

Canoe Etiquette

It is believed that canoes have a life to them. Each has a distinct and separate personality on the water. The canoe is part of the team, and carries all paddlers safely onto the water and home again. We expect all paddlers to treat the canoes with respect and never take them for granted or treat them discourteously.

Never sit or lean on a canoe except in the designated seat area once the canoe is in the water. Even sitting in the seat on land can cause the canoe to crack. When canoes are lifted, be sure the ama and 'iako are supported and off the ground. Canoes should not be dropped, but set down lightly.

Don't step over the body of the canoe. If you need to move to the other side, walk around the canoe. It is a gesture of courtesy to the canoe to do so.

Canoe Parts



Photo courtesy Outrigger Rio Clube (Brazil) - www.outrigger.com.br

- **aha** (braided or twisted cord used in lashing the canoe)
- **ama** (float/ outrigger)
- **hoe** (a paddle; to paddle)
- **'iako** (spars, boom)
- **lupe** (bow end of ama)
- **kanaka** (stern end of ama)
- **kapua'i** (part of 'iako between hull and ama)
- **kua 'iako** (portion of the 'iako lashed to the hull)
- **kuamo'o** (hull, keel)
- **manu kupe** (curved end pieces covering the fore and aft parts of the hull; to steer a canoe)
- **manu hope** (stern end piece)
- **manu ihu** (bow end piece)
- **mo'o** (gunwale)
- **muku** (ends of 'iako that extend beyond the hull)
- **pale kai** (splash board)
- **pa'u** (storm covers, spray skirts)
- **pikao** (hull)
- **wae** (spreaders)
- **wa'a** (canoe, also **va'a**, **waka**)
- **wa'a kaukahi** (single-hulled canoe)
- **wa'a kaulua** (double-hulled canoe)