



Kayaking 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)
- ☐ Dry bag for personal items
- ☐ Bilge pump
- ☐ Spray skirt (for cold weather/water)
- ☐ Dry bags (variety of sizes)
- ☐ Signaling whistle

- ☐ Headlamp / light with extra batteries

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)

- ☐ Large sponge

- ☐ Float bags

- ☐ Emergency flares or strobe

- ☐ GPS (loaded with map files)

- ☐ Two-way radios (1 in lead, 1 in sweep boat)

Optional:

- ☐ Paddle leash

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Clothing

For warm weather/water (>60°F):

- ☐ Swimwear or shorts or convertible pants
- ☐ Rashguard or moisture-wicking top
- ☐ Neoprene footwear
- ☐ Sun-shielding hat
- ☐ Bandana or neck gaiter
- ☐ Fleece jacket or vest
- ☐ Spray jacket or rain jacket and pants

Optional:

- ☐ Cap retainer leash
- ☐ Paddling gloves

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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*These items are part of the Ten Essentials systems.



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*)

Optional:

- ☐ Powdered energy drinks
- ☐ Camera
- ☐ Binoculars
- ☐ Guidebook
- ☐ Notebook and pen or pencil
- ☐ Fishing gear
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- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____



Repair Kit

- ☐ Multi-tool
- ☐ Sealant (*such as Aquaseal*)
- ☐ Static deck line
- ☐ Bungee cords
- ☐ Replacement rudder parts
- ☐ Bailing wire (*copper, small roll*)
- ☐ Repair/duct tape
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