

Patagonia Sea Kayaking - Adult

Course Description

Explore a remote and rugged coastline as you learn coastal kayaking skills. You'll grow closer to Patagonian culture as you meet members of fishing communities and grow as a leader and outdoors person along the way. If you're seeking to explore and develop as a leader while learning skills you can use for the rest of your life, this is the course for you.

Features

- Duration: 14 days
- Route length: 40-70 nautical miles
- Average group size: 12 students / 3 instructors
- Average age: 32 / minimum age: 23
- Watercraft: single and double sea kayaks
- Skills: basic paddle skills and rescue techniques, camping and expedition-style travel
- Opportunities for cross-cultural interaction
- Notable wildlife: Andean condors, albatross, the world's southernmost parrot, otters and southern sea lions
- 250-pound participant weight limit (this is a function of the kayak's weight carrying capacity)

Overview

Prepare to explore southern Patagonia's lush temperate rainforest, abundant waterfalls, sweeping granite walls, and glimpse the distant glaciers that carved this spectacular landscape. On this course, you'll develop sea kayak skills, leadership, and cultural competency.

Your course will begin with the basics of paddling and coastal travel, including effective strokes and braces, boat control and navigation, and Leave No Trace techniques. You'll develop leadership and communication skills as well as an appreciation for the dynamic wind and sea conditions of the area, which you'll learn to assess as you choose to paddle or remain in your camp. Along the way, you may encounter subsistence fisherman making a living by trapping crab or diving for shellfish, or people living close to the land on remote coastal farms.

You'll finish this course with a basic foundation of sea kayaking skills and enjoy exploring from the cockpit of a kayak a place that few people have ever seen.

Weather and Other Challenges

Weather

The weather in coastal Patagonia can change from day to day, even from hour to hour. Overcast and cool days with a mix of rain and strong winds are common for summer. Though rain alone won't prevent us from paddling, strong winds can prohibit travel and ground the course at a beach for days at a time. We plan for these delays and expect them, and will turn our focus landward at these times with day hikes and classes, as well as free time to simply explore on your own.

Remoteness

During your course you may often be several days away from the nearest medical facility. All NOLS instructors maintain wilderness medicine certifications and are equipped with well-stocked first aid kits to provide care in the event of an emergency. Weather, terrain, and distance can impede communication and transportation efforts. In the event of an injury or illness, there is no guarantee that you can be evacuated immediately from the backcountry.

Learning Goals at NOLS

NOLS courses teach wilderness and leadership skills on expeditions and in classrooms. You will apply these skills to challenges in a supportive learning culture with high expectations. Your course will provide you with the opportunity for a positive, transformative experience intended to inspire you and empower you to act.

We craft NOLS courses so graduates will be able to assume leadership roles; live and travel in the outdoors; act with confidence and competence; respect and collaborate with others on expeditions, on teams and in communities; care for themselves and others; understand their strengths, habits, and areas for growth; function under difficult circumstances; make informed and thoughtful decisions; communicate effectively; connect with natural places; and appreciate living simply.

We believe positive, ethical leaders change the world. Join NOLS and become one of these leaders.