

Sea Kayaking Courses in Oban



Highlights

Sea kayaking courses in the beautiful lochs and isles of Western Scotland with an expert instructor and guide. Take your choice of 1 day, 2 day or week long courses, it all depends on what you want to learn (and the weather!)

Argyll & the Hebrides is home to a myriad of sea lochs, inlets and islands dotted amongst an achingly beautiful highlands panorama and it is hard to think of a better way of exploring the area than in a sea kayak. Sat barely above sea level, moving at a smooth pace, sea kayaking is perfect for spotting wildlife and exploring the various nooks and crannies. Seals abound, whilst the lucky might spot sea eagle, dolphin, shark or otter. The tidal range is extreme here (try googling the Falls of Lora or the Corryvreckan whirl pool) and the weather is somewhat changeable so an experienced guide is highly recommended both for safety and enjoyment.

The Firth of Lorn is one of the world's premier sea kayak venues, with everything from sheltered sea lochs, fascinating rocky islands abounding with wildlife to seriously scary tide races. So whatever your level, there will be something to suit. On a typical two day beginners sea-kayaking break you will spend the first day brushing up your skills and the second day exploring. Your destination might be Seil Sound or Loch Etive or if the weather is rough, Loch Awe. It is important to emphasise that learning to sea kayak is not a dry classroom exercise, after a good safety briefing you will be out on the water enjoying some wonderful sea kayaking whilst you pick up the tricks of the trade. You will learn how to paddle efficiently, comfortably and most importantly, in a straight line. You will also learn how to stop a sea kayak in a controlled way (ramming straight up the beach does not count as controlled!). There is no set course or itinerary, it depends entirely on your skills and the conditions. The beauty of this approach is that instead of battling into a stiff breeze and choppy seas to tick another place of the itinerary, you can be enjoying a gentle paddle in sheltered water elsewhere. And trust us, it is difficult to find a spot that you won't find beautiful in this part of the world.

Paddlers of all ability are catered for so for those with a lot of experience wanting to brush up their skills there is plenty of challenging water, non less than the Falls of Lora, quite literally on the doorstep. And if you are up for a bit of a multi day journey, then weather depending there are some stunning routes taking advantage of bunkhouses or wild camping along the way. To whet your appetite, options include a two day trip round Lismore, exploring the Garvellachs or if you have longer, paddling to Staffa and Fingal's cave or the Treshnish Isles. After booking, Tony will suggest a suitable itinerary depending on your experience and the conditions on the day.

Is it for me?

There is a chance that you might get wet, very wet. If the rain doesn't get you, then there is a chance you might fall in. Fingers crossed that won't happen, but it does make sense therefore that you have a little bit of adventure about you. Having said that you couldn't be in safer hands. The guides are amongst the most experienced in their field. Anybody who loves the outdoors or who has a passion for wildlife will get a lot out of sea kayaking.

Accommodation

Lovely B&B accommodation is available on site (arranged separately). It has clean and simply decorated rooms with modern furniture and the breakfast menu is out of this world. The highlight of the B&B are the views, it is located literally right in front of the falls of Lora, a dramatic tidal race where the loch meets the sea. There is ample parking on site and a pub next door. If the B&B is full, there are a couple of other nice B&Bs locally. When you are out paddling you will need to bring you own packed lunch, but there is a place in the village which will oblige with a hearty spread. After all, there is a certain logic to leaving sea kayaking guides to do the sea kayaking and cafes to do the sandwiches.

Prices from

65 GBP (1 day) per person

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Equipment is provided (including spraytops etc.) and lugged into place for you, all you need to do is turn up and paddle! The equipment is very well looked after, which is always a good sign.

Details

Getting there

Connel can be reached by train from Glasgow Queen St Station (3 hrs / 3 per day). If you are driving it is about 2 hours northwest of Glasgow.

Price includes

Kayak, paddle, spray-deck, buoyancy aid, water-proof paddling jacket and wet suit boots are all provided.

B&B accommodation can be arranged separately from £25pppn.

Price details

Price quoted is the daily price per person in a group of 4. Prices vary according to numbers in your group and duration of trip. Please contact us for details.

When is best

Sea kayaking is available year round, but for beginners the beginning of May to the end of October is recommended.

Comfort level

Reasonably comfortable (Inns, B&Bs, luxury camping etc.)

Experience required

A reasonable level of fitness and interest is all that is needed

Travellers should bring

They provide all the kayaking kit including footwear. You just need to bring two layers of thermal or fleece clothing, a spare fleece, a hat a packed lunch and sun cream. They even provide hot drinks!