



World Bound Educator: **ITALY**

2024 Itinerary and Trip Details

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WELCOME | BENVENUTO

Welcome to the world's first Italian outdoor professional development adventure! World Bound Educators: Italy is all about combining cutting-edge climate education with Italy's stunning natural setting and unparalleled arts, architecture, and – most importantly – cuisine.

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

Meet our Lead Instructor: Maria “Letizia” Festa Giordani

A quote that describes me: “Don't just think outside the box, live outside it!”

“Born in the gulf of Naples, I've always been fueled by a volcanic energy to follow my life passions: exploring nature and connecting with people from different cultures through travel. These passions have led me on a wandering path. In travel, they led me from backpacking in Europe to a coast-to-coast adventure across the US. In career, they led me from international corporate communications to becoming a certified high school teacher of ESL and Literature in Milan, which I've done for over 20 years. Now, my path has led me to Jeff Willis and Fireside Adventures, where I began training as an outdoor group expedition leader during the inaugural World Bound Yukon.



Out of World Bound Yukon, World Bound Italy was born. Now, after last year's successful expedition, we've decided to create a course for Educators who are as motivated, and love their job as much as Jeff and I. Being a mum and a passionate teacher, I believe our generation has the huge responsibility of helping young people become the future leaders of our planet. I also believe that outdoor experiential education is the right tool to transmit our knowledge of how to balance analog and digital living in tune with nature. To me, true education is life design, and life design is a journey that teaches us to let go of the end goal, focus on the process, and see what happens next. So, let's go!”

Trip Overview

Date: August 3 – 13, 2024 (10 days)

Trip type: Educator Climate Leadership Expedition

Meeting place: Our group will meet in [Venezia-Mestre](#). Participants should arrive in Venezia-Mestre at least the day before the course. If you would like additional time to visit Venice, we recommend arriving two days earlier.

Travel: Be aware that travel to and from the airport is done via [the Airport Shuttle Bus](#) (typically 10–15 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 Nazionale Dolomiti Bellunesi](#), [Venezia e la sua Laguna \(Venice's North Lagoon\)](#), [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, educators will participate in a ceremony where they will receive the World Bound Professional Development Certificate of Completion.

Itinerary

Day 1: Welcome to Italy and Farm Experience

→ **Cycling from Venezia-Mestre to local farm**

Accommodation: tents with half-board service in a campsite

In the morning, we'll meet and introduce ourselves, taking some time to go over the expedition and the [World Bound Curriculum](#). After that, we'll cycle through the Italian countryside from Mestre to a local farm where many different types of vegetables and fish are cultivated and are the ingredients of traditional dishes.

During this bike journey, we will go explore Italy's largest area of farmland that is in the biggest farmland in Italy where we work for biodiversity protection in one of the most important IWC areas of Mediterraneo, the Northern Lagoon of Venice UNESCO Heritage. We will arrive in the late evening and we will set up camp and have dinner before going to sleep.

Day 2: Venice Lagoon Paddle and Treviso

→ **Bike from Venice Lagoon to Treviso**

Accommodation: Treviso bed-and-breakfast

Today we'll canoe in the Northern Lagoon of Venice. 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. As we paddle, we will learn about the Lagoon as an ecological corridor in the grip of land consumption.

In the late afternoon we'll bike from the lagoon to the historic city of [Treviso](#), known as 'Little Venice' because of its numerous canals and waterways. We will spend the evening and night wandering the city centre's picturesque canals, take in its excellent art, and try its delicious food during a pizza tasting in a traditional pizzeria.

Days 3–5: Ascent into the Dolomites

→ **Train from Treviso to Santa Giustina (~1.5 hours)**

Accommodation: common rooms with half board service

We'll travel by train from Treviso to the town of Santa Giustina to spend three days in the [Dolomiti Bellunesi National Park](#) for a mix of outdoor activities. During these days we will have the following experiences:

- ❖ On our first day we'll go by van from Santa Giustina to [Fattoria dei Fiori](#) for a hands-on workshop about sustainable farming. After that, we will canoe on [Lago del Mis](#) where we will enjoy an aperitif at sunset.
- ❖ On our second day in the Dolomiti Park, we will go canyoning in [Val Maor](#) and see [Zumelle Castle](#).
- ❖ On our third day, we will hike in the Dolomites to see its unique landscape and learn about this unique ecosystem's flora and fauna and how they connect to a changing climate.

Day 6: Connecting with the World Bound Youth

→ Train from Santa Giustina to [Calalzo di Cadore](#) (~2 hours)

Accommodation: Tent camping in a campsite close to [Lago di Santa Croce](#)

After breakfast at our campsite, we will go to Calalzo di Cadore by train to meet our 2024 cohort of World Bound Italy youths. During our time together, we'll cycle through the countryside while discussing what we've learned so far, and our thoughts and hopes for climate education. In the evening, we will share in a traditional dinner in the village.

Days 7–8: Ancient Forests and Mountain Flora

Accommodation: [Valmenera rooms](#) with half-board service for two nights

Two days of hiking and nature learning in the ancient [Foresta del Cansiglio](#). On our first day we will hike on [Monte Pizzoc](#), On our second day we will hike to [Cima delle Vacche](#) to admire the diverse flora of the Alps. During this time, we'll practice some basic outdoor skills like plant and animal identification, Leave-No-Trace principles, and wilderness navigation.

Day 9: Search for the Secret Canyon

Accommodation: Tent camping in a campsite close to [Lago di Santa Croce](#)

Today will be our canyoning experience. Alongside an Alpine guide we will enter one of the wildest canyons of the region: the Secret Canyon. After exiting the canyons, we will arrive at Santa Croce Lake for sunset canoeing in the woods. For dinner, we will embark on a special culinary adventure as we enjoy a tasting menu at a Michelin restaurant.

Day 10: Mountain Artisans and a Spartan Bivouac

Accommodation: Bivacco dei Loff

Today we will hike to [Cison di Valmarino](#) village to see "Artigianato Vivo", one of Italy's largest open-air artisan festivals, full of workshops and vendors selling traditional, handmade arts and crafts. From there, we will hike into the mountains that surround the village. Our destination is the rustic mountain hut, the Bivacco dei Loff, where we will spend the night sharing a Spartan dinner and bivouac, waiting for the dawn. During this

evening, we will debrief from the trip and share memories of our adventures together, as well as our plans for the future.

Day 11: Farewell to Italy

In the morning, we will return to Venezia-Mestre by van. Then, 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

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, 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.

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 travel to and from the airport is done via [the Airport Shuttle Bus](#) (typically 10-15 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 youths photocopy their passports, bringing one copy with them and leaving one at home.



Contact

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

