

# GoMedia **Canada** 2020

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## **Yukon Territory**

### **Autumn Bites, Lights, and Golden Sights**

**September 13-18, 2020**

#### **Theme**

Appropriately named “The Wilderness City”, [Whitehorse](#), the Yukon’s Capital, is surrounded by mountains, forests, lakes and rivers. This pristine wilderness and access to nature is a source of inspiration for chefs, locals and visitors alike.

The Yukon’s emerging culinary scene offers something for everyone. From local chefs using ingredients harvested from the wild, to locally-roasted fair-trade coffee, to carefully curated cheese shops, tasty bakeries, inventive breweries, and interesting annual events... there’s much to celebrate and sample!

#### **Description**

This tour will give participants a taste of the north with experiences ranging from wild foraging to urban dining. Fly over glaciers and revel in the kaleidoscope of autumn colour before landing on a lake for lunch. Take a local cooking class and nibble on Klondike Gold Rush sourdough nuggets made with 122-year-old sourdough starter. Meet the local culinary stars and makers, and delight in a diverse range of northern flavour.

Yukon’s fall season is short but spectacular. In September the forest is bursting with colour, the mountains are often capped with a light dusting of new snow, and with luck, the night skies are alive with dancing northern lights.

#### **Considerations**

- Limited or no internet access on certain legs of the tour. WIFI in all accommodations. Free WIFI is limited around town, and internet speed may be significantly slower than what you’re accustomed to.
- Limited or no cell service outside of Whitehorse; some cell service providers don’t operate in the Yukon.
- Northern Lights viewing and flightseeing are weather dependent and not guaranteed.
- Participants must be in good physical condition and be able to be self-propelled. Our tour includes walking, low bush berry picking, travel by small plane, car/truck travel, navigating uneven surfaces and potentially unstable terrain, etc.
- During daytime activities, participants may only have access to rustic outdoor restroom facilities (i.e. outhouse).
- Please advise of any allergies and dietary restrictions.
- This tour is conducted in English; no alternate language interpretation is available.
- Participation on this tour requires focused attention at all times to the itinerary and spontaneous opportunities. It is expected that any writing, filing or communications deadlines during the dates of the tour will not affect participation in the full itinerary.

# Itinerary

## Day 1 – Sunday, September 13

- 12:05 pm Depart Victoria on Air Canada #8064, arrive in Vancouver at 12:35 pm.  
Depart Vancouver on Air Canada #8859, arrive in Whitehorse at 4:45 pm.  
Welcome to Whitehorse, “The Wilderness City” and the Traditional Territory of the Ta’an Kwäch’än and Kwanlin Dün First Nations.  
Check in to our one-of-a-kind [AirBnB Farm property](#) for your three night stay at Yukon River Farm with chickens, bees and gardens - and an incredible view of the Yukon River and Whitehorse city center. Enjoy a bonfire on the river bank, canoe to downtown (moderate skills required) or soak in the cast iron wood fired bathtub (a northern take on a hot tub!). If we’re lucky, the night skies will come alive with dancing northern lights! (\*note: shared bathrooms)
- 7:00 pm Welcome dinner at [Wayfarer Oyster House](#).  
Recently named one of the top 10 New Restaurants in Canada by Air Canada's enRoute magazine, this northern coastal dining room provides the Yukon with its fix of fresh oysters, Yukon, Alaskan, and BC seafood, locally sourced meats, in house-made pasta and smoked fish, along with a warm setting for libations.
- Overnight Whitehorse

## Day 2 – Monday, September 14

- Morning Breakfast  
What a day! We’ll depart for a full day culinary experience - Yukon style - with chef Miche Genest, author of the cookbook [The Boreal Feast, a Culinary Journey Through the North](#).  
A passionate local culinary expert, Miche loves to share her knowledge and innovative methods on how to cook with northern ingredients, whether they live and grow wild in the boreal forest, lakes and rivers, or are cultivated in northern gardens.  
We’ll spend the day in the pristine wilderness which surrounds Whitehorse and enjoy autumn colours and pure, crisp air. In the forest, we’ll learn from Miche to wild forage for plants and berries, and enjoy a lakeside picnic with stunning views.  
Yukoners guard their berry locations like a coveted family recipe but you’ll be privy to one of those secret spots to forage for Yukon wild low bush cranberries. (But no telling!) After berry-picking, we’ll picnic along the shores of a beautiful lake and enjoy lunch from [The Claim](#), a local favourite for 30 years.
- 2:00 pm Return to Whitehorse and enjoy free time.
- 4:30 pm Miche will welcome us into her home for an intimate evening filled with Yukon flavours. Learn how to make homemade cranberry chutney with our cranberries (a perfect memento to take home with you), and sample it on Miche’s homemade seedy crackers.  
Joining us will be Jenn Tyldesley of [Free Pour Jenny’s](#) who will shake up various Yukon-infused cocktails such as Boreal Kir Royale with homemade cassis and cranberry bitters, Empress gin and Free Pour Jenny’s tonic. Jenn went from cockpit (she’s a former pilot) to cocktails in 2016 and creates small-batch, handcrafted cocktail bitters and tonics that use homegrown and wild, foraged ingredients from the North.

- 6:30 pm For dinner, we'll enjoy a truly authentic Yukon meal artfully prepared by Miche. A sample of what awaits? Our delicious northern-infused menu could include moose steaks with berry reduction, wild mushroom risotto, honey-roasted carrots, beet, orange and chevre salad, and sticky toffee pudding with Yukon whisky sauce for dessert but we'll have to wait to see.
- 8:30 pm Return to Air BnB for overnight.
- Overnight Whitehorse

### Day 3 – Tuesday, September 15

- Morning Breakfast at [The Kind Café](#).  
Owner Meg Rodgers was born and raised in Whitehorse and made her dream a reality when she opened her café in 2019. She has made it her mission to make food that is kind in all aspects - for the body, planet, animals and soul.
- Day Today, we have the day to explore local culinary highlights and meet the makers. Culinary stops may include [Yukon Chocolate Company](#), [Firebean Pedal-Powered Coffee](#), [Bullet Hole bagels](#), [Cultured Fine Cheese](#), [Alpine Bakery](#), [Summit Kombucha](#), while shop stops may include [Vanessa Aegirsdottier and George Bahm](#), [Anto Yukon](#), [Aroma Borealis](#), and [UnNorthdox](#).
- 7:00 pm Dinner will be an extraordinary Yukon culinary dining experience with [Eat With](#) who offer a sharing table experience to travellers around the world.
- Overnight Whitehorse

### Day 4 – Wednesday, September 16

- Check out of AirBnB and we'll have breakfast in town.
- Morning: Visit [Takhini River Farm](#) to experience and understand their [full circle operation](#). On a homesteaded ranch 35 kilometres from Whitehorse, co-owners Scott Dickson and Jackie McBride-Dickson forge new ground by managing the full cycle of their farm. They raise animals, harvest them and as a newly licenced butcher, also produce products on-site. Scott and Jackie work closely with local chefs to provide specific, curated products.
- Afternoon: Return to town and stop at [Woodcutter's Blanket](#) for lunch and a handcrafted cocktail or brewed-on-site pint.
- Check in to the [Raven Inn](#) for two nights. A stylish new boutique hotel, and Whitehorse's first new hotel in decades, the Raven Inn was crafted to reflect the latest hospitality trends while respecting the rich historical and natural legacy of the Yukon. This 50 room property features a historic rail-themed Bar & Lounge and an outdoor hot pool overlooking the Yukon River.
- Free time or join us for a local breweries and distillery tour at [Winterlong Brewing Co.](#), [Deep Dark Wood](#) and, or [Yukon Brewing](#).
- 7:00 pm Dinner at the storied [Gold Panner Saloon](#). Executive Chef Robert Brouillette works closely with Takhini River Farm and other local producers for a Yukon-infused menu that is served in a family pub-style restaurant.
- Overnight Whitehorse

### Day 5 – Thursday, September 17

- Morning Breakfast at the hotel.
- 10:00 am [Southern Lakes Flightseeing Tour](#) (1 ½ hours) with Alpine Aviation.  
In Yukon's autumn, the mountains are ablaze with colour and the contrast of the golden poplar leaves against the turquoise waters of the Southern Lakes region is breathtaking. Board a float

plane and soar over the crystal clear waters of Lake Bennett, Windy Arm, Tutshi Lake, Tagish Lake and Atlin Lake. Along the way, we'll see the Old Engineer Mine, historic Ben-My-Chree and the frozen ice highways of Lewellyn Glacier.

On our return, we will land on Tagish Lake and dine on a scrumptious Swiss-style lunch at [Southern Lakes Resort](#) before completing our 'road trip from the sky'.

- 2:00 pm Arrive in Whitehorse. Enjoy some free time.
- 4:00 pm Hands-on cooking class at [Well Bread Culinary Centre](#)  
Owner Chef Cat McInroy grew up camping and fishing, farming, and hunting on her father's trap line in the Yukon's Ibex Valley. She began her culinary career while working full-time as a first responder with the RCMP, and in 2018, Cat's idea for a food adventure was turned it into a thriving business.
- Evening As a grand finale to our Yukon culinary adventure, we'll spend the evening at Well Bread Culinary Centre. First, Cat will guide us on an urban forage in the Well Bread gardens where we'll harvest a bush of potatoes, pick edible flowers and berries and other items to use in our dishes. We'll work as a team to collectively prepare some imaginative dishes, infused with our Yukon harvest, and dine together at the communal dining table.
- A highlight of the night will be the traditional fried sourdough made with an 1898 sourdough culture that travelled over the Chilkoot Trail. The 122-year-old sourdough starter is from Whitehorse resident and former Mayor and Senator, Lone Christensen. It was lone's great-grandfather who brought the starter with him to the Klondike Gold Rush. And, guess what? Everyone will go home with some of this famous sourdough culture (freeze dried so it's easy to travel with!).
- 8:00 pm Return to hotel for overnight.
- Overnight Whitehorse

## Day 6 – Friday, September 18

- Morning Breakfast at the hotel, or to-go.  
Complimentary transfers to airport.

## Recommended items to bring

- Clothing layers; September in the Yukon brings a variety of weather which can be unpredictable.
- Prepare for anything from +20 to freezing at night. Dressing in layers gives maximum flexibility to adapt to whatever weather we encounter during the tour.
- Good walking shoes or hiking boots (bring lighter footwear for evenings if you like; hiking boots will be 'acceptable fashion' at all restaurants and evening activities).
- Sunglasses, sunscreen and rain jacket.
- Gloves or mitts (a knit Yukon toque will be provided and is yours to keep).