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अण्डमान तथा निकोबार प्रशासन / ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION

पर्यटन निदेशालय / DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM

Guidelines for Operation and Registration of Kayaks

The following regulations are applicable for operation of any class of Kayaks for tourists in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

(I) - Infrastructure:

The Kayak operator / owner should have the following Infrastructure:

- Should have administrative center and telephone facilities etc.
- Shelter for customers with facilities for imparting familiarization training.
- Storage space for water sports equipment to protect it from deterioration by exposure to direct sunlight etc.
- Area for defect rectification and preventive maintenance.

(II) - Equipment and Accessories:

- i) The kayaks must be manufactured under appropriate class certification for design and manufacture. The existing kayaks should be certified by a marine architect for strength, buoyancy and ease of entry and exit from cockpit.
- ii) The buoyancy aids (type approved standards) must be available in sufficient numbers to cater for the deployment of all the equipment and must be available in different sizes so that it fits customers of all sizes and age groups.

(III) - Operator Qualifications:

The Kayak Operator should be an Instructor recognized by the Indian kayaking and Canoeing Association or holding a certification from National Institute of Water Sports (NIWS) or from a National Governing Body of Kayaking or in possession of proof of participation in National/ Navy regattas or holding a certification issued by an equivalent body of another country.

- (1) They should be certified in First Aid & CPR and have completed Kayak Rescue course and be proficient in self rescue and assist rescue techniques. The Instructor should also be proficient in in-water rescue techniques and know swimming and should have knowledge of the area of operation.
- (2) Any guides employed by the operator must also be certified in First Aid and be proficient with self rescue and assist rescue techniques. He should also know swimming and basics of in-water rescue techniques.

(IV) - General norms for operation:

- (1) The kayak owner/operator is solely responsible for safety and adequate training and thorough safety briefing to customers before each trip.
- (2) All kayakers including guides must strictly wear lifejackets at all time while in water. Persons suffering from any serious ailments, weak heart etc. should not be allowed.
- (3) It is mandatory for all kayak owners to maintain a log book with details of each trip separately for each day indicating details of guests, sea geography etc. Before proceeding on any expedition, details of kayakers should be entered in the log book.

(V) - Area of Operation:

The kayak operation must be carried out from the specially designated area on the beach to avoid injury or disturbance to other beach users. Area of operation should be away from the area of mechanized craft as far as possible.

The Registering Authority in consultation with other Govt. Departments like Port Management Board, Directorate of Shipping Services, Coast Guard etc. shall notify the area of operation of Kayaks.

(VI) - Registration:

- (1) The registration of the operation will be carried out by registration authority which shall be renewed annually after survey by a qualified marine architect/surveyor.
- (2) Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousands Only) will be charged as registration fee and Rs. 1,000/- (Rupees One Thousands Only) will be annual renewal fees.
- (3) Each kayak will be given a Specific Registration Number to be prominently displayed on the kayak at all times. The ensign will depend on the 'zone of navigation' the kayak is permitted to operate in.

For Registration, the operator/ owner will furnish the following details alongwith documentary proof to the Registering Authority:

1. Name of the operator, contact details and address,
2. Address of the centre for operation.
3. Zone of Navigation : Basic/ coastal.

4. Type of Kayaks, hull material, dimensions and other specifications including:
 - i. Passenger capacity
 - ii. Details of Manufacturer
 - iii. Year of manufacture
 - iv. Whether class/ type approved, if so details.
5. Proposed area of operation (Map with relevant details)
6. Documents for operator qualifications
7. Rescue boat details (Based on Zone of Navigation)
8. Brief SOP and contingency plans
9. Personal Insurance coverage details with documents
10. List of equipments depending on the Zone of Navigation
 - In case of old Kayaks, a certificate from Marine Architect for its strength buoyancy and stability is to be enclosed.
 - For annual renewal a certificate from Marine Architect indicating strength buoyancy and stability to be furnished along with proof of personal insurance.

If a foreign / tourist owned kayak is temporarily / brought in, be it folding, inflatable or rigid, the owner will have to register their kayak with registration authority if they wish to paddle it in the waters. A nominal fee of Rs. 500/- will be charged for registration of such kayak and validity will be for three months.

(VII) - Zones of Navigation:

The permitted Zone of navigation for a kayak is determined during the registration process itself. Here 'safe shoreline' is defined by any shoreline where the kayak can, without damage to the kayak and kayaker, be beached or docked. All kayak tours will be conducted only under sea states of 1, 2 & 3; and up to force 4 winds.

- a) Basic Up to 2 nautical miles from any safe shoreline.
- b) Coastal Up to 6 nautical miles from any safe shoreline.

- a) **Basic:** In this zone of navigation, Sit-On-Top kayaks, Fishing kayaks, and sea-kayaks will be registered. The material of the kayaks that are permitted to be registered under this Zone of navigation are inflatable, foldable, wooden, plastic, carbon-fibre, diolen or fiberglass.

Before setting out on a tour under this category, the kayak operator/ owner must inform the full details to the Port Control through VHF or telephone, including no. of guides, no. of tourists, no. of Kayaks, expedition route, expected duration etc.

The following minimum equipment needs to be carried by each person during the tours.

- i.) Personal Floatation Device (PFD) of appropriate size and approved quality.
- ii.) A waterproof / water resistant torch.
- iii.) First Aid kit.
- iv.) Tow lines of strength proportionate to weight and capacity of each kayak.
- v.) Safety lightsticks preferably green and red.
- vi.) One safety kayak (with an experienced guide / instructor trained in rescue, first Aid & CPR) for ten tourists (maximum) must be present with the group from start to finish of the tour.
- vii.) At least one VHF handset for communicating with Port Control.

b) Coastal:

- (1) Under this category of Navigational Zone, only sea kayaks and Surf ski kayaks will be registered. To register under this, all Sea kayaks and Surf skis must have well maintained & operational rudder mechanisms.
- (2) Before setting out on a tour under this category, Port Control must be informed of tour plans in writing. Identification documents along with signed liability release forms of each guest must be submitted before embarking on such tour.

- (3) Updated weather information must be obtained from the PMB officials by the guide/ instructor 24 & 12 hours prior to tour.
- (4) The material of the kayaks that will be registered under this Zone of Navigation are diolen, plastic, fiberglass and Carbon-fibre.
- (5) The regulations in this category include all those in the basic navigational zone as well as the following additional minimum requirements for operation.
 - (i) Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) with CE mark.
 - (ii) A distress flare.
 - (iii) A whistle / air horn.
 - (iv) Magnetic compass.
 - (v) Identification documents of each kayaker.
 - (vi) The guide / Instructor / Safety kayaker must carry with them at least one navigational chart / GPS.
 - (vii) A safety boat of minimum 4+1 pax capacity and 25 hp engine.
 - (viii) Sufficient water and ration for the tour.

Note : The registering Authority will carry out registration and renewal based on the documents submitted by the Kayak operator/ owner and it shall be responsibility of Kayak operator/owner to follow the above guidelines and adhere to all safety norms.