

# Churchill Polar Bear Expedition

FROZEN TUNDRA, BOREAL FORESTS, AND TALES OF THE HUDSON BAY



Wilderness Travel



## TRIP DATES

### 2024

October 11-16, 2024  
 October 14-19, 2024  
 October 20-25, 2024  
 October 24-29, 2024  
 October 25-30, 2024  
 October 27-November 1, 2024  
 October 28-November 2, 2024  
 November 3-8, 2024  
 November 6-11, 2024  
 November 9-14, 2024  
 November 12-17, 2024

### 2025

October 8-13, 2025  
 October 13-18, 2025  
 October 16-21, 2025  
 October 19-24, 2025  
 October 22-27, 2025  
 October 25-30, 2025  
 October 28-November 2, 2025  
 October 31-November 5, 2025  
 November 3-8, 2025  
 November 6-11, 2025  
 November 12-17, 2025

Note: This adventure is not exclusive to, nor operated by, Wilderness Travel, who acts solely as agent in booking your reservation with the operator. The itinerary, lecturers, and all other arrangements are subject to change at the discretion of the operator.





## Churchill Polar Bear Expedition



Lying on the edge of Hudson Bay, Churchill, Manitoba, is one of the best places to see polar bears in the wild. Aboard a specially designed Tundra Buggy®, this hotel-based adventure allows you to experience the excitement of polar bear viewing in total safety and comfort. Expert guides and researchers from Polar Bears International (PBI)—the world’s leading polar bear conservation group—will join you on the buggies and at the lodge, and allow travelers to not just see polar bears but learn about them in a way that will leave a depth of knowledge about these majestic animals. You’ll also search for other subarctic wildlife, including arctic fox and ptarmigan, and have the opportunity to take in the eclectic charm of this remote northern town. A bonus—you’ll have a chance to race through the boreal forest with a local dog musher and a team of enthusiastic sled dogs by joining in the traditional northern sport of dog sledding. If you’re seeking an authentic Canadian adventure in the Far North, look no further!



# Itinerary

## TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

**Length:** 6 days  
**Arrive:** Winnipeg, Canada  
**Depart:** Winnipeg, Canada  
**Lodging:** 5 nights hotels  
**Meals:** All meals included except 1 dinner (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)  
**Activity:** Cultural Adventures, Wildlife and Natural History  
**Trip Level:** ② 3 4 5 6  
Polar bear viewing by Tundra Buggy, dog sledding, easy walks.  
Weather can be very cold, with icy conditions.

## DAY 1 WINNIPEG, CANADA

Arrive in Winnipeg and transfer on your own to the hotel, the Lakeview Signature by Wyndham. It's just a quick five-minute walk across the street from the airport and there's also a complimentary shuttle service. In the evening, meet with your guide for an orientation to the exciting days ahead. You'll have a chance to ask last-minute questions and learn more about what your adventure holds. Overnight at hotel...meals on your own  
Note: Many travelers like to arrive a day early to avoid any potential flight delays. Additional nights can be booked upon request.

## DAY 2 FLY TO CHURCHILL

After an early breakfast, transfer to a private hangar for the flight to Churchill (2.5 hours). Upon arrival, head right out for a driving tour of Churchill with a stop at the Manitoba Conservation's Polar Bear Holding Facility. (This is where polar bears who have been troublesome are isolated before they can be relocated.) After lunch at a family-run restaurant in town, we head to the Parks Canada Visitor Centre for a look at its in-depth displays revealing the remarkable history of Churchill, dating back to the fur trade era and beyond. Return to the hotel to freshen up before dinner. Overnight at hotel...BLD

## DAY 3 SEARCH FOR POLAR BEARS / CHURCHILL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

After breakfast, you are picked up from the hotel and taken to the Tundra Buggy





Dock, where after a safety speech from the driver, you'll board the buggy and travel into the Churchill Wildlife Management Area (CWMA). As the driver navigates bumpy trails in search of polar bears and other subarctic wildlife, you'll learn about the geology and history of the area from your knowledgeable interpretive guide, as well as how the bear's physique allows it to dominate the Arctic. If you're lucky, you might see some "head wagging," a sign that polar bears want to play! Enjoy a picnic lunch right aboard the Tundra Buggy as you watch and photograph wildlife. After an incredible first day on the tundra, return to the hotel for dinner followed by a cultural presentation by a local trapper who shares his way of life in the north through the four distinct and beautiful seasons of Churchill...BLD

#### DAY 4 DOGSLEDDING / ITSANITAQ MUSEUM

Your second day in Churchill is all about the northern culture. This morning, you'll go on a dog sledding excursion with local dog musher Dave Daley. You'll hear stories, meet the pack, and head out on a short dogsled ride through the boreal forest. Then it's back to town for lunch at a local restaurant. In the

afternoon, visit the Itsanitaq Museum, filled with an enormous collection of Inuit artifacts that honor Churchill's indigenous culture and history, including traditional carvings and kayaks. Overnight at hotel...BLD

#### DAY 5 SEARCH FOR WILDLIFE

It's another great day on the tundra and you'll once again search for polar bears and other wildlife in the Churchill Wildlife Management Area, with lunch aboard the buggy. Return to town for dinner, then transfer to the airport for an evening flight to Winnipeg. Overnight at the Lakeview Signature by Wyndham...BLD

#### DAY 6 DEPART WINNIPEG

Walk across the street (or take the complimentary shuttle) to the airport and depart on homeward-bound flights.



# Trip Details

## DATE AND PRICING INFORMATION

### TRIP COST

**Prices are per person, based on double occupancy**  
**2024**

\$6,280 (16-22 members)

Single Supplement: \$850

Provincial & GST taxes: \$535 per person

### 2025

\$6,515 (16-22 members)

Single Supplement: \$870

Provincial & GST taxes: \$555 per person

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

### CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE

Because the prices published for our program are set so far in advance of the trip dates, we are occasionally faced with exceptional cost increases and/or currency fluctuations that affect the actual cost of running the trip. In most years, no price changes are necessary. However, we do reserve the right to raise or lower the trip price if there is a significant change in costs or exchange rates. If this is the case, your final invoice will reflect the difference in trip cost.

### TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of an interpretive naturalist guide
- Accommodations in hotels
- All meals included except 1 dinner as indicated in the Detailed Itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Internal flights to and from Churchill
- Evening meet and greet on Day 1
- Land transportation Day 2 through Day 5
- Entrance fees to museums as stated in the itinerary

### TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

Canadian Provincial Sales Tax (PST) and Canadian Federal Goods and Services Tax (GST); International airfare, transportation to and from airport; excess baggage charges; any meals not specified after each itinerary day; optional tipping or gratuities to leaders or staff; comprehensive travel insurance coverage (required); additional hotel nights that may be necessitated by airline schedule changes or other factors; travel insurance, and other expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, laundry, telephone calls).

### PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation: \$600

130 days prior to departure: Balance

### CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Minimum fee: \$600 per person

61-120 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost

60 days or less: 100% of trip cost

\*Please note that this differs from our regular catalog departures.

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

Comprehensive travel insurance coverage is required for this trip. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details: [www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance)

# Accommodations



## LAKEVIEW SIGNATURE BY WYNDHAM

*Winnipeg, Canada*

*Day 1 (1 night), Day 5 (1 night)*

This hotel has an ideal location for an overnight stop on your way to Churchill—just a short walk from the airport! Guest rooms are clean and spacious, and amenities abound, with free Wi-Fi, mini-refrigerator, microwave, coffee maker, and a fitness center should you wish to work out after your plane ride.



## TUNDRA INN, POLAR INN, OR AURORA INN

*Churchill, Canada*

*Days 2 to 4 (3 nights)*

In Churchill, we stay at one of the following properties, based on availability—the Tundra Inn, Polar Inn, or Aurora Inn. These hotels are small and family owned. They are the best in the area that offer private facilities for each room. They are not “luxury” hotels, but all are well maintained, clean, and comfortable. Hotels will be assigned based on availability at the time of the trip and requests cannot be promised due to the size of each hotel and limited availability. If you have a mobility issue, please notify us ahead of time so appropriate rooming can be provided.

These are our signature accommodations for this trip. Although it is highly unlikely, we may make substitutions when necessary. To see more photos and descriptions, please visit our *Churchill Polar Bear Expedition* webpage and click on the “Lodging” tab.



# Arrival & Departure

Upon confirming your trip reservation, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a list of documents (passport, visas, etc.) required for your trip. Please feel free to call if you would like this information before making your air arrangements.

If you have booked extra services before or after the trip, an Extra Services Confirmation will be sent with your Final Documents.

## ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Winnipeg, Canada  
Day 1

**Suggested Airport:** Winnipeg James Armstrong Richardson International Airport (YWG)

**Suggested arrival time:** anytime before 7:30 pm. You will meet with the group at 9:00 pm at the hotel, which is just a short walk from the airport. A complimentary shuttle is also available.

## DEPARTURE

Winnipeg, Canada  
Day 6

**Suggested Airport:** Winnipeg James Armstrong Richardson International Airport (YWG)  
Suggested departure time: anytime

On Day 5, an evening flight brings you from Churchill back to the hotel in Winnipeg for overnight. On Day 6, walk across the street to the airport (or take the shuttle) and depart on homeward-bound flight.

## INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Winnipeg. There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 1-800-655-4053 in the US or 1-800-670-2605 in Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found at [www.exitotravel.com](http://www.exitotravel.com).

Depending on your routing, it may be necessary to depart from the US one day prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary. The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US.

**Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip.** Once tickets are purchased, please forward a copy of your email flight confirmation from the airline. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.



# What the Trip is Like

## WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is rated Level 1+, Easy, and is appropriate for anyone in good health who is physically active. Tundra Buggy vehicles are used to explore the Churchill Wildlife Management Area in search of polar bears and there is an optional dog sled ride. Some agility is required for getting in and out of vehicles and exploring towns where walkways may be icy or snowy, so you must feel confident and stable on your feet.

## WEATHER

The weather in Churchill varies greatly from season to season, and the wind coming off of Hudson Bay can often make temperatures feel even cooler than reported. Temperatures can vary from -20°C to 0°C (-4°F to 32°F), but strong winds can make the temperature colder (the “wind chill” factor). The Buggies are heated; however, when we see bears, windows go down and the interior quickly cools. Dressing in warm layers is the best way to stay comfortable. There is a service to rent arctic clothing ahead of time and pick it up upon arrival. Please ask our Area Specialist for details.

**Daylight in Churchill** During your adventure you can expect approximately 9 hours of daylight. The later in the season, the fewer hours of daylight there are.

Weather patterns over Hudson Bay in autumn can make the sky quite overcast. Please keep in mind that any Northern Lights are considered a bonus instead of a guarantee during these departures.

## TRANSPORTATION

The Tundra Buggy® is specially designed for the northern landscape, these all-terrain vehicles enable you to safely experience wildlife. Venturing on a network of established trails in the Churchill Wildlife Management Area, the Tundra Buggy takes you to the best locations in Churchill to view and photograph wildlife. You'll be out for most of the day—6 to 8

hours—so bring everything you need to be comfortable for the day. You'll enjoy lunch aboard the buggy—soup, sandwiches, cookies, and both hot and cold drinks. There is a single-use bathroom at the back of the buggy. The vehicles have a maximum of 40 passengers, but this trip is capped at 22 guests, allowing maximum spacing and window access for viewing and photography.

## CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 and ask for the North America Manager or email us at [northamerica@wildernesstravel.com](mailto:northamerica@wildernesstravel.com).

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At [www.wildernesstravel.com](http://www.wildernesstravel.com), you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.

Average Daily Max/Min °F												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Winnipeg	10/-6	16/-	29/13	50/29	66/42	72/52	78/57	75/54	66/44	51/32	30/16	14/-1
Churchill	-8/-22	-4/-20	7/-11	23/6	37/23	54/36	64/45	62/46	49/38	39/25	16/3	-/-15
Rainfall - Inches												
Winnipeg	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.3	2.2	3.2	2.0	2.6	2.1	1.4	1.0	0.9
Churchill	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.9	1.2	1.7	2.4	2.7	2.8	1.9	1.4	0.7

# Polar Bear Alert Program

Autumn is Churchill's polar bear season, meaning this time of year is when they are most active in the region. Always practice bear safety during your time in Churchill.

Polar bears spend much of their year roaming the ice of Hudson Bay hunting seals. When the ice begins to melt in July, the bears come ashore and remain on land until the bay freezes over in late November. While on land in the summer, the bears eat little and are quite inactive. But as autumn approaches, they begin to move northward along the coast and congregate where the first winter ice forms. This annual movement brings many bears into the town of Churchill each year.

Manitoba Conservation and the Town of Churchill have worked hard to educate the people of Churchill and visitors about polar bears and how to avoid potentially dangerous situations. Manitoba Conservation operates the Polar Bear Alert Program, which has the following objectives:

- To protect people and property from the dangers posed by the presence of polar bears
- To ensure the conservation of polar bears and avoid undue harassment and killing of bears
- To prevent polar bears in the Churchill area from becoming conditioned to scavenging for food or developing other problem behaviors
- To protect Manitoba Conservation staff who work in the Polar Bear Alert Program

If you encounter a polar bear:

- Stay calm
- Stay with your group
- Back away, facing the bear at all times
- Do not turn and run away
- Do not play dead
- Get into your vehicle or a building as fast as possible
- Call the Polar Bear Alert line at 204-675-2327 (204-675-BEAR)



# Toucan Club Rewards & Discounts

We are very proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business, and have established the Wilderness Travel Toucan Club to reward you for your loyalty. For more information, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at [www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan).

Here's how it works:

## YOUR FIRST TRIP

As a first-time traveler, you receive a lightweight Wilderness Travel T-shirt and set of durable WT Luggage Tags. On subsequent trips, we're happy to send you a new WT T-shirt and set of Luggage Tags by request.

## YOUR SECOND TRIP

A top quality Wilderness Travel insulated stainless steel water bottle by CamelBak and a cozy Wilderness Travel fleece vest by Patagonia (\$130 value).

## YOUR THIRD TRIP

A versatile Wilderness Travel R-1 pullover by Patagonia (\$140 value).

## YOUR FOURTH TRIP

Discounts on the cost of your trip begin! You receive a 4% discount on the tour cost.

## FIVE AND MORE TRIPS

You receive a 5% discount on the base trip cost. On your sixth trip, you receive a 6% discount, and so on up to your 10th trip. The maximum discount is 10%, with a ceiling of \$500.

*Note: Due to special pricing considerations, Toucan Club discounts do not apply to our Private Journeys or Special Events. However, your participation on these trips does count toward your Toucan discount on future departures of Wilderness Travel's regular adventures.*

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

Toucan Club travel discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount, unless otherwise specified. Discounts are deducted from the base trip cost and shown on the final invoice. The base trip cost is the main land/tier cost and does not include single supplement fees, extensions, internal airfare, or other additional charges. Bonus gifts (T-shirts, luggage tags, vests, water bottles, and pullovers) will be mailed approximately three weeks prior to trip departure. Terms and conditions of Toucan Club bonuses are subject to change or cancellation at the discretion of Wilderness Travel, Inc.



MEN'S T-SHIRT



WOMEN'S T-SHIRT



PATAGONIA SYNCHILLA FLEECE VEST  
PLUS INSULATED CAMELBAK WATER BOTTLE



PATAGONIA R1 PULLOVER



## WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

**World's Best Tour Operators:** *Travel + Leisure*, 2022, 11-time winner  
**Best Travel Specialists in the World:** *Conde Nast Traveller*, 2022, 3 years in a row  
**Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips:** *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row  
**Best Adventure Travel Companies:** *USA Today*  
**Trip of the Year:** *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner  
**50 Tours of a Lifetime:** *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row  
**Best Adventure Travel Companies:** *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

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