

Escapade F - 'F' is for Fishing

Reviewed by Chris Nicholls



From the manufacturer: The Escapade is a multipurpose kayak suitable for touring and fun in the waves. The Escapade has an innovative 'tri-keeled' hull to give greater speed and stability, especially when loaded with skuba diving equipment or fishing gear. The hull shape and upswept bow ensure good surfing in the waves.

Layout:

The Q Kayaks Escapade F offers a simple but effective deck layout.

A day hatch directly behind the seat, two open storage areas (bungee covered) and space to add a further 8 inch hatch between the paddler's legs make the Escapade F an ideal budget fishing kayak.

The seating position, slightly aft of centre, is comfortable enough for most activities. You'll need a back support seat when paddling for longer than a couple of hours.

For testing, the Escapade F was fitted with 3 x rod holders, running line, sea anchor, low back seat and an aluminium paddle.

I had a Railblaza rod holder centre forward and two moulded-in rod holders behind the seat. Access to rods was excellent. The running line on the starboard side worked well. However, to drift on a straighter line, I suggest placing the rear pulley further aft.

Weight/Balance:

The Escapade F offers flexibility for any paddler. With its tri-hull design the Escapade F tracks well and just 180 mm freeboard makes for excellent stability. In rougher seas this can, if side on to the white caps, make the boat a little wet.



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Paddling Characteristics:

Its tri-hull and low freeboard help the 3.45 metre Escapade to track really well. The seat pad is only 60 mm above the waterline so stability is great. In a following sea the kayak is easily controlled by paddle steering. Breaking out through small to medium waves (0.2 to 0.8 metre) is comfortable. Its hooked bow wants to lift the nose over breaking waves.

Conclusion:

The Q Kayaks Escapade F will appeal to the paddler looking for a fun sit-on-top that offers good paddling characteristics, able to get out and catch a good feed. Starting at just \$975.00 for the bare Escapade, and \$1295.00 for the Escapade F. A great buy!



Main picture: Chris enjoying a quiet day off the North Shore.

Below left: Bringing home some dinner.

Above right: The Escapade F as tested.

Escapade F

Length 3.5 m

Weight: 32 kg

Width: 750 mm

Depth: 320 mm

Recommended for paddlers between 50 – 150 kg



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