

# Paddling Excursion in the Polar Regions

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Every sweep of the paddle as your craft glides through the pristine polar waters creates an incredible soundtrack: the jostle of glacial ice, the lapping of waves against the rocky shore, the perpetual drip from your paddle, the call of seabirds, and the occasional splash as wildlife break the surface of the water.

Our Paddle Excursion Program provides sit-on-top, two-person, inflatable kayaks that provide guests with an intimate, water-level experience in unforgettable locations in both the Arctic and Antarctica. These stable, rugged and comfortable crafts are an ideal way to see the polar regions from a different perspective. On-ship, you'll be provided with instruction and equipment including dry suits, personal flotation devices (PFDs), and waterproof gloves. Experienced guides will lead you safely throughout the paddling excursion. Your group will always be escorted by a safety driver in another kayak who will stay close by to provide additional support.

## **Your Paddling Excursion Experience:**

Signing up for the Paddling Excursion Activity will allow you to go paddling once, for approximately 1 to 1.5 hours, weather permitting. Each group includes 10 paddlers, 1 guide and 1 one safety Zodiac driver. The wind, weather and water conditions determine the timing and location of Paddling Excursions.

Paddling is a weather-dependent activity and will be offered only when weather conditions and voyage logistics are suitable. Like your expedition, the Paddling Excursion Activity will take place in a remote part of the world that is known for its varied and dynamic weather. Due to the changeable wind and ice conditions in the Polar Regions, we cannot guarantee specific locations or dates. The Paddling Excursion Activity is a calm weather excursion activity.

Although the guides will endeavor to offer this program on each voyage, there are no guarantees that there will be appropriately calm conditions to participate in this activity. Should the activity not occur due to weather or voyage logistics, the pre-booked guests will receive a refund for the cost of the activity.

We cannot guarantee that each paddling excursion will be exactly as described in the voyage brochure and preparation notes. Each excursion will vary depending on paddling location, weather, and ice conditions.

## **How does this experience differ from the Sea Kayak Program?**

The Paddling Excursion Activity offers a one-time opportunity to explore the outstanding grandeur and magical beauty of the Polar Regions using an inflatable sit-on-top kayak. The kayaks used in the Paddling Excursion Activity are inflatable double sit-on-top kayaks that provide increased levels of stability and comfort. This activity is designed for those who wish to add variety to their excursion offerings, but who are not familiar or comfortable with paddling traditional Sea Kayaks.

## **Is Kayaking Experience Necessary?**

The Paddle Excursion was created for guests with little or no paddling experience, or for those who want a single paddle experience to add variety to their expedition. Participants must be fit enough to enter and exit the kayak from the Zodiac, and to maneuver with your paddle.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION PLEASE READ:**

**If there is insufficient interest in participation in the Paddling Excursion Activity, we reserve the right to cancel your Paddling Excursion Activity prior to your excursion and will advise you accordingly. If we do cancel your Paddling Excursion Activity prior to your excursion, we will refund any monies received from you as payment towards this activity, but shall not be otherwise liable**

### Provided Gear

- Inflatable Super Lynx sit-on-top kayak
- Paddle
- Drysuit
- Insulated rubber gloves
- PFD (personal flotation device)
- Neoprene booties
- 10L dry bag
- Water bottle

### Other recommended gear/clothing

- Thermal base layer (top and bottom)
- Thin fleece or wool sweater
- Fleece pants
- Liner socks
- Thick wool socks
- Neckwarmer
- Warm hat
- Brimmed hat
- Sunglasses
- Waterproof and sweatproof sunscreen and lip balm
- Camera (either waterproof, in exterior waterproof housing, or stored in a drybag)\*\*
- Waterproof backpack

Tip: It's a good idea to protect any camera gear in a drybag. Small waterproof cameras should be attached to your PFD with a string and carabiner.

## **Additional Information:**

### **Kayaks:**

This activity will provide you with the opportunity to paddle an inflatable, sit-on-top kayak. These kayaks are designed to have increased stability and comfort than standard sea kayaks. The inflatable kayaks allow for those who have limited to no kayak experience to enjoy the wonders of the Polar Regions by kayak. Each excursion activity group will use a maximum of 5 tandem kayaks, allowing for 10 paddlers to participate. The excursions will be led by a paddling excursion guide, who will be paddling a single sea kayak. There will also be a safety Zodiac that remains with the group throughout the excursion.

### **Paddling:**

Your Paddling Excursion Activity will be led by a professional paddle excursion guide, with additional support from a safety Zodiac that will be dedicated to the Paddling Excursion Activity. The safety Zodiac will be in radio communication with the group and on able to assist if the need arises.

Your expedition guides select paddling sites for their protected waters, wildlife, and scenic values. All excursions are, of course, dependent on weather and excursion logistics. Most times we will be paddling near the Zodiac landing and shore excursion site. The paddlers will remain in a close group, where the guide can manage safety, while sharing interesting information about the local area. The paddling excursion is a slow paced, contemplative experience, allowing for moments to relax and time to capture the experience with photography. The paddle excursion guide will continually assess the surrounding conditions; it is essential that you follow the instructions of your guide for your safety and enjoyment throughout the excursion.

