



**POLAR  
TOURISM**  
Guides Association  
guiding guiding



# Polar Endorsement for Sea Kayak Guiding

2022 Edition

## DEFINITIONS:

- Scope:** Outlines who the Test is for.
- Element:** Outlines the overall **skill set** to be Tested.
- Range:** The **specific skills** to be examined. An examination **may or may not** include all of the range items. It is at the discretion of the Assessor if the Assessee shows confidence and ease in other range items as to whether they examine them or not.

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## SCOPE:

Sea Kayak Guide – Polar Endorsement is a polar specific endorsement for an already experienced or qualified sea kayak guide. This qualification endorses their ability to operate in the polar environment with the relevant knowledge and skill sets. Any guide being assessed for this endorsement will already be proficient and competent with their personal kayak skills and have competent guiding skills ratified by an external sea kayak guiding qualification or a POE supporting these abilities.

## PREREQUISITES:

- Emergency Care Qualification (>40 hour course)
- A recognised Sea Kayak Guide Certificate and/or POE supporting competence to this level
- >100 days guiding (polar or non-polar) including high impact coastline and open seas
- >20 excursions logged in polar environments
- PQ Communications for Polar Operations
- PQ Navigation Skills for Polar Operations
- PQ Interpretation Skills for Polar Guides

*Special Notes: i. PQ Driving Small Boats/Zodiacs and Advanced Driving Endorsement – Support a Sea Kayak Operation is preferable for ship based operations but not essential.*

## CROSS CREDIT:

If guiding certificate covers prerequisites candidates may be cross credited in to assessment.

## ELEMENTS & PERFORMANCE CRITERIA:

### Element 1 – Planning and Preparation

#### 1.1 Brief clients on sea kayaking in polar environments.

*Range:* Personal equipment and clothing, environmental conditions associated risks and procedures (brash ice, pack ice, ice-bergs, glaciers, cold water immersion), expectation management, wildlife etiquette practice and procedures as per IAATO/AECO guidelines, assessment of client's physical ability and mental state of readiness for polar excursions.

#### 1.2 Personally prepare for leading a polar excursion/trip.

*Range:* Attire for the conditions, spare clothing for self and clients, heating and sustenance strategies explained, knowledge of expected weather, communications carried in a suitable manner, specific emergency/stranding equipment with capacity for multiple hours stranded, liaison with key staff.

### Element 2 – Demonstrate and/or explain launch and retrieval techniques and safety management for a sea-kayak group in the polar environment

*Range:* Ship, zodiac, beach and sea ice/ice floe.

### Element 3 – Identify and explain risks and management strategies for various ice and weather conditions

*Range:* Pack ice, fast ice, brash ice, ice bergs and bergy bits, glacial fronts, effect of current or wind on all of the above, and sudden downslope winds.

### Element 4 – Identify and explain risks and management strategies for common polar mammals relevant to area of operation

*Range:* Polar bear, fur seal, leopard seal, orca, walrus and whales.

### Element 5 – Identify and explain risks and management strategies for cold water immersion

*Range:* Mitigation measures and options for evacuation.

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DATE:	REVIEWERS:
2018	Prepared by Sophie Ballagh, Ewan Blyth & Graham Charles,
4/2018	Ballagh/Blyth, Graham Charles, Al Bakker
20/5/2019	Qualifications Review Meeting
15/3/20	Qualifications Review Meeting
2021	Qualifications Review Meeting
2022	Qualifications Review Meeting