



# Yukon Explorer: **PADDLE EDITION**

## 2024 Itinerary and Trip Details

Email: [office@firesideadventures.ca](mailto:office@firesideadventures.ca)  
Phone: (604) 241-9169  
For Webpage and Packing List: [Click here](#)



## Contents

Welcome.....	2
Trip Overview.....	2
Itinerary.....	3
Travel & Safety Info.....	5
FAQ.....	7
Contact.....	8

# WELCOME

Venture out with us into the Great Canadian North, where you'll watch moose wading at the river's edge, sleep under the never-ending Yukon sky, and canoe down one of Canada's grandest rivers. These youth leadership paddle expeditions are carefully crafted to help youth become more confident and knowledgeable in the outdoors, practice their leadership skills, and feel more connected to their peers and the natural world.

But, like any great adventure, we stay flexible and make room for surprise, spontaneity, and everything that makes the outdoors exciting. Prepare to seize the summer and make precious new connections with your peers, nature, and yourself!

## Trip Overview

### Novice Dates:

- ❖ June 23 – July 02 (Sun - Tuesday) FULL
- ❖ Jul 12 – 21 (Fri-Sun)
- ❖ Jul 26 – Aug 04 (Fri–Sun)
- ❖ August 9 – 18 (Fri–Sun)

### Advanced Dates:

- ❖ Jul 19 – 28, 2024 (Fri–Sun)
- ❖ Aug 02 – Aug 11, 2024 (Fri–Sun)

**Trip type:** Youth Leadership Expedition

### Meeting place:

Our instructors will meet you at the [Whitehorse International Airport](#).

### Travel:

You are responsible for booking your own flight. [Contact our office](#) if you have any questions as we have our own travel agent and can help you out!

### Locations:

- **Yukon:** [Whitehorse](#), [Carmacks](#), [Fort Selkirk](#), [Yukon River](#), and [Dawson City](#)

### Accommodation:

- Fireside's Yukon Homeplace (riverside tent camping)

## Itinerary

**Novice vs Advanced Expedition:** Novice courses are for youth easing into outdoor canoe expeditions for their first time. Advanced is more suitable for returning Fireside Explorer youth and/or for those ready for something a bit more physical.

### Day 1: Welcome to the Yukon

- **Flight:** home to [Whitehorse International Airport](#)
- **Shuttle:** airport to Whitehorse (~20mins)
- **Shuttle:** Whitehorse to Fireside Homeplace (~30mins)

Morning arrival at the Whitehorse Airport, where youths will be met by their instructors. After, we will perform a gear check, review camp rules, create a community contract, and introduce our Pillars. We will then head to the Fireside Homeplace, outside of Whitehorse along the Yukon River, where we will stay for the night.

### Day 2: Practice Canoe Journey

Today, we will learn the basics of how to plan meals and pack food, work with knots and tarps, use safety equipment and maps, and practice basic canoe skills (ie. parts of a canoe, paddle strokes, etc.). Youths will be split up into two groups (A, B) and rotate between teachables.

### Day 3: Beginning the Paddle Expedition

In the morning, we will drive to our Yukon River drop-off (2 hour drive). Depending on level, we are heading for Johnston Crossing to start our **Novice** journey OR Carmacks to start the **Advanced** journey. The **Novice** Explorer distance is around 360km and **Advanced** Explorer is around 403km.

Once on the water our adventure begins, focussing on practicing the canoe skills we learned yesterday. In the evening, we will learn about history of the Teslin River/Yukon River and the principles of Leave No Trace outdoor exploration.

### Days 4–5: Teslin River (Regular) or Yukon River (Advanced) Exploration

**Novice Explorer** – Over the next few days, we will explore the incredible Teslin River. This river starts off slow then begins to speed up as we get closer to the Yukon River. The landscape weaves and changes as we adventure through the historic Teslin River

region. Each day the group will become stronger, more competent adventurers as they practice their paddling and outdoor skills.

**Advanced Explorer** – Travelling along the Yukon Rover is like stepping into a Gold Rush time machine. We will stop several gold miner cabins, paddle through the famous Five Fingers, and enjoy our stay at Fort Selkirk with the Selkirk First Nation. At Fort Selkirk, the group will learn about the significance of the land and the long history of the people.

## Days 6–9: History and Change Along the Yukon River

**Novice Explorer** – Here, we will meet the majestic Yukon River and say good-bye to the Teslin. The river speeds up, landscapes continues to change, and we have a chance to visit an abandoned sternwheeler, the old Little Salmons village, and more traces of the Yukon's history. We will arrive in Carmacks in the late afternoon, pausing for a quick shower, and return to the Fireside Homeplace.

**Advanced Explorer** – 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, a faster pace on the river as the Stewart and White River join the Yukon. The final day is all about the Dawson City experience. We will be staying in a hotel to accommodate showers and/or chilling.

## Day 10: Homeward Bound

**Novice Explorer** – The group will wake up early, share in a quick polar bear dip in the Yukon River, and pack up for a full day in Whitehorse. Flights will depart in the later part of the day for home, wherever it may be.

**Advanced Explorer** – Depending on the group or individual plan, we will make arrangements for youth to fly out of Dawson City (extra fee) or drive from Dawson City to Whitehorse in the early morning for a drop-off at the Whitehorse Airport.

## 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](mailto: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

You can bring your phone for airport travel, but there is zero cell reception after between Teslin and Carmacks, or from Carmacks to Dawson City. Participants will not have access to their phones as part of our digital detox. However, our staff carry In-Reach and are always in communication with our head office. Staff will take videos and photos and share during and after the expedition.

### Accommodation

We provide you with modern tents (3-4 person) with lots of space. For sleeping, we typically chose river islands with access to incredible scenery and shallow water.

### Laundry & Showers

There will be no laundry facilities between Whitehorse and Dawson City. 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'll have the opportunity to take a hot shower.

### 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 Fireside Adventure**

Please arrive at the airport 2.5 hours prior to departure. You are allowed one checked bag. Please ensure all your personal gear is safely secured, including your Swiss army knife.

## **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 your youth. Please arrange flights close to our Fireside Adventures flight times.

## **Travel Insurance and Documents**

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

## 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:

**Email:**

[office@firesideadventures.ca](mailto:office@firesideadventures.ca)

**Phone:**

Fireside office: 604-241-9169

**Yukon Explorer Paddle Edition Webpage:**

<https://www.firesideadventures.ca/yukon-explorer-summer-camp>

