

SCOTLAND SEA TOURING TRIP 2009

This year we would welcome club members who have no or limited experience of sea touring to join the more regular members who have been going to Scotland for many years, including Martin, Geoff, Norman, Barry and Wyn

The date planned for this year is 14th to 22nd May 2009

The location will most probably be the coastline south of Arisaig and we will be wild camping for the most part.

As with all sea trips the weather is an overriding decider on if we go and where we go. We may have to cancel or postpone at the last minute, it is not worth the long drive if the forecast is clearly bad
(e.g. strong winds)

Travel Arrangements:

We plan to drive up to Scotland leaving at around 9:00 pm on Thursday evening, this will get us up to Fort William about 6:00 am on Friday morning where we will have breakfast in Morrison's when they open and do any last minute shopping. From there we will travel to Arisaig and set off on the sea mid to late afternoon. The first day's paddle will be a short one to the first available camp site. This is a wild campsite e.g anywhere that has easy landing, a flat bit of grassland enough for all the tents and a stream if possible. Transport and driving will be shared once we know the numbers etc.

Equipment Required:

Sea touring kayak capable of holding the following:

Tent, sleeping bag, something to sleep on (eg Therm-A-Rest), torch.

Cooking stove and cooking utensils and spare fuel, lighter for stove, plate, bowl, cup/mug, cutlery, can and bottle opener, dish washing kit. Water containers for about 8 litres, we will fill up before setting off and replenish as and when, the more you can get in the better.

Food for 7 days/nights the choice here is up to you I generally take canned and packet food and some fresh stuff for the start of the week, Norman takes mostly dry mixes.

Wine and or spirit just for a small tippie in the evening if you want to.

Spare canoeing kit, as much as you can get in just in case we don't get a chance to dry the stuff.

Normal clothes, again as much as you can get in, I use the spares for a pillow, walking shoes/boots the evenings can get a bit chilly in May so a windproof coat is good.

Towel(s), Toilet bag, toilet roll, small trowel.

Snacks and drinks for daytime on the water.

Clothes and sleeping stuff are best kept in dry bags just in case of capsizes. An extra dry bag or bin liner is useful for dirty clothing and or wet canoe kit.

Also:

Bouyancy Aid, spray deck, paddle and split paddles if you have them (there should be enough to go round if you don't)

The paddling:

The location is a reasonably sheltered one with plenty of opportunity to change plans to suit the prevailing weather conditions. There are no long open sea crossings unless we decide to do one, for example Norman and I paddled the 10 miles out to the island of Eigg stayed for lunch and then paddled back. We will only do this of course if the conditions are acceptable.

Norman and I know of several suitable places to camp and to get a pub lunch and fill water bottles. We may also find new places to camp and explore. The intention is to not paddle too far each day, max probably about 12 miles so that the afternoons / evenings can be spent cooking, eating drinking, chilling out or exploring on foot.

If you would like to go but have some questions please contact me at memsec@maidstonecanooclub.net



More pics on website club photos 2008 Scotland