

Gear Up

Local watercraft designers share their picks for prime paddling

COMPANY

POPULAR MODEL

FAVORITE LOCATION



Epic Kayaks

High-performance kayaks
(843) 884-4601
epickayaks.com

Day touring kayaks, like the highly manageable **GPX**, are ideal for comfortable paddling. \$1,445-\$2,795

Though owners **Greg Barton** and **Oscar Chalupsky** have paddled around the world, Barton still enjoys intracoastal **Isle of Palms**.



Folbot

Folding kayaks
(843) 744-3483
folbot.com

Divided into two storage bags when folded down, the modest **Yukon** tracks like a longer boat and has a larger cockpit to accommodate gear. \$1,785

President **David AvRutick** enjoys paddling the **ACE Basin Reserve**, which encompasses parts of Charleston, Beaufort, Colleton, and Hampton counties.



Kayak Covers of Charleston

Custom kayak covers
(843) 767-1573
kayakcoversofcharleston.com

The canvas **Kayak Sac** wraps around the entire boat and includes Velcro flap closures and sturdy handles for easy transport. \$209-\$377

Owner **Jim Perillo** likes taking his kayak out to the far end of the lake at **James Island County Park** and looking around for alligators.



Owens Ocean Sports

Outrigger canoes & surf skis
(843) 359-1193
owensoceansports.com

With a high hull curve, the one-person **Catalyst OC-1** responds smoothly, and a short ama (outrigger) lends stability and speed. \$2,200-\$3,400

Michael Owens trains weekly with his friends at the **Wappoo Cut** on Coburg Creek and is often found on the waters of **Breach Inlet** and around Sullivan's Island.

—Leab Montgomery

