Winterfest Kayaking: South Sea Islands, GA
January 10-17, 2015
$295
Round trip transportation, group equipment, fees and permits, one night in a hotel, two dinners while traveling, all meals in the field, campground fees.

Trip Overview
Activity: Kayaking  Difficulty Level: ⭐️⭐️ ⭐️

This trip takes place along the southern coast from Georgia to South Carolina. The group will camp at three different state parks and tour the historic port towns of the south by kayaking the local waterways. This experience will illuminate the history of the southern coast, the Gullah Culture and highlight the importance of how water and environment plays a significant role in the region's economic, social and cultural infrastructure.

Though the group will be using 17 ft. sea kayaks, we will not likely be paddling long in the ocean. Instead this trip will focus on kayaking the tidal basins, rivers and tributaries that feed into the ocean. Protected by shallow waters, sea grass, large oak trees with Spanish moss, we will get a wonderful sense and appreciation of the local southern water, resources, and history.

General Schedule of Trip

January 10, Saturday: Arrive on campus independently before noon, review gear and pack.

January 11: Depart Gettysburg for Beaufort, SC

January 12-15: Explore Beaufort and Charlestown by sea and land.

January 16: Head from Charlestown to the hotel in Florence.

January 17, Saturday: Complete the drive from Florence, SC back to campus
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The Paddle: Paddling distance will range from 5-10 miles a day. Average time paddling daily will range from 3-5 hours, which includes stops for lunch, breaks and enjoying our surroundings.

Group Size: The trip consists of two to three GRAB staff members from the Office of Experiential Education and 6-8 participants.

Accommodations: On campus housing can be provided on Friday and Saturday (1/9-10), but may not be in your normal room. The group will stay in a hotel in Florence, SC the last night of the trip, and every other night will be spent camping outside in tents. Fees, permits, and gear are provided by GRAB and are included in the program's cost.

Meals: We will provide breakfast, lunch, and dinner each day we are in the field, and you will learn how to cook delicious backcountry meals on a backpacking stove. Travel dinners on the first and last night are also included, but you will be responsible for breakfast, lunch, and any additional food while traveling to and from Beaufort. You will also provide your own meals prior to the beginning of the trip.

Weather: The weather can be variable in this area at this time of year, but expect to see nightly lows in the mid 30s to 40s and daily highs in the mid 50s to low 70s. You can expect rain on at least a few days.

Physical Preparations: Moderate temperatures and generally calmer waters make this a great trip for participants of all levels of experience, with a few days potentially on open water. Kayaking requires little arm strength, but more legs and the body’s core are used to move the kayak. Cardio workouts, stretching, and core development will be helpful. Entry levels kayakers will enjoy this type of trip.

Communication & Emergencies: Our trip locations often have cell service, but some sections may be spotty. The staff will carry a cell phone in the event of an emergency, however we will not completely rely on the service, and the group needs to know they may be without communication at times. We develop contingencies and have specific information for emergencies, but we are also aware that based on location and access it may take time to contact or reach definitive medical care, should the need arise. Although participants are permitted to carry phones, most choose to leave technology behind to more fully immerse themselves in the group experience.

Health and Medical & Release of Liability: Each participant is asked to fill out a Health and Medical form for this trip. We request that you are truthful with your medical information and speak with your GRAB staff facilitator about any concerns or pre-existing conditions. In addition, we want to inform you that you will be asked to sign our indemnity form, and that you are aware that all Gettysburg College policies and procedures apply to this trip.

Medical Kit and Medicine: It is our top priority to mitigate risk on these experiences, so we ask for your assistance to inform us about your background to properly prepare together. While in the field, we carry a medical and trauma kit. The medical kit has basic bandaging and wound care items, whereas our trauma kit has basic splinting and medicines such as aspirin, anti-diarrheal, epinephrine, Benadryl. We ask that you have with you your prescription medicine that you need on a daily/weekly basis, and that you transport it in its original container/bottle with your name and dosage. It is your responsibility to manage your own medication. For those with strong allergies that require medication, it is very important that you bring extra epinephrine or necessary medication in the event that yours becomes lost or broken.