



Yukon Explorer: SNOW EDITION

2025 Itinerary and Trip Details

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THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S
INTERNATIONAL AWARD
CANADA



Contents

Welcome.....	2
Itinerary.....	3
Packing list.....	6
Travel & Safety Info.....	6

WELCOME

Welcome to the Yukon, Canada's True North. During our trip, we'll embark on a winter adventure across a landscape blanketed in sparkling snow, where the Northern Lights dance across the night sky. Brace yourselves for dog sledding through serene forests, skiing and snowboarding on snowy slopes, exploring the Yukon's endless wilderness, and so much more.

About the Yukon: The Yukon is a rugged expanse of untamed wilderness and breathtaking landscapes. Known for its rich history in the Klondike Gold Rush, the region boasts iconic sites like Dawson City, the historic Chilkoot Trail, and Kluane National Park.

About Whitehorse: [Whitehorse](#), the Yukon's capital and cultural hub (population 30,000), offers a mix of cultural experiences, historical learning, and outdoor adventures. We'll encounter the Yukon's First Nations heritage at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre, explore its history through the McBride Museum, and embark on thrilling activities such as skiing/snowboarding, dogsledding, and wildlife watching.

The Explorer Experience

Like the other trips in our [Explorer series](#), *Yukon Explorer: Snow Edition* focuses on outdoor leadership skill-building to help young people become more comfortable in the outdoors, build self-confidence, and connect with nature and their peers.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

For those youth who are participating in the [Duke of Edinburgh's Award](#) with us, this expedition is structured to serve as both the Practice Journey and Qualifying Journey for the Award's Adventurous Journey. **If you are not doing the Duke of Edinburgh's Award - not to worry as you will still be participating in 100% of the activities!**

Related activities include:

- A group meeting for S.M.A.R.T. Goal planning session related to DofE
- Daily risk-management meetings and trip planning
- Participation in meal preparation and cooking
- Collaboration on navigating by vehicle, foot, ski, and sled
- Cultural learning and appreciation opportunities

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival

- **5:45 AM:** arrive at Vancouver Airport (YVR). A Fireside Adventures staff will be waiting for you at the airport. Meet at the domestic departures area ([click for Google Maps](#)). Please arrange for your own breakfast and snacks for the flight day. There will be time to eat in the airport.
- **8:35 AM:** Flight leaves
- **11:00 AM (Yukon time):** Flight arrives at Whitehorse Airport (YXY). Shuttle will be waiting to transport you to our accommodation.
- **11:30–11:45 AM:** Shuttle to accommodation ([Beez Kneez](#) guesthouse, owned by our awesome colleague Sarah and utilized on our trips for years).

Arrival, grand WELCOME, and moving in: we'll begin with a quick welcome, orientation, snack and quick tour of the hostel (we have exclusive use of the Beez Kneez for our time in the Yukon). Then we'll move into our rooms. After that, we'll have our first lunch as a group before having a community meeting where we'll go over *Top 10 Things to Know about the Yukon* as well as 'house rules' and group expectations.

After lunch, we'll participate in team-building activities (compatible with Duke of Ed). We'll also do a walking tour of Whitehorse before returning to prepare and eat pizza (JAPA-pizza!) and have a movie night. Before bed, we'll review the essentials of winter outdoor exploration, then it's time for our daily debrief circle and lights out.

Day 2: Dogsledding

Today we're up early, grabbing a quick breakfast before heading out for our day of dogsledding at [Sky High Wilderness Ranch](#). We'll take in the scenic drive before eating our packed lunch at the dogsledding hut. Then, it's time to meet the dogs, learn how to set up and ride our sleds, and get out on the trails. After a great day with the dogs, we'll drive back to the hostel to prepare for our signature Iron Chef competition, where each group will try to create the most interesting dish with surprising ingredients. After that, we'll relax with some games and go over the plan for tomorrow - planning for the next leg of our journey and setting S.M.A.R.T. leadership goals.

Day 3: Downhill skiing at Mount Sima

Today is our ski day! This means another early morning so we can get to [Mount Sima Ski Hill](#) as early as possible to get our safety orientation and rentals. We will split into three groups (beginner, intermediate, and ready to shred). Then, we'll head back to the

hostel to cook dinner before enjoying a quieter games night (cards, chess, board games). At this point in our journey, we'll be needing the rest and finally falling into the rhythm of routines and activities.

Day 4: Cross-country Skiing and Wildlife Preserve

It's another ski day, but this time we'll be working on our fitness with cross country skiing at the local [Olympic ski trails](#). After breakfast, we'll head to the trails to pick up our rentals. We'll work up a bit of a sweat while admiring the views as we immerse ourselves in exercise and nature. After lunch, we'll head to the [Yukon Wildlife Preserve](#) where we'll have the chance to see an arctic fox, muskox, bison and moose. It's been a long day out in the cold so we'll enjoy a hearty pasta dinner when we get back.

Day 5: Kluane National Park

Now that we've adapted to the cold climate, we'll spend a day out in the place the Yukon is most famous for: its wilderness. We'll be spending the day in [Kluane National Park](#), one of Canada's largest and most remote national parks. We'll spend the day exploring, getting comfortable in true wilderness and seeing who can spot the many local animals in their winter gear. In the evening, we'll return to the hostel to warm up and make some dinner. After a long day outdoors, we're certain everyone will fall asleep in no time.

Day 6: Town Day and Glass Blowing

Today is our final full day in the Yukon, and we'll spend it taking in the best of Whitehorse. We'll start with a town tour (including [Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre](#) and [McBride Museum](#)) and some time to purchase souvenirs for the people back home. After that, we'll have some lunch before heading to [Lumel Glassblowing Studio](#) to create our own sculptures from molten glass (such as a jellyfish, rose, Northern Lights, 'random glob'). In the late afternoon, we'll go on a museum and art tour of the city centre before heading back to the hostel for our last group dinner. We'll finish up with a final reflection and journaling activity (special note from Duke of Edinburgh's Award).

Day 7: Homeward Bound

We're homeward bound! We'll wake up early enough to arrive at the airport.

Packing list

You can find the packing list [on the webpage](#) for this program

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

Participants will not have access to their phones as part of our digital detox. Phones are ideally left at home (to minimize chance of damage or being misplaced) or will be taken at the airport before departure and stored by staff. MP3 players and cameras are recommended. Our staff carry phones and will be contactable via a WhatsApp group. Staff will take videos and photos and share during and after the expedition.

Accommodation

We will be staying in the cosy Beez Kneez Hostel. We will have exclusive use of the hostel, which includes comfy beds, cooking facilities, and bathrooms.

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.

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, and more as we like to have the best tools for making this a gourmet adventure experience.

Flights

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.

If you are 16 or older you require an ID to fly. If you are younger, you will need written permission from your parent/guardian.

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.

