KAYAKER CHECKLIST

Our comprehensive checklist helps prepare you for kayak day trips and overnight tours. Use this list so you don’t forget anything important.

**KAYAK GEAR**

Recommended for Short, Recreational Outings:

- Kayak
- Paddle (1 per paddler), plus spare
- Personal flotation device (1 per paddler)
- Paddle float
- Paddling knife (attached to PFD)
- Towline
- Maps and charts in waterproof case
- Compass (that floats)
- Watch
- Weather radio (+ emergency channel list)
- Dry bags (variety of sizes)
- Paddle leash (optional)
- Large sponge
- Float bags
- Emergency flares or strobe
- GPS (loaded with map files)
- Two-way radios (1 in lead, 1 in sweep boat)

Additional Recommendations for Extended Trips / Overnights:

- Paddle float
- Paddling knife (attached to PFD)
- Towline
- Maps and charts in waterproof case
- Compass (that floats)
- Watch
- Weather radio (+ emergency channel list)
- Dry bags (variety of sizes)
- Paddle leash (optional)
- Large sponge
- Float bags
- Emergency flares or strobe
- GPS (loaded with map files)
- Two-way radios (1 in lead, 1 in sweep boat)

**CLOTHING**

Items below are in-boat wear; adjust according to air and water temperatures. Note: Dress for the water temp, not the air temp—a capsize (and hypothermia) can happen suddenly; avoid cotton, which will chill you; quick-drying clothing is a must.

For warm weather/water (>60°F):

- Swimwear or shorts or convertible pants
- Rashguard or moisture-wicking top
- Neoprene footwear
- Sun-shielding hat
- Cap retainer leash (optional)
- Bandana or buff
- Paddling gloves (optional)
- Fleece jacket or vest
- Spray jacket or rain jacket and pants
- Synthetic or wool socks (under booties)
- Pogies (coverage for hands)
- Wool/synthetic cap

Additional clothing for cold weather/water (<60°F):

- Dry suit or top (very cold water), or wetsuit or top (cold water)
- Long underwear
- Synthetic or wool socks (under booties)
- Pogies (coverage for hands)
- Wool/synthetic cap
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PERSONAL ITEMS

Recommended:
- Sunglasses with glasses retainer
- Sunscreen (SPF 30+ and water resistant)
- Lip balm (SPF 15+)
- Insect repellent (as needed)
- First-aid kit

- Water in bottles or reservoir
- Fire starter in waterproof container
- Emergency shelter or tent
- Snacks like energy food or lunch
- Cellphone in protective bag/case

- Credit card; small amount of cash
- Permits and licenses (if required)
- Trip itinerary left with friend, in boat + in car

Additions for Extended Trips:
- Toilet paper or sanitary wipes
- Sanitation trowel
- Hand sanitizer or biodegradable soap
- Ziplock waste bag
- Menstrual and urinary products

- Water treatment (and backup)
- Powdered energy drinks (optional)
- Camera (optional)
- Binoculars (optional)
- Guidebook (optional)

- Notebook and pen or pencil (optional)
- Fishing gear (optional)

REPAIR KIT SUPPLIES

- Multi-tool
- Sealant (such as Aquaseal)
- Static deck line

- Bungee cords
- Replacement rudder parts
- Bailing wire (copper, small roll)

- Repair/duct tape