wet during the day and still have a complete, dry set of clothes to put on at night. Otherwise, you're lying in your tent in a dry sleeping bag (because everything else is wet), while the rest of the group is having dinner. Now you're cold AND hungry because you can't have food in your tent!

***Remember, there is no such thing as bad weather; just bad attitude and bad gear.***

#### How to pack..

When you're picked up on the first day, it does not matter too much what you are wearing; we'll be changing clothes and packing for kayaking at the Kayak Center about 1 hour from Anchorage. Here you'll pack your clothes into dry bags that we provide, and change into rubber boots and rain gear if needed.

***You might want to pack your really essential items in your carry-on bag.*** We will not be able to delay start of the trip if your checked bags don't make it to Anchorage.

A large duffle bag is often easier for travel than a backpack and can be used for storing your extra gear with us or in the van while we are out in the "bush".

Suitcases are bulky and difficult to load in the van. A zip up duffle bag is far superior for this type of trip. ***If you follow our list and don't bring a lot of "extras", everything you need should fit into a duffle bag that's about 110 Litres or 6700 cubic inches.***

**Rental Gear:** Sleeping bags, pads, backpacks and daypacks are available for rent for a small weekly fee. Rentals must be arranged in advance. See the [Equipment](#) page for rental rates.

#### **REQUIRED ITEMS:**

Items on the list with \* are absolutely required. We will do a gear check at the start of the trip. What you do not have, you will need to purchase and this could delay the start of the trip for everyone.

***You do not need and should not bring: Bear spray, (or bear bells!), firearms, stove or cooking gear.***

## **Clothing**

- \*Warm hat (wool or fleece)
- \*1-2 sets thermal underwear, light to mid-weight. NO COTTON. (2 sets if kayaking)
- \*3-5 pair wool or synthetic socks
- \*1 set *quality* rain gear, jacket and pants. We provide heavy duty rubber-ized rain gear if it's really pouring but your lightweight gear would be more comfortable while paddling. A poncho is not acceptable. Unless your raingear is new, you should reapply the [DWR finish](#).
- \*Gloves, *lightweight* wool or fleece
- \*Fleece or SYNTHETIC Puffy Jacket (No Down Jackets!) Definitely bring a puffy jacket for late season trips or if you're prone to being the coldest one in the group.
- \*ANOTHER warm layer like a Wool or fleece sweater or vest
- Fleece pants if you get cold easily (especially for May or August trips)
- Lightweight, quick drying pants, for nice days or at night. (jeans are not an acceptable alternative)
- Ball cap or other sun hat
- Longsleeve shirt, lightweight (for bug, sun protection). A quick drying material is best.
- Synthetic T-shirt or similar
- Shorts and/or swimsuit. On some days you may be paddling in shorts, or shorts over long underwear.
- Cycling or sailing gloves (Highly recommended for week-long trips)
- Underwear (quantity is an entirely personal decision). Beware cotton.

## **Footwear**

- Sports sandals, running shoes, etc. for camp use. We provide rubber boots.

## **Important Gear**

- \*Sleeping bag - a 20 degree synthetic bag would be ideal. NO DOWN BAGS for week-long kayak trips.
- \*Sleeping pad - ensolite foam or thermarest
- \*Water bottles, at least 2 liter total capacity.
- \*Sunglasses (with strap)
- \*Flashlight or headlamp for trips in August & September.
- Extra glasses or contacts
- Prescription meds if needed

## **Other Stuff**

- Camera, batteries; include waterproof case or bag. No Re-Charging opportunities while on the trip.
- Binoculars
- Small towel
- Small personal first-aid kit, to take care of your own minor scrapes or blisters.
- Pocket knife
- Bandana
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Personal toiletries

Note that all "smelly" items like sunscreen, insect repellent, toothpaste, deodorant, baby wipes etc. must be stored appropriately while we are in bear country. **Please limit the size and quantity that you bring.** Just like on your flight to Alaska, *all* of these items should fit into **ONE**, 1 quart Ziploc bag while we are in the field.