

Other important tips:

Wind

Wind will slow paddling down and the extra effort required will tire you more quickly than normal. Also think about offshore winds – don't get blown away from shore.

Waves

Waves can be larger than expected and can change in size depending on water depth.

Tides

Tides can be strong and having to paddle against the tide can make you tire quickly. Tidal flow against the wind direction will make waves steeper and water more choppy – plan your paddle according to tides.

Surf

Unless you are an experienced surf paddler, stay out of the surf.

If you venture into these conditions always stay away from swimmers.

Cold water

Tasmanian water temperatures can get as low as 9 degrees celcius. Hypothermia can effect you and its onset will be rapid if you end up in water this cold. Even summer water temperatures can induce hypothermia.

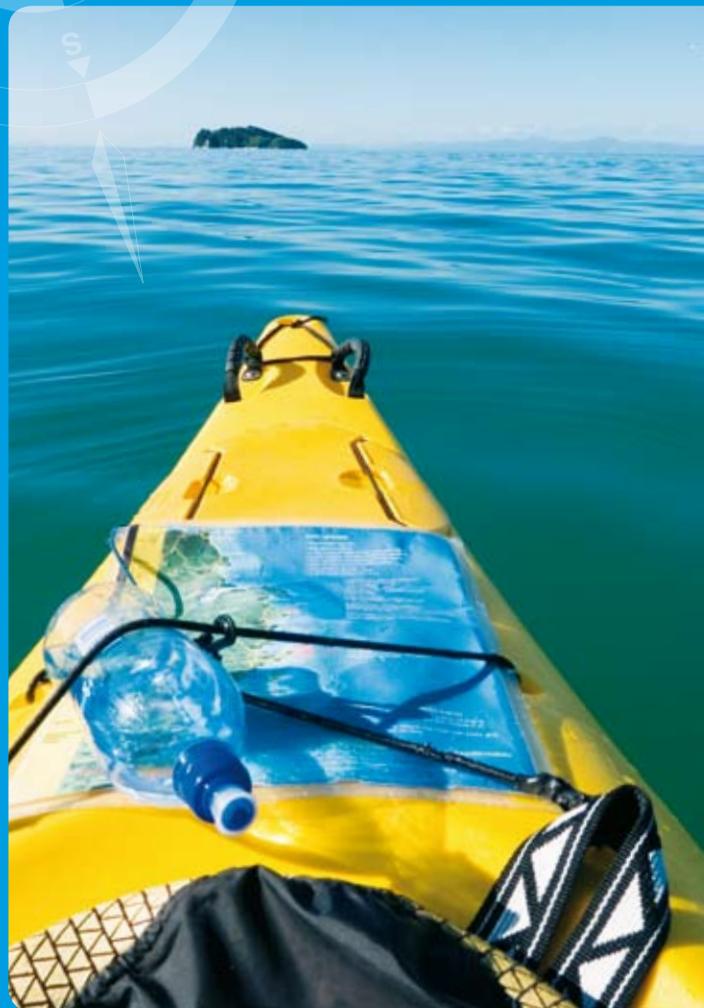
Enjoy your time on the water with your new kayak or canoe but remember if you are not confident in your ability or your craft is not suitable for the prevailing conditions then don't go out.

**REMEMBER TO ALWAYS WEAR
YOUR PFD (LIFEJACKET)**

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HAVE YOU PURCHASED A kayak or canoe?





Tasmania has a high percentage of the population who use the water for recreation. This occurs in boats of all sizes but also more frequently now in small kayaks and canoes. There is a vast array of designs, constructed from different materials.

Marine and Safety Tasmania (MAST) is encouraging all users to be aware of a few basic safety tips to make your day on the water both enjoyable and safe.

Remember, some designs are built for specific areas and uses. A sea kayak is designed and built for a particular use and is normally used by experienced paddlers. Others are designed simply for paddling off the beach for a bit of fun with the kids and are simply not suitable for longer distance paddling.

Please take time to read just a few safety tips below before you start paddling this summer:

- Always wear a PFD (lifejacket);
- Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to be back from your paddle;
- Never venture too far offshore – weather changes can be quick and severe;
- Don't paddle so far that you can't get back – fitness is important;
- Spend some time close to shore to get used to your kayak or canoe;
- Try to paddle in company where possible;
- Check you canoe or kayak prior to each trip for leaks or cracks; and
- Seek local knowledge if paddling in new and unknown waters.

Always check the latest weather forecast. Program these weather numbers into your mobile phone now so wherever you are going paddling, you can always check before you set off .

Northern Tasmania 63232555

Southern Tasmania 62339955

Eastern Tasmania 63760555

North West Tasmania 64987755

