

What to Bring

ELAKAH EXPEDITIONS provides all the sea kayaking equipment needed for your journey. You need to provide your own outdoor suitable clothing, raingear, sleeping bag, sleeping pad, and tent. If you do not have all the equipment, it is often available to rent at local outdoor stores in your area (i.e. REI, EMS, etc.). We do have tents available to you for to rent for a \$15 dollar fee. You must pre-reserve these with our office prior-to your trip.

Clothing / Personal Gear -- Every item listed below needs to be either synthetic materials, or wool. NO COTTON! This is imperative for your safety, comfort, and warmth.

- Rain Coat
- Rain Pants
- Wool Gloves
- Wool Hat
- Long underwear top
- Long underwear bottom
- Pants/2 pair
- Sweater or Pile Jacket/ 2 total
- Wet Shoes (your feet will be wet guaranteed!) water sandals, aqua socks are all ok
- Dry Shoes for walking around the island and at camp
- Shorts/2 pair
- Swimsuit
- Small Towel (optional)
- Tee Shirts (Cotton is OK)
- Bandanas
- Flash Light/Headlamp
- Toiletries
- Wool socks/2 pair min

Packing Clothing: Place all the above items (except for rain gear and other items you want accessible while paddling) in a dry bag or stuff sack lined with two heavy-duty garbage bags or plastic trash compactor bags. Try to keep this bag under 10" in diameter if possible.

Accessible Day Bag - This day pack lined with two trash bags will hold all items that you want while paddling.

- Sunglasses with safety cord
- Sunscreen
- Lip sun block
- Water bottle 1 qt. full of water
- Medications that you need during the day
- Snack food
- Swiss army knife (if you need it for your lunch)
- Insect repellent
- Camera/film

Sleeping Gear - Make sure that your tent is seam-sealed and that it has an adequate rain fly. Ground sheets for under the tent are generally a good idea. Sleeping bag should be synthetic vs down unless you are an accomplished outdoors person with lots of down bag experience. Try to keep the bags for these articles under 10" in diameter.

- Sleeping Bag
- Sleeping Pad closed cell foam or Therma Rest type
- Tent with waterproof rain fly
- Plastic ground sheet for under the tent

Misc. Optional Gear - Things that you might want to bring but you DO NOT need.

- Field Guides we carry many, but if you have a favorite
- Sketch pad or journal
- Bike gloves for paddling
- Candle lantern
- Binoculars

COMMON GEAR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q: Why is so much gear needed?

In the great northwest we are often asked, what's the weather like? One thing that we can predict for sure is that there will be weather, the other is if you don't like it, wait 10 minutes because it will likely change. Although we may all hope for warm, sunny days, weather may also mean misty fog, six kinds of rain, starry, cool nights, winds, or a brilliant glassy-smooth day. How well you are prepared for the weather will have a direct influence on how much you enjoy the trip. The equipment list is a crucial list of items to bring on your trip. If your trip is in May, June, or September, you may want to bring some extras, such as more wool socks, 2 pair of synthetic long underwear etc.

Q: What kind of bags will keep my gear dry?

If you don't already own specialized roll-down dry bags don't fret! Sea Kayaker magazine did a dry bag field test a number of years ago. They discovered the following inexpensive remedy to be among the driest alternatives: a nylon stuff sack (drawstring or zippered closure), lined with **two** plastic garbage bags (trash compactor bags are more costly but far more durable) rubber-banded shut. It works great. Also, if you do have official dry bags, from our experience, we recommend lining them with garbage bags as well. Remember, water can not be stopped, just slowed down!

Q: What size and how many gear bags should I bring?

Please bring no bags larger than 24" by 13 ". Kayak hatch covers just aren't that big. Moreover, it is always easier to pack several medium-sized items into the boat's compartments than to try inserting one, oversized duffel. If you break your gear up into the following pieces, you should have no problem fitting everything into our kayaks.

