

**Recreational Kayaks:** Generally in the 6 to 9 foot range in length with a width of anywhere from 28-36+ inches. These are large cockpit boats, without storage compartments or flotation areas and are extremely stable on flat water. They are excellent choices for "Paddling Around". They are not designed for more active water or long distances. They are also good choices for fishing or nature watching as long as the distance to the active site is not too long. These are NOT designed for long paddles.

**Light-Touring Kayaks:** These boats are in the range of 10 foot plus and are usually equipped with a storage compartment. Cockpit size is smaller than the Recreational. They are narrower, in the range of 24 to 30 inches. Sometimes they are equipped with a Skeg or Rudder. This kayak can handle more active water and is a bit less stable than the Recreational. It can be used for longer trips and excursions. This is an excellent "First Boat". Most individuals do not understand how they are going to use their boat for their most enjoyable type of paddling. The price range of this type of boat allows the paddlers to learn what they want to do and later select a different boat if they choose. These boats are usually plastic, extremely durable and do not damage easily. Most paddlers I know that have paddled for several years have at least two boats - different boats for different paddling situations.

**Sea Kayaks:** These boats are usually 14 foot plus and equipped with two or more storage compartments which double as flotation areas. The width would be anywhere from 21 to 25 inches and are designed for most types of water conditions except "White Water". The cockpits are small to limit water entry and they are equipped with Skegs or Rudders. They are "Tippy". This boat will go the distance under most conditions with an experienced paddler. The cockpit cowling accepts a Spray Skirt that most experienced paddlers wear most of the time. This boat may be used year-round as long as you can get on the water. This is a fun boat but you must learn how to use it properly. Depending on the material the boat is made of, you can spend a moderate to a lot of money on this boat. They are available in plastic, fiberglass, Kevlar, carbon fiber and even wood composite.

**Racing Kayaks:** As the name implies, these boats are for racing. They are usually 18 feet plus and very narrow. They are extremely "Tippy". Incidentally, they are fast but it still takes a lot of horsepower to move them. Too small a paddler or a weak paddler in the fastest boat will still not go fast. They are usually not available in plastic and are pricey.