

2023 Ord River Paddle

Competitor's Handbook Version 1-2023



Welcome

Welcome to the Ord River Paddle!

You will be paddling the most spectacular sections of the upper Ord River. Enjoy the paddle to Sandy Creek, then relax as we transport you back to Kununurra in style: 3-hour lunch cruise.

An exciting event in an amazing location.

Event Timetable

Saturday 27th May 2023

05:20 hrs – Board the Triple J bus at the Celebrity Tree Park boat ramp.

06:30 hrs – Arrive at the Argyle Dam Wall and collect your kayak and gear-up.

07:00 hrs – Start.

12:00 hrs – Paddle cut-off (any remaining paddlers will be collected by our sweep boat).

12:30 hrs – Board Kununurra Cruise boat for lunch and cruise back to Kununurra.

15:30 hrs – Return to Celebrity Tree Park boat ramp.

The Course

The paddle starts at the Argyle Dam Wall and finishes at Sandy Creek (29.4km downstream).



The start will be a mass start at 7am.

Finishers paddle across the finish line at sandy beach, between the two finish flags and report to officials.

Within the first 13km of paddling, **the river branches (divides) on three different occasions.** In all instances, **paddlers must take the right-hand branch** (safest and quickest route).

What to bring

Competitors **must** bring (compulsory items):

- **Personal Flotation Device PFD** (minimum 50S or Type 3 – ‘sports buoyancy vest’).
- **Sun Protection** (i.e. sunnies, cap, long sleeves/legs, foot covering – ‘sit-on-top’ kayak).
- **All personal nutritional** needs (i.e. bars, gels, chews – expect about 4-5 hours of paddling) from 5:20am (bus boarding) to 12:30pm (boat boarding – lunch and drinks will be served once on board).

Do Not bring anything that cannot get wet (do not take phone/keys/electronics). Tether all items to the kayak to prevent being lost in the event of a capsiz.

Competitor optional items:

- A small bag, labelled with your name, for any warm and dry clothing you wish to wear to the start line or any extra items you wish to have at the finish. **We will transport this bag for you to collect at the finish line and have with you on the cruise back.*
- Paddle - optional. Bring your own paddle or use our quality standard paddle – 220cm aluminium/plastic.
- Gloves. We find full length bike gloves are handy to prevent blisters.

What we supply

- A **Kayak**. A SeaFlo SF1003 plastic ‘sit on top’ kayak, rated for a paddler’s up to 125kg.
Note: that the hatch is secure for storing food, small items, but is not waterproof.



- Paddle. A standard 220cm long, aluminium shaft, plastic off-set blade, 2-piece paddle.
- Bus **transport** from Celebrity Tree Park boat ramp (Kununurra) to Lake Argyle Dam Wall.
- The Ord Paddle (40 paddlers in 40 identical craft).
- **Finish Cruise** from the finish (Sandy Creek) back to Celebrity Tree Park (3-hour cruise).
- **Drinks** (water, soft drink, wine, champagne, beer), **Lunch** and post-event **celebration** on the Finish Cruise.

Paddle Rules

All paddlers in the Ord Paddle must:

- Use one of the official 40 kayaks provided.
- You must **wear your PFD** throughout the paddle.
- **Do Not Litter** (all food wrappers and other litter must be retained by the paddler)
- **Take the right-hand branch** (safest and quickest route) on the three separate occasions the river branches (divides), in the first 13km of paddling.
- At the finish, cross the line (between the two finish flags) and report to the timekeeper.
- Drafting and close paddling is expected, but no bumping of boats or paddle interference.
- **No outside assistance** is allowed. No food/water stops or accompanying craft of any description is allowed. No drafting of any craft, other than a fellow competitor, is allowed.
- Total weight of paddler, all clothing and gear must not exceed 125kg (kayaks rated to 125kg).

All kayaks are positively buoyant – will float if swamped or capsized – so stay with your craft for maximum buoyancy. In the event of a capsize, it is possible to right the craft, re-enter in deep water. However, it may be easier to swim your craft to the closest bank and re-enter in shallow water.

If you become separated from your craft and/or paddle there is a sweep boat at the tail, and other support boats, that will eventually be along to assist you. Remain safe on shore and flag down the support boat, who will assist. Likewise, if you have any mechanical or medical issue, remain safe on shore and flag down a support boat who will assist.

Spectators

We do not want paddlers to encourage private spectator power boats into the upper reaches of the course (at least the top 13km). This section of the river is narrow and has moving water.

Please encourage any family and friends who wish to see you on course to meet at the Sandy Creek finish, or in the waters near the finish. These sections of river are flat water and wider. Our Cruise Boat vessel limits dictate that paddlers only are allowed on the finish cruise.

Power boat skippers need to be mindful of the impact their wake has on kayakers and be considerate to all paddlers.

Enjoy the Spectacular Ord River!

For any questions or further information contact us anytime: gt@fitevents.com.au or M: 0407289238.