



MCS Devon Sea Kayak Challenge

The aim for the 5-day challenge is to introduce participants to sea kayaking and to conduct at least one beach/river clean every day. Weather and skill of participants permitting we will aim to access remote beaches via sea kayaks where clean ups from land are hard to achieve.

Based at a wonderful campsite on the Dartington Estate near Totnes, we have easy access to the river Dart, which offers sheltered paddling for rough weather days as well as sheltered water for the introduction day. The stunning coastline of the South Hams is a short travel distance away, well known to sea kayakers for its rugged beauty.

The following is a suggestion of possible trips within a day from Totnes. Depending on weather and sea conditions we will choose from the list below closer to the time.

Sunday 14th July

Arrive at the campsite at Dartington, preferably during the afternoon. Set up tents and meet the coaching team.

<https://www.dartington.org/visit/stay/camp/>

Monday 15th July – Introductory Session

Participants drive in their own transport to Longmarsh car park in Totnes on the banks of the river Dart. The boats will be taken to the car park by the coaching team. On this first day, the participants will be introduced to sea kayaking and will make an easy 4-hour paddle upriver towards Dartington. On the way you will learn kayaking and rescue skills to prepare for the next days of paddling in the ocean and along the coast. We will collect rubbish from the water along the banks of the river Dart. Participants should bring their own packed lunch and hot drinks to have on the riverbank and a wild swim in the river is always possible. At the end of the session, we will practice capsize drills, self-rescue, and assisted rescues.

Tuesday 16th July – River Trip

This will involve a longer paddle on the stunning River Dart Estuary, from Totnes to the village of Dittisham and return. We will be able to have various stops on the way and there should be the chance of a visit to the 'Ferryman' pub in Dittisham.

Wednesday 17th July – Sea Trip, Bigbury Bay

We will drive to South Milton Sands (National Trust car park) and paddle in the area of Bigbury Bay. Depending on the weather and sea conditions we may go east, towards Hope Cove and Bolt Tail, or west, towards Burgh Island. There will be ample opportunity to explore beaches, caves, rock arches and to clean some beaches.

Thursday 18th July – Estuary Trip, Salcombe to Kingsbridge

We will paddle from Salcombe, South Sands to Kingsbridge for lunch and back, cleaning the estuary and beaches at the mouth of the estuary.

Friday 19th July – Sea Trip, Dartmouth to Scabbacombe Sands

We will drive for about 30 mins to Dartmouth and then paddle out of 'Warfleet Creek', turning west past Froward Point and on to Scabbacombe Sands. We will stop at Puddcombe beach where there is always a great deal of plastic to be collected. On returning to the campsite at Dartington, some participants may wish to drive away, others may stay until Saturday morning.

Option of an overnight wild camp

Depending on the weather and sea conditions, an overnight sea kayak trip may be an option. We would carry all the gear in our sea kayaks and cook over the fire on the beach. This can happen on either the Dart estuary or one of the beaches along the coast.

We will adjust the trip to the participants' fitness and experience levels, keeping the focus on this being a challenge to access and clean as many remote beaches as possible.

Please keep in mind this is a rough suggestion of how we think the challenge might be organised.

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