



IWLS

International Wilderness Leadership School

Alaska Sea Kayak Course Itinerary

This is a flexible trip itinerary that shows the general progression of the trip. Our exact schedule will depend highly on the weather, strength of the group, and time of year.

Day 0: Evening Pre-trip meeting at the IWLS office in Haines. After a brief meet and greet with your instructors and fellow students, we will discuss the course and students' goals and expectations. Gear checks will be conducted, and the route and syllabus covered.

Day 1-3: Our first day on the water will include basic paddling strokes, an introduction to the wet exit and a short paddle to our first wilderness camp. The next few days of this course will be spent base camping near Haines and developing a sound foundation of fundamental techniques. Over the first few days, we will learn and practice paddle strokes, maneuvers, camping techniques, bear safety, and rescues. This will empower the students to take the reigns as "Leader of the Day".

Days 4-8: Building off the first few days, the next portion of the trip is focused on intensive technical skill instruction and development. You will also begin moving S. and changing camp daily. (weather dependent) Days will be spent in the field addressing points of the course curriculum. Students, as leaders of the day, will plan the route and destinations in advance, with flexibility incorporated into the day-to-day route and itinerary. This will provide for many opportunities and teachable moments related to judgment and decision-making. We aim to spend 6-8 hours daily on skill development and traveling our route, with time spent on shore participating in lessons, problem solving activities, and discussions and debriefs.

Days 8-12: This portion of the course will be largely student driven and objective based. You will have the opportunity to test the skills gained and further develop your leadership abilities by selecting appropriate paddling objective. You will analyze weather and tides, take the reigns as leader of the day, and work on advanced skills like kayak rolls. In the last few days of the course we will have final evaluations. Students will be evaluated, by their instructors, on their understanding and completion of the IWLS curriculum.

