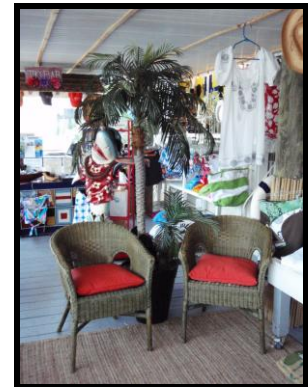
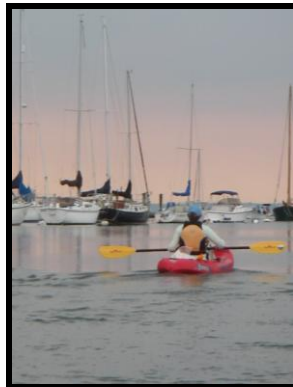
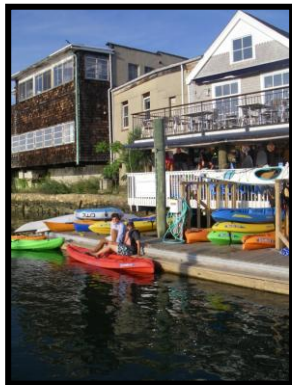




# Downunder Kayaking



## The Downunder Experience

Whether you're here to work out, explore, learn skills or simply try something new - you WILL have fun. Downunder is located on the Five Mile River which runs between Darien and Rowayton, a village on the west side of Norwalk. We're just one hour from New York and New Haven, on the New Haven train line. The river is flat-water and a very easy paddle. It leads out to Long Island Sound, also a somewhat protected paddling area. Just 40 minutes by kayak are the Fish Islands and Farm Creek (pictured above), wildlife sanctuaries. There are many creeks and coves to explore, a small waterfall, bridges to paddle under, docks to weave under and around. Local wildlife includes oyster catchers, osprey, cormorants, herons and egrets. Our guides and teachers will share the history of the local area, and educate on what we can do to preserve and protect the fragile marine environment.

## Our store...

We are located in a Surf Shop/Boutique that sits directly over our dock on the Five Mile River, pictured above left. Our store and business are just as laid back and island like as the antipodes. We're right on the water, with an open air lounge to enjoy fresh ocean breezes and the warm summer sun, great music to set the mood, and friendly experienced staff. We carry all kayaking and beach related essentials (including swimsuits, sandals, hats...) as well as luxury items related to fun in the sun and the joy of summer.

## Join us for fun on the water!

**Kayaking, Paddle Boarding & Tube rentals**  
**Instruction \* guides \* parties \* children's programs**  
**specialized outings for corporate, youth groups, camp field trips, scouts**  
**AND picnic lunch packages and catering upstairs at The Rowayton Market**

**157 Rowayton Ave, Rowayton CT 06820 (203) 642-3660 summer (203) 247-4579 (offseason)**  
**[www.downunderkayaking.com](http://www.downunderkayaking.com)**

# DOWNUNDER KAYAKING

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Who can do it:** 3 yrs through seniors - there is no age limit. Swimmers or not. Many disabilities can be accommodated.

**Do I need experience:** Basic instruction is provided by our seasoned staff.

**Is it safe?** Absolutely... you'll be wearing a life jacket complete with a whistle and your kayak is also a flotation device. You don't even need to know how to swim!

**Rules:** DON'T PADDLE IN THE BOAT CHANNEL - it's for boat traffic and dangerous for paddlers. It's also very annoying for boaters, who can't go outside of the channel and have to wait for paddlers to get out of their way. Upon leaving our dock look carefully both ways before crossing to the far (west - where all the nice houses are!) side of the river. At low tide you don't have much room, just keep on the west side of boats.

**Duration:** Kayak rentals are for a minimum of 2 hours - you don't have to stay out that long! (1 hour if a paddle board). However, it is a set cost - unless you're a member of the Frequent Paddler Club, who can go out by the hour. Additional hours are charged at hourly rates. [1/2 day and whole day rates](#) available.

**What to expect:** When you arrive, you'll sign a waiver (under 18 yrs must have a parent signature). Our staff will outfit you and take you down to the dock for instruction. The kayaks are right there, so you'll be on the water in no time.

**Where to go:** We'll make suggestions based on tides and weather. There's about 1 mile of navigable river that you can explore with several inlets, a small waterfall, bridges, docks and pilings to paddle between and around. 3/4 mile downriver is Long Island Sound and the local islands (Fish, Bell, Tavern, Scotts and Zieglers Coves). Experienced paddlers can venture out to the Norwalk Islands - such as Shea (campgrounds) and Sheffield (historic lighthouse).

**What to bring/know:** (Items in **bold** we sell)

- a bathing suit, **towel** and change of clothes
- **suntan lotion**
- **hat and sunglasses with straps** recommended
- **beverages** – keep hydrated
- **snacks** – you will develop an appetite!
- **water shoes**/something you don't mind getting wet or loosing!
- **Waterproof cameras** are great, or small camera's in **waterproof bags**. Items in **bold** we sell
- **Cell phone** - in a waterproof bag – well sell these. We recommend that you turn the cell phone off, just bring it in case you need it.

**What not to bring:** **try not to wear cotton** – when wet, it's horrible (hard to dry, clammy and cold)

**Weather:** as long as it's not blowing a gale (well let's say 15mph+) and there's no thunder, you can paddle. It all depends on your experience and comfort level. Paddling in the rain is very soothing! And some people LIKE to paddle in waves. If you're not sure – give us a call and we'll let you know what's going on. The river is very protected, a very different experience to the Sound – so you can paddle there in most conditions. Note: unless it's heavy rain, strong winds, or thunder – you are charged regardless of

whether you choose to come – however, if less than optimal conditions we will issue a credit towards another paddling day.

**Kayak types:** We rent single and double sit-on-top ocean kayaks and stand-up paddle boards. The singles are recommended for adults/children over 8 - paddling your own is more fun, and the most effective way to learn. Doubles are great if one person has an injury/sore back etc., or with younger children. Two adults and a child can fit in most of our double kayaks. Some people fit more than one child in! **Sea Kayaks** are the ones that have a cockpit you sit down into. We offer instruction in these and training for [Kayak for a Cause](#) participants.

**Guides:** You don't have to go it alone – hire one of our guides to go with you. Ideal for groups and families - our guides really know kids, so they take the pressure off parents! Guides are available by the hour allowing you to customize your experience. Enjoy a bit of personalized hands on instruction, have them escort you out of the river and point you in the best direction for the conditions, or go the whole gamut and take them along for a fun and educational experience.

**Instruction:** Want a little more? Hire an instructor by the hour or sign up for the ACA Quickstart Kayaking Course.

**Paddle with Others:** Fancy getting out with a group, or meeting some new people? Join us for our Friday sunset paddles 6-8pm, and our regularly scheduled weekend tours. Join the [Frequent Paddler Club](#) - follow this link for info on this program.

**Gifts:** Graduation, Birthday, Anniversary, new to the area, fundraisers ... purchase a gift certificate, just for kayaking or with a picnic lunch or in conjunction with one of the local restaurants.

**Parties/Renting the Deck:** *Downunder* has an incredible view and atmosphere, and 'fun' is our motto! Imagine enjoying cocktails watching the sun set over the river, a meal to suit any taste from generous hors d'oeuvres to rowdy clambakes, or a burger bar. Let us plan a magical birthday celebration for your child, friend, or partner. You don't have to kayak to enjoy *Downunder* - tell us what you're looking for and relax as we create something truly special. [Email for info.](#)