

# KAYAK TRIP PLANNING

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OUR FRAMEWORK FOR TODAY : NON GUIDED TRIP, NO SPECIFIC LEADER BUT YOURSELF WHO IS WILLING TO DO ALOT OF WORK BUT NOT ALL THE ROLES, YOU ARE LOOKING FOR LIKE MINDS/INTERESTS TO PULL A GROUP TOGETHER

LETS CALL IT A **SELF GUIDED TEAM KAYAK TRIP**

WE WILL DIVIDE THE DISCUSSION INTO THE FOLLOWING AREAS....

**PEOPLE**  
**INTENTION**  
**LOCATION**  
**LOGISTICS**

WERE GOING TO START WITH **PEOPLE ....**

- paddle with folks you like
  - you can have a peer group leader, or a leader per day
  - have open discussions, share thoughts and so will others
  - ask people with initiative, who want to learn as well
  - ask NP folks, active friends & family...ask folks you don't know well by respect there kayak skills
- similar skill sets & goals
  - doesn't mean don't have experienced people with you...just means keep within your ability range
  - if someone has experience - like a nurse...then ask them to be in charge of the first aid kit and any emergencies
  - you should decide on a daily leader, a leader for emergencies, a campsite leader (chooses where things go at campsite)
  - discuss daily communication, nightly meeting to discuss following day
- only as fast as slowest paddler
  - ensure you know what your speed really will be, test day paddle
  - be aware of your skills and others - i am find with crossings, but hate wind in my face...

- idiosyncracies get worse out in bush
  - loud sleeper - ear plugs or tent further away
  - stays up late, slow to breakfast
  - slow to get OTW - ask them to start earlier
  - you are with folks 24/7, but ensure folks know where you are
- good fellowship
  - you want folks to work well together, own their mistakes, argue in private, accept responsibility, do your homework, keep the group informed etc

**INTENTION - key is to find joy in this sport...define what that is...**

- discuss clear goals and expectations with group
  - Such as rock gardening, distance, seeing 'sights', accomplish circumnavigate, watching sea life , enjoying beach time.....**

**How much time does everyone have... wiggle room for weather**

**What is everyone's risk level?** Hard discussion if you don't have...but if you ask...do you know how to...then you will learn what the group is capable of. Always go with the lowest common denominator. If everyone knows how to handle current, but one person...can they learn in time... or should we avoid any major current issues....

**Practical side....**

Eventually you will decide how many nights, how many days, where you will launch from, what paddles will be done each day...but

**YOU NEED TO ASK QUESTIONS AND BE CLEAR ON YOUR OWN EXPECTATIONS**

- do a pre paddle , paddle - rescues, check out each others capabilities
  - Know your other paddlers, their abilities and faults
  - Take the boat you will use on your trip, not your day boat
  - Ensure you do rescues and anything else such as current or surf landings
- distance you want to do every day
  - Gauge the distance you want to do every day, on average with a fully loaded boat....generally 6-10 nm for less experienced paddlers.
  - Ensure there is gas in the tank for landing, unpacking and setting up site
- how many moves to do in a trip
  - Depends on the ability, experience and desire of the group.
  - More moves is harder, from a logistics and physical strength.
  - Go with less moves at first. Trip of 3-5 days 1 move, 4-6 days 2 moves
  - My desire is generally - move day, day paddle day, move day, day paddle day.
  - But 2-3 day paddle days is awesome as well. Just pick your location that works for that.

- weather window, go no go, move back and forth to find the right window  
allow yourself to say no  
have an agreement with the group on 'go' or 'no go'  
allow if you can a day on each end for 'weather wiggle room'
- practice 'leave no trace'  
means using intertidal as much as possible  
the smaller the island you are on, the more important it is.  
Check with BCMT on the sites and see if they have green toilets etc.

## LOCATION

- where do people want to go, when and why do you want to go there  
  
What is the season you are going, what are the camping opportunities?  
Iconic Johnson Straight or a circumnavigate an island
- what are everyone's desires: adventure, nature, distance, target  
  
its important that everyone finds joy in kayaking  
  
read books, articles on line on various places to go...  
John Kimantis & Paul Grey have written lots of books on local kayaking  
  
throw out ideas to the group before a zoom session or coffee meeting  
and get them thinking....
- safety - is this WELL within our capability in poor weather  
  
ensure that if you decide to do X that you are clear what  
is required - surf landing, currents, leave no trace,  
Westcoast wind = early mornings  
  
learning a paddling skill on a trip is NOT advised  
(such as big water, surf landing or current)  
best to learn in a controlled environment with professionals
- are we willing to be wet, have a lot of weather - if so for how long  
have been in a tent for 36 hours in the rain, not fun  
ensure your group has a solid way for everyone to say 'no'
- research your ideas and others: BCMT's, John Kimantis, Paul Grey, friends and  
fellow NP are willing to assist...reach out  
get the contacts you need for water taxi, lodges, paddle routes, hazards,  
weather issues, landing sites etc etc

## LOGISTICS

- everyone should take a role in logistics, this isn't a guided trip...no one rides along without a stake in the trip. works best if everyone has a role....

- ground transportation plan, including long term parking, ferries etc  
BCMT helps with this alot, but just asking questions from others and or Google earth, business's close by etc. should give you all the info .
- technology - Who has what - charts, VHF, InReach, Navionics, etc.

Secretaries off of Saltspring island over the Bunsbys on the West Coast.

Redundancies for your technology  
Enough power packs to keep them going  
Knowledge & cross knowledge of how they all work

bottom line don't rely only on technology, know your chart, know how to work from a chart...with a compass.... etc. some tricks to the chart...

- safety plan/float plan - leave behind for family
  - sample provided - provides for all names, all vehicles with license plates, emergency contacts, basic paddle plan and return or contact dates. Leave basic info on who to contact if we don't return or call by X date.
- food plans, water requirements, extra tarps, ropes, fire starter  
Water is key for numerous areas, ensure about 3 litres per day pp and have the Navigator locate areas for water on the trip if you are planning a long trip. Need tablets or water purifying for everyone.  
  
Important to have a shared tarp for sun or rain over kitchen (more if you are choosing to go out in weather)  
  
Excellent to have knowledge of who is cooking fresh and or dehydrated, or combo to plan for redundancies such as fuel for the stove.
- repair kits, first aid kits , redundancies (stove, tarp, communication, spare gear)  
have back ups where needed, but first aid and repair - one good one can be shared
- Divide up tasks between members
  - Navigation - route planning - key role, patient, detail oriented person with experience in that area is best, has done navigation before  
Everyone should still have a chart for navigation even if the leader is on Navionics, everyone should be aware of where they are...

- First Nations impact - BCMT good start to find what Native group in the area you are planning on visiting...they have alot of info and will give you the costs and areas you can or cannot camp etc.
- Ground transport requirements
  - how many vehicles, how many boats does each vehicle hold,
  - where do we park, how long is drive time, are there ferries, logging roads etc.
- Paddle plan - all boats listed, vehicles, emergency contacts etc.
- Water and other shared gear: first aid, repair kits, tarps
  - suggest its great to ensure someone is in charge of this, as they can ensure there are 2 tarps for a group of over 4, that there is a rope bag, a repair kit, a good first aid kit

Thats about 5 roles and easily the Nav could be done by two people.

## **PLANNING ASSISTANCE & TIME FOR QUESTIONS**

Friends  
 Paddlers you know  
 Nanaimo Paddlers - website, any member, mentors  
 Websites  
 Books/manuals  
 Courses

I also can tell you that i will speak with the Hosts and many of the Hosts would be willing to provide assistance for trip planning. I will notify on a newsletter or directly to this group of the folks who have kindly offered to assist.