



# Barnsy's: BC-YUKON DOUBLEHEADER

## 2024 Itinerary and Trip Details

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# WELCOME

This one is for the hardcore Fireside kids and awesome teens who want to jump in head first. Barnsy got tired of there not being enough rock 'n' roll in our canoe trips, so he decided to combine the two classic trips: [BC Explorer](#) and [Yukon Explorer](#) into one mega-adventure.

Start in BC's beautiful Sechelt Inlet to hone your canoeing, camping, cooking, leadership, sense of humour and one-liner skills. Then you'll be ready to fly all the way up to Whitehorse - same adventure, same team, same canoe... and tackle the Teslin River.

## Trip Overview

**Dates:** July 6–21, 2024

- ❖ July 6–12: Building our canoe camping skills in Sechelt BC
- ❖ July 12–21: Fly to Yukon and paddle 370km downriver

**Trip type:** Youth Leadership Expedition

**Meeting place:**

Our instructors will meet you at Horseshoe Bay Ferry terminal, or at a pre-arranged destination if coming from outside Vancouver.

**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:**

- **BC:** [Sechelt Inlet](#), [Porpoise Bay](#)
- **Yukon:** [Whitehorse](#), [Yukon River](#)

**Accommodation:**

- **BC:** Tent camping in Porpoise Bay Provincial Park
- **Yukon:** Fireside's Yukon Homeplace and riverside tent camping

## Itinerary

### Day 1: The Adventure Begins

→ **Ferry from Horseshoe Bay Ferry Terminal to Langdale Ferry Terminal (1 hour)**

→ **Shuttle from Langdale to Porpoise Bay Provincial Campground (1 hour)**

After drop-off at Horseshoe Bay Ferry Terminal at 1:30pm, we will introduce ourselves to one another and then take a scenic ferry ride to the Sunshine Coast – watch out for seals and whales! Once off the ferry, we will be picked up and transported to the Porpoise Bay Provincial Campground. At our campsite, we will share a warm welcome to BC Explorer youth followed by a land acknowledgment, before preparing for a BBQ dinner at 5:30pm. After dinner, around 6:15pm, we will go over water safety and practice our paddling, before heading out for a short evening hike around 8:30pm. Then, it's off to bed for our first night under the stars.

### Day 2–5: Canoe Skill and Leadership in the Sechelt Inlet

These days will involve early mornings and hearty breakfasts as we will spend most of each day focused on developing canoeing skills, water safety knowledge, and getting comfortable with the camping life. We will also be introduced to Fireside's leadership expedition camp and learn about the Sechelt Inlet's significance to its Indigenous community, the Shíshálh. Every evening, we will learn more about camp cooking techniques and prepare hearty dinners before campfire singing (weather permitting, storytelling, and a good night's sleep.

### Days 6: Coastal Rainforest Hike and [Skookumchuck Narrows](#)

Today is our hiking/road trip adventure exploring more of the Sunshine Coast (villages, coastal pullouts and visiting the amazing Skookumchuck Narrows. We also have some surprises for the groups as part of the last full day of their leadership camp. In the evening, we will have a "Paddle Under The Stars" as we stargaze, celebrate and eat some yummy treats.

### Day 7: Goodbye BC, Hello Yukon

→ **Ferry: ~40 mins**

→ **Drive to [Vancouver International Airport \(YVR\)](#)**

→ **Flight: YVR to [Whitehorse International Airport](#)**

→ **Shuttle: airport to Whitehorse (~20mins)**

→ **Shuttle: Whitehorse to Fireside Homeplace (~30mins)**

Up early, we'll catch a morning ferry to Horseshoe Bay, where we'll be picked up and driven to Vancouver International Airport for our flight to the Yukon!

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 8: Practice River 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 refresh our basic canoe skills and tailoring them to a river environment. Youths will be split up into two groups (A, B) and rotate between teachables.

## **Day 9: Beginning the Paddle Expedition**

In the morning, we will drive to our Yukon River drop-off (2-hour drive), where we'll begin our Yukon River adventure, totalling ~370km. Today, we are heading for Johnston Crossing, focussing on practicing the river canoe skills we learned yesterday. In the evening, we will learn about the history of the Teslin River/Yukon River and the principles of Leave No Trace outdoor exploration.

## **Days 10–11: Teslin River Exploration**

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.

## **Days 12–15: History and Change Along the Yukon River**

Here, we will meet the majestic Yukon River and say goodbye to the Teslin. The river speeds up, landscapes continue to change, and we have a chance to visit an abandoned sternwheeler, the old Little Salmon 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.

## Day 16: Homeward Bound

On our final day together, 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.



## 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 safekeeping. 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

Participants will not have access to their phones as part of our digital detox. Additionally, There is zero cell reception between Johnson's Crossing and Carmacks. However, our staff carry In-Reach and are always in communication with our head office. Staff will take videos and photos and share them during and after the expedition. Participants who would like to listen to music or take their own photos are advised to purchase an MP3 player and/or camera.

### 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 in Porpoise Bay Provincial Park or between Whitehorse and Carmacks. You will have the opportunity to take a dip in the Yukon River or try out our solar bush 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 bears, 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's safety equipment. Remember, it's their (the wildlife's) home, not ours. We are only travelling 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:**

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**Phone:**

Fireside office: 604-241-9169

**Yukon Explorer Paddle Edition Webpage:**

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

