



World Bound Educators: **YUKON**

2024 Itinerary and Trip Details

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Contents

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

WELCOME | BIENVENUE

Prepare to embark on an incredible 360 km canoe trip down the Yukon River. Soon, you'll be immersed in the sweeping landscapes of Canada's wilderness, learning about climate change education and outdoor leadership while making lifelong friends around many a riverside campfire. For millennia, Canada's natural beauty has allowed people to connect to each other, to nature, and to themselves. This adventure will be no different.

World Bound is about more than thrilling new experiences, it's about figuring out who you are and what you can do. This experience is driven by our [World Bound Climate Change Curriculum](#), which emphasizes helping educators prepare their students for the challenges of climate change through progressive, holistic, outdoor experiential education. World Bound Canada provides our adventurers with a transformational experience, combining self-expression, through a creative arts project; self-sufficiency, through river expeditions and wilderness skills; and self-confidence, through climate leadership training.

Trip Overview

Date: July 19 – 28, 2024

Trip type: Educator Climate Leadership Expedition

Meeting place:

Our instructors will meet you at [the Beez Kneez hostel](#) on the first day of the trip.

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

Day 1: Welcome to the Yukon

Meet at Beez Kneez at 5:30 pm on July 19 for BBQ and introductions. Here, you will meet your instructors, perform a gear check, review the paddle expedition, and receive an overview of course content. We will also introduce the expressive art project that each participant will create during their climate change education journey. To learn more, contact Jeff Willis, your lead instructor, at jeffw@creativetoolbox.ca.

Day 2: Practice Journey to Carmacks

→ Canoe Whitehorse to Carmacks

Today we will learn the basics of meal planning, food packing, working with knots and tarps, using safety equipment and maps, and basic canoe skills (parts of a canoe, paddle strokes, etc.). We will split into two groups (A, B) to rotate between teachables. We will depart for an easy practice paddle to Carmacks in mid afternoon. After arrival, we will set up camp and participate in an evening workshop and further paddle practice.

Day 3: Beginning the Paddle Expedition

Up early for a delicious breakfast, we will pack up and prepare for the true paddle journey. We will review our safety plan, maps and adjust the course program if necessary. Before we depart, we'll do a short reflection activity that connects outdoor experiential learning with expressive arts while focussing on the basics of climate education. Our first paddle will be 3 to 5 hours as we head toward the Five Finger Rapids. Before bed, our evening activity will involve learning the stories of the Yukon River followed by an expressive arts time.

Days 4–6: Making our Way to Fort Selkirk

Paddling the Yukon River is like stepping through a time machine back to 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 will stop several times a day for participants to work on the expressive art projects and/or explore the shorelines and foot hills. We plan to paddle 6 to 7 hours per day with ample time to explore and relax.

Days 7–8: The Final Stretch of the 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

Duke of Edinburgh's Award: Become and Assessor

Fireside Adventures is a certified Trained Activity Provider, helping youths between the ages of 14 and 24 participate in the [Duke of Edinburgh awards](#). However, many DofE youths are in need of Assessors. Visit our [DofE webpage](#) or [contact us](#) for information about how to become a DofE Assessor and collaborate with Fireside Adventures in helping youth get into nature and prepare for their futures.

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.

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 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 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 PFDs 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 (Fireside Adventures office)

World Bound Educator Canada Webpage:

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

