

## Advanced Elements Convertible



After much thought we purchased an Advanced Elements Convertible kayak 18 months ago- and in short, we have not regretted it, it's been superb.

Having done a fair bit of sea kayaking in the past the idea of an inflatable kayak did not initially grab us, however given the type of paddling we were likely to be doing I did start to consider alternatives to getting sea kayaks for my wife and I. After a lot of research we ordered a convertible complete with a backbone from Nick at Vortex (UK Advanced Elements).

We've used the kayak extensively on the South Cornish Coast, Western France and the Isles of Scilly.

### The Good Stuff

Firstly, this kayak paddles really well, it's very stable and can be used in winds of up to about force four and moderate sea conditions, you can edge the kayak to steer and we've even used it in small surf.

In windy conditions the kayak will weather cock but this can be compensated for by edging - you really only feel disappointed if you expect the kayak to equal a composite sea kayak - which is not exactly a fair comparison.

My wife really enjoys being in the boat with me and we've paddled distances as great as 12 miles in one day.

When in the Scilly Islands I did expose the kayak to some choppy waters, again it performed well but I did not push things as we were not in a group.

The portability is great - how else could we fit a double kayak, 2 bikes and camping kit in our car for a trip to France without a roof rack!

### The Other Stuff

The kayak is very comfortable but experienced sea kayakers will miss the presence of dedicated footrests. I do after a reasonable period feel a bit of pain in my lower back - which encourages us to find somewhere to stop for coffee. My wife however finds the rear seat very comfortable. Advanced Elements do make a pair of footrests which can be strapped on the the boat but to be honest they're not the best, but in conclusion I don't find living with the lack of footrests a big problem.

I've managed to overinflate 2 of the inflatable floor elements of the kayak, both on hotter days, basically the rest of the kayak is very well made but this part is under engineered, I'm looking to upgrade to a drop stitch floor - which should solve this issue.





One small point to note, we always take a bit of bicycle grease with us when setting up the kayak, we use this on the backbone joints and the deck zips - making them much easier to disassemble and reassemble.

### **In Conclusion**

If you're looking for a kayak which is portable, can carry 2 people and can cover a good distance in moderate seas the Convertible is a great choice - we're really pleased with it!