



World Bound Young Adult: **ITALY**

2024 Itinerary and Trip Details

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WELCOME | BENVENUTO

Welcome to the world's first Outdoor Leadership and Climate Education Adventure! World Bound Italy is all about combining the stunning natural beauty of the Dolomites with Italian culture's unparalleled arts, architecture, and – most importantly – cuisine.

Our journey together begins on the winding canals of Venice, taking in some of the finest of Italian culture, before venturing up into the mighty Dolomites. After a few days' trekking in the Dolomites we will descend to meet the River Piave, along the old railway in the valley of the Boite stream, where we will embark on a several-day canoe journey following the ancient trade routes of this region. We will then travel by bike to reach the Sile river, where we will return to the water and paddle to the Venice lagoon, pass between its ancient islands, until we reach the coast on the Adriatic Sea.

Below you will find everything you need to know about the adventure ahead, including a trip overview, itinerary, packing list, and travel and safety information. If you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to [contact us](#).

Meet our Lead Instructor: Margherita Macchi

"Following my brothers' steps, I decided to sign up for Fireside in 2019... I found myself travelling the country with BC Explorer and Yukon Explorer with an amazing group of people, learning and sharing timeless experiences. I was asked "What is a leader like?" Although it's very hard to find one, coherent, and all-comprising answer, it surely includes listening, caring and supporting others. Since then, this is what I've been trying to cultivate.

Aside from working with World Bound Italy, I am currently studying Global Sustainability Science at Utrecht University, Netherlands. This gives me the tools to understand sustainability in its complexity and I'm focusing on the aspect of business and innovation. With this, I can combine a holistic approach with a more specialised one. Meanwhile, I am building a community in Utrecht to share the beauty of Italian culture."



Trip Overview

Date: August 1 – 21, 2024 (21 days)

Trip type: Young Adult Climate Leadership Expedition

Meeting place: A member of our team will meet participants at the [Marco Polo Airport](#) in Venice on August 1.

Travel: Be aware that pick-up and drop-off is done via [the Airport Shuttle Bus](#) (typically 75 Euro charge per person). As such, airport arrival and departure should be between 7:00am and 2:00pm to ensure the shuttle bus is available.

Locations: [Venice](#), [Parco delle Dolomiti D'Ampezzo - Cortina](#), [Parco regionale del fiume Sile](#), [Parco Nazionale Dolomiti Bellunesi](#), [Venezia e la sua Laguna \(Venice's North Lagoon\)](#), [the River Piave](#), [Treviso](#)

Accommodation: Hostels, tent camping (tents provided by us), alpine huts

World Bound Modules and Certificate

World Bound courses take a step beyond our typical outdoor adventure programs to incorporate climate change education modules. These modules contain place-based, experiential, goal-oriented content that aligns with mainstream curriculum learning standards and core competencies. Last but not least, our modules are based on the World Bound Five Pillars of Learning:

- ❖ **Integrating** Climate Change Principles and Perspectives
- ❖ **Exploring** Real-world Environments
- ❖ **Volunteering and Connecting** in Communities
- ❖ **Practicing** Life, Social, and Leadership Skills
- ❖ **Sustaining** Climate Action through Solution-focussed Approaches

All our modules reflect the unique themes of the locations, environments and communities they take place in). During our modules, learners demonstrate their understanding through personalized projects, expressive arts, reflection through written self evaluation, group discussion, and community volunteering. If you're curious, read our full [World Bound Climate Change Curriculum](#).

At the end of the expedition, participants will participate in a ceremony where they will receive the World Bound Climate Leadership Certificate.

Environmental Volunteer Projects

The focus of World Bound Italy is on environmental research and volunteerism. During this expedition, we will work with several volunteer associations and public institutions that are dedicated to environmental protection and ecosystem services. This work will give participants the opportunity to connect with climate activists and researchers while gaining insight into the challenges of true climate activism. Some volunteer opportunities include:

- ❖ **River and water protection activism:** create a short documentary about the condition of the Piave River in August, usually the driest month of the year, to help local activists spread their message internationally.
- ❖ **Wildlife monitoring and citizen science:** Monitor the presence of more than 300 species and habitats along the River, to create data for some of the most prominent citizen science platforms in Italy and in Europe. Consult with local researchers and activists along the way.
- ❖ **Maintenance of historically and culturally significant sites:** we will be travelling through regions that are famous as ancient Venetian trade routes, and as Italy's front line during WW1. Most of these sites are open-air museums maintained by local volunteer groups who we will help maintain these heritage sites.

As part of our emphasis on sustaining climate action, we will also be tracking our carbon footprint, and cutting it in half to offset our flights, as well as eating only food that was cultivated within 100km of us.

Integrate the Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Fireside Adventures is a proud Trained Activity Provider for the Award, and all our expeditions are eligible for **Bronze, Silver, or Gold Adventurous Journeys**.

Questions? What is the Duke of Edinburgh's Award?

[Check out our webpage](#) for more information, or [contact us](#) with any questions you have.

Itinerary

Day 1–2: Welcome to Italy and Exploring Venice

Accommodation: Venezia-Mestre hostel

After travelling from the airport, our team will gather at a nice and quiet hostel in Venezia-Mestre, a borough of Venice close to Venice's city centre (10 minutes by train), but far from the noise of the touristy areas of the famous city.

During this time, we will get to know each other better, and acclimatize to Italy, while touring Venice's iconic canals and historical buildings. We'll also take some time to go over the expedition and the [World Bound Curriculum](#).

Day 3–8: Alpine Adventure in the Dolomites

→ Train from Venezia-Mestre to [Calalzo di Cadore](#) (~2h 45m)

From Venice, we venture out to begin our alpine adventure in the Dolomites! During this time we'll travel by foot, bike, and train, while sleeping in hostels, mountain huts, and tents. Some experience in this part of the journey include:

Calalzo di Cadore, Gateway to the Dolomites

Located by the Centro Cadore Lake, the Calalzo di Cadore village is famous for its view of the Marmarole – one of the Dolomites' biggest massifs – and for being one of the most important sacred sites of the [Paleo-Venetian civilization](#). It will also be our entry point to the Dolomites.

Bike Adventure in the Italian Countryside

We will have our first experience with self-propelled travel by cycling to Fiammes di Cortina (39km distance, +700m elevation gain). Fiammes is a small village, known for being a worldwide icon of luxury tourism, being the stage of many of WW1's most terrible battles, and being one of Italy's most beautiful regional natural parks with a view of the most famous Dolomiti peaks: Tofana di Rozes, Civetta, Antelao, Pelmo, and Marmolada

Traversing the Dolomites

During this time we will test ourselves by exploring some of the most epic mountain vistas in the world. Here are just a few of the experiences that we'll have along the way:

- ❖ Learning outdoor skills like plant and animal identification, Leave-No-Trace principles, and wilderness navigation.
- ❖ Exploring the [Fanes-Senes-Braies National Park](#) and offers a wide panorama over some of the most stunning peaks of the Dolomites: Croda Rossa, Cristallo,

Sorapis, and Tofana. This park is home to lush plant life and [many wonderful animals](#), including ibex, white ermines, and eagles.

- ❖ Following the iconic [Alta Via 1 footpath](#), a beautiful high mountain footpath which traverses the Dolomites in their entirety. This route will take us through the peaceful Val Badia and past the glittering Piciodel Lake.
- ❖ Sleeping in some of Italy's most popular and comfortable mountain huts while enjoying a wide range of traditional, freshly prepared dishes that will make any gourmets' hearts beat faster.

Biking Descent from the Dolomites

As we leave the Dolomites, we will challenge our balance and fitness by descending on bike. Some experiences include:

- ❖ Descending by mountain bike through valleys surrounded by jagged peaks and thriving forests.
- ❖ Taking the time to immerse ourselves in the peace of the natural world, and find space to reflect on our lives and world.
- ❖ Learning how to campsite set-up and take-down while camping in tents at Fiammes di Cortina and Auronzo di Cadore.

Day 9–14: Canoe Journey Along the River Piave

After leaving the Dolomites, we will make for the [River Piave](#). This river was once the main trade route from the Dolomiti to Venezia with hundreds of rafts sailing its waters weekly. Called 'Sacred to the Homeland', this scenic river is an important ecological corridor along which more than 300 species migrate, from large mammals to small birds. It is also the most exploited river in Europe for hydroelectric production and seriously threatened by climate change. During this time, we will participate in the following experiences:

Ecology and Ethnography in Ponte nelle Alpi

At a glance, [Ponte nelle Alpi](#) is simply a sleepy, unpretentious town on the edge of the River Piave. But to those who know, it is a modern and lively cultural center boasting beautiful hamlets, suffused with rich history, and home to interesting attractions like the River Piave Ecomuseum and the [Ethnographic Museum](#) of the River Piave's log drivers. We will spend the night in a hostel before embarking on our River Piave canoe journey.

Living as Nomad Climate Activists on the River Piave

We will follow in the wake of history, navigating this ancient trade route as so many merchants, and now climate researchers and activists, have before us: spending days paddling and nights camping on the riverside. During this time we will:

- ❖ Learn and hone our canoe paddle and safety skills, as well as adding to our camping skills by learning about bivouac tents.
- ❖ Come to understand the economic and hydrogeological history of the region through experiential education by meeting with local researchers and activists.
- ❖ Create a short documentary about the condition of the river in August – usually the driest month of the year – to help local activists spread their message internationally.
- ❖ Monitor the presence of species and habitats along the journey to help create data for the main citizen science platforms in Italy and Europe.
- ❖ Stretch our legs by biking to the glacial [Laghi di Revine](#) to explore the [Livelet Archeological Park](#), which reconstructs a trio of stilt houses from the Bronze Age, and take advantage of this area's [excellent birdwatching](#), seeing if we can spot the Great Crested Grebe, Eurasian Coot, Eurasian Moorhen, Mute Swan, Little Egret and Common Buzzard.

Day 15–17: Search for the River Sile, Mouth of the Venice Lagoon

We will continue our journey through the scenic Piave region both by bike and canoe in search of the [River Sile](#). A 'Natural Regional Park', the River Sile is a famous 'river of resurgence', where the underground waters of the River Piave return to the sunlight to form the mouth of the ancient watercourse that leads to the massive North Venezia Lagoon. Some experiences we'll have along the way are:

- ❖ **Canyoning in the 'Secret Canyon':** Veneto's mountains are crossed by deep gorges that turn its landscape into a magical world full of secret places. Together, we'll come face-to-face with the geological eras of the region. Our canyoning adventure will range the strolls through canyon streams to a technical and breathtaking gorge descent beneath a hidden waterfall.
- ❖ Learning about the history of this region as a front line during World War 1 and helping local volunteer groups to maintain the open air museums and historically significant places in this area.
- ❖ Camping in the Venetian countryside in bivouac tents, near historic villages, like Falzè di Piave, known for their churches and war memorials.

- ❖ Exploring the historic city of [Treviso](#), known as ‘Little Venice’ because of its numerous canals and waterways. We will spend the rest of our day exploring the city centre’s picturesque canals and moat, take in its excellent art, and eat as much of its delicious food as we can.

Day 18–20: The North Venice Lagoon and Return to Venice

Now veterans of the paddles, our group will return to Venice by canoeing through the North Venice Lagoon. Part of the [“Venezia e la sua Laguna” UNESCO World Heritage site](#) and one of the Mediterranean’s biggest wetlands, the Venice Lagoon has an ancient history – much older than Venice’s – and is an ephemeral, ever-changing region where the effects of climate change are being felt more and more strongly. During these days we will: ,

- ❖ Explore the lagoon and its many islands, like [Mazzorbetto](#), while camping in bivouac tents.
- ❖ Learn about the Lagoon as an ecological corridor in the grip of land consumption. This is an important time to reflect on the ways in which climate change is changing our lives and our world.
- ❖ Return to where our journey began, [Venezia-Mestre](#), and spend a relaxing day exploring the traditional Italian town with its historic centre and main piazza where everyone goes to share conversation and good food. This is a fantastic opportunity to observe local life at its most authentic.
- ❖ Learn to cook Italian food together and enjoy our final shared meals before we say goodbye.
- ❖ Share in the World Bound debrief, reflecting on the highs, lows, and learning of our adventure together. This will include a fancy Venetian restaurant dinner on our last night together.

Day 21: Farewell to Italy

It’s time to say goodbye to your fellow adventurers! We will all return home with newfound skills, knowledge, and self-confidence, as well as a wealth of fantastic experiences and life-long friends.

See you next time!

Travel & Safety Info

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Youths between the ages of 14 and 24 can participate in [the Duke of Edinburgh's Award](#) with help from our guides. [Contact us](#) for more information!

Medications and Medical Conditions

If you are bringing personal medication, please ensure that it is stored safely (waterproof) and an extra dose is given to our staff upon arrival for safe keeping. You'll keep one dose of your medication and we will keep another just in case your medication is lost or damaged.

For life-threatening allergies, please connect with our office (office@firesideadventures.ca) to go over a plan of care. Please be sure to include any issues you could experience while on trip (i.e., side effects of medication, susceptibility to heat stroke, sensitivity to mosquito bites, problems with anxiety, etc).

Communication

For much of our journey there will be little-to-no cell service. However, staff will carry In-Reach satellite phones and be in communication with the head office. As part of the participants' digital detox, personal phones will be kept by staff and returned at the end of the experience. Staff will take photos and videos to share during and after the expedition.

Accommodation

On this expedition we will be sleeping in well-established and safe youth hostels, clean and comfortable alpine huts, or high-quality and spacious tents that we will provide.

Laundry

There will be opportunities to do laundry when we stay at hostels and hand-wash clothing using **biodegradable soap** (see packing list) when we are not. It is essential that participants bring quick-dry clothing (see packing list).

Showers and Keeping Clean

There will be opportunities to shower at hostels and campsites, but not at alpine lodges.

Food on the Expedition

Do NOT bring any food with you unless for essential dietary purposes (please alert staff if this is the case). You will receive 3 meals a day in addition to healthy snacks. We are able to accommodate most special diets, provided that dietary requests are made well in advance. If this information was not filled in during registration, please contact us at least two weeks prior to the trip for us to make the necessary adjustments.

Meals are made on the fire and/or using our outdoor cooking equipment. Participants are asked to help with the preparation of each meal as part of their learning experience and to make it easier to get food into tummies quicker. We provide utensils, plates, cups, two foldable kitchen tables, coolers, and more as we like to have the best tools for making this a gourmet wilderness experience.

Airport Travel Independently

Please connect with your instructor and our office staff to ensure we have all your flight details as soon as possible so we can coordinate one of our staff at the airport to greet you. Please arrange flights close to our Fireside Adventures flight times. **Arrive 3 hours early to flights.**

Be aware that pick-up and drop-off is done via [the Airport Shuttle Bus](#) (typically 75 Euro charge per person). As such, airport arrival and departure should be between 7:00am and 2:00pm to ensure the shuttle bus is available.

Travel Insurance and Documents

It is highly advised that all travellers purchase emergency medical travel insurance through a reputable insurance provider. Please provide a copy of your travel insurance. It is also highly recommended that participants photocopy their passports, bringing one copy with them and leaving one at home.

Contact

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<https://www.firesideadventures.ca/world-bound-young-adult-italy-course>

