

The Scottish Sea Kayak Symposium Group



TENTH

The Gaelic College – Sabhal Mòr Ostaig

Sleat, Isle of Skye

(Slèite, An t-Eilean Sgitheanach)

Main Event: 24th to 27th May 2013

Extended Activities: 27th to 31st May 2013

Prospectus

Location

Based at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the Gaelic College on the Sleat peninsula. With views to Ardnamurchan and Knoydart, this must surely be the most spectacular place to hold any sea kayaking event. Skye is simply a must visit destination for any sea kayaker, with over six hundred kilometres of coastline, plenty of inlets and as much wildlife as you could ever hope to see.

Mallaig and Kyle of Lochalsh are served by bus and train. Inverness airport is a two and a half hour drive through scenic countryside.

There is a vehicle and passenger ferry from Mallaig to Armadale, which is about two miles from the College and there is a road bridge (toll free) from Kyle of Lochalsh to Skye.

Programme

Starting with registration on the Friday evening and following the format of our previous symposia, the 2013 event will offer a variety of interesting activities to choose from at any one time.

Practical sessions and skills clinics, will feature all levels of kayak handling skills, rescues, towing, rolling, navigation, and others.

Lectures and talks, will include wild life, navigation, weather, tides, maps and charts, coastal features and night paddling.

Slide shows. Tour the world, from the comfort of your seat, with our leading expedition paddlers. There will also be keynote slide presentations on Saturday and Sunday evenings.

Guided paddle trips. At levels to suit the participants, will be led by experienced coaches backed up by paddlers with local knowledge.

Saturday night Ceilidh. This traditional Scottish gathering follows the keynote lecture. It has established itself as one of the highlights of the weekend with singing, dancing and the company joining in. If you play an instrument please bring it along. Or, if you prefer, you can enjoy a drink at the symposium bar.

Accommodation and Catering

A variety of accommodation options are available to suit most needs.

The College can accommodate up to eighty people, in single or twin-bedded rooms with en-suite facilities. There are only a small number of twin rooms available. **Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment.** Meals in the college **must** be pre-booked on the application form.

Limited **BASIC CAMPING** and caravan or motor caravan parking, is available in the college grounds with access to basic facilities.

For those wishing a greater degree of independence, Skye being a holiday island has a number of hotels, guesthouses, hostels and cottages to let. A separate leaflet giving further details on this option is available on request from info@sesymposium.org

Exhibitors

It is anticipated that the major UK sea kayak manufacturers and importers will be represented with demonstration craft available for personal evaluation together with a selection of specialist clothing and equipment for purchase.

Cost

The Symposium is non-profit making and we believe the fee represents excellent value considering the comprehensive programme and the quality of the contributors, drawn from a wide spectrum of paddling and associated activities. Accommodation and catering costs reflect those set by the college.

Booking

The Application forms will be available in early 2013.

One copy of the appropriate application form/forms must be completed for each individual applicant. Any form made out for more than one applicant **WILL** be rejected. However please feel free to copy the form as required. Places are limited; they will be allocated in the order of receipt of application forms and only accepted if accompanied by the appropriate fee.

We look forward to welcoming you to Sleat and our Symposium, which promises to be the best yet.

Children's Symposium

A special Children's symposium, for 6 to 12 year olds, is being run alongside the main event to allow parents freedom to enjoy their choice of Symposium activities with the knowledge that their youngsters, are being looked after safely by qualified staff and having fun at the same time. Whitewave Activities are organising this on our behalf. There will a varied programme and participation can be on a full day or half day basis. If interested, please ask for further information and a booking form.

Kayak Hire

There will be a very small number of kayaks available for hire on Skye and it is strongly recommended that participants bring their own. Should this not be possible it is essential to make prior arrangements, detail will be on the event application form.

Extended Activities

Skye is a world class area for paddling with a variety of sheltered and more exposed coastal waters, offshore islands, abundant wildlife and interesting tides. From the Tuesday to the Friday following the Symposium there will be guided trips each day catering for all standards, co-ordinated from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. Some trailer space will be available for kayaks, but participants should be independent for transport if at all possible. A charge will be made for each trip to help defray the costs involved.