



Sea Kayaking

SEA KAYAKING

Personalise Your Adventure.

One of the best things about a voyage to Antarctica is that you're never done exploring!

Even if you think you have climbed every mountain, walked every shore and visited every penguin rookery, there is still a whole other world to explore on the water.

In our Kayaking Program, you will experience the unforgettable thrill and serenity of kayaking in Antarctica as part of a small, expertly guided paddling group.

Enjoy towering icebergs, crackling brash ice and spectacular landscapes from our stable and stealthy sea kayaks!

So if you enjoy kayaking, then don't miss your chance to paddle the world's most interesting and rewarding kayaking destination!



Is Kayaking for you?

If you're looking for a unique and intimate way to experience Antarctica, Sea Kayaking is for you!

An adventurous attitude is a must, and it's important to understand that conditions play an important role with this excursion. While kayaking occurs only when the sea is calm, a good level of experience and fitness is a requirement as conditions can change quickly - we are in Antarctica after all!

Even if your experience is limited, we'd encourage you to speak to your booking agent to discuss your suitability as there is often ample time to gain the experience you need before you depart.

Our Kayaking Program is a voyage-duration program. If you prefer a one-off paddle excursion, please ask your booking agent for our Day Paddle program information.

What to expect

For a kayaking excursion, you'll embark on Zodiacs with the kayaks brought along. Each kayaking expedition generally runs approximately 1.5 - 2 hours with an aim to paddle 8 - 10 kilometers or sometimes more, depending on the weather. The weather will also impact the number of kayaking opportunities you will have throughout the voyage.

Safety precautions

The Expedition Kayak Guide-to-kayak participant ratio will always be at least 1:10. In addition, there will always be a dedicated safety Zodiac and driver accompanying the kayak group on the water.

All kayakers will be provided with detailed information before the first excursion and will need to carefully follow their guide's instructions.

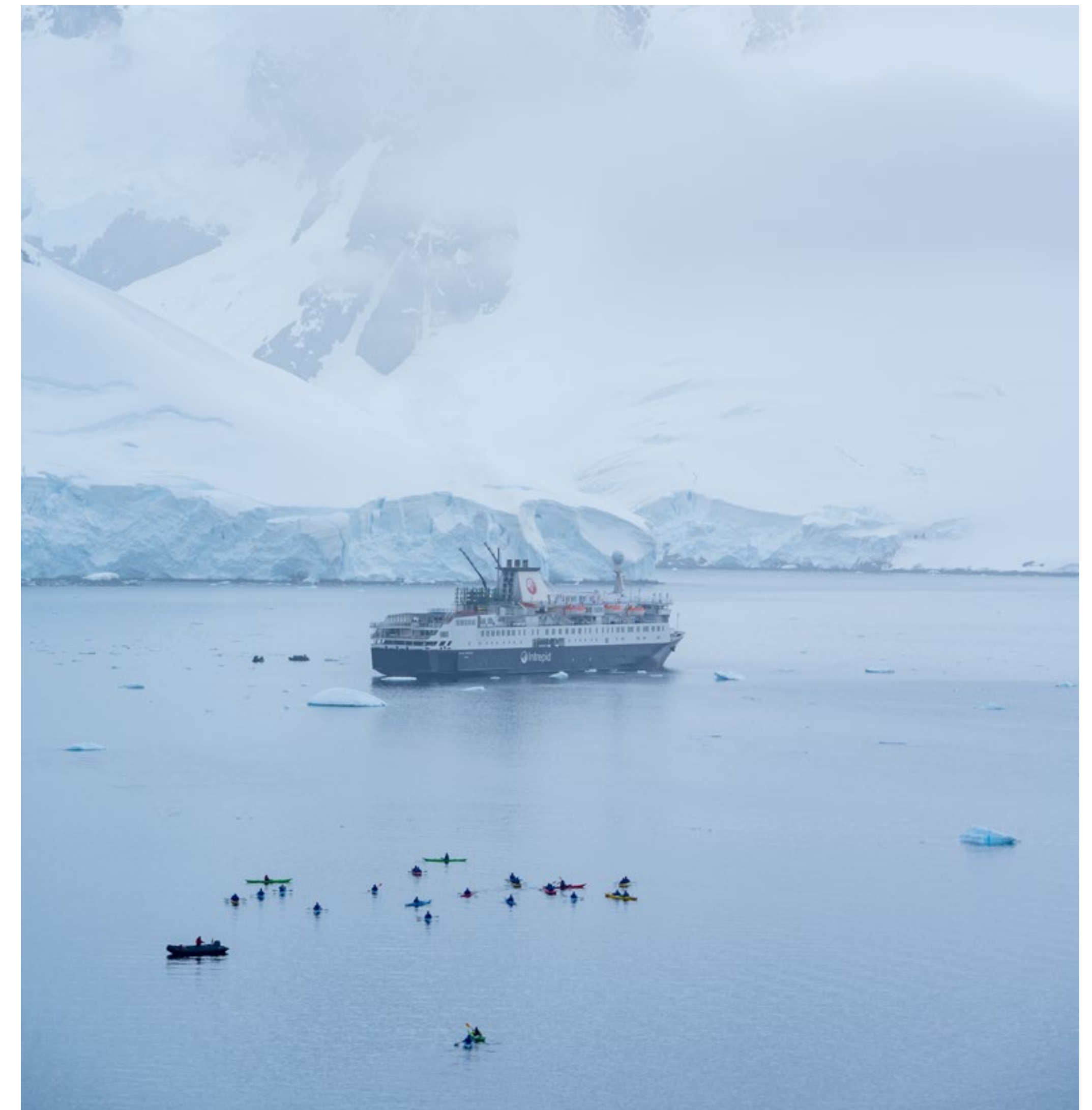
For your own safety, you will need to verify that your travel and medical insurance covers kayaking and sign a waiver before embarking. All participants must also meet the fitness and experience requirements outlined in the Kayaking Preparation Form.

Minimum age

We recommend a minimum age of at least 16 years. For passengers 12 - 15 years old, an application must be made before voyage departure, as participation in Kayaking requires pre-approval. Please ask your booking agent for more information. Passengers 11 years and under cannot participate

Secure your place

Sea Kayaking places are limited, so we recommend booking sooner rather than later to avoid disappointment.





MEET SCOTTY

Your Lead Kayak Guide.



M meet Scott McCormack, your expert guide for an unforgettable kayaking adventure!

With over two decades of experience leading paddling expeditions across the globe—from the rugged coasts of Newfoundland to the icy waters of Antarctica—Scott brings unparalleled expertise and passion to every journey. As the founder of Cape LaHave Adventures in Nova Scotia, Scott is dedicated to creating safe, exhilarating, and meaningful outdoor experiences for adventurers of all skill levels.

Scott's impressive credentials include a Master of Environmental Studies, a Bachelor of Education in Outdoor and Experiential Education, and a B.A. in International Development and Spanish. He is also a certified canoe and sea kayak instructor, as well as a paddleboard instructor trainer with Paddle Canada. Having guided over sixty expeditions in Antarctica, Scott's knowledge and enthusiasm are second to none.

What can you expect from Sea Kayaking?

Adding Sea Kayaking to your Antarctic adventure means that you will be part of a small team that breaks off from the main group and paddles together as often as possible.

You will have a different experience from your fellow travellers: while they will split their excursions between Zodiac cruises and shore landings, as kayakers, you will head out for a paddle and if time allows, a shorter shore landing.

Do I need to be an experienced kayaker?

The most challenging part of Kayaking is usually getting into the kayak itself.

After you have mastered that, you will learn how to keep a rhythm going through the icy water.

Antarctic Sea Kayaking does require some previous kayaking experience as you need to be comfortable doing a wet exit.

Conditions can also be unpredictable so be prepared for changes to weather and sea conditions.

The ability to do a kayak roll isn't required but you should be able to demonstrate that you're comfortable in a sea kayak.

To take part in the Kayaking Program, you must be an efficient swimmer, physically fit and have previous kayaking experience.

How big are the groups?

You will always have one or two experienced Expedition Kayak Guides with you on the water, depending on the group size. The Expedition Kayak Guide-to-kayak participant ratio will always be at least 1:10.

How many times will I go kayaking?

Please be aware that kayaking is strictly subject to weather and water conditions and safety is number one priority.

The number of times you will kayak during your voyage will depend on the weather and sea conditions and excursions will not run if we do not deem the conditions fit enough.

The normal duration of a kayaking excursion outing is approximately 1 to 2.5 hours with an aim to paddle up to 10 kilometers.

What will I see?

Kayaking is a beautiful way to be close to Antarctic nature. When you kayak, you can reach down and touch the water.

You can seize the ice floating past and watch penguins, seals and whales glide through the water just inches from you.

Incredible scenery is guaranteed – rugged shorelines with snow-capped mountains in the background, pristine untouched shorelines, icebergs that can turn the water beneath you a brilliant blue.

The quiet nature of kayaking also makes it an excellent opportunity to encounter wildlife.

Should photographers' kayak in Antarctica?

If you're a photographer and you want to kayak, you will need to be prepared for some compromise as it won't be possible to do both to the best of your ability.

Our expedition guides will be happy to talk to you about your photography priorities so that you don't miss out on the best opportunities for photography.

Is kayaking safe?

It is important to be vigilant when you are kayaking. You are exposed to polar weather and sea conditions so dress according to the elements to avoid the risk of hypothermia.

Sea kayaking numbers are limited to two groups of 16 so that our accompanying guides can keep track of everyone and ensure your experience is maximised.

One guide stays with the group in a safety kayak, while another trails nearby in a Zodiac in case of emergencies which require a faster retreat back to the Ocean Endeavour. All guides are experts in kayaking and have vast experience working sea kayaking groups.

They will work to scale an excursion to the skill-level of your group.





Do I have to bring any of my own kayaking equipment?

To take part in the Kayaking Program you must be appropriately dressed. In Antarctica, the weather conditions can change rapidly with little, or no warning and it is therefore important that you are adequately dressed for the worst possible conditions.

We provide you with all the specialised kayaking gear you will need to have a safe and enjoyable time in the Antarctic environment. All kayaks and gear are top-quality and are maintained in excellent condition. We carry sufficient quantities of kayaks of all sizes to ensure that everyone feels safe and comfortable in their gear. This equipment includes:

- Kayaks: We will use tandem sea kayaks with rudder steering and adjustable foot braces. These tough, stable kayaks are perfect for rough conditions and paddling through brash ice
- Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's)
- Paddles
- Neoprene booties (available sizes 4-14)
- Full body dry suit (sizes available: XS-XXL) with waterproof socks
- Spray Skirt
- Pogies (insulated mittens that attach to your paddle)
- 10-litre dry bag
- Safety equipment

We recommend you bring the following:

For a full packing list for Kayaking please refer to the Kayaking Preparation Form.

- Gloves: two pairs, one thin and one thick
- Socks: Heavy thermal socks (2 pairs)
- Headgear: Warm cap, beanie or balaclava
- Hat: To provide shade from the sun
- Waterproof sunscreen and lip balm
- Sunglasses with side visors and tie or string for attaching them to prevent loss
- Water bottle: 1 litre capacity
- Waterproof binoculars (optional): Recommended for wildlife viewing from your kayak
- Dry bags, waterproof bag or Pelicase for camera/phone

You will also be required to bring your own clothing to wear underneath the provided dry suit. We also recommend:

- Thermal top and bottoms: one lightweight and one medium to heavy weight - wool is excellent
- Two pairs of pile or polar fleece pants and jumper

Please note:

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