

Heritage Kayaks

Online Owner's Manual - Pisgah

Welcome to Heritage Kayaks!

Thanks for being the owner of your new Pisgah kayak! We've produced it in Greensboro, North Carolina, USA for your enjoyment. As paddlers ourselves, we're excited about sharing our passion for our sport with you.

In order for you to get the most from paddling your new boat, we encourage you to

- familiarize yourself with the waters on which you'll be paddling,
- check the weather that might affect your trip, and
- learn how to use your gear safely.

You can locate, download and print this *Heritage Kayaks Owner's Manual* while you're here at www.heritagekayaks.com as you learn how to get the most enjoyment from your Pisgah and discover information about other Heritage Kayaks products.

If you have questions that are not answered here or have comments about our products, call us at (866) 438-2799, or email a message to us at info@heritagekayaks.com.

We'll see you ... on the water!

Sincerely,

The Heritage Kayaks Team

Lifetime Warranty

It's yours, when you register your boat at www.heritagekayaks.com

Remember to register your Heritage Kayaks boat here, online. We stand behind our products, so if you've registered your boat and feel that it has failed due to faulty materials or workmanship, you can bring it to your Heritage Kayaks retailer and we will repair or replace it.

Your Pischah is made from the highest quality materials available chosen for durability, reliability and performance. The following tips are intended to help you enjoy it to the fullest extent possible.

Superlinear®

Rotationally molded boats are engineered to combine stiffness, impact and abrasion resistance. Superlinear polyethylene can endure extended exposure to both ultraviolet light and temperature variation, and can be stored outdoors successfully. When you are paddling Heritage Kayaks made with Superlinear polyethylene, you can focus on your paddling experience without distraction or concern for your boat's durability.

Superlinear polyethylene is a tough, resilient material. It can withstand a reasonable amount of impact and usage over rough surfaces.

Heritage Kayaks are carefully designed with sufficient flotation to insure that they will not sink during if capsized in an unloaded state.

Seat Adjustment

The Pischah seat offers a unique seat adjustment system to provide all-day-long paddling comfort and support.

Seat Back: Position the seat using the ratchet adjustments. To move the seatback forward, pull the clear plastic tab on each side. To loosen your fit, lean back as you pull the black button on each side toward you.

Seat Bottom: You can adjust the height of the seat bed easily, for extra comfort and boat control. To raise the front of the seat, unweight the seat by lifting your thighs. Pull the lever and release it at the higher position. To lower the seat, pull up to release the lever.

Gear Storage

Deck Rigging

Elasticized 'bungee' cord on the deck of your Pischah is installed to hold items you want to reach easily while you're paddling. Your stored items will be exposed to the elements and splashes, so choose items that are water resistant or waterproof. Store only items on the deck that are fairly light: heavy items

may make the boat feel unstable as you paddle. Check items stored under the bungee deck rigging periodically to make sure they are snug and secure.

Additional sections of your kayak are available for stowing gear: bow and stern hatches, and the open area behind the seat.

Hatch Storage

Hatches that are accessible by specially - molded hatch covers. They

- allow you to get to your gear quickly and easily,
- tether to the boat so they won't get lost, and
- create a waterproof seal.

A bulkhead is located between the hatch and the sitting area. Bulkheads improve hull rigidity and help keep the storage compartments dry by blocking water from entering the end chambers from the cockpit area.

To open a hatch: Find the tab molded to the hatch cover. Insert fingers under that tab, and then work them around the entire edge of the hatch cover, gently lifting pulling it up and away from the boat. Once you've lifted the entire hatch edge from the boat, pull it open.

To seal a hatch: Place the hatch cover over the hatch rim and engage an inch or two of the hatch by pressing down with your thumbs, or the heel of one of your hands. Use the heel of each hand to press down their respective sides of the hatch around to the far end of the hatch. When you've made your way around you'll feel the hatch cover drop down and lock onto the hatch rim.

Gear should be stowed in such a way that it won't shift or slide while underway, possibly impeding the safe operation of your kayak. Place heavier items towards bottom of kayak and lighter items on top. We recommend stowing gear in waterproof bags unless it can get wet without harm. It is also wise to tether gear stored to the seat or to other stowed items so that if you capsize, the gear will remain with the boat.

Footbraces

Adjustable foot braces allow you to reposition your foot position quickly and easily while ashore or while you're paddling. To adjust your kayak's footbrace position, pinch the footpad and trigger on the bow side between your thumb and fore or middle finger to release the pad from the track. Move it along the track until it finds a position at which your legs are comfortably

bent and your feet can apply firm pressure, to provide comfortable control while you're paddling.

Carry Handles

Handles attached to the front and rear ends of your kayak allow you to carry your end of the boat with ease. They also provide tie-down attachment points when you are securing your boat to a roof rack or trailer.

Care and Maintenance

The ideal environment for storing your kayak is a shaded, dry space.

A **fresh water rinse** for the hull and all moving parts is all that is necessary to keep your boat clean and is heartily recommended after paddling in salt water, especially if your boat is outfitted with a rudder system. Thoroughly rinse the rudder, rudder cables, and foot braces with fresh water to remove dirt, sand and salt.

We also recommend that you treat your DVC Seat with a **mold retardant cleaner** (found at grocery or home improvement retailers) if you use it infrequently, or if it will be stored in either a moist environment or one in which there is little air circulation.

You should periodically **lubricate** the hatch cover, rim and all moving parts of your kayak (e.g., footbraces and rudder assemblies) to keep them in top working order. We recommend using 303 Lubricant, available at outdoor specialty and home improvement retailers.

303 Lubricant can be also used to protect the luster of the boat's surface. Over time and with continued use, abrasion can reduce the hull's ability to glide smoothly through the water. You can minimize raised texture on the hull with a sharp knife or sand paper.

Superlinear polyethylene is a tough, resilient material. It can withstand a reasonable amount of impact and usage over rough surfaces. While Superlinear is not indestructible, it is repairable. Contact your local Heritage Kayaks dealer for additional information regarding polyethylene repair.

To repair bulkhead leaks: Small gaps may develop between the hull and bulkhead from normal use, over time. They will allow water to enter the otherwise dry storage area. You can seal such gaps easily by applying Lexel® caulk, available at hardware and home improvement stores.

Storing your Pisgah

If you suspend your kayak above the ground or floor, disperse the kayak's load (so the entire weight is not focused on two narrow points, inviting deformation) by effectively widening support bars with attachments such as 1" x 4" wood or closed cell foam (e.g., pipe insulation or foam 'noodles' often sold as pool toys).

Polyethylene softens somewhat when it is exposed to extremely warm conditions. If your kayak is strapped tightly to a roof rack or sitting on a storage rack during a series of hot days, it may deform. You can encourage your boat to remember its original shape by unstrapping it and setting it on a flat or padded surface in the sunlight.

We recommend "burping" the hatches or releasing the hatch covers entirely if the air temperature remains high for extended periods.

Transporting Your Pisgah

We suggest that you install a rigid bar sport rack system on the roof of your vehicle to transport your boat securely. In addition, kayak cradle-shaped accessories are available which support the hull's rounded (in cross section) profile.

Additional Gear

When you paddle you should use a paddle that is comfortable to use, wear a PFD's (life vest, life jacket), and carry safety equipment and appropriate personal gear.

Paddle

The choice of a paddle is as personal as the choice of your boat. Factors to consider in selecting your paddle include blade shape, length, weight and material. Synthetic paddles are the most care free. Most paddlers use paddles between 225 and 240 cm in length: you should try different lengths and types of paddles before you make a purchase, just as you'd test paddle your boat.

Take-apart paddles offer the ability to change its blade angle (“feather”) to suit your preference, and are easy to store and transport. A spare paddle is good to have as well. It can be an inexpensive take-apart paddle that can be stowed easily on deck.

PFD – Personal Flotation Device

A comfortable and securely-fitting PFD is an absolutely essential paddling accessory that should be worn when you’re in your kayak. Try your PFD on before you make a purchase, to be sure it fits comfortably. Swing your arms and rotate your torso to make sure you can move your arms freely without feeling restricted.

If you will be wearing a sprayskirt or have a short torso, wear it while sitting in a boat: it should not ride up more than an inch or two, and someone should be able to pick you up by its shoulders without it riding up over your head. If it does, adjust the outfitting or try another model / size.

Sprayskirt

A sprayskirt is handy to ward off small, infrequent waves or to hide your legs from the merciless sun. It is essential when you want to venture from shore, or when there is even a remote chance that you’ll encounter rough conditions.

Test all sprayskirts ashore prior to using them afloat. It should go on fairly easily, and release quickly when you pull the grab loop at the front of the skirt. Each time you attach your spray skirt to your kayak, double check to make sure the grab loop is available.

Cockpit Cover

A cockpit cover may become your favorite “off water” accessory. Its waterproof fabric attaches around the cockpit rim to keep the inside of the kayak dry, clean and free of critters. In addition, if you transport your kayak on a trailer or roof rack with the cockpit up, using a cockpit cover will allow you to carry items in the boat while you transport it, and will keep rain out of the boat which, if substantial, can create difficulty when you unload it from your rack.

Safety Equipment

You should carry a bilge pump to rid the interior of standing water that can destabilize your ride. You should also carry a paddle float (perhaps attached

to your PFD) to either assist you in your Eskimo roll, or to simply re-enter the boat if you capsize. United States Coast Guard regulations require an audible signal device (horn or whistle) on all watercraft.

Note: Safety equipment is not worth much unless you know how to use it. We recommend that you obtain qualified instruction and practice under controlled, comfortable conditions.

Personal Gear

The following is a list of items that you should keep with you on every trip in a dry storage bags or cases:

- drinking water
- sunscreen
- a brimmed hat and sunglasses
- insect repellent
- compass
- waterproof flashlight
- matches or a lighter, and
- a first aid kit

The following should also be considered:

- A dry set of clothes, if the weather and water will not dry you quickly after a capsize
- Weather radio
- Global positioning device (GPS)
- Cell phone
- Navigation charts
- Repair kit
 - o Duct tape
 - o Screwdriver
 - o Vise grips
 - o Spare cord
 - o Knife

If you have additional questions about your new product from Heritage Kayaks or would like to learn about any of our suggested accessories, please ask your dealer. They will be happy to help you get to your next day on the water safely, and soon!

www.heritagekayaks.com
(866) 438-2799