

Journey

by Eddyline Kayaks

The Journey was designed as a response to the increasing demand for smaller, lighter kayaks that combine many of the performance characteristics of full-fledged sea kayaks with the comfort, stability and roominess of a quality recreational kayak. Granted this is a compromise, and the Journey is a compromise on the side of performance with an efficient easy paddling hull configuration and a full complement of features that you would find on any self-respecting sea kayak.

While not intended for the surf zone, and based on the paddler's skill and judgment, the Journey can handle any reasonable range of conditions that are likely to be encountered in an open-water environment. The kayak's roomy cockpit and medium volume plus the adjustable seat and backrest configuration allow for a good fit to a wide range of paddler sizes and weights. The Journey is a playful kayak ideally suited for day trips, fishing, photography and weekend camping excursions.

—Tom Derrer, Designer, Eddyline Kayaks

REVIEWERS

LJ: 5' 1", 150-pound female. Day paddle, light breeze, wind waves to 1 foot or less. About 10 pounds cargo.

SR: 5' 11", 160-pound male. Day trips. Wind 12-15 knots, waves to 2 feet. 50 pounds cargo.

GL: 5' 11", 165-pound male. Day trips, wind to 15 knots, wind waves to 1 foot. No cargo.

Length overall	15' 4½"
Beam	23 ¾"
Volume	12.24 cu. ft.
Cockpit size	18¼" x 35"
Cockpit coaming height	
Forward	12¾"
Aft	9¼"
Height of seat	1 ⅞"
Weight	49¾ lbs.

THE REVIEW

First Glance

Eddyline's Journey is made of thermoformed Carbonlite 2000, a plastic laminate that is "smooth and shiny much like a new glass boat—with nice molded contours on the deck. Pounding on deck and hull, kayak seemed tough and without soft spots. Hull and deck are joined with a glued, overlapping seam that looked neatly done" (GL). For LJ, the smallest of the reviewers, the Journey was "very light, and easily managed solo—very easy to swing up onto the car." "Grips fore and aft for tandem carry retract when not in use" (GL).

Fit

"The cockpit opening is huge so get out your big skirt. Plenty of room even for larger framed paddlers. Despite the low profile front deck—a great feature in my opinion—there is plenty of room inside. The nearly 24" beam would seem to make this boat like a bathtub, but it doesn't feel that way. Very secure and good contact right out of the box, the only issue for me is that the hip pads would need to be built up, but I have to do that with every boat" SR. The molded plastic seat is padded and "sloped to support the back of the legs. The seat can be moved fore and aft about 4 inches and locked down with a knob, a nice feature to adjust to varying paddler sizes and perhaps attain a more neutral helm. I felt a little discomfort from the seat-back after a couple miles of fast paddling. For me a back

band would be a better way to go" (GL). SR noted the backrest is "comfortable but limits any layback and also folds up and gets in the way on reentry." For LJ the thigh braces were "good" but for GL "the thigh braces are too far apart, which forced me to sit splayed. I had contact more with the knees than thighs. The thigh braces could be built up fairly easily to improve contact."

The "all-plastic, twist-lock foot braces are both solid and easily adjusted both on land and afloat" (SR). They had "no sponginess whatsoever even when force was applied" (LJ).

The recessed fittings anchor perimeter grab lines and bungees. "A spare paddle can be mounted over rear hatch but it will stick up some; placement under bungee on the fore-deck looks pretty secure and may be preferable. There is doubled-up shock



cord for paddle-float rescue set up" (GL). To the right side of the cockpit there is a slider for deploying the skeg: "Very smooth operation" (LJ).

Stability and Maneuverability

The Journey's initial stability was rated "very good" (LJ), "great" (SR) and "high" (GL). LJ noted "secondary stability was very good. I could get the coaming in the water and still felt very secure. I had the boat almost completely on edge and felt like I could leave it parked like that all day." For SR "secondary stability is even better and allows easy control," and GL "moderate, feels quite secure."

LJ was "pleasantly surprised how well it tracked for a shorter boat," SR noted "the lightness and agility of the boat make corrective strokes very effective with little effort. The skeg corrects the tracking."

"It was really fun carving turns. The Journey responds very quickly" (LJ). SR agreed "this boat is a blast to turn and paddle in tight quarters. It holds edging with ease and carves tight turns quickly."

The Journey has "very good balance for wind. I had the seat about two-thirds back and needed to drop the skeg to paddle any point of wind at up to 15 knots" (GL). SR noted: "In the wind the Journey wants to weathercock, but corrective leaning was enough to correct the problem. The boat is so nimble that course corrections are easily made and actually fun."

SR "just had wind waves to surf, but it was easy to keep in control with strong forward strokes. I didn't need much corrective stern ruddering at all. It's a fun boat that pivots on wave shoulders quite well."

Speed

LJ "found it very sluggish to accelerate even with aggressive power strokes. I estimated I was able to get it to 4.5 knots but it was tiring to hold it. I was able to sustain at least 3.6 knots with little effort." "You will use a little more energy to hold a 3+ knot pace than you would in a longer boat, but that is to be expect-

BEST FEATURES

- Stability and maneuverability

TO IMPROVE

- Backrest



The seat can be adjusted forward and aft for comfort and boat trim.

ed. Sprinting feels like plowing, maybe five plus knots" (SR). GL thought the Journey had "reasonable speed for a 15' kayak, more than adequate for group paddles."

Rescue and rolling

The Journey was "easy to exit, not so easy to re-enter. The backrest folds forward under the paddler too easily. This would be the only real modification I would make to this boat" (SR). For reentries "The back deck is low and easy to climb onto. The boat remained very stable throughout the entire cowboy reentry" (LJ). For a paddle float reentry "the paddle slides nicely under rear bungee but is not particularly secure; nonetheless it's fairly easy to clamber up on rear deck, and slide into the cockpit. I missed one of two re-entry and roll attempts, I think due to the sloppy fit in the big cockpit" (GL). SR wrote the "sweep and C-to-C are smooth and easy. The backrest limits layback."

Cruising

"A small boat means small storage space, but if you are frugal with space and gear you can get a weekend's worth of gear in no problem" (SR). For LJ the hatches "were fairly easy to pull on and off. In spite of that they both snapped down with a satisfying pop and seemed to have a very airtight grip." GL thought "they took moderate work to get on and off, but seemed very secure. I had at least a few tablespoons of water in the bow and a few drops in the stern after roll practice." LJ reported a cup of water forward

after rolling practice; for SR both compartments stayed dry. The bulkheads are plastic and glued in place. With 50 pounds of cargo aboard there was "little change to the above performance. It carved a little deeper and lessened the stern slide in supertight turns but this may be nitpicking. No affect on speed noticed. Limited weathercocking a small amount" (SR).

Bottom Line

"With its quality construction, ease of transport and comfortable stability, the Journey is a fun and beautiful little boat suitable for beginning or nondemanding intermediate paddlers for casual weekend excursions and daytrips" (LJ). "Eddyline touts the Journey as a stable seaworthy boat with loads of comfort for paddlers of all sizes. They hit the mark on all those points. This boat is a ton of fun in flats and in bouncy water and would be a great day tripping coastal explorer and rock-gardening boat. I would even want to play in bigger tidal races and surf zones, it is that much fun. A very versatile and enjoyable boat for short tripping and play" (SR). "For medium to large or wide-bodied paddlers looking more for a daytripper or occasional overnighter, it's a forgiving and easy handling kayak that won't let you down if the wind kicks up" (GL). **SK**

MANUFACTURER'S RESPONSE

It was great to see that the *Sea Kayaker* review team had as much fun with this kayak as we all do.

In testing the kayak, one reviewer mentioned that they would prefer a back band over the backrest that the boat was supplied with. The fact is, our new Sliding Seat System with which the Journey (and at present three other models) is equipped does have a back band option. The system is designed to make either a hard backrest or backband a simple, no-tools required, switchover. Both systems can be viewed on our website under features.

The backrest and back band are designed to fold forward for unencumbered access to the space behind the seat. They are

spring-loaded to return to the upright position. This is something to be aware of during a reentry and easy to manage once you are aware of it. Due to its lower profile, the back band is less likely to move in this case.

The Journey has rapidly become a popular model for us and we are receiving lots of good feedback from new owners. This feedback can be viewed on our website as well. I always appreciate the consistent and professional manner in which *Sea Kayaker* magazine handles the review process. Thank you!

—Tom Derrer, Designer, Eddyline Kayaks

KAYAK REVIEWS

JOURNEY MANUFACTURING DATA

Designed: 2008

Standard construction: Thermoformed Carbonlite 2000

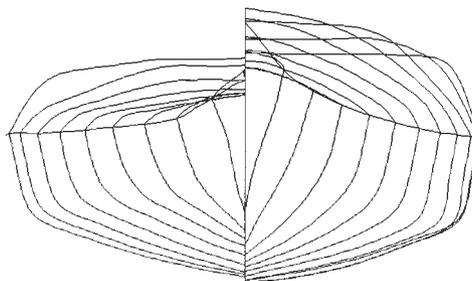
Standard Features: Large cockpit with padded thigh braces. Seat adjusts forward and back for optimum thigh-brace fit. Backrest adjusts forward, back, up and down. Aft reentry bungee cords, forward bungee hold-downs, perimeter lines, recessed deck fittings, retractable carry handles, front 10" hatch and bulkhead, rear oval hatch and bulkhead, retractable skeg.

Weight: 49 lbs.

MSRP: \$2,329

Availability: See website for a list of dealers.

Manufacturer: Eddyline Kayaks LLC, www.eddyline.com (email via website)



SPEED VS. RESISTANCE

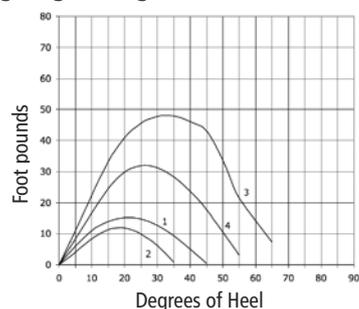
Resistance in pounds.

Speed	Winters/KAPER	Broze/Taylor
2 knots	0.95	0.95
3 knots	1.99	2.00
4 knots	3.77	3.76
4.5 knots	5.56	5.46
5 knots	8.50	8.71
6 knots	14.63	15.66

HYDROSTATICS

Waterline length	14' 5.1"
Waterline beam	22.7"
Draft	5.2"
Prismatic coefficient	0.52
Wetted surface in sq. ft.	21.87
Center of buoyancy	49%

Righting/Heeling Moments (Fixed-weight)



Stability Curves

1. 150 lb. paddler, no cargo
2. 200 lb. paddler, no cargo
3. 150 lb. paddler, 100 lb. cargo
4. 200 lb. paddler, 100 lb. cargo

TECH TALK

Readers interested in the full set of hydrostatics can find them posted on our website at www.seakayakermag.com along with additional data. An explanation of the terms and procedures used in the kayak test program is also available on the site.

Px MY PADDLE PRESCRIPTION

PADDLER: *Lise Anne Beyries*

I'M A: *Werner Cyprus*

TYPE: *Neutral Bent*

DIAMETER: *Small*

LENGTH: *205*

HEIGHT: *5'4"*

OCCUPATION: *Massage Therapist*

LOVES PADDLING: *It's a good way to get intimate w/ water, be amazed at my surroundings & meet wonderful people*

PUGET SOUNDKEEPER ALLIANCE I choose to support the Puget Soundkeepers Alliance through the Healthy Waters Program.

WHAT'S YOUR PADDLE PRESCRIPTION?

Discover your custom fit paddle

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- ◀ reduce your fatigue
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Werner offers advanced design features with a variety of fit options to help you choose a truly custom fit paddle. *Your custom fit paddle is waiting for you.*

Our web site has more for you.



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WERNERTv: Hear what real people are saying about their love for Werner paddles.



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