



RENTAL BOAT SAFETY CHECKLIST

Recommended safety briefing checklist from Transport Canada and this Rental Company. **Check each box to confirm you understand each item the rental agent explained or demonstrated.**

CANOE/KAYAK

BEFORE YOU GO



- ☐ There is one lifejacket of the proper size for each person on board.
- ☐ I understand that each person on board should wear a lifejacket at all times.



- ☐ The required safety equipment for this type of boat is on board, in good working condition, and easy to reach.
- ☐ I will keep a whistle attached to my lifejacket.
- ☐ I understand when and how to use the safety equipment on board.



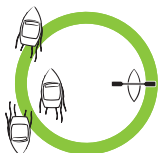
- ☐ I have some means of communication with me, such as a cell phone in a plastic bag or a portable VHF radio.



The rental agent reviewed a chart/map of the area I am paddling and made me aware of:

- ☐ suggested routes for the rental period
- ☐ local hazards, such as currents, rapids and obstacles
- ☐ local restrictions, such as off-limit areas
- ☐ location and meaning of local buoys, signs and lights
- ☐ shipping lanes and high-traffic areas
- ☐ high and low tide times
- ☐ expected wind and wave conditions
- ☐ landing and takeout spots
- ☐ roads and trails for walking out
- ☐ I am aware of the paddling conditions (weather, wind, swell, tides, currents, waves) expected over my trip.

ON THE WATER



- ☐ I will stay out of the way of other boat traffic, and be courteous and mindful of the stopping distance of other boats in the water.



- ☐ I will keep constant watch for other boats, hazards to navigation, water and weather changes.



- ☐ I understand the safest way to cross the path of a powerboat is to do so astern (behind the powerboat).



- ☐ I understand that boating and alcohol do not mix and may affect my judgement and ability to paddle safely.
- ☐ I will not paddle (or allow others to paddle), this canoe/kayak while under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs.



- ☐ I understand the best way to cross a channel is at a right angle (straight across) to the waterway in order to reduce my time in the crossing.



- ☐ If I have a hard time with the conditions, I will return to shore.



- ☐ I will use a white light to indicate my position to other boaters if paddling at night or in low light conditions.



- ☐ I know what to do if dangerous weather occurs.

IN AN EMERGENCY



- ☐ I know how to get help in case of an emergency.



- ☐ If my canoe/kayak tips over, I know to stay calm, remain with my boat (if possible) and then paddle or swim it to shore if I am close to the shore, with the boat downstream from myself.
- ☐ I know what to do if I become separated from my canoe/kayak.

VESSEL SPECIFIC



- ☐ I will plan and follow routes that are close to shore and use sheltered areas as much as possible.
- ☐ I will not attempt a trip that is too long or too challenging for my physical condition and paddling ability.



- ☐ To prevent capsizing, if a wave is heading in my direction while underway, I know to turn the bow of the canoe/kayak into the wave so that I don't take the wave broadside.



- ☐ I can safely enter and exit the canoe/kayak and know the importance of staying low.
- ☐ I will take care to evenly distribute weight of people, equipment and gear on board and to not overload the canoe/kayak.
- ☐ I will respect the maximum load for this canoe/kayak, which is:
 _____ People
 _____ kg/lb People + Equipment
- ☐ I have checked that all the gear and equipment, especially ropes and lines, are securely stored, so not to pose a hazard while underway.



For family and small group rentals, the rental agent:

- ☐ reviewed paddle and whistle signals to use on the water
- ☐ assigned the most experienced paddler the "lead" (front) and "sweep" (rear) positions, with less experienced paddlers in the middle



- ☐ I am aware of the dangers of cold-water shock and hypothermia and know what to do if anyone falls into cold water.
- ☐ I know that by wearing my lifejacket and paddling close to shore, I have a better chance of saving myself should I capsize.
- ☐ I am wearing the appropriate clothing for my trip, in consideration of both water temperature and weather conditions.
- ☐ I understand it is a good idea to bring extra clothes in a dry bag/plastic bag.



- ☐ The rental agency explained and/or demonstrated the unique handling characteristics of this canoe/kayak.
- ☐ I know how to securely tie my canoe/kayak while on shore or at dockside.
- ☐ For kayaks, I know how to securely fasten the hatches before getting underway.

CONFIRMATION OF SAFETY BRIEFING

- ☐ The rental agency provided me with a safety briefing and explained any additional rules they expect me to follow.
- ☐ I agree to paddle this canoe/kayak in accordance with all applicable boating laws and regulations and in a safe and secure manner.

Boat Type and Description:		Total People Onboard:	
Departure (date & time):		Return (date & time):	
Area of Operation/Route:			
Emergency contact for my area of operation:			Phone:
Customer Name (print):			Cell:
Customer Signature:			Date:
Rental Company Name:	Location:	Phone:	
Signature of Rental Agency Representative:			Date: