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Costs Associated With Kitesurfing

By Jakob Jelling

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by: **Jakob Jelling**

Getting involved in the extreme sport of KiteSurfing might be more costly than you think, when in all actuality it's relatively inexpensive to get started. Depending on what type of Kite, board and lines you purchase the bottom line will always be to buy the safest products possible at the lowest price.

Two popular manufacturers are Wipika and Kiteski.

The Kiteski system uses a rigid framed-kite, which is launched by hand, and the surfer uses a control bar that lets out slack to inflate the kite higher as the surfer gets further away from the shore. Once the kite deflates and hits the water, the control bar has a reel attached to bring the kite in for quick re-launch with minimal downtime.

The Wipika system uses an inflatable kite that floats out on the water first and is launched without reeling it in, even though they both have a control bar and reel-in function.

The kites are made up of several parts: The Kite (Leading Edge) 2 Bridle Lines 2 Flying Lines 1 Control Bar

You will also need: A Wet Suit Life Jacket or Buoyancy Jacket Helmet Water Shoe Safety Release

Board Leash

There are 3 different types of beginner KiteSurfing kites that you can choose from: Inflatable Kites Single Skin Framed Kites Ram Air Foil Kites

All of these kites can be re-launched from the water. There are many other manufactures of KiteSurfing equipment on the market to choose from. Including: Wipika, Naish, Sea Jump, Seasmik, KiteSki, C-Quad, Banshee, Concept Air and fOne.

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Usually a setup can run in cost from \$1500 to about \$3,000 depending on the accessories. The board can range from \$499 to \$1,200 and the kite from \$499 to \$1,500. You can also purchase either or both of them used at a substantially lower amount.

People have been known to convert old surfboards into KiteSurfing boards. There are numerous websites and literature on how to save money and get involved in this sport without spending a lot on equipment.

Other costs factored into KiteSurfing are lessons, which normally start out at about \$60 – \$90 per hour. Most classes can range from 2 - 4 hours depending on what depth or level you are trying to accomplish.

The final expense to be tallied is travel. Most of the locations where there is enough open space and free beach are not located in highly populated areas around the world.

Jakob Jelling is the founder of

. Visit his kitesite for the latest on

kitesurfing equipment, kiteboarding lessons, places to surf and much more!

Kitesurfing snap–shackle options

By Jakob Jelling

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One of the kitesurfing gear accessories that you will definitely need to have is a snap–shackle. There are a number of kitesurfing snap–shackle options that are available for sale in the market. Which one of the many kitesurfing snap–shackle options you should select is up to you, but this article will provide you some guidance about several kitesurfing snap–shackle options.

Before we discuss some of the kitesurfing snap–shackle options, we need to explain what snap–shackle is. The snap–shackle is a kitesurfing gadget that allows you to release it with a trigger, or pin, under severe loads. In most cases it is made of stainless steel. You will be able to purchase various kitesurfing snap–shackle options at many water supply or sport stores.

When putting one of the kitesurfing snap–shackle options into operation, you will always need to hang–test the release of the shackle. This is very important for your safety. The snap–shackle can be attached to the end of the trim rope, or connected straight to the spreader bar. Any one of the kitesurfing snap–shackle options should let go with minimal attempt when under severe load. The pin–release kitesurfing snap–shackle options can be used but are somewhat more expensive, however.

Some of the best kitesurfing snap–shackle options are the lever–release snap–shackles. These

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kitesurfing snap–shackle options release from the lever easily without difficulty and without any problems. Regardless of the weight placed on the kite lines, these kitesurfing snap–shackle options are still easily released, letting you loose from the kite.

The pin release kitesurfing snap–shackle options release using a pin. However, the pin can cause problems when the weight increases. Additional resistance on the pin from the weight can make it very hard to release from the kite. The gate can also cause problems, since it can get caught on spreader bars when released in some specific position. If you decided to use one of the pin release kitesurfing snap–shackle options, you will need to make sure that you are using a metal on metal attachment and a steel ring. The pin release kitesurfing snap–shackle options are somewhat cheaper then lever–release kitesurfing snap–shackle options.

Jakob Jelling is the founder of <http://www.kitesurfingnow.com>. Visit his kitesite for the latest on kitesurfing equipment, kiteboarding lessons, places to surf and much more!

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