

Leisure upon a Kayak – Best recreational kayaks

Kayaking is one of the most thrilling and adventurous sporting activity. Numerous enthusiasts frequently venture this sporting activity of using a kayak to move across water. Few take the activity very seriously and get involved in its professional indices. On the other hand, most of them take it casually or as a hobby and get involved in the sport to ward off the boredom of their daily life. Apart from size, weight, colors and rack specifications, the motive of kayaking is also important to decide the right kayak for you.

The purpose of kayaking is one of the major deciding factors, which plays a role in your kayak purchase pursuit. If you are not willing to go professional, many kayaks, which are lightweight and built to give you a sailing pleasure protected waters, calm lakes and lazy flat-water streams, are available in the market. These are relatively less expensive than the conventional kayaks and are often called as recreational kayaks.

Recreational kayaks can be inflatable and it does not involve too much stress in transportation. It is designed just to add on to your weekend adventures and giving you the pleasure to declare yourself as a kayaker. Serious kayakers go for performance kayaks, which are bulky, and have lots of fitments and attachments. Recreational kayaks are not having any such design or installation hassles. Few of the best recreational kayaks are as reviewed below –

1. Perception Kayak Pescador Pro Sit On Top for Fishing

Perception Kayak Pescador Pro is one of the best beginner kayaks available with all basic and generic features of kayak available at affordable price. This is one of the best choice of kayak both for experienced and novice adventurers. The attractive features, which make it one of the most sought for kayaks, are –

- Comfortable stadium-style seat with 2 seating positions
- Mesh bow cover, rear tank-well bungee, stern 5 deck plate, and center console
- Included 2 molded in rod holders and molded in cup holders
- Tackle box storage in front of the seat
- Included 2 gear tracks
- It is available in three color shades
- You can select from two sizes of length 10' and 12'

Pros of Pescador Pro:

This fishing kayak can give you a great sail on calm waters as well as on rivers. The most important and attractive attribute of this kayak is that it has versatile characteristics at affordable entry level prices. Its ability to allow room for errors without disturbing the stability makes it a perfect choice for new kayakers.

It is easy to steer in choppy conditions as well as it is a great comfort to hit the calm waters. This feature makes it a perfect kayak to practice with great margins to withhold errors. Apart from its

versatility in performance and functionality in training, it has plenty of room to store your stuffs. Its front, center and rear storing hatch areas is having sufficient space to hold all you necessary belongings.

The hull shape of the Pescador offers it a great stability and maneuverability. The Pescador 12 really stands out among other fishing kayaks in terms of tracking and maneuverability. The Pescador 12 also comes with one Scotty mount, and one flush mount rod holder to hold your fishing rods. Above all, it has an above standard factory-seat, which provides optimum cushion and comfort.

Cons of Pescador Pro:

Of all the feedbacks, the recurrently arising issue, which has troubled many of the kayakers, is the weight factor of Pescador Pro. The Pescador is bit bulky and it requires optimum physical effort for its portage.

2. Ocean Kayak 12 Malibu Recreational Kayak

The Ocean Malibu Two is one of the most popular sit-on-top kayaks around, and it has impressive stability and versatility on the water. This one is by far the easiest tandem to start out on. It is virtually impossible to flip, and is roomy enough for two people to sit comfortably. They are extremely stable, which is why they are so good for beginners. The Ocean Kayak Malibu Two is a hard side craft designed for two paddlers and a child, but one person can handle this boat just as well. The Ocean Kayak 12 Malibu has striking features like –

- Enjoy sun and surf with a friend or a furry companion with the kayak's three seating positions, which support solo, tandem, or tandem paddling with a child or pet.
- A pair of Comfort Plus seats provides four-way adjustability, generating custom fit and greater slip prevention over molded seats.
- Patented overlapping foot wells allow center-seated paddlers to settle in and brace their feet comfortably.
- The open, sit-on-top hull makes it easy to get on and off the kayak and includes a pair of molded-in handles and skid plate.
- Maximum capacity of 425 pounds.
- Measures 12 feet long and 34 inches wide.
- Lifetime warranty on the hull.

Pros of Ocean Kayak 12 Malibu

It is stable and responsive, like the best sit-on-top models. This is one of our all-time favorite vessels, not just for beginners. It is just that in this case, the impressive stability and nimble turns come in handy when you are new to paddling.

It is roomy and flexible in the seating department. There are two dedicated seats, at the stern and the middle of the vessel. There is also a smaller third seat at the prow, which is perfect for a child or a dog. There is lots of room for paddlers to stretch out, and the seats are quite comfortable.

Cons of Ocean Kayak 12 Malibu

It weighs 60lbs, which makes it a bit bulky. Moreover, Malibu's weight and wide shape makes it primarily a "family fun" kayak. Like most sit-on-top models, it is great for leisurely weekends, but this kayak will not be winning you any races. If you are using all the three seats or berths, you may face storage problems.

3. Sun Dolphin Aruba 10-Foot Sit-in Kayak

The Sun Dolphin Aruba is one of the most sold beginners kayak owing to its low price and astounding features. This kayak is an ideal recreational kayak as it suits all the requirements to be sailed over calm lake waters and slow moving river waters. Sun Dolphin Aruba has attracted great attention of novice kayakers and the internet is just flooded with overwhelming positive reviews of kayakers for this inexpensive kayak. Designed to perfectly suit your leisure weekends on lake or river waters, the Aruba is loaded with the following features –

- Large open cockpit with adjustable padded seat with high back support
- Convenient gear storage with shock cord deck rigging
- Adjustable foot braces
- Rugged UV-stabilized Fortiflex High Density Polyethylene
- Carrying handles and water bottle holder
- Weight: 40 lbs
- Available in red and blue color
- Weight capacity: 250 pounds
- Length: 10 feet

Pros of Sun Dolphin Aruba 10

The most striking feature of Sun Dolphin Aruba is its price. It is inexpensive and affordable. You may not repent even if you fail to learn kayaking to the expert level. It will always be at your side as one of your most favorite leisure time partner. Compared to Pescador, its price is just half of the former.

The wide body and flat bottom of Aruba 10 gives it the most stable design. It is very much beginner friendly and short length makes it easy to be turned. The narrow bow and stern and lightweight of the boat give it a solid tracking ability, and the durable hull material is more forgiving of beginner mistakes.

It is lightweight and very easy to carry. It nullifies all the requirement of purchasing kayak roof rack as you can easily carry it over your SUV or vehicle using conventional attachments. The Aruba 10 is a 10-foot kayak with a width of 30 inches. It weighs 40 pounds and has a carrying capacity of 250 pounds. The hull is made of a durable high-density polyethylene, and the shape is ideal for both tracking and maneuverability.

Paddling the Aruba 10 is very comfortable and convenient due to its open cockpit and plenty of leg space. It is having an adjustable backrest, which makes kayaking more comfortable. The comfort

continues irrespective of stable or windy climatic conditions. It is perfect for easy lake paddling in mild or slightly windy conditions. You can take one of these on a river, too, as long as you are not going to hit any whitewater patches. We are especially impressed with the responsiveness of the design for something so inexpensive.

Cons of Sun Dolphin Aruba 10

Holding an all-rounder feature of a beginner recreational kayak, the Aruba 10 is best for calm and slow moving waters. It is not advisable to use this kayak over rapid water flows. The design of the Aruba 10 is perfect, but limitations arise when its seat is taken into consideration. Its factory version seat is made of plastic and lacks cushioning. This shortcoming of this kayak makes purchase of seat necessary.

4. Lifetime Manta Tandem Kayak

Recreational kayaks can be more interesting if it is sailed with your acquaintances on the seats with you. Lifetime Manta Tandem Kayak has made this possible. This highly preferred kayak can let your friend or your family share the kayak space with you. The Manta is a hard side sit-on-top recreational yak that can support up to 425 pounds of passenger and cargo weight. With three seating wells, the Manta can accommodate two adults and a pet or small child, but one person can maneuver the boat without difficulty. With the ability to paddle single or double person (tandem) and a sit on top design, this is the ultimate in versatility. Its striking features are –

- Designed for single or tandem use
- Length: 12 feet
- Weight: 57 pounds
- 500 Lb. weight capacity
- Includes 2 soft backrests and 2 double sided paddles
- Lightweight 60 lb. design with molded front and rear carry handles for easy transport
- Tunnel hull design provides ultra stability and tracking which makes it almost impossible to tip over
- "High and Dry" seating keeps riders off of kayak floor - Raised seats keeps you dry and out of the water
- Backed by a 5-year limited manufacturer warranty
- 2-piece sport paddles included
- Fits up to 3 people
- Forward cargo area
- Tunnel hull design provides ultra stability and great tracking

It is lightweight and is easy to be transported. You can easily load and unload it to and from your vehicle. It is also ideal for anglers. Few demerits are reported due to low storage space. Some kayakers has reported that you may strike and hit with each other if two peoples try to paddle together. On an overall scale, the Lifetime Manta Tandem Kayak can be your good choice if you are not having a great or massive fishing venture and if only one rider paddles it.

We would say this two-person kayak is at its best for short trips with couples that want the flexibility of a sit on top kayak and do not mind giving up some comfort. We like the fact that they included paddles, which can make the Manta, as one of the top picks for the best tandem recreational kayak.

5. Ocean Kayak Frenzy Sit-on-Top Recreational Kayak

Sit-on-Top Kayaks has lots of reason to be the most preferred design of recreational Kayak for Kayakers. The open design, plenty of space – both storage and legroom, cushioned seat and lashings makes Ocean Kayak Frenzy one of the best recreational kayaks of its type. The other features, which are striking enough to catch your attention, are –

- Responsive and stable, this one-person kayak is playful in the surf but behaves well on flat water.
- Ocean Kayak's renowned Tri-Form hull combines primary and secondary stability, with a long center keel to keep the paddler going straight.
- A durable, four-way-adjustable Comfort Plus seat supports all-day paddling, with comfort for any body type.
- Store gear, food, and other items using the stern tank well with removable bungees and bow deck bungee.
- Easily carry the Frenzy from boat to launch using the molded-in side handles and bow and stern carrying handles.
- Weight Capacity: 275-325 pounds.
- Length: 9 feet.
- Width: 31 inches.
- Weight: 44 lbs.
- Padded seat back for comfort.

Its design, stability, tracking and maneuverability are of above the standards level. Its lightweight feature makes it easy to be transported. Ocean Kayak uses what they call a “Tri-Form hull” with the Frenzy that gives the kayak exceptional stability plus good tracking and maneuverability.

One of the most striking features of the Ocean Kayak is the replaceable rear skid plate, which can be changed out if the kayak becomes worn from use. The molded drinks holder is also one of the great features of the kayak.

On an average basis, this recreational kayak has gained positive response from the kayakers’ community over the internet. It has also registered good volumes of sale. Overall, it is one of the best casual recreational models out there. It strikes an excellent balance of affordability, quality, and user-friendliness. Within its limitations, it is impressive.

6. Advanced Elements Kayak

The Advanced Elements Kayak is completely different from the above four reviewed kayaks. This kayak is having a unique design of part inflatable and part folding frame hard shell. The built-in aluminum bars

frame the stern and bow to enhance tracking and control. The rigid hard-shell paired with the portability of an inflatable makes this a versatile choice for many people. Being inflatable, you may get worried about leaks and punctures. But the unique material of this kayak is puncture resistant to protect it from any such disasters.

All you need to do is inflate the kayak and then attach the seat in its holder place. This kayak saves your expense in purchase of expensive kayak trailers or roof racks. This added versatility adds on to the price factor but on the other hand, it counterbalances your expenses on its transport amenities. The features of Advanced Elements Kayak is –

- Built-in aluminum ribs define the bow and stern and improve tracking
- 3 layers of material for extreme puncture resistance
- Preassembled at the factory, you can simply unfold, inflate and attach the seat
- High support, adjustable padded seat provides comfort for hours of paddling
- Looks and paddles similar to a rigid hard-shell kayak with the portability of an inflatable
- Length: 10.50 ft
- Weight carrying capacity: 300 lbs
- Weight: 36 pound

This one-seater kayak is unique in its built and design. It can be one of the affordable choices for the beginners. It is a good choice for kayakers intending to hit still waters of the lakes and lagoons. It can be easily fitted in the storage space of your car or SUV and it is not hectic to carry it for long distances. There is no hassle of lashing it with the roof of your car or any overhead issues.

Many kayakers are complaining about its price, but they are overlooking the expense they would had made in purchasing roof racks or trailers. One issue, which can bother you, is the time when you inflate it. We would like to advise to keep motor air pump handy to inflate the kayak. If you go for the hand pump, it might give you a tiresome experience.

The kayak has seven storage chambers, which gives you a plenty of space for your stuffs. No complaint related to insufficiency of legroom space has yet been received. Its dynamic and versatility lies in its flexibility to get fitted inside your car without any extra portage hassle. This can be a preferred choice for casual kayakers as they seldom have dedicated equipments for transport of kayaks. This kayak also seeks relatively less amount of maintenance.

To choose the best kayak for yourself, you must be knowing the purpose of your kayaking. You must be knowing whether you want to spend your leisure time by hitting the waters on your kayak, or you are interested to go for a serious kayaking expedition over the rapids. Based on this decision, you can very wisely and effectively, select your type of kayak from the numerous variants available in the market.

A kayak can be termed to be the best depending upon its ability to serve your kayaking passion. As you know your motive of kayaking, relying upon that you should select the design, material and attachments

of your kayak. As recreational kayaks are mostly for novices, a sit-on-top kayak can be a good buy. If transportation is your issue, you must select a lightweight or inflatable kayak.

All the recreational kayaks reviewed above are having specific specializations. If one is economical, then the other is more versatile. If one has greater stability, the other has greater paddling comfort. On an average basis, the Sun Dolphin Aruba can be a nice buy as it holds all the features to be the best recreational kayak. It is also relatively cheaper than the other versions of recreational kayaks.

While kayaking you must follow few safety points like –

- Do not consume alcohol or get intoxicated by any means before or during you paddle.
- Always carry a life jacket and wear it as soon as you step in your kayak.
- You must dress up according to the weather needs. Especially during the winters, the cold waters may lead to hypothermia, which can be fatal. Always carry the gear, which makes you comfortable in respective weather conditions.
- Always select the sailing point, which matches your skill. For novice kayakers, it is recommendable to select calm lake waters or lagoon. For the most of safe adventure, beginners may go for slow river waters.