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Kitesurfing Equipment

By Jakob Jelling

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You are ready to take on the extreme sport of KiteSurfing, you are ready to pound the surf and soar across the water and above the waves. In order to start you will need to purchase KiteSurfing equipment that will provide both safety and quality. The last thing you need happening is equipment failure as you jet across the ocean at a high rate of speed.

Many accidents can occur, but with the proper training and safety instruction the risk can be reduced significantly. Make no bones about it; KiteSurfing is a radically extreme sport. It may not be as dangerous as parachuting out of an airplane but it has other hidden dangers that aren't always noticeable.

Before you set out you will want to purchase a setup that is cost-effective and will provide protection. You want to be safe and you want the equipment to work at all times. A Wet suit is a necessity. You never know when you may lose your kite in the water you will need to keep yourself buoyant as you swim, sometimes a long while to recapture your kite and other times into shore when your kite goes out to sea.

You will also need a life jacket or as it is known as a buoyancy jacket that will keep you afloat should you tire while swimming into shore or after your kite. A board leash, perhaps the only thing that keeps your board on your feet, the board leash straps around your ankle and stays attached when you crash or land in the water.

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A safety release is strap that attached you to the control bar. Once attached it allows you to add slack to one side of the kite and guiding it down into the water safely. A safety release can be 2 or 4 line and also can be used for inflatable and framed kites. Foil kites must be carefully navigated downwind to bring them down into the water.

There are three types of kits: inflatable kites, single skin framed kites and ram air foil kites. All of these kites can be launched from within the water. Inflatable kites are blown-up with a pump on the sand and are slowly lifted as the surfer approaches the beach line. Special precautions must be held so that innocent passersby do not get hurt. It is much better for any kite to be launched from within the water instead of the sand.

There are several quality kite makers that supply the various shapes, colors and sizes including: Wipika, Naish, Sea Jump, Seasmik, KiteSki, C-Quad, Banshee, Concept Air and fOne. The price of the kite will range from \$ 500 to \$ 1,500. You can find many places on the web as well as in surf pro shops that will get you started from about \$300 and up. Some people have been creative and created their own kites.

The last piece is the board. Most boards are rigid, thus there is very little movement involved. Your feet become harnessed to the board and a leash is recommended so you do not lose the board after a crash or re-entry from the sky. A typical board can range from \$ 500 to \$ 1,200.

Remember, your safety and well-being are tied to the equipment you use, it is wise to do research on the various brands available and if at all possible try them out before you buy them. This way you can tell if it fits you well and is easy to maneuver.

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!

Kitesurfing dangers

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Kitesurfing is a very dangerous (or, as some people call it, extreme) sport. Before you try kitesurfing, you should definitely try to find out about all the potential kitesurfing dangers. The kitesurfing dangers may result from many different things: from equipment failure to human mistake to problematic weather conditions. Learning about the potential kitesurfing dangers will help you to prevent yourself from getting into dangerous situations and making dangerous mistakes.

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Of course, there are very good safety systems available to prevent many kitesurfing dangers but these safety systems cannot protect you from every single danger. You will need to make sure that your equipment has a very good and reliable safety system and that you know how to use it and are comfortable with it. Practice using your safety system as much as you can. Also, make sure to study the safety systems guidelines provided by the manufacturer. If money is not an issue, try to purchase the best safety system available of the market.

Bad weather is probably one of the most important kitesurfing dangers, so try to make sure that you kitesurf only when the weather is good and there are no apparent dangers present. Also make sure that you know the weather forecast, since a sudden weather change can be very problematic. The kitesurfing dangers, including the bad weather danger, and present both when you are in the water and when you are on the surface. According to West Australian newspaper, the most dangerous time for a kitesurfer is when you are on the land because the equipment is designed for the water.

You should also be able to get the detailed operating instructions from your kite's manufacturer. To prevent the potential kitesurfing dangers, make sure that these instructions describe in details the specific techniques for launching and landing your kite and other techniques.

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