



Frequently asked questions about canoeing

Have fears or questions about canoeing with us? So do lots of people! These are the most common questions we hear from people of all ages and backgrounds. If you don't see your question here, please feel free to contact us, or ask us in person at Joe W. Brown on Saturdays this summer. See you outside!

Q: But I've never canoed before.

A: That's okay! Neither have most of our participants. Our friendly and well-trained team is here to teach you, coach you, and watch out for your safety.

Q: I can't swim, either.

A: That's also fine! Neither can most of our participants. And since the goal of canoeing is to stay on top of the water in the boat, we'll be surprised if swimming becomes part of the day's events. You'll be wearing a properly fitted life jacket, or PFD (personal floatation device), that will hold your head above water should you, on the off chance, end up in the water. If you follow our staff's instructions, this won't be an issue. It's really quite rare for our canoes to flip.

Q: Are there alligators in the water?

A: In the interest of honesty, probably. However, stay with us! Alligators are in a category of animals that scientists refer to as "non-aggressive." That means that, although they could be dangerous, and we should be cautious, they are highly unlikely to simply attack a human being. We're not a food source for them, so if we should happen to see one, we can just keep our distance and we don't have to worry. They actually avoid the canoes, and we don't tend to see them. It's very strange for an alligator to attack a human. That's why we hear about it every time it happens. On this topic, it's important to know that the alligators that do attack humans have often been fed by them. That's the only way they learn to associate us with food. So PLEASE, don't ever feed an alligator!

Q: What about snakes? Are there snakes?

A: Yes, there are some snakes out there. But they go in the same non-aggressive category as alligators. Plus, they avoid large crowds of humans. Let's face it, we're scary.

Q: Okay, how about sharks?

A: No. There are no sharks in the lagoon. :)

Q: Is there an age restriction?

A: There is no upper age restriction. Children as young as two or three can fit into our tiniest life jackets (and we love when they do). Come on out with the whole family!

Q: Can I take my dog?

A: Unfortunately, at this time, we can't allow animals in the canoes.



Q: How about my daiquiri?

A: No. We can't allow alcoholic beverages in the canoes. If we detect that you're intoxicated, we reserve the right to keep you safely on land.

Q: How deep does the water get?

A: At its deepest, the lagoon is 7 feet deep. Most of the lagoon is not nearly that deep.

Q: Do I have to show up right at 10am?

A: No. This is meant to be a very personal experience. Whenever you get here, we're happy to help. However, we recommend you show up by 1:00 in order to have enough time to enjoy the ride.

Q: Is there a time limit?

A: Generally, no, inside the 10:00-2:00 time span. However, if the day is very busy and you've been on the water for a while, we may ask you to let the next folks use your boat.

Q: Can we come more than once?

A: You can come as often as you like. We'll be here all summer, and would love to get to know you.

Q: Is there a fee?

A: No. Canoeing is free!