



## Performance

**Turning speed, handling, and feel** There are so many tired terms used to explain a kite's performance – but they all seem appropriate for the Park so I'll use a few here. The responsiveness is incredibly – you honestly feel like you've got an accelerator cable attached. And the depower is phenomenal – for wave riding you can switch pretty much completely off, and it will just sit there. Turning: the Park turns on a dime. Scratch that. On 1 Euro cent (or any other very small denomination coin). It feels like it pulls a complete 180° on the spot and is good to go again. Crisp is used in a lot of the blurb and it completely sums up the overall feel of the Park. **The Triangle** We didn't (unfortunately) get to test the Park in any really grunty conditions, but it still trucked back upwind comfortably. And, as mentioned, downwind it feels very stable. **Lift, hang time and landing** Bearing in mind that freestyle aficionados have the Torch if they want the full C-kite experience, the Park performs very well in this department. The overall crispness is mirrored in the pop that you get from the Park – you know exactly where you stand with it – and there's more than enough grunt to keep the freestyle and park massive grinning. **Unhooked** As you'd expect, the Park loves to be ridden unhooked – it's pretty much as stable unhooked as it is hooked in. You can feel that there's plenty there without it taking your arms off, and the Park will launch you into anything, and see you back down too. **Trim** It feels like you have massive amount of throw on the bar, but then you realise that it's similar to other bars... It's just that the Park is so crisp, and so responsive, that it feels like you could take it out in 15 or 25 knots and not have touch the trim. It's that kind of a kite.

## Introducing the Park

Firmly from the 'keep it simple' school of kite range thinking, the Park is one of only three which Naish put out. It is a 'swept compact C' and is pitched as their do-it-all kite with something for everyone. For a top-end brand with a big rep, playing the 'does it all card' is a bold move. So, does this year's Park deliver?

## Basics

**Build and construction** For kites which are tested to destruction in the ultimate proving grounds of Hawaii, and rolled around endlessly in mahoosive surf, Naish have always been at the top of the league construction wise. This year's Park does nothing to dent that rep. It oozes build quality and says: "yup, I'm fine mate, bring it on." All struts are attached to a frame of Dacron and then sewn onto the canopy, and the slightly silky feeling cloth is stitched with the seams running parallel to the line attachments to ensure that the load is evenly distributed. Clever. **Set up and tuning** The Park has a simple pulleyed bridle system with

fast/slow attachment points on the kite. **Bar and safety system** Not much change from last year's bar. There's an under the bar depower and the safety is either a full flag out, or you can attach it to the depower rope which will let the kite sit on the front lines. **Letting go and relaunch** In an age of highly engineered QR systems, Naish have kept it pretty simple. It's a push out system with a visible stainless-steel tab, and it works fine. And is easy to re-arm. Relaunch wise there are a few tweaks here: the general shape this year is a little more 'C', but Naish have extended the wingtips slightly to keep the same leverage on the back lines. We found that it popped back up just fine.

## Info Panel

**Sizes:** 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14

**Bridle configuration:** SLE with pulleyed bridle.

**Inflation system:** Octopus one pump.

**Safety:** Full flag or front line

## Icing

**The Looks** The Park has spent the summer getting all Amazonian, and there's a pretty angry looking tribal chap who takes up half of the canopy. You'll either love it or hate it. I loved it. The rest of the design is well thought out and packed with Naish's North Shore kudos. **The package** The Park comes in the kind of bag that Max Moseley might take to one of his special parties – we are talking faux-leather pimp. It's a bad boy for sure, and is as solid and well built a bag as you'll find anywhere. You also get the 4m line extensions.

## kitesurf

### Verdict

→ The Park does feel like more of a C kite than previously BUT we found that it still has all of the benefits in terms of depower, stability, and relaunch of last year's. We think that Naish really are onto something here – it is so responsive but so stable, and it really does seem to be a kite that will keep everyone (more than) happy.