

A Comprehensive Guide & Review of The NEW Pelican TRAILBLAZER 100 NXT Kayak

If you have a love for nature and spending time outdoors either camping, picnicking or exploring the wonders of mother earth, it is likely that you are into boating and other outdoor recreational activities.

Kayaking offers the freedom to explore any wilderness from the safety and comfort of your kayak, which is your most loyal companion, especially, when meandering along inland lakes and shallow river waters. A kayak's lightweight design, compact size, and ease of portability make them the ideal recreational tool for fishing, exploring or even taking on the rapids.

If you are searching for a kayak that can allow you the freedom to enjoy taking on the waters of different flat water lakes and slow-moving rivers you can often be spoilt for choice in terms of which one to get. Intense competition and economies of scale have made kayaks not only more affordable but also practical, incorporating many features that make for a safe and comfortable voyage.

Pelican International Inc. is a well-renowned Canadian manufacturer of kayaks and other outdoor recreational equipment and the Trailblazer 100 NXT is their latest offering. This affordable entry-level kayak is one of their most popular models and well-suited for beginner to intermediate kayakers.

A Review Of The Pelican Trailblazer 100 NXT

So, what's to like and not like about the Trailblazer 100 NXT? We had to find out for ourselves and in doing so compiled an in-depth review to help ease your purchase decision.

Let us start the review by first looking at the key features of this new model that sets it apart from the rest of the competition.

Size & Portability

The Pelican Trailblazer 100 NXT is a standard 10 ft. in length and 28 inches wide. It weighs in at just over 16 kg and has a max load capacity of 125 kg. This particular model has a smaller cockpit area as compared to other popular competitive models such as the Argo 100X but there is still plenty of room in there for a smaller to average-sized person.

The compact size, lightweight high-density polyethylene construction, and carrying handles in the front and in the back make it easy to lift and take with you wherever you go. It is very easy to load and unload off the top of your car.

Tracking & Maneuverability

You would imagine that a small-sized kayak like the Trailblazer would have difficulty staying on course even in calm-water but thanks to its twin-arch hull it is actually quite stable and

able to track very well given its compact size. The shorter size also means that is easier to control and has more responsive steering that makes it quite agile and maneuverable.

Sit Inside Vs. Self-bailing

The difference between self-bailing and sit-inside kayaks is the fact that the latter doesn't have "scupper holes" which means that they are more susceptible to sinking. Scupper holes are found on sit-on-top kayaks where the deck is usually above the water level which allows water to drain out through these small scupper hole outlets.

Sit-inside kayaks like the Trailblazer 100 NXT do not have a self-bailing feature which means that any water you get inside your kayak needs to be pumped out with a bilge pump or the kayak has to flip over to get most of the water out.

Storage & Ease of Set-Up

Having a kayak that offers storage space is key as you usually would like to take things with you before embarking on rivers or lakes. Having ample storage space can mean having everything that you want when you need it making for a comfortable and enjoyable journey.

The Trailblazer 100 NXT is well designed and offers clever storage areas for all your essentials. A molded table at the front of the cockpit has three small compartments and a tilted bottle holder. The bungee cords on the front deck and rear platform are also useful for carrying extra supplies.

Unlike other models, the Trailblazer doesn't have a hatch in the front and no dry storage. There is also no feature that allows you to store your paddle when not in use. The best one can do is slip their paddle under the two bungee cords on the front deck.

When it comes to ease of setup all plastic kayaks require no setup and are ready for the water, as purchased.

Material & Durability

The Trailblazer 100 NXT is made out of a material exclusive to Pelican, called RAM-X. Unlike other kayak manufacturers that use polyethylene as the main material for construction, RAM-X has proven to be more impact-resistant and has the ability to regain its shape after violent impacts making it extremely robust and durable.

Pelican offers a Limited Lifetime Warranty for hull manufacturing defects and a 1-year warranty for accessories.

Price

The Pelican is an extremely affordable option for new kayaking enthusiasts who are still learning the ropes and mastering the art of paddling. At this price point, Pelican's Trailblazer 100 NXT offers excellent value for money and it is no surprise that these are one of Pelican's most popular kayak models.

What's To Like About The Trailblazer 100 NXT?

- Stylish two-tone design that comes in a variety of colors
- Lightweight and compact size
- Very stable thanks to its twin-arch hull
- Excellent value for money
- Ideal for beginner to intermediate level kayakers
- Easy to transport
- RAM-X construction

What's Not To Like About The Trailblazer 100 NXT?

- Limited storage space
- No self-bailing feature
- Smaller cockpit size than other competitor models
- Has no bulkheads so it is susceptible to sinking if flooded

Maintenance & Care

Kayaks are meant to take on the wilderness and withstand the elements of mother nature. But despite its durability, robustness, and resilience maintenance and care of your kayak is integral to get the best performance and life out of it.

When kayaking season begins it is always a good idea to first carefully inspect your kayak to make sure nothing is dented or damaged while left in storage. Check the hull for signs of depression and inspect the rigging to make sure it's all in good shape.

Replace accessories with new accessories each season (if needed) to keep your kayak looking fresh and comfortable. Accessories don't cost much and can make a big difference in the comfort and luxury of your kayak.

Other tips for maintaining your kayak and keeping it in good shape are to ensure that you keep it out of the sun, cover the cockpit and use a kayak cart to minimize dings and damage from wear and tear.

If you keep your kayak clean and dry chances and take care of its rigging components you are likely going to get a lot of use out of it and some truly memorable experiences.

Verdict

The Pelican Trailblazer 100 NXT has a lot of things going for it but also certain drawbacks that may not make it the ideal choice for all kayakers.

However, for those looking to take on kayaking as a part-time recreational hobby and are looking for a kayak that is affordable, easy to store, and has good tracking abilities will find themselves hard-pressed to find a better option available on the market than this well-made and well-priced Trailblazer.