

Cosma review from Canoe & Kayak Magazine – Shorter Sea Kayaks – July 2004

Manufacturer's Statement:

"The Cosma Grande features a larger cockpit measuring 31" x 16" . . . and is a stable and seaworthy light touring and day boat."

Details:

It is difficult to find a stone unturned on the Cosma. There are bungee cords fore and aft of the seat, recessed deck fittings and perimeter deck lines that make hanging onto the kayak easier, for example when towing your boat while snorkeling (hanging onto a kayak while out of it need not necessarily mean an unexpected swim). But if you do take an unexpected swim, Seaward has placed quick release straps behind the seat that run parallel to the deck (as well as the usual bungee). This is for self-rescue. If you slide your paddle under the quick release rescue straps to do the rescue, then once you're back in the kayak you can just `unsnap' the quick lock on the webbing that is holding your paddle.

The seat cushion can also be used as a back-up paddle float, though it may not provide enough floatation to hold up larger paddlers. Definitely test this aspect in calm conditions, and always carry your regular paddle float.

The hatch coverings include a neoprene soft cover and a fiberglass lid, which are tethered to the deck. This should of course prevent them from mysteriously disappearing. However, if they do, then the bungee can be re-worked through the pad eyes to hold down a makeshift lid in a true MacGyveresque fashion.

The Cosma comes with a rudder and the rudder release/rise cord is comfortably positioned on the side of your kayak by the hips. No wrenching your back while trying to find the rudder cord with your `other right.' The foot peg is in two parts – an adjustable peg to rest your foot on, and a pedal on top to depress in order to operate the directional control of the rudder. A two person carry of the kayak was uncomfortable because the perimeter deck line ran through the carry handles, pinching our fingers.

Comfort:

I'm happy to say that no physical agony was experienced when sitting in the Cosma. The seat is closed cell foam, covered with a black nylon mesh (to let the water drain out). The seat cushion is attached to the rear bulkhead and can be unclipped. More padding can be added to this seat, or what is already there can be adjusted. The back rest, a curved piece of plastic with foam cells, can be adjusted slightly forward or back by using either set of pre-drilled holes. Padded thigh braces are another feature.

Handling:

The Cosma is a good mix of stability and tracking. With a 23" beam, shallow V hull, and multi-chined sides (think little planes of stability), the kayak feels very stable both while sitting flat and on edge. At 16' 2" the boat tracks well, and the rise of the bow and stern ends makes it very maneuverable.

Bang vs Buck:

Counting your pennies to buy a kayak? Well, know that if the Cosma's specs and comforts fit your body and abilities, the price will fit your wallet too. In the great big world of composite kayaks, the asking price is a fair one.

Rating out of 4:

Details: 4 Comfort: 4 Handling 4 Bang vs Buck. 4