



World Bound Youth: **CANADA**

2024 Itinerary and Trip Details

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WELCOME | BIENVENUE

Prepare to explore the coastal rainforests of British Columbia before embarking 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 and outdoor leadership while making lifelong friends around many riverside campfires. For millennia, Canada's natural beauty and great wilderness escapes have allowed people to connect to each other, to nature, and to themselves. This adventure will be no different.

This experience is driven by our [World Bound Climate Change Curriculum](#), which emphasizes preparing youth for the challenges of climate change through progressive, holistic, leadership training and 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 1 – 21, 2024 or July 23 – Aug 12, 2024 (21 days)

Trip type: Youth Climate Leadership Expedition

Meeting place:

On the first day of the trip, our instructors will meet you at [Vancouver International Airport](#) or at the [Fireside Lodge at Whistler](#)

Air Travel:

You are responsible for booking your own flight. [Contact us](#) if you have any questions as we have our own travel agent and can help you out! Return flights to and from Whitehorse, Yukon are covered by course fees.

Locations:

- **British Columbia:** [Vancouver](#), [Whistler](#), [Sechelt](#)
- **Yukon:** [Whitehorse](#), [Carmacks](#), [Teslin River](#), and [Yukon River](#)

Accommodation:

- [Porpoise Bay Provincial Park](#) (campground by the sea)
- [Camp Alexandra](#) (private dorm-style lodge)
- Fireside's Yukon Homeplace (riverside tent camping)
- [Fireside Lodge, Whistler BC](#)

World Bound Modules and Awards

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, youths will participate in a ceremony where they will receive the World Bound Climate Leadership Certificate.

Expressive Arts Project

The unique focus of World Bound: Canada is an Expressive Arts Project. BC and the Yukon are cultural and artistic hotspots with vibrant Indigenous communities and a legendary natural beauty that has inspired countless masterpieces. Our staff will support participants in planning their project, helping overcome challenges, and guiding them through the challenging act of reflection and creation. Each project will connect the creator's unique identity to their community, the natural world, and climate change.

Get the Duke of Edinburgh's Award During this Trip (optional)

Fireside Adventures is a proud Trained Activity Provider for the Award, and all our expeditions are eligible for **Bronze, Silver, or Gold Adventurous Journeys**.

Questions? What is the Duke of Edinburgh's Award?

[Check out our webpage](#) for more information, or [contact us](#) with any questions you have.

Itinerary

Day 1: Welcome to Canada!

→ **Shuttle:** YVR to Whistler (~2.5 hours)

Our guides will greet the group at [Vancouver International Airport](#), who will bring snacks and drinks. We'll get into the Fireside Adventures private van and make our way to the famous [Whistler Village](#), home to some of Canada's best ski hills and mountain biking trails. Along the way, we'll enjoy the following road trip highlights:

- ❖ A stop at the scenic [Lighthouse Park](#) for a build-your-own-sandwich lunch and some ice-breaker activities.
- ❖ Visiting Squamish, considered Canada's adventure capital, boasting numerous amazing attractions like the majestic fjord of Howe Sound, Sea to Sky Gondola, Shannon Falls and some of the best ice cream to wolf down on a hot summer day
- ❖ Learning about the Indigenous history of the epic [Stawamus Chief](#), which overlooks the majestic fjord of Howe Sound.

From there, we'll head to our cozy home in Whistler: the Fireside Lodge. There, we'll go over our adventure together, create a community contract, and introduce the [World Bound Climate Change Curriculum](#). If there's time, we'll go for a short hike in the surrounding mountains. Otherwise, we'll have our first dinner together before lights out.

Days 2–3: Ascent into the Mountains for a Whistler Adventure

Accommodation: Fireside Lodge

We will explore the Whistler area, one of the most stunning parts of British Columbia's stunning Coastal Mountain range. Some of the activities will include:

- ❖ Hiking in the surrounding mountain forests and practicing nature-immersed self-reflection during daily sit-spots.
- ❖ Taking a tour of the [Lil'wat Cultural Centre](#) to learn about the history, culture, and language of the two Nations indigenous to this area: the Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh and the Lilwat7úl.
- ❖ Paddleboarding in beautiful glacial Alta Lake. Plus a swim test to assess each youth's endurance, skills, and level of comfort.
- ❖ Challenging our cooking skills and creativity in Fireside Adventure's iconic 'Iron Chef' competition: three teams compete to make three types of stir fry BUT each

will have a few unique mystery items they must incorporate into the meal. Staff will be the judges and the winning team will not have to do dishes.

Days 4–6: Sechelt Inlet Canoe Practice Adventure

→ **Shuttle:** Whistler to Horseshoe Bay Ferry Terminal (~1.5 hours)

Accommodation: [Porpoise Bay Provincial Park Campground](#)

After our time in Whistler, it's time to descend from the mountains to the forested shorelines of the [Sunshine Coast](#). Here, we'll begin to learn the basics of outdoor leadership, wilderness skills, canoe techniques that will serve us well when we enter the wilds of the Yukon. Experiences we'll have during this time:

- ❖ Learn and refine our canoe paddling technique, safety skills, water rescues, and naming parts of the canoe. While getting comfortable eating floating lunches and spending long hours together in the canoe.
- ❖ Practice outdoor skills including tent set-up and take-down, camp cooking and cleaning, gear checks, and more.
- ❖ Brainstorm and work on our World Bound Expressive Art Projects, which will link us to climate change and the natural world that we will be exploring. Adventurers can choose any medium, such as song, drawing, carving, and more. This project will be worked on each night and will require self-reflection, confronting challenging emotions, and becoming comfortable with creative self-expression.
- ❖ During this time we will also continue learning from the [World Bound Climate Change Curriculum](#) through mini floating workshops
- ❖ Meet the ocean wildlife of Canada's West Coast face-to-face, including bald eagles, seals, and, if we're lucky, orcas!
- ❖ Test our willpower with daily (optional) polar bear swims and find peace during 'sit spots' in the coastal rainforest next to salmon-bearing streams.

Days 7: Preparing for our Yukon Adventure

→ **Shuttle** from Porpoise Bay to [Camp Alexandra](#) (Vancouver) (~4-6 hours)

Accommodation: **Camp Alexandra Privately Booked Dorms**

The day before our flight to the Yukon, we'll take our private bus to Camp Alexandra, where we will spend a night in private dorms. Some highlights of Camp Alexandra are:

- ❖ Walking distance from [Crescent Beach's](#) beautiful sunset views;
- ❖ Comfy beds and hot showers;
- ❖ Outdoor fire pit in a secluded, private courtyard, perfect for s'mores and campfire songs (we will obey local fire regulations of course)!
- ❖ Safe and quiet community to explore and rest up in while preparing for the adventure ahead;
- ❖ Reviewing the Top 10 Things to Know About the Yukon (twice as many moose than people!).

Day 8: Welcome to the Yukon!

- **Shuttle:** [Camp Alexandra](#) to YVR (~1 hour)
- **Morning flight:** YVR to [Whitehorse International Airport](#) (2 hours)
- **Shuttle:** Whitehorse International Airport to Fireside Homeplace (~1 hour)

Accommodation: Fireside Homeplace (camping)

After arrival, the group will have time to explore Whitehorse, visit [McBride Museum](#) and explore some of the shops. Then, we will head to the Fireside Homeplace – 30 minutes outside of Whitehorse along the Yukon River – where we will stay for the night. There, we will perform a gear check, review camp rules, and prepare for the epic canoe voyage ahead!

Day 9: Adventure skill-testing at Fireside Homeplace

We're on the path to becoming experienced adventurers! During this full day, we will solidify the wilderness skills we've been training, proving our competence and comfort in the outdoors. We will test our abilities in:

- ❖ planning meals and packing food;
- ❖ working with knots and tarps;
- ❖ using safety equipment and maps;
- ❖ executing fundamental canoe skills.

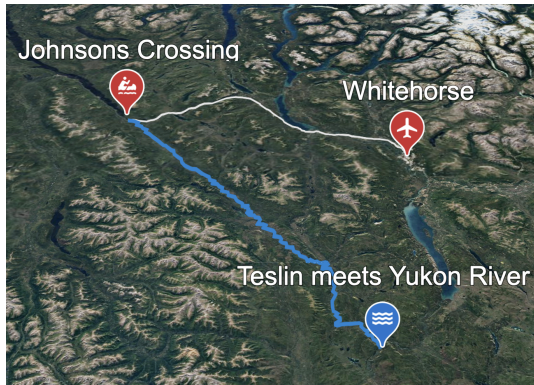
During this time we will also participate in one of our first Yukon-based climate change modules.

Day 10: Embarking on our Yukon and Teslin River Voyage

→ **Shuttle:** Fireside Homeplace to Yukon River Drop-off (~2 hours)

Accommodation: 2-3 hours down river from Johnson's Crossing

After our morning drive to our Yukon River drop-off (2 hour drive), we will get out on the water and begin our epic, 360km canoe journey. Once on the water our adventure begins, focussing on practicing the canoe skills we learned yesterday. In the evening, we will learn about the history of the Teslin and Yukon Rivers and the Leave-No-Trace principles of outdoor exploration.

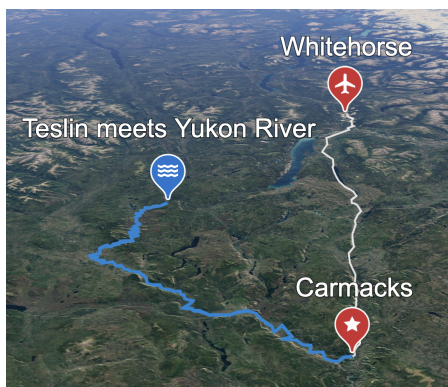


Day 11–14: Twists and Turns of the Teslin River (185km)

We will explore the incredible Teslin River, which starts off slow then begins to speed up as we get closer to the Yukon River.

Each day our group will become stronger, more competent adventurers as they practice their paddling and outdoor skills. We will continue to refine our expressive arts projects and participate in Yukon-based climate modules.

Day 15–19: Entering the Mighty Yukon River (175 km)



Here, we will meet the majestic Yukon River and say goodbye to the Teslin. The Yukon River is a time machine back to the Gold Rush days. It was the highway for adventurers who rode the river upstream in giant sternwheeler ships on their way to the Klondike. At Hootalinqua (the confluence of the Yukon and Teslin Rivers), we'll walk through the preserved ruins of old outposts, historic Little Salmon village, and even a shipwreck in the middle of an island. All the while, we will continue participating in climate modules and putting the finishing touches onto our expressive arts projects.

Solo experience while on the Yukon River leg of this journey, we will do our classic Fireside solo experience. This experience is safe (supervised by instructors) but will spend an extended period of time alone and reflect on both our lives and what we've learned from this experience.

Many of our past adventurers have found this to be the most challenging and transformational part of the journey.

On our final day, we will arrive in [Carmacks](#) in the late afternoon, pausing for a quick shower, and return to the Fireside Homeplace. There, we will present our expressive arts projects and prepare for our return to British Columbia. On our last evening in the Yukon, we will shower up, celebrate with a dinner in Whitehorse, and see some sites under the midnight sun. Next stop, Vancouver!

Day 20: Vancouver, City of Glass Towers

→ Morning flight from [Whitehorse International Airport](#) to YVR (~3.5 hours)

→ Shuttle from YVR to [Stanley Park](#) (~1 hour)

Today will be spent exploring Vancouver, the cultural hub of Western Canada. During our time here we will enjoy sight-seeing, shopping for souvenirs, and eating delicious food.

Highlights of our time in Vancouver include:

- ❖ Ride bikes around Stanley Park, the massive forest park on the waterfront of Vancouver's city centre
- ❖ Take an urban arts and culture tour, with emphasis on the thriving Indigenous art culture of Vancouver
- ❖ Try Vancouver's famous Japa-dogs, locals' favourite fusion food truck
- ❖ Share in the World Bound debrief, reflecting on the highs, lows, and learning of our adventure together.

Day 21: Farewell to Canada!

It's time to say goodbye to our 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

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

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:

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World Bound Canada Youth Webpage:

<https://www.firesideadventures.ca/world-bound-canada-summer-camp>

