



BATSTAR

Adventure Tours

West Coast Sea Kayaking

Gear List

for 5+ days sea kayaking in the West Coast Rainforest, guided

Dear Batstar Guest,

Dress for the Environment

When you sea kayak on the West Coast you can expect a mixture of sun, rain and wind, sometimes all in the same day. The key to enjoying yourself is to clothe yourself in layers of synthetic fabrics that wick away perspiration and repel water. I've found that Patagonia Capilene® underwear works great, even when soaking wet. Wool is an acceptable substitute but it doesn't dry as fast as synthetics. I love cotton and bring it in my dry bag for wear only in camp and at night.

Rain Gear

I use a Lotus Skanorak® sea kayak paddling jacket on the water if it is rainy or windy. On land I keep a North Face Mountain Light Jacket in a dry bag. You can use your Gore-Tex® or H₂No® jacket on the water and in camp. Gore-Tex® or H₂No® rain pants work well but non-breathable pants (or PVC bibs) are ok but tear easily. A good rain hat has a wide brim on it so that the rain doesn't run down the back of your neck. If it is breathable, it serves as a good sun hat. Nothing beats rubber boots in the rain and in the intertidal zone.

Clothes for 1st Day

(not raining or cold)

- capilene® t-shirt
- capilene® silk wt u/w
- fast drying hiking/paddling shorts
- sports bra (w)
- hiking socks (wool or synthetic)
- fast drying pants (no jeans)
- approach shoes or runners
- fleece jacket (200 or 300)
- sunglasses (good quality)
- ball cap

Easy Access Gear Bag

- waterproof hat with brim
- waterproof, breathable jacket
- sunscreen
- small, collapsible umbrella

Dry Bag 1

Kodiak® tapered 20 Litre

- long-sleeve T or Zip Neck
- lightweight synthetic bottoms
- sports bra (w)
- cotton long sleeve shirt to sleep in
- cotton T-Shirt (in camp)
- hiking socks (wool or synthetic)
- sweats (or fleece) to sleep in
- fast drying hiking/paddling shorts
- bathing suit
- pack towel + face towel
- bandana
- multi-knife (Swiss Army / Leatherman, etc.)
- headlamp / flashlight
- lighter

Dry Bag 2

Kodiak® 25 Litre

- long-sleeve T or Zip neck
- lightweight synthetic bottoms
- bra (w)
- hiking socks (wool or synthetic) 2 pairs
- fleece or wool toque
- fleece side zip pants (or tights - 200 or 300 wt)
- waterproof, breathable pants
- lightweight working gloves (loading/moving)
- fleece gloves
- fleece or wool skullcap/toque
- fleece vest (optional)
- toilet kit
- extra glasses/contacts
- prescriptions

Camping Gear, etc.

large nylon gear bag

- 1-litre wide mouth water bottle with nylon holder - easier to lash to deck
- water sandals
- rubber boots
- camera
- binoculars
- floating eyeglass strap

The first lesson in the outdoors is to dress for the environment. You can have a great time in any weather with the right gear. Sea kayaking in the rain is a great experience. With your spray skirt, jacket and rain hat on, it is a surprisingly dry ride. Batstar guides also help take the edge off inclement weather.

Dry Bag System

You get two dry bags for below deck storage. Put a complete change of clothes in each bag. You also get a clear 20 litre dry bag for the cockpit of the sea kayak. Use it as your easy access day bag for layers of clothes (wind pants, sunscreen, fleece, pogies, etc.).

About this List

The basic concept is to use synthetic technical clothing. It really works. Cotton, once wet, is hard to dry in a marine environment. Be creative, add a sarong. I tend to use Patagonia, The North Face and Outdoor Research gear. Many fine companies make gear that works. Use what you like and what fits.

Batstar Adventure Tours provides you with dry bags to put your clothes in. We also supply all the sea kayaking, camping and kitchen equipment.

If you have a specific sea kayak clothing or gear question, e-mail me at blake@batstar.com. See you on the water, Blake.