

Your Inflatable Kayak Buying Guide –Making the Best Decision for Your Needs

Inflatable kayaks have come a long way in a relatively short time. An inflatable kayak buying guide will help highlight the various benefits of these watercraft, as well as helping you to define what type of kayak is right for your needs, what materials and other considerations you require, and more. Whether you're interested in hitting whitewater or simply paddling serenely around the lake or on the ocean, inflatable kayaks can be found to fit your needs.

In this article, you will learn more about how to choose the appropriate model, as well as what makes one kayak better than another for your needs. A quality inflatable kayak buying guide will be an indispensable aid in your quest for better fun on the water.

Intended Use

The intended use of your kayak is one area of definite interest. You will find that a number of manufacturers offer kayaks for all different purposes, from whitewater enjoyment to paddling around on a flat-water pond. However, you should ensure that the intended use of the kayak matches your desires.

Other uses that an inflatable kayak can be used for include fishing, multi-day river trips, lake paddling, ocean paddling and more. However, as mentioned, it is important that you match the class of kayak purchased to the use you intend.

While you can certainly take a whitewater kayak out on a lake, you'll find better performance from a recreational craft. In addition, you should avoid taking a lightweight kayak out on a river where there is a chance that you'll encounter whitewater.

Therefore, any inflatable kayak buying guide should tell you to match your intended use to a specific style of kayak.

Length Considerations

The length of your kayak will determine a number of things, including weight and ease of transport. You will find that length plays a role in other elements. For instance, the longer a kayak is, the better it will glide across the surface of the water. In addition, the longer a kayak is, the more gear it can hold and the higher the weight tolerance of the craft will be.

Any inflatable kayak buying guide should inform you of the benefits of length. You will find that most kayaks come in lengths between nine and fourteen feet – the difference in length will determine how many passengers can be seated in the kayak, as well as how much gear you can carry. Solid frame kayaks will not only be longer, but will weigh more, while shorter kayaks offer more portability, while sacrificing a bit of the load capacity found with their larger brethren.

Weight Issues

One of the most common issues discussed in an inflatable kayak buying guide is the weight of the kayak in question. Weight will definitely play a role in your purchase decision, as well as how much you enjoy using that watercraft.

For instance, how much portaging will you have to do? If you have to portage your kayak quite a bit, you'll find definite benefits with a lighter kayak. However, if you will only be loading and unloading your kayak, with little or no need to portage, then a heavier kayak might offer performance benefits that are not outweighed by the weight factor.

In addition, weight is often in durability. For instance, lighter kayaks are often made of thinner material, while heavier kayaks offer more durability. A quality inflatable kayak buying guide will help you determine the right mix of weight to durability for your needs.

Material Needs

The material used to manufacture your kayak is of the utmost interest to you. You will find quite a few different materials used today, including Hypalon, PVC, polyurethane, rubber and more. Polyurethane is one of the strongest materials out there, but does not offer much in the way of softness. Hypalon is incredibly durable and soft to boot, but tends to be heavier than a similar kayak made of PVC.

You might also consider kayaks that have a urethane coating on the exterior, as this can add an element of greater durability with scrapes and obstacles encountered in your area.

Price Considerations

One of your overriding considerations will certainly be the price of the model. You will find a wide disparity between entry-level kayaks and those made for experts. An inflatable kayak buying guide will help you determine just how much to pay for that new kayak.

For instance, if you opt to pay less, you might find that you are sacrificing quality and durability. However, will paying for a top-of-the-line model mesh with your needs? Many people do not use their kayak enough to offset such an investment.

As you can see, it is more than important that you use an inflatable kayak buying guide to help you make the right purchase decision. This will help ensure that you obtain the benefits you demand, without overspending or sacrificing quality.