



Adult & Family Expeditions: **YUKON RIVER**

2024 Itinerary and Trip Plan

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Contents

Welcome.....	2
Trip Overview.....	2
Itinerary.....	3
Travel & Safety Info.....	5
Contact.....	7

WELCOME

This family and friends adventure experience is flexible and suitable for travellers who want to simply get out on the river with their loved ones and those who want to meet new friends! Like all of our experiences, we'll cater to your group's collective and individual outdoor experiences and interests while handling all the gear, food, and logistics... sweet and simple!

Trip Overview

Date:

- ❖ July 19 - 28, 2024: FULL
- ❖ August 2 -11, 2024: OPEN
- ❖ August 9 - 18, 2024: OPEN

Trip type: Family and Adult Expedition

Meeting place: The group and instructors will meet and [the Beez Kneez Hostel](#)

Travel: You are responsible for your flights to [Whitehorse International Airport](#).

Locations: [Whitehorse](#), [Carmacks](#), [Yukon River](#), [Dawson City](#)

Accommodation: Tent camping (tents provided by us), hotel in Dawson City (not provided)

Itinerary

Below is a general trip plan. We will modify as needed to take into account the weather, paddle skills, group dynamics and goals, and more. Any adjustments made are always to make the experience better and safer. Our goal is to reach Dawson City by the following Saturday afternoon. Many participants typically extend their course to visit Tombstone Territorial Park, take in more of Dawson City, or head back to Whitehorse and visit Kluane National Park.

Day 1: Welcome to the Yukon

On the first day we will meet at the Beez Kneez for BBQ and introductions, followed by meeting your guide(s), a gear check, and a review of the paddle expedition.

Day 2: Practice Journey to Carmacks

We will introduce how to plan meals and pack food, work with knots and tarps, use safety equipment and maps, and practice the basics of canoe skills (ie. parts of a canoe, paddle strokes, etc.). Then, it's time to set up camp, enjoy your last shower and flushable toilet until Dawson City!

Day 3: Start of the Paddle Expedition

Up in the morning for a delicious breakfast before packing up and preparing for the true paddle journey. We will review our safety plan, maps, and make any adjustments necessary. Today will be a 3 to 5 hour paddle as we get closer to the Five Finger Rapids. Evening activities include stories of the Yukon River followed by campfire time.

Days 4–6: Making Our Way to Fort Selkirk

Paddling the Yukon River is like stepping through a time machine into the Gold Rush. During our journey, we will stop at several gold miner cabins, paddle through the famous Five Fingers rapids, and enjoy a stay at Fort Selkirk with the Selkirk First Nation. At Fort Selkirk, the group will learn more about Northern Indigenous perspectives, the significance of the land and the long history of its people, and a discussion about the effects of climate change in the area. We plan to paddle 6 to 7 hours per day with ample time to explore and relax.

Days 7–8: The Final Stretch of Yukon River

These are the group's challenge days, where they will have to paddle long and hard to reach Dawson by the morning of Day 9. During this part of the journey, the group will enjoy the dramatic changes in the landscape, and a faster pace on the river as the

Stewart and White River join the Yukon. Together, the group will test themselves against the river and demonstrate the growth they've experienced physically, mentally, and emotionally.

Days 9–10: Dawson City and Homeward Bound

After a long paddle journey, Day 9 is all about the Dawson City experience, complete with hotel beds, hot showers, and the cultural experiences this historic town has to offer. The next morning, on our final day together, we will make arrangements for participants to fly out of Dawson City to Whitehorse. Depending on our plans there is the option to stay longer and explore more amazing places within the Yukon. We can assist with booking flights on a day that works for you



Travel & Safety Info

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

Bring your phone for airport travel, but be aware that there is zero cell reception from Carmacks until you reach Dawson City. Participants will have very limited access to their phones as part of our digital detox. However our staff carry In-Reach and are in communication with our head office. Staff will take videos and photos to share after the expedition.

Tent Accommodation

We provide you with excellent individualized tents (2 person) with lots of space. For setting up campsites, we typically chose river islands with access to incredible scenery and shallow water.

Laundry

Laundry facilities are found in Dawson City.

Showers and Keeping Clean on Trip

You will have the opportunity to take a dip in the Yukon River or try out our solar bush shower. Once you arrive in Dawson City you will have the opportunity to take a hot shower.

Book Your Accommodation SOON!

It is really important you book your accommodation in Whitehorse and Dawson City as spaces will go quickly.

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.

Travelling With Air North Through Fireside Adventures

Please arrive at the airport 2.5 hours prior to departure where you will meet one of your instructors who will be accompanying the group to Whitehorse, YT. You are allowed one checked bag. Please ensure all your personal gear is safely secured including your Swiss army knife are properly stored.

Airport Travel Independently

Please connect with your instructor and our office staff to ensure we have all your flight details and to coordinate one of our staff at the airport to greet you. Please arrange flights close to our Fireside Adventures flight times.

Travel Insurance

It is advised that all travellers to the Yukon purchase emergency medical travel insurance through a reputable insurance provider. Please provide a copy of your travel insurance.

FAQ

How cold will it be in the Yukon?

The weather in July and August is a “mixed bag of fun” where it could be blistering hot one day, cool and sunny the next, and cold and rainy the day after that. We advise, “Dress for Outdoor Success”, which means be ready for anything as the Yukon weather is consistently irregular. On average it is between 16° – 23 °C during the day and 05° - 12° at night. Again, every summer is different.

Will there be bugs?

The mosquitoes and black flies are minimal compared to the rest of the summer, as dragonflies have been feasting for the previous three months. For those who do particularly dislike bugs, August is the best time to travel on the Yukon River.

Will we see the Northern Lights?

This can be hit or miss, depending on the weather and who can wake everyone up in the middle of the night to see them. On July trips there is zero chance to see them, while August will be slightly more favourable.

Will we encounter bears and moose?

Participants will most likely see and hear wildlife from afar including bear, moose, eagles, mountain sheep, and more. However, we teach the importance of risk management and common sense when camping in the backcountry. It is critical to follow our wildlife guidelines and Leave No Trace policies. We travel with bear bangers, blow horns, bear spray, whistles, and more. Youth will be taught what to do if they encounter wildlife and how to use all of our group safety equipment. Remember, it's their (the wildlife's) home, not ours. We are only traveling and respectful visitors within their lands.

How fast is the Yukon River? Can we swim? I can't swim?

The river is high volume and fast moving, but between Minto and Dawson city there are no rapids. We will travel between 4 – 6km per hour with our paddle out of the river and 10 – 15km with our paddle in the river. The river is cold, but still perfect for bathing after a long day of paddling. **NO MATTER WHAT all participants must have their PFD on when going to, by, or in the Yukon River.** All participants are required to wear PFD's while swimming and will be under close staff supervision. We will only dip into the river in sheltered areas where the current is not strong.

Contact

For more information, contact us:

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Adult & Family Yukon River Expeditions Webpage:

<https://www.firesideadventures.ca/yukon-river-family-camp-canoe-adventure>

