

Kayaking North America's Inside Passage - Alumni

Seattle, WA

May 13 - August 10, 2026

* These are approx dates. Exact dates will be announced as soon as the 2026 ferry schedule is released.



*** This trip requires previous kayaking and backcountry expedition experience - (please see section "Is This Trip For You?")**

Features

- Paddle the historic Inside Passage!
- Paddle amongst ice calving from the southernmost tidewater glacier of the northern hemisphere.
- Crossing international border/s
- Continuous 15-20+ nautical mile days. Route length +1000 nautical miles.
- Interactions with Indigenous populations living along the coast. Carvers, museums, and longhouses.
- Limitless learning potential at historic and natural history sites along the coast.
- Over nights include mostly backcountry camping, also state parks, provincial parks, possibly a lighthouse, and even a motel (or 2).
- Likely more ocean animals than you could imagine. Humpback whales, orca, salmon, seals, sea lions and so much more.
- Land based animals a plenty as well! Bald eagles, brown and black bears, sea wolves.
- Previous sea kayaking experience required (*you will receive a survey to share your previous experiences*).

Cost: \$24,950

Minimum Age: 21

Max group size: 7 Participants

3 NOLS Instructors

Trip Description

The Inside Passage! No other sea kayaking routes hold the imagination amongst the small community of expedition kayakers like this one. It is simply the gold standard of long distance paddling that is immensely challenging but also approachable for most paddlers.

The route along the coast is most commonly known for its history as the route that brought "Outsiders" to Skagway, Alaska from points on the west coast as far away as Southern California. In truth, it is a network of long-used traditional waterways, used by the Indigenous Peoples that lived and paddled amongst the islands and water for generations before the Outsiders. We will paddle approximately 1000 miles of the route. It is a commitment, and trip of a lifetime.

As expeditioners, we plan for the hard stretches and celebrate the easier ones. With that framing in mind, this trip could experience long periods of wet, windy, wavy conditions with temperatures hovering in the 50's°F. You might spend hours each day struggling to stay warm and working to dry wet layers. The continuous paddling will tire out anyone's body as you build strength and finding camping each day will often be a challenge. This is a physically taxing expedition and is not a trip for anyone. Beginner kayakers are not an appropriate match for the ocean conditions that will be encountered and while novice kayakers can be successful with coaching, learning fast will be critical.

The trip will start in the Pacific Northwest, gathering at either the NOLS campus south of Bellingham or a basecamp that we will use to launch the expedition. The group will get to know each other, spend time paddling locally, building out the logistics plan, and building group travel skills. This shake-down section is instrumental to a group's success and will likely be the only carefully structured segment of the trip.

After spending 4-5 days preparing gear, camping and skill building, the trip will paddle away and head north. As will become the norm, weather is going to determine the exact route, distance, and daily objectives. The first week of paddling will be governed by the powerful currents of the San Juan islands and a few challenging open water crossings. The group will work together to find weather and time windows appropriate to taking on these challenges, planning carefully to be set up well for the most difficult paddling days. As the trip progresses, skills are built, familiarity with the environment and each other increases and the rhythm of the trip is established, participants will be an integral part of the experience and invited to be fully involved in all aspects of planning and managing the legs of the trip.

The NOLS Instructors on this trip will be very hands-on during the first several weeks as the group builds skills associated with managing the objective hazards. This will allow individuals to focus on developing the technical sea kayak skills needed during long days on the water while also starting to develop the awareness and group sense that it takes to lead an expedition.

As the group paddles north there will be a variety of challenges to plan for. Cape Caution, and Grenville Channel (if we go that way) are examples of "crux" moves that could be 20+ nautical mile days. Other long days will be determined by availability of campsites or currents. These moves will need careful attention to weather to ensure optimal conditions. Building towards objectives like this are part of the fun of a long expedition and will help develop navigation, weather forecasting, and paddling skills and stamina as base skills.

Detailed route selection will be dependent upon weather and sea conditions, as well as the abilities of the group. While it is impossible to predict where you will be on any given day before starting the route, we believe the entire route will take 60-70 days of kayaking. Layover days for rest, town visits, re-supplies, and laundry are all incorporated into the plan with potential stops every 10 days or so.

While the route begins in the somewhat busy waters north of Seattle, as we paddle north we will leave the populated areas of Southern British Columbia behind, paddling into the remote and pristine waters of the northern coast. Once we reach Alaska, we will experience both remote camping and historic cities that have become tourist destinations of today.

This trip is not for everyone. In truth, it isn't for most people. It will be hard and you will be challenged. For those that pause the rest of their lives to take on this challenge, the reward will be undeniable.

Trip Environment

This trip will span over 1,000 nautical miles and cover the entire west coast of Canada. In truth, the sheer volume of terrain and environment covered defies our ability to describe concisely, but there are consistencies present in an contiguous route like this.

The cold-water ocean environment is defined by two zones that you will interact with, the deep ocean and the intertidal.

In deep water, you skim the top of a vast ecosystem imagining the life underneath you and occasionally seeing its presence. You will learn to navigate your boat in these waters, finding the calming presence and relative safety in beds of bull kelp and avoiding the chaotic turbulence of colliding current zones. You might paddle amongst ocean swells of 15+ feet as it gently undulates up and down from far off storms or weather systems. The cold water requires extra caution as a kayaker, knowing that an unexpected capsized could create a situation that is inconvenient, at best.

The intertidal zone, a space of the "in between" where life is visibly abundant and you must navigate carefully. This zone, or rather collection of smaller zones, is perhaps the most interesting place to observe life along the coast. Home of [the first keystone species](#), the intertidal zone is visible to different degrees throughout the day and always holds new treasures. Tide pooling or just floating along close to a rock outcropping can absorb hours of time identifying and observing. This is also the zone where you will be landing your kayak on a daily basis and the zone in which kayakers typically encounter the most danger.

The shoreline and terrestrial points along this coastline bear the marks of thousands of years of human history. [Midden beaches](#) mark protected areas where Indigenous people collected fish and mussels for a subsistence life and IR zones on our charts often mark burial grounds or sacred sites. Many of our campsites will be abandoned logging areas where old growth trees were harvested and floated south to support the building craze of the United States. Still remaining are second growth Cedars that appear as giants but are standing amongst the stumps and nursery logs of their ancestors. Developed forests provide safe haven for us from wind and rain sheltering the group in even the most extreme storms.

Animal life along a coastline like this is one of the places where marine and terrestrial environments overlap. Birds, marine mammals, and shore dwellers all spend time in their primary habitats as well as a secondary one. Bears commonly swim in the ocean, Sea Otters occasionally are on land and Bald Eagles live on land but commonly hunt in the water. We can expect to see any and all of these animals in one way or another throughout the trip coupled with whales, seals, fish a plenty, foxes, wolves, and much more. Birders in particular will enjoy the variety and consistent presence of life along this coast.

The Route

The overall route can be thought of in three segments. Each of these segments will be broken up into smaller sections as well, leapfrogging from settlement to settlement to grab fresh supplies, occasionally do laundry, and eat some ice cream.

Segment 1 - Vancouver Island

We will launch from the vicinity of Anacortes, Washington and spend our first few days paddling amongst the San Juan islands before crossing Haro Strait to Vancouver Island. The next few weeks will be spend paddling up the eastern side of Vancouver Island. Initially, exposed to the large weather and ocean patterns in the Strait of Georgia we will be paddling along a relatively friendly coastline that allows many exits if needed. This section will have some wild camping but also lots of camping in provincial parks. This is the most inhabited section of our route.

Central Vancouver Island, north of Campbell River, will be a challenge of currents. Narrow passages restrict ocean currents here and some times of the day are not easily paddleable. Timing will be important to ride the currents rather than fighting them.

After passing Port McNeill, the water opens up again and we will see the end of this section stretching out before us. Crossing back to the mainland will land us in Shelter Bay and the start of our second segment.

Segment 2 - Central Coast

Canada's Central up to the Alaska border will have some of our most exposed paddling. On occasion, we will leave the protection of barrier islands in order to keep heading north. Getting past Cape Caution in the south is the first major objective after leaving Shelter Bay and might prove a big test for the group. This area is known for large ocean swells that have largely unbroken fetch to the west for thousands of miles. Additionally, the terrain around Cape Caution does not provide simple landing zones during challenging weather.

After Cape Caution, the group will begin weaving amongst the hundreds of barrier islands that give this route its name, protecting travelers from the powerful ocean activity battering the coasts. Occasional gaps in the islands will provide ample opportunity to see big ocean action while heading north to Ketchikan, Alaska.

Segment 3 - Southeast Alaska

Once crossing the International border into Alaska, we will arrive in Ketchikan, likely our first stop back in the United States. We'll take an opportunity to rest here before continuing north through the robust currents that will dictate our schedule for the next several weeks.

Southeast Alaska is a true wilderness area with few people calling it home. Wild camping will be standard and campsite discovery can be challenging. We can expect to work hard during this segment, paddling long days and carving out camps amongst dense forest.

After many weeks of paddling, you will pass into the (hopefully) relative calm of the Chilkoot Inlet. This inlet will provide us with a few days of paddling amongst fjords as we head towards Skagway, our final destination. While some trips turn and head towards Glacier Bay, we are avoiding the cruise ship infested waters to end the trip in the historic end of line. Skagway was where prospectors would get off the ship and head into the mountains hoping to find their fortunes, for many our end point is where their adventures began.

NOLS Staff

Our staff are NOLS professionals and certified accordingly. This means they maintain certifications in wilderness medicine and are trained to NOLS' high standards in risk management. They are senior staff at NOLS who have spent years working and teaching in backcountry environments all over the world. Additionally, our staff specialize in bringing together groups of strangers and building the group culture and camaraderie that makes NOLS trips great.

NOLS has extensive paddling experience in the Pacific Northwest, all along Vancouver island, the Central Coast, and SE Alaska. This trip strings together many of our historic operating areas in a way never before done. The NOLS Instructors on this trip are some of the most experienced expedition Sea Kayakers in the world.

A Day in the Life

Days on this trip will take on a familiar pattern very quickly. Camp days tend to start early with hot drinks followed by breakfast. Hot or cold breakfasts are possible depending on time needed for the paddling route that day. The group will work together to break down camp and pack while breakfast is being prepared, honing efficiency quickly. Boat packing will vary greatly in timing depending on campsites, tides, and weather but once again, efficiency will build quickly.

Once on the water, average days will be 8+ hours of paddling. Breaks will happen consistently based on group need and ocean conditions and while getting out of boats several times during the day will be a priority for body maintenance, it might not always happen. As is standard with NOLS, lunch begins after breakfast and keeps going until dinner. Snacking is critical to keeping energy levels high.

After finding camp, the team will set up, make dinner, and hopefully spend some time relaxing together. If time allows, hiking, tidepooling, playing cards, or just staring at the ocean will all be incorporated.

Participants should plan on sleeping 8-10 hours each night. This time is critical to maintain energy during an expedition of this length. Only on rare occasions will this ritual be abandoned in pursuit of a short-term need.

During this expedition you will be camping with one or two other people in tents. We will be bringing tents that are oversized for your needs to allow for some additional shoulder room and additional tarps to ensure plenty of rain coverage for our gear and kitchens.

Difficulty Scale

This trip is rated 5 out of 5 on our difficulty scale.



We use a difficulty scale to help participants evaluate if a trip is right for them. It considers probable weather conditions, physicality of activities, and food and accommodations. You don't need to be a honed athlete, but pre-trip work to improve your strength, flexibility and endurance, is highly encouraged to improve your enjoyment of the place. If you have specific questions regarding physical preparation and your readiness please reach out to the Alumni Trips Department.

Food on the expedition

We will be eating bulk rations for the majority of the expedition, carrying about 2 weeks at a time. Some will be sent to upcoming towns and stored for our retrieval. We will have the opportunity to supplement a bit along the way. NOLS is building this plan ahead of time in order to take advantage of our developed systems.

There will be plenty of food provided on the trip for everyone. We are happy to ensure that folks who have reasonable dietary needs and/or preferences are well taken care of throughout the entire trip. Listing those needs on your registration paperwork is critical for our success here. If you have significant dietary needs that tend to involve personal meal preparation or planning, this trip is not appropriate for you. The group will need to be collaborative and flexible with meal preparation and planning and significant individual needs will be challenging to accommodate.

If you would like to bring your own snacks along, that is highly encouraged. We all have treats that we enjoy and bringing something special is a great way to keep motivation high and not have to rely on the group's schedule for your munchies.

Curriculum

This trip focuses on many traditional NOLS skills, competencies, and concepts. The instructors will provide information necessary for the group to comfortably paddle and explore, as well as optional topics as desired by participants. These could include natural history, local history, leadership, decision making, and team function, among other things.

Although the trip's primary focus is paddling to Skagway, we will enjoy learning about the ocean and land, journaling, reading, or photography. Please articulate your trip and daily goals and interests and your instructors will try to accommodate you.

We will be bringing along a Library for the group with reference books as well as stories from the coast. Additionally, we will use both paper charts and digital tools to navigate. The combination of these things will build skills on both fronts without creating pure reliance on only one

Expectations of Participants

This alumni trip may have less emphasis on curriculum and more emphasis on extended expeditions, wilderness skills and paddling. However, it's a full-on expedition where we will need to perform at a high level as a team member, as a paddler and fellow camper for long periods. This is very far from a full-service vacation or guided experience. You'll have to participate, carry your load, meet the group's expedition needs, ask for help and help out.

You will be required to demonstrate self-reliance, self awareness, risk management and sound decision making as we paddle through remote areas where evacuation to modern medical facilities can take several days. This expedition emphasizes hands-on learning and the application of skills in a variety of situations and failure to do so will impact the entire group.

All participants need to complete and submit application materials, including a medical history form. These forms highlight the intersection of your trip's anticipated physical rigor and your current health and fitness status. Your forthright and timely completion and submission of the forms sets you and your trip up for success in the outdoors.

Alumni trips allow electronics and alcohol (for those of legal age in the country of the trip). Many participants find that these luxuries can add to the course experience and local flavor. Excessive alcohol consumption is not a part of the culture of Alumni trips.

Is this trip for you?

We will be a self supported team committed to a schedule, paddling a route, camping and living well and in style together. We will be 24-7 with our group for 3-months. We will have instructors experienced in long expeditions, sea kayaking and group dynamics, and yet we cannot control many things that will happen. There are many personal skills and personal traits that will help one succeed in this trip.

We believe you are the person with the best information to decide if this trip is for you. Now, before the trip begins, and during the trip. As with many expeditions, most days are simply the best of our lives. At NOLS we will establish an environment and activities to help set teams and individuals for success. And, at times, people develop different rhythms and habits that might compromise the team goals and the team composition might need to change.

So, here are some questions we recommend each participant considering is:

- Can you put the team's needs and wants before yours?
- Can you paddle a few +20 mile days in a row?
- Can you camp multiple days in rainy rough campsites?
- What might cause you to think it is unsustainable for you to continue with the trip?

Please feel free to reach out to the alumni department and we will put you in touch with the right people to help you decide if this is the right trip for you! Email alumni_trips@nols.edu.

We will schedule a call to meet with each applicant individually and discuss how these questions may look like in the field.

Trip Itinerary

This is a draft of the trip to give you an idea of the schedule. The exact day that we paddle away and head north will be dependent on the group's skill development, weather, and current/tide patterns.

May 13-17	Trip prep and skill building. Based on land in the Pacific NorthWest, USA.
May 19-20	Launch your kayaks in Washington State. Start of first ration period. Paddle northern Washington State.
May 21-27	Cross border into Canada. Paddle southern BC
May 28-29	Reration in Powell River, BC. Start of second ration period.
May 30-June 7	Paddle through BC.
June 8-9	Reration in Port Hardy, BC. Start of third ration period.
June 10- 17	Paddle northern BC.
June 18-19	Reration in Bella Bella, BC Start of fourth ration period.
June 20-July 3	Paddle Northern BC.
July 4-5	Reration in Prince Rupert, BC. Start of fifth ration period.
July 6-9	Cross border into Alaska, USA

July 10-11	Reration in Ketchikan, Alaska. Start of sixth ration.
July 12- 18	Paddle southern Alaska.
July 19-20	Reration in Petersburg, Alaska. Start of seventh ration.
July 21-26	Paddle Alaska.
July 27-28	Reration in Juneau, Alaska. Start of eighth ration.
Aug 2-3	Arrive in Skagway! Celebrate the end of the expedition!!
August 4	Estimated date to arrive in Skagway. You may return home by plane or travel onward with the ferry back to WA.
*August 5-8	Date of the ferry departure back to Washington state. Waiting for 2026 ferry schedule.
*Aug 6-9	3 day ferry trip down the coast you just paddled!
*August 9,10 or 11	Return to the starting base, celebrate and rap up in the PNW.
	*Approx dates- will be confirmed at a later date.

Trip Logistics

Getting to the start

Driving -

Driving is likely the best option to arrive in the Pacific Northwest. This will enable you to have a flexible departure time and transport your gear easily. If you drive, NOLS will have parking available for you but is not able to guarantee safety of your vehicle or everything inside.

Flying -

You can fly into either Seattle (SEA), Bellingham (BLI), or Everett (PAE). Any of these airports are good options but likely Seattle will give you the best options. **Plan on arriving May 12 or a few days early.**

Getting home

After paddling into Skagway, Alaska and celebrating the trip, you will have two options: flying out from Skagway, or spend the next few days riding the Alaska ferry system back to Washington. We are targeting an arrival in the beginning of August, but this could be a few days early or late depending on how the trip shakes out and ferry dates for 2026. We will celebrate as a group in Alaska before the group potentially separates; wishing folks fond farewell as each person departs for their next adventure.

If you are departing by plane, please make sure that your flight can easily be changed, or wait until we are in Canada to decide your return plans. You will be responsible for transportation to whichever airport you depart from.

Storage of Personal Belongings

We suggest not bringing valuable things with you that are not going on the trip. We are happy to store small amounts of luggage or other items for you during the paddle to have available to you when you return. NOLS assumes no responsibility for your stored baggage but will do our best to keep it in a secure area.

Currency

Credit cards will be the best option throughout the trip but some limited amount of cash is a great idea for souvenirs or small treats in the coastal communities. You can take out Canadian dollars from an ATM in one of the first stops along Vancouver island.

We suggest bringing at least USD \$300 cash and something similar in Canadian dollars. Your credit and debit cards will work in the towns we stop in. Please bring a credit card in case of emergencies as well.

Travel Insurance

You must have travel insurance for this trip. Evacuation expenses could be significant due to the remoteness of the terrain and lack of medical resources. Check with your personal insurance carrier and credit card to understand what you already have or check out cat70.com or Worldnomads for a wide variety of options.

Tipping

While tipping is common in the outdoor guiding culture, your NOLS Instructors are not driven to excellence by tips but rather a love for taking people outdoors. You are welcome to tip the Instructors if you choose, but many instructors are honored by [a donation in their name to the NOLS Annual Fund](#) which supports scholarships for future NOLS students.

Immunizations / Vaccinations / Travel medications

International travel poses special health considerations. NOLS strongly advises that all participants traveling to international locations carefully consider what vaccinations or inoculations are required, recommended, or suggested for their specific travel itinerary. Consulting with a physician, travel medicine specialist, or other healthcare professional is strongly advised.

Visa/Passport

As a U.S. citizen, all you need to enter into Canada is a U.S. Passport that is valid for more than six months after your entry date. Please **check the expiration date** of your current passport and update it as necessary. Participants from outside the United States will need to check on their specific visa requirements.

Electricity stuff

Electricity will be available sporadically throughout the trip. If you are reliant on power for personal devices, make sure that you have sufficient battery banks to get you through 30 days stretches with no access to power.

Trip Registration

The best way to register is through the trip information page on the nols.edu website. A non-refundable deposit secures your spot on the trip. If any issues arise, please call the NOLS Alumni Department at (800) 332-4280 or email alumni_trips@nols.edu. Your enrollment is complete with receipt of your full tuition and your completed application forms; these are **due 90 days before the start of your trip**.

All participants are required to submit registration materials, including a medical form. These forms highlight the intersection of your trip's anticipated physical rigor and your current health and fitness status while also providing NOLS information about things like your dietary needs.

NOLS is not responsible for additional costs incurred by late arrivals or evacuations. Those expenses are the responsibility of trip participants and we recommend purchasing travel insurance to mitigate the impact of unforeseen circumstances.

Do not book travel greater than 60 days before the start of the trip unless you have confirmed with NOLS that the trip will run. On rare occasions, we do cancel trips due to low enrollment.

Cancellation and Transfer Policy

For your reference, here is the [Alumni Trips Cancellation and Transfer Policy](#). When enrolling on a trip, you will need to agree to this policy.

Suggested Readings and Links: (more to come)

- [The Golden Spruce](#)

Equipment List

Shared Group Equipment—NOLS will supply		
Tents	Compass	Maps
Bear Spray	Fishing Gear	Trowel or shovel
GPS	Repair Kits	Reference books
Cooking gear/spice kits	Soap and hand sanitizer	First Aid kits
Kayaks	Paddles	PFD's and spray skirts

Upper Body Clothing	
Equipment	Notes
T-Shirt (1-2)	Synthetic or wool

Base Layer (mid-weight)	Long-sleeve top, synthetic or wool
Sports bra or tank (2-3)	Synthetic sports bra or a synthetic sports tank are recommended
Mid-Layer	Wool or synthetic, expedition weight
Top layer	Fleece or a medium weight puffy jacket
Rain Jacket	A sturdy, waterproof jacket with a hood. Both coated nylon and breathable fabrics such as Gore-Tex® are acceptable
Paddle Jacket	It is smart to have a separate rain jacket for in camp and paddle jacket for on the water.
Fleece/Wool Gloves	Warm gloves made of fleece or wool.
Baseball Cap or Sun Hat	Sun protection of your face and ears.
Wool or Fleece Hat	A warm hat made of wool or fleece.
Optional Items	
Fleece or Insulated Vest	Lightweight fleece or other synthetic
Wind Shirt	A lightweight, breathable, durable nylon wind shell. Pullover or zip-up style
Lower Body Clothing	
Underwear (2-3 pairs)	Men's briefs or boxers in Capilene or wool are recommended. Women should wear what's comfortable; cotton, silk, or synthetics are fine
Hiking Shorts or pants	Nylon, quick dry shorts
Wind Pants	Nylon wind pants or lightweight hiking pants
Base Layer (mid-weight)	Synthetic or wool
Rain Pants	A sturdy waterproof pant. Coated nylon or breathable fabrics like Gore-Tex® are great.
Optional Items	
Mid-Layer (fleece pants or puffy pants)	Mid- or heavy-weight bottoms that fit comfortably over the base-layer bottoms.
Footwear	
Dry Pants and Shoes	Waist high dry pants will keep you warm and dry while in and out of the water. Our rental comes with rubber neoprene shoes.
Wet Shoe	Neoprene shoes or tennis shoes with neoprene socks for paddling
Socks (3-4 pairs)	½ crew to crew length wool socks. Cotton socks are not advised.
Camp Shoes	Think lightweight. Crocs are great.

Walking/hiking shoes	Think lightweight and waterproof
Packs and Bags	
Equipment Bag	Large duffel bag for keeping gear organized in camp, we recommend renting this.
Zip duffel bags (2-3)	Smaller duffels for packing into kayaks, we recommend renting these (or bringing your own dry bags).
Plastic Trash Bags (3)	2 mil/33 gallon bag for waterproofing
Optional Items	
Ditty Bags (2-3) (for toiletries)	Small nylon or net bags for organizing
Sleeping Gear	
Sleeping Bag (20 degree)	Synthetic fill, we rent 0 and 20 degree bags
Compression Stuff Sack	For your sleeping bag
Sleeping Pad	We sell Therm-A-Rest inflatable pads.
Miscellaneous Items	
Hot Drink Container	Insulated mug or thermos
Bowl	A bowl (12+ oz) with a secure lid.
Spoon	Lexan spoons are light and durable.
Hydration System (2)	At least 2 liters (64 oz.) carrying capacity is required. Must have one water bottle.
Sunscreen / Lip Balm	SPF 30 or greater.
Sunglasses / Retainers	Lenses should be dark and 100% UV resistant. Retainers are useful.
Bandanas (1-2)	Useful for a variety of purposes.
Glasses and Contact Lenses	Bring spare glasses or contact lenses.
Headlamp	LED headlamp preferable. Not 100% needed in July.
Lighter	
Personal Hygiene Articles	Travel size
Hand Sanitizer	A 2 oz. bottle, alcohol-based is preferable.
Watch	Water-resistant. An alarm is helpful.
Optional Items	
Notepad	A small, lightweight pad is fine. We sell NOLS waterproof expedition journals.
Pen or Pencil (1-2)	Bring some spares.
Coffee	Bring if you enjoy coffee for yourself in the morning. Coffee is not supplied by NOLS.

Trekking Pole	We find that most people prefer to have 2 poles
Camera	Compact camera with protective case.
Buff	Great multi-functional headwear
Insect Repellent	A small bottle or tube. No aerosol spray cans.
Mosquito Headnet	Mesh head net with drawstring
Umbrella	Golf umbrellas are an instructor favorite item
Camping Hammock, Bivy or small solo tent	Very small sleeping alternatives can be a luxury in long trips or very handy in some tight camping spots.
Your paddling kit (gear)	Skirt, paddle, tow line, etc
Your paddling kit (outwear)	Dry suit, Bibs and Paddle jacket combo, Dry-top
Dry-bags	For packing personal gear in the kayak instead of plastic lined nylon bags, for example: 2 x 10-13lt dry- bags + 2 x 5-8 lts dry- bags. Small Pelican cases are ok too.