



OCEANWIDE
EXPEDITIONS

Kayaking

General information for passengers

- Basic kayak experience required, physical fitness is essential
- Maximum number limited to 14 kayakers per voyage
- Between 3 to 4 kayak outings (morning or afternoon) possible!
- Kayaking is subject to weather and prevailing ice conditions
- Oceanwide Expeditions kayak guides are experts in their field, qualified and experienced
- Essential kayak equipment available for free on board
- Kayakers only bring their personal weather protective gear
- Kayaking is free of charge during "Basecamp Plancius" voyages. Other activity coded voyages require a supplement: Please see our dates & rates for kayaking

Oceanwide Expeditions offers optional kayak excursions in addition to the normal expedition program. Kayak trips designated with a "K" in our tour program is directed at adventure minded passengers who bring basic paddling experience. These trips are subject to a supplement charge per passenger. We aim to optimize the time available and the prior experience of passengers to optimize any given excursion. To take part in regular kayak excursions passengers are required to have sufficient physical fitness and prior basic sea kayak experience. These trips are not suitable for beginners. Basic skills should include 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 have to feel comfortable in a sea kayak. Kayak participants with a clear lack of these abilities can be disqualified for further kayaking on our kayak excursions because of safety reasons.

On every cruise with a kayak option we hope to schedule up to 4 kayak excursions. However, the Polar Regions are unpredictable when it comes to the weather. This might lead to less or even no kayak excursions as kayaking will only take place in safe weather conditions. Under no circumstances will the safety limits be compromised! All kayak excursions will take place within a safe distance from the ship, and at all times a zodiac will be on standby. The kayaks used are stable single seat and double seat sea kayaks.

In total 14 passengers can join a kayak trip, depending on the number of guides involved and the kayak skills of the participants. The kayaking will solemnly be done as a group activity. At least one kayak guide will lead the group and a zodiac will follow for assistance. Kayak excursions normally last two to three hours. The objective is wildlife, scenery, icebergs, etc. Chances of meeting wildlife while paddling are high.

Kayaking is included under our “Basecamp” concept on both m/v Plancius and m/v Ortelius and requires less previous experience and even beginners with paddling ability can try out. The respective excursions on these trips are, to an extent, less ambitious than the standalone “K” designated trips. Basecamp trips have no supplement charge to 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 any 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 booties?

These items are sold in diving shops, kayak shops and surfing shops. No specialised kayak gear is necessary though, surf gloves and booties will do.

Arctic and Antarctica

Safety: Oceanwide kayak guides & support zodiac

Safety during activities is important to us. Kayak guides are experienced and qualified instructors who will support our passengers. The excursions will be tailored to the skill level of the group and the sea conditions encountered. A support zodiac will be in the vicinity of the kayak group.



Equipment and clothing for the Arctic & Antarctica

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

The following items will be provided by Oceanwide Expeditions on m/v Plancius

- 5 single seat & 5 double seat sea Perception kayaks
- Paddles including anti drip rings
- Basic (4 mm neoprene) wetsuits in different sizes
- Kayak spray cover
- Life-jacket / kayak vest
- Neoprene booties

Important equipment notes:

Do not wear cotton clothing like normal T-shirts and jeans! When wet this will not insulate much and will therefore increase the chance of hypothermia. Besides it is also not very comfortable while kayaking. Normal gloves like Gore-Tex or leather are not appropriate for kayaking. Neoprene gloves are necessary for keeping your hands warm in the frigid water.

