



Canada to Alaska Sea Kayak Expedition

A challenge to celebrate the
European Year of the Disabled



In the summer of 2003, a team of paraplegic and able-bodied sea kayakers will be the first inclusive team to embark on a 1000 mile, 3 month journey following the historical Inside Passage along British Columbia's coastline to the fjords and glacier-draped mountains of Alaska.

Canada to Alaska Sea Kayak Expedition Brochure

Contents

Introduction	5
The Route	6
Aims	7
Rationale	7
The Link to Interventure	7
The Challenges	7
Equipment to be Field-Tested	8
Health, Safety and Environment	8
Benefits to Society	9
Benefits to Sponsors	9
How you can become involved	10
What your support will achieve	10
Financial Summary	11
Current support and sponsors	11
Interventure - the greater picture	12
The Team	13
Thank You and Contact	16

Canada to Alaska Sea Kayak Expedition

A Challenge to Celebrate the European Year of the Disabled

In the summer of 2003, a group of sea kayakers will be the first inclusive paddling team to embark on a 1000 mile, 3 month journey through the fjords and glacier-draped mountains of Alaska and British Columbia's coastline, following the Inside Passage. The team consists of a highly motivated group of 8 disabled and able-bodied paddlers.

The teams journey will follow "The Inside Passage", an intricate and exposed waterway used for generations to link First Nation fishing and whaling communities of the northern stretches of the Pacific to the icy waters of the north.

It will be the first Inclusive Paddling Team to confront the challenges of the Northwest reaches of the Pacific Rim. Traveling by sea kayak, the team will be challenged by open water crossings, volatile seas, a harsh and barren landscape and difficult landings.

The effort will be used to encourage participation of disabled people in outdoor and adventure activities through a series of educational talks and presentations to youth and community groups across the U.K.

New knowledge – expanding opportunities for all in exploration

The team will be carrying out fieldwork, testing equipment developed to facilitate access to the outdoors and the water for disabled people. The field-testing results will be fed back to researchers at Adventure Designs at Brunel University. Inclusive coaching and logistical practices will be recorded by Equal Adventure Developments. The combination of new equipment and new inclusive practices will be used to benefit other inclusive initiatives through future development programmes run by the charity Interventure.

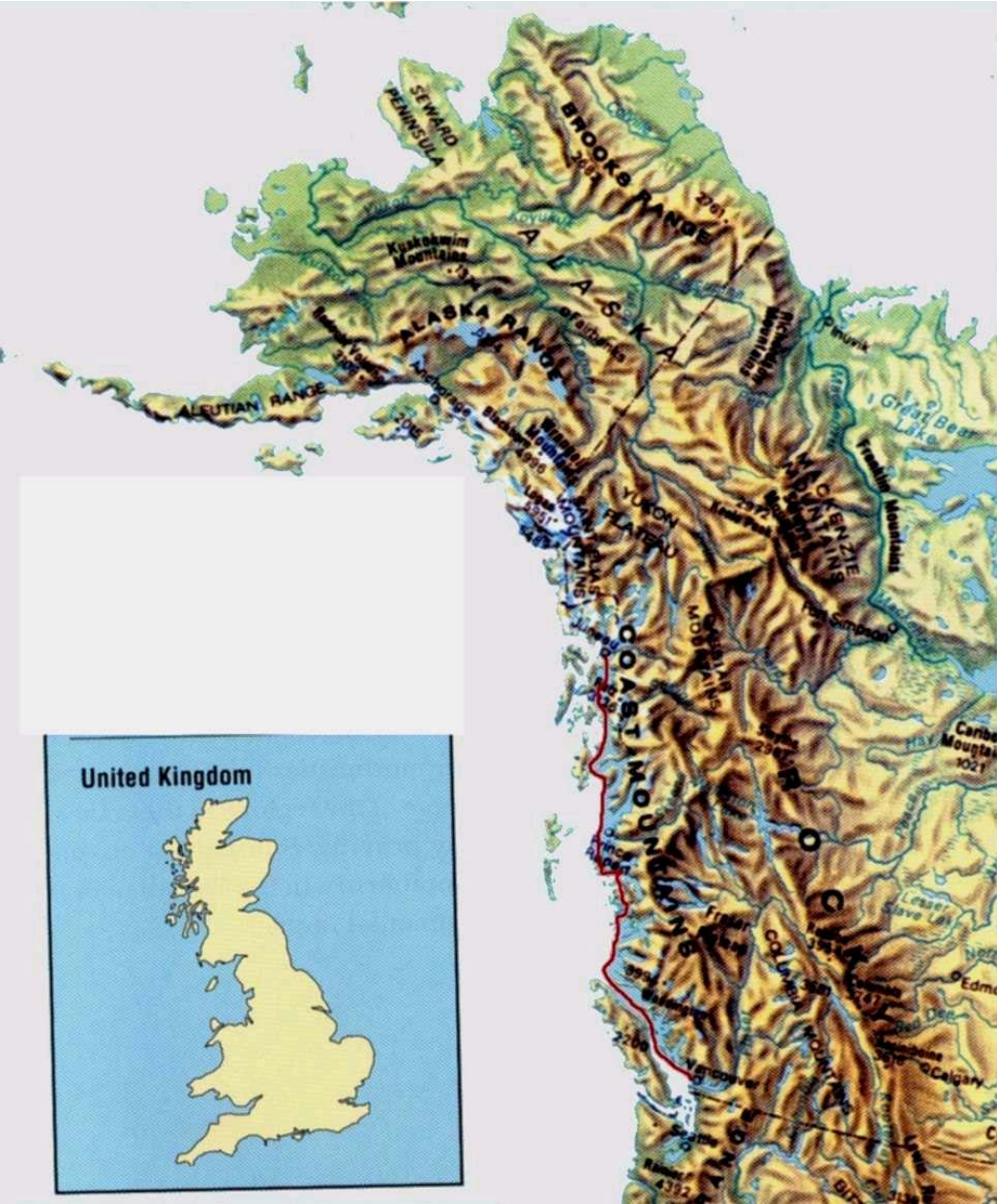
This inclusive team will embrace the challenge of exploration in a holistic manner, by allocating sufficient time, resources and support to make it possible to explore the physical, cultural and emotional environments. Our aim is to ensure that all concerned are able to gain meaningful development through a process of challenge. The results will be openly available for other groups and individuals working on inclusive practice.

Why this is important

2003 is the European Year of the Disabled. Eight years on since the original Disability Discrimination Act in the UK much has been achieved. Yet the need is to continually question and explore the 'can do' ethic in order to provide a stream of media images, practical examples and inspirational stories to fire the mechanism for positive social change towards a diverse, equitable culture in a sustainable way.

THE ROUTE

Vancouver to Alaska – Approximately 1000 miles



AIMS

- To be the first inclusive team to attempt to kayak the length of the “Inside Passage” seaway which joins Vancouver to Alaska.
- To enable, illustrate and inspire methods of accessing wilderness places for people with disabilities.

RATIONALE

This challenge provides a real opportunity to illustrate the possibilities and opportunities open to disabled people, and of the benefits to be gained from an inclusive approach, not only in expeditions and fieldwork, but in the wider context.

THE LINK TO INTERVENTURE

This challenge stands alone, as an example of equal opportunities and inclusion in adventure and exploration. In the short-term, the project will achieve its aim of the paddle, and in the longer-term provide a framework for education, inspiration and illustration promoting the sustainable development of opportunities for all in outdoor exploration.

The challenge will run under the banner of Interventure, which is a small registered charity (SC031889, patron Sir Ranulph Fiennes) and will be able to provide a modest support structure for the educational and inspirational talks following the challenge, combined with sound business practice in the administration and allocation of resources.

THE CHALLENGES

- Undertaking the 1000 mile journey
- Unpredictable weather & sea state
- Wildlife – bears & midges
- Landscape – tidal races and river runs
- Individual and team training programme
- New equipment development
- Emotional challenges generated by the remote environment and inclusive nature of the team.

A sea odyssey of this scale will provide challenges for every member of the team. Moving and handling boats, equipment and assisting less mobile team members up and down beaches on a daily basis will be a challenge for all concerned. For the members of the team who have a mobility impairment or who may be considered to require additional support, the challenge will be to maintain a sense of self whilst at the same time maintaining a sense of connection with the team. For all, our greatest challenge will be to balance our needs whilst at the same time achieving this challenging goal, with the additional impact of mobility issues. This will take considerable thought and planning during the preparation phase and lead up.

EQUIPMENT TO BE FIELD-TESTED

The following equipment is currently being designed by either Adventure Designs or Equal Adventure Developments. The team will be testing prototypes and offering design and development feedback to the respective research teams.

- Field toilet (Adventure Designs)
- Aquabac II (Equal Adventure Developments)
- ATMB - All terrain mobility device (Interventure)
- Specialist clothing (Equal Adventure Developments)

HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT

- There will be a fully qualified Wilderness Medical Technician as part of the team, and a minimum of 2 other First Aiders.
- 3 team members are qualified outdoor and canoe coaches.
- A full risk assessment and casualty evacuation plan have been developed
- Safety equipment (flares, GPS, VHF radio etc.) will be carried.
- All debris will be carried out to places where appropriate disposal facilities are available.

BENEFITS TO SOCIETY

Social

- Illustration of the “can do” ethic - this is a challenging project which challenges social and technical barriers to participation and achievement. In an urbanizing world, individuals need continued inspiration to encourage them to engage with the natural environment in a meaningful way.
- All the team members will be positive role models for people of all ages, to promote healthy living and active lifestyles. The team consists of men and women from a wide range of social and cultural backgrounds.

Educational

- An international series of presentations are being arranged, with a view to contributing to International conferences on Adventure Therapy, Inclusive Practice, as well as inspirational informative talks to the public i.e. youth, community and education groups.

Design

- Equipment design is currently underway with Equal Adventure Developments, in order to ensure that the necessary specialist equipment to facilitate full inclusion of disabled team members is possible. This equipment will be trailed by the team and developed to production stage for use by other disabled people.

BENEFITS TO SPONSORS

A public commitment to diversity, inclusion and social change in the European Year of the Disabled

Your commitment to and support of this project will publicly illustrate your commitment to social inclusion and your attitude of embracing diversity.

Positive media representation

This project provides an ideal opportunity for you and your organization to gain media coverage through association with this ground breaking initiative. You will receive extensive media coverage (commissions in arrangement with National magazines, newspapers, radio and online opportunities).

Profile at public talks / lectures

Your support of the expedition will receive a visible profile in all expedition materials, educational talks / lectures.

Photographic material & product feedback

In the case of material support, the team will be happy to gather photographic material during the expedition, and if desired, user-feedback for promotional literature, or for product research and development.

Product branding on kayaks, clothing, team equipment and on forthcoming website

HOW YOU CAN BECOME INVOLVED

- **Become the title sponsor**

Specific gain : Company name and iconography to appear in title of project in all literature, communications, information, some clothing and photographs.

Your support : Provide a major contribution to the project, as any combination of finance or in kind support.

- **Become a project sponsor**

Specific gain : Company name to appear in project literature and in some communications and information.

Your support : Provide a contribution to the total project costs, either in finance or in kind through equipment provision such as web support, clothing etc..

- **Book or host a talk / presentation**
- **Offer media coverage**

WHAT YOUR SUPPORT WILL ACHIEVE

In addition to the benefits to society outlined above, the tangible outcomes of the project will include:-

- Providing support for an inclusive team whose endeavours will be a demonstration of good practice to all.
- Ensure that the team are able to develop a range of skills and techniques which will be able to provide coaching resources for disabled people and inclusive initiatives in the future.
- Ensure that the new equipment created by Equal Adventure Developments specially for the project will be able to be made available to other disabled adventurers.
- Promote diversity and inclusiveness, and encourage the development of other inclusive activities.
- Inspire individuals and groups.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Flights & travel	£8000
Freight (4 double kayaks)	£3000
Accommodation (1 night per week average not camping, at £25/each per night.£2000	£2000
Food (£7 per day for 8 people for dried food)	£3920
Equipment (1 double kayak still required)	£2300
Specialist equipment (postural supports, dry bags, GPS, VHF radio etc.)	£1000
Training bursaries (Team training session * 3)	£4000
Insurance	£800
Brochure printing, PR & marketing	£2000
Talks & presentations	£1000
Contingency 10%	£2802
TOTAL PROJECT COST	£28,020

(Costs are based on a maximum predicted time of 10 weeks.)

Minus individual contribution of £700/each	£5,600
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TOTAL FINANCE SOUGHT	£22,420
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Prerequisite skills for team members (to be covered if not already attained):

RYA Coastal Skipper (Navigation) course	£100
VHF radio training	£50
Relevant sea proficiency, BCU 4* proficiency (minimum)	£190
First Aid Minimum Rescue & Emergency Care.	£120
TOTAL cost of training for team members to cover personally	£460/each

(This brings the total contribution of team members, with the £700 cash contribution to a maximum of £1160 each).

CURRENT SUPPORT & SPONSORS

We are developing a cohesive approach to sponsorship and support for this project to ensure that there are no conflicts of interest regardless of an organizations level of support of involvement. Below is a list of organizations whose support we have already gained. The team hopes that this illustrates our commitment to looking after your needs.

Neville Shulman Challenge Award (through the Royal Geographical Society)

INTERVENTURE – THE GREATER PICTURE

What does Interventure do?

Interventure offers inclusive outdoor opportunities, providing new experiences for personal and group learning in a challenging outdoor environment, with appreciation of diversity at the core. The current focus of activities is cycling / handcycling and sea kayaking for people with physical disabilities.

The Vision

Interventure has a vision of a society where diversity is not only accepted but is positively encouraged. Interventure aims to dissolve some of the physical and social barriers to diversity currently presented by society. This is done through providing opportunities, people-led design and volunteer support.

The Opportunities

Interventure is a registered charity, whose events are subsidized through grants and fundraising. The success of the events depends on building a close team within the duration. There is a small pool of equipment (handcycles and kayaking equipment) available to loan to interested groups and individuals in the UK.

THE TEAM

Adrian Disney

Before breaking his back in 1997, Adrian was an enthusiastic climber and canoeist. He was a student in Bangor, studying Marine Biology, spending time on the rivers, hills and crags of North Wales. Holiday work included outdoor work in the USA and White-water Raft Guiding in Austria. After completing his degree he worked with Outward Bound in the Lake District but then went back to Bangor to do a teacher training prior to work in more centres and teaching in Scotland, which gave him free weekends to become addicted to winter climbing and teaching holidays to spend on mountains in the Alps and South America. The call of Outdoor Education was strong, so Adi went back to work for O.B in Fort William. Not long afterwards he broke his back. Since then he has been teaching at Atlantic College in South Wales. He has maintained a strong enthusiasm for kayaking which has led him to the surf beaches of Pembroke, to the rivers of Oregon and as a co-leader of a Sea Kayak trip in Norway.

Suresh Paul

Suresh is an award-winning designer and researcher specialising in the development of outdoor and sports equipment for disabled people. He has gathered a range of outdoor and expedition experience and qualifications over the last 16 years. He is the founder of the Adventure Designs Project and Brunel University's not-for-profit Design for Life Centre. He has recently moved to Scotland to join Karen and has established a new design consultancy, Equal Adventure Developments... "people-led design, design-led social change", with equity and creation of an accessible environment core to his work. Suresh is a keen open-boater, with a love for Arctic climes and expeditions.

Karen Paul

Karen was a keen runner and mountaineer before becoming paralysed in a rock-climbing accident and has since pursued alternative ways to access the outdoors – canoeing, skiing, and hand-cycling. She was awarded a Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship which she used to ski/hand-crank/kayak the length of the Japanese archipelago and has pedalled in various other places including Central Asia over the Himalayas, New Zealand, Turkey and smaller European tours. Karen founded the Scottish Hand-Cycling Club and Integrate Paddling, and competes for Britain as a member of the Trail Orienteering Team. Karen's background is as a geologist, and after a PhD at Aberdeen University, she joined Shell, where she now works in Learning & Development role, with a part-time secondment to the Royal Geographical Society on Inclusive Fieldwork & Expeditions.

Alan Thompson

Alan is a very experienced sea kayaker and has done instructional work at outdoor and sea kayaking centres in Scotland and Norway. In addition to sea kayaking he is a keen telemark skier, and when not on the water, he can often be found guiding and leading groups on Scotland's mountains and cliffs. He is currently teaching outdoor pursuits at Aberdeen College.

Ian Wilson

Ian was introduced to kayaking on the Thames estuary when he was 8 years old. He is now 35 and probably hasn't been fully dried out since. Ian loves a challenge especially when it involves endurance and water. His infectious enthusiasm and skills in big water have resulted in him being invited to join a range of adventures. In kayaking, he has finished in the top ten in 3 Devizes to Westminster kayak races and holds records for the fastest circumnavigation of Northern Scotland (Roof of Britain Kayak Expedition), Britain-Ireland crossing and English Channel crossing. He has competed in the Western Isles Challenge and was part of the winning team in 2000. Still on the water, he has competed in numerous Round Britain and Ireland and Fastnet Yacht Races. For rest, Ian enjoys mountaineering, hill walking, mountain biking and on recently moving to Aberdeen he has discovered hill running. His sporting achievements are of particular note given that his doctors advised him to quit sport following serious injuries in a car accident 15 years ago.

Tony Hocking

Tony has been kayaking for about 10 years – sea, whitewater and surf. He organised and paddled extended expeditions to Norway and UK islands and coastlines, and has paddled whitewater extensively in Europe. He recently travelled to Nepal for a month to paddle, trek and help run the PeakUK Himalayan WhiteWater Challenge to promote Kayaking in Nepal.

Out of a boat Tony is into any and all adventure activities that involve getting out with folk and enjoying the outdoors. After a stint in the Royal Marine Reserve, Tony now works as a traffic management engineer for Derbyshire County Council.

Fran Potheary

Fran has been working as Access Officer for the Scottish Canoe Association for the past four years but is currently “resting between jobs” which gives her an ideal opportunity to say ‘yes’ to unexpected expedition offers. A keen sea kayaker, she started sea paddling ten years ago and is often found in the summer months exploring rocky beaches and coves of the west and north coasts of Scotland. She is also an active climber, mountaineer and skier; loves travelling to new places and in quieter moments is hoping to do some sketching when away on this trip. Her background is in social work but in the last ten years, she has worked in outdoor education, mountain safety, access and land reform

Pete Gwatkin

Pete initially trained as an engineer after leaving school where he started kayaking as a teenager. His passion for canoe sport has continued through many career changes that have included youth work, sports development, community education, social work and outdoor education. Most recently Pete lectured in the Outdoor Education Department of Edinburgh University but has now established himself as a freelance outdoor activity instructor based in Strathspey. Pete has paddled extensively both at home and abroad but still confesses that a good day off the west coast is as good as it gets. Pete sees himself as a bit of an all-rounder and professes to be as content half way up an ice climb as he is ski-ing the powder or watching sunsets in faraway places. Pete's interest in sea kayaking along Canada's Inside Passage was sparked off by a paddling trip to Canada's Gulf Islands two years ago. Pete has many aspirations for the 1000 mile journey from Vancouver to Juneau, not the least of which includes not being lunched by a bear!

Mark Bragg

When not working as a Subsea Engineer, Mark is paddling on White-water and around the Scottish coastline. He started paddling through the Scout Association in 1977, became an instructor and ran a small business coaching the sport whilst at college. He has expedition experience in Sweden, Australia & the Alps. He intends to feedback his experiences of the North Pacific Paddle into the Local Community through organisations such as Local Canoe Clubs, and the Aberdeen Sea Cadets, where he is an Instructor.

Susanne Moessner

As secretary of Integrate Paddling Canoe Club in Aberdeen, Susi has been paddling on many sea trips around Scotland including Cape Wrath, Outer Hebrides and Isle of Skye. She competes in K2 Marathon races and takes part in white-water trips as well. She is an Offshore Yachtmaster and holds the latest VHF Marine radio Licence.

THANK YOU

Thank you for your time and interest in this project. If you have any further queries or would like to support the project in some way, please contact us:-

CONTACT

Canada to Alaska Sea Kayak Expedition
Wardmill Cottage
Drumoak
Aberdeenshire
AB31 5AP
SCOTLAND
Tel: 01224 735722
Mob: 07989 573784

www.equaladventure.co.uk
interventure@equaladventure.co.uk

