**Anacortes Washington KayakingTrip**

07/29-07/31/2019

I booked a three day kayaking trip out of Anacortes WA with [Anacortes Kayak Adventure Tours](https://www.anacorteskayaktours.com/learning-adventure-trips/)
This was not the usual escorted kayak tour. I wanted to avoid sharing a tandem kayak with someone who had always wanted to sit in a kayak. I was already a moderately experienced sea kayaker with many open ocean trips. I was also an avid backpacker with 55 years on the trail. With this background, I wanted to use my own kayak and my own gear, though it meant cartopping it 1100 miles one way from the California Central Coast to Northern Washington.

While the excursion usually requires a two person minimum, my group consisted of Instructor Alex LaLonde and me.

After a quick lesson in currents and navigation, we launched from the kayak shop in the Skyline Marine Center and paddled the 12 miles to Pelican Beach Campground on Cypress Island where we set up base camp.

En route, Alex had me practice edging, slalom turns and bracing. When I was attempting a low brace, I capsized my kayak. To the astonishment of both Alex and me, I righted myself immediately with an Eskimo Roll. One of my main goals for the paddle had been to finally master that move.

That evening we hiked the 1.2 miles from camp to Eagle Nest, the high point of Cypress Island from which we had a panoramic view of Rosario Strait and the surrounding islands.

The next day, we paddled to Strawberry Island, practicing navigation and efficient strokes before returning to Pelican Beach that evening. We discussed the timetable for returning to Skyline Marine Center the following day, opting to be on the water by 8:00 am so as to catch the favorable ebb tide.

The next morning, we broke camp, loaded our gear and were on the water by 8:00. Riding the 4 knot ebb tide, we completed the 12 mile return trip in two hours. Rather than return to the marina, we explored the lighthouse on Burrows Island. I then practiced more Eskimo Rolls, building my confidence in being able to roll consistently.

I was very satisfied with my paddling instructor, Alex LaLonde and Anacortes Kayak Tours.

Ralph Sutter