



**THIS  
VS.  
THAT**

A THICK,  
TEXTURED  
DECK FEELS  
STEADY AND  
SLIP-  
RESISTANT



# STROKE OF GENIUS

Fold-and-store **watercraft** go from the trunk of your car to the crest of a wave in minutes. We compared an inflatable stand-up paddleboard (SUP) with a folding kayak to see which one we'd rather paddle into the sunset.

**VS.**

ANNA-KAISA WALKER

POLYPROPYLENE IS  
SEAWORTHY YET  
REMARKABLY LIGHT  
AND PACKABLE



## NRS Thrive 10' 3" Inflatable \$1,100

This versatile SUP comes rolled in a carry bag the size of a large suitcase, and includes a manual air pump and five rigid fins. Set-up is simple: unroll on a flat surface, open the valve with the twist of a finger, then screw in the pump tubing and start pumping. After 10 minutes of sweat-inducing work, you're set to ride on a board that inflates up to a solid-feeling 20 pounds per square inch. When you're done, let the board dry, open the valve and lie down on top to help it deflate. In five minutes, you're ready to roll it up and head home.

**PRICE**  
★★★★☆

**EASE OF SET-UP**  
★★★★☆

**FEATURES**  
★★★★★

**PORTABILITY**  
★★★★☆

## Oru Kayak Beach LT \$1,699

The world's first "origami kayak" was created in 2012, when San Francisco-based startup Oru Kayak came up with a translucent, corrugated polypropylene. At 11.8 kilograms, the beginner-friendly Beach LT weighs less than half of what a standard kayak does, yet is built to withstand minor bumps and scrapes, and can be folded and unfolded up to 20,000 times. As with origami, the set-up takes time to learn, so plan to practise before you climb aboard. Still, the convenience can't be beat, and though the price may be high, you won't need to spring for a roof rack.

**PRICE**  
★★★☆☆

**EASE OF SET-UP**  
★★★★★

**FEATURES**  
★★★★★

**PORTABILITY**  
★★★★☆



**SHOPPING TIP** Think about whether you'll be paddling on calm lakes or rushing rivers. The Thrive includes a set of five interchangeable fins in three lengths: long for better tracking in deep water, plus medium and short for shallower depths and whitewater action. The roomy cockpit in the Beach LT allows for easy entry and exit, but you can't attach a spray skirt, meaning rough waters are out.