



KAYAKING

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR PASSENGERS

- Basic kayaking experience required, physical fitness essential
- Maximum of 14 kayakers per voyage on Plancius & Ortelius. On Hondius & Janssonius, the maximum number of kayakers per voyage is 28
- Between four to six kayak outings (morning and/or afternoon) are intended
- Kayaking is subject to weather and prevailing ice conditions
- Our kayak guides are qualified and experienced experts in their field
- Essential kayak equipment available for free on board
- Kayakers must bring their personal weather protective gear
- Activity is free of charge during “Basecamp” voyages. Other activity-coded voyages require a supplement: Please see our dates & rates for kayaking costs

Oceanwide Expeditions offers optional kayak excursions in addition to the normal expedition program. Kayak trips designated with a “K” in our tour program are directed at adventure-minded passengers who have basic paddling experience. Non-Basecamp kayaking trips are subject to a supplementary charge per passenger. We aim to optimize the time available as well as the prior experience of our passengers in order to make the most of all kayak excursions.

To take part in regular kayak excursions, passengers are required to have sufficient physical fitness and basic sea kayak experience. These trips are not suitable for beginners. Basic kayak skills include the normal handling of a kayak in moderate weather and sea conditions. It is not necessary to be able to do kayak “Eskimo” rolls, but you must feel comfortable in a sea kayak. Kayak participants with a clear lack of these abilities may be removed from further kayaking excursions for their own safety.



On every cruise with a kayak option, we hope to schedule up to six kayak excursions or as many as conditions allow. However, the polar regions are unpredictable when it comes to weather and ice. These conditions might minimize or prevent kayak excursions altogether, as we will only kayak when it is safe. Under no circumstances will these safety limits be compromised.

All kayak excursions take place within a safe distance from the ship, and at all times a Zodiac boat will stand by. The kayaks used are stable double-seat sea kayaks on Plancius, Ortelius, Hondius and Janssonius.

In total, 14 to 28 passengers can join a kayak trip, depending on the vessel. Groups of 28 will be split into two groups of 14. Kayaking will be done as a group activity. One or two kayak guides will lead the group, and one or two Zodiacs will follow.

Kayaking is included under our Basecamp program on both Plancius and Ortelius, and this version of the activity requires less experience than on other voyages. Even beginners with basic paddling ability can take part, as these Basecamp excursions are typically less ambitious than the kayaking done on our standalone "K" trips.

Also, Basecamp trips require no supplementary charge for any special activity: One kayak excursion per person is free of charge on designated Basecamp voyages. If you have any questions about the required skills, please contact our office.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Are there extra kayak clothes on board?

The basic kayak equipment is available on board. Before you leave, make sure that your sizes are reserved. Special kayak gear is generally not available for sale in Ushuaia.



Where do I buy neoprene gloves and boots?

These items are sold in diving, kayak, and surf shops. No specialized kayak gear is necessary for our excursions, however, so ordinary surf gloves and boots will suffice.

Is there a waiting list on trips where kayaking is offered with a supplementary payment (non-Basecamp trips)?

Prior to non-Basecamp trips, our reservations department uses a preliminary wait list to ensure the kayaking option is fully booked. Once the trip starts, this wait list is no longer in use. Only in the event of full cancellations from confirmed kayakers will there be spaces opened. No “replacement kayaker” is put in place if a confirmed kayaker chooses to take a day off from kayaking, and no reimbursement of the fee will be given if a kayaker chooses to take a day off from the activity.

SAFETY: KAYAK GUIDES & SUPPORT ZODIACS

It is of utmost importance that all our activities are safe. As such, our kayak guides are experienced and qualified to support all passengers. Kayak excursions will be tailored to local sea conditions and the skill level of the group, and support Zodiacs will always be nearby.



EQUIPMENT & CLOTHING

Kayakers need only bring their personal waterproof, windproof, and breathable outer shells (pants, hats, gloves) as well as thermal clothing to keep warm and dry.

The following items will be provided by Oceanwide:

- Seven double-seat sea kayaks on Plancius & Ortelius
- 14 double-seat sea kayaks on Hondius & Janssonius
- Paddles with anti-drip rings
- Basic (4-mm neoprene) wetsuits in different sizes
- Kayak spray covers
- Waterproof lightweight jackets (cagoules)
- Life jackets / kayak vests
- Neoprene boots

Important equipment note:

Do not wear cotton clothing like T-shirts and jeans. When wet, cotton will not insulate well, and it will only increase the chance of hypothermia. It is also not very comfortable while kayaking. Normal gloves like Gore-Tex or leather are not advisable either. Rather, neoprene gloves are best for keeping your hands warm in the frigid polar water.



Oceanwide Expeditions | Head Office

Visserijkade 5 • 4382 ZA Vlissingen • The Netherlands
T +31 (0) 118 410 410 F +31 (0) 118 410 417
E info@oceanwide-expeditions.com

Oceanwide Expeditions | USA & Canada Office

222 Pennbright Drive, Suite 109-A • Houston, TX 77090 • USA
T +1 800 453 7245 or +1 281 741 2372 F +1 281 749 8220
E usa@oceanwide-expeditions.com



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