Discovering Our Planet Together



Churchill Polar Bear Photo Expedition

An Expert Photographer-Naturalist Leads This Immersive Journey into the Realm of the Polar Bear

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Trip Details:

Days
7 Days / Oct–Nov

Price
From $10995 (+Air)

Churchill Polar Bear Photo Expedition

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You won't find another Churchill polar bear photography tour with this much proximity to the King of the Arctic, coupled with our intensive focus on helping you get outstanding photos. Your photo adventure spends three full days on the tundra where polar bears congregate on the shores of Hudson Bay each fall, awaiting freeze-up and the start of their winter hunting season. Custom-designed Polar Rovers take us into the heart of their wild habitat, with plenty of space for equipment and room to maneuver for stunning shots. On-site guidance from our Expedition Leader, who is both an expert naturalist and professional photographer, is complemented by evening lectures on how best to capture Arctic wildlife through the camera's lens—most notably polar bears, but also Arctic fox, Arctic hare and more!

Trip Highlights

The Finest Vehicles Custom-Designed for Photography

Our Polar Rovers have large plate glass windows (and a window seat for every photographer) plus an outdoor observation deck, for the best possible shots!

The Most Qualified Photographer Expedition Leaders

With decades of collective experience, our professional guides are second to none in expertise as photographers, instructors and naturalists

Maximize Your Time on the Tundra

Spend three full days photographing polar bears on the tundra, increasing opportunities to capture various behaviors and interactions, including mothers with cubs and lone males.



Churchill Polar Bear Photo Expedition Itinerary

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Itinerary at a Glance

Day 1	Winnipeg
Day 2	Winnipeg / Churchill
Days 3–5	Churchill Tundra
Day 6	Churchill / Winnipeg
Day 7	Winnipeg



Day 1

Winnipeg

Arrive in Manitoba's capital and gear up for the tundra

- Settle into the Fort Garry Hotel, a 1913 railway-era landmark in downtown Winnipeg
- Join your Photo Expedition Leader and fellow travelers for a welcome dinner

Arrive in Winnipeg, a former fur-trading post and boomtown for the Canadian Pacific Railway, which today is Manitoba's provincial capital on the eastern edge of the prairie. A transfer is included to the historic Fort Garry Hotel, a prestigious Winnipeg landmark that dates to the opening of the Canadian West. Meet your Expedition Leader and fellow travelers at an orientation dinner this evening.

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917

Day 2

Winnipeg / Churchill

Fly north to Churchill and prepare for tundra photography

- Reach Churchill by private charter, crossing into a remote region accessible only by air or rail
- Base in the historic Hudson Bay outpost known as the Polar Bear Capital of the World
- Join your Photo Expedition Leader for an evening presentation on Arctic photography and northern ecology

Fly to the small town of Churchill this morning. This hospitable frontier outpost, originally a Hudson's Bay Company fur-trading post, is our base for adventure. Kick it off this evening with a presentation on Arctic photography and our northern environs by our Expedition Leader, who is both an accomplished photographer and seasoned naturalist guide.

Days 3–5

Churchill Tundra

Photograph polar bears at close range on the open tundra

- Search the Hudson Bay coast by custom Polar Rover, capped at 16 photographers with a window seat for everyone
- Photograph polar bears awaiting the autumn freeze, including mothers with cubs and young males play-fighting
- Look for Arctic foxes, Arctic hares, snowy owls, ptarmigans and gyrfalcons across the tundra

Rise early to board our custom Polar Rovers, specialty vehicles that allow us to get within prime photography range of polar bears on the open tundra. Although each vehicle can accommodate up to 30 passengers, we take a maximum of 16, ensuring that everyone has a window seat, plenty of space for camera gear, and room to shoot comfortably without interference. For three full days, we spend our daylight hours on the tundra, photographing polar bears roaming the edge of Hudson Bay waiting for the ice to freeze and their winter seal-hunting season to begin. From the warm interior of our Rover, we may see mothers with cubs and young adult males play-fighting. A large adult male may turn his attention toward us, sometimes approaching within feet or even lifting his massive paws onto the side of our vehicle to peer inside. The outdoor observation platform offers an open vantage point for exceptional photos.

On the wide-open expanse of the tundra, we may spy other northern wildlife, too, including Arctic fox, Arctic hare, snowy owl, ptarmigan and gyrfalcon. In addition to sharing photography advice, our Expedition Leader provides a captivating interpretation of the animal behavior and natural phenomena we observe. By late afternoon, if the weather is relatively clear, we often enjoy vivid sunsets that linger a long time at this latitude, offering stunning photo opportunities. As dusk descends over the austere northern landscape, we return to town for dinner and presentations on photography, wildlife and local cultures. Occasionally, we're graced with the good fortune to see the aurora borealis on a cloudless night, and if this is the case, we'll head away from the lights of town to capture photos of this wondrous event in total darkness.

Day 6

Churchill / Winnipeg

An exhilarating dog sled run through the boreal forest

- Ride behind a local musher's dog team through the boreal forest outside Churchill
- Opt for a helicopter flight over the tundra, scanning for polar bears from above
- Fly from Churchill to Winnipeg by private charter before a farewell dinner

Our return flight is scheduled to depart in the mid- to late afternoon, in order to provide as much time as possible to explore more of Churchill today. A highlight this morning is an authentic dog sled excursion. Just outside town, we meet a local musher and his team, spending time with the frisky dogs before being pulled behind them on an exhilarating ride through the boreal forest. And, if time permits, those who wish may opt to visit nearby Cape Merry, a promising spot for photographing Arctic fox, hare and birdlife. Or, stay in town for some last-minute shopping to pick up local handicrafts and souvenirs. Another option is a helicopter flight over the tundra, for dramatic aerial views of our environs and the possibility of spotting polar bears from the air. Enjoy a final lunch in Churchill before we depart, followed by a farewell dinner in Winnipeg.

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Day 7

Winnipeg

Depart Winnipeg after your polar bear Photo Expedition

- Enjoy a final breakfast before your airport transfer
- Connect with homeward flights from Winnipeg

Enjoy breakfast at the Fort Garry Hotel in Winnipeg. Then, transfer to the airport for flights home.

An important note on polar bear viewing: *Since 1989, we have run approximately 1,500 departures to Churchill to view polar bears, and we've missed seeing them on just a handful of occasions. Some of our sightings are up close, and others are from afar, or even from a helicopter. It's important to remember that while there is no better opportunity to see polar bears in the wild than our Churchill trips offer, the experience is weather-dependent. That means viewing polar bears—and the distance at which we may see them—is unpredictable and not guaranteed.*

Check out details on ***the ebbs and flows of the Churchill polar bear viewing season*** .

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Churchill Polar Bear Photo Expedition Accommodations

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Fort Garry Hotel

The grande dame of Winnipeg hospitality and one of the city's most prestigious landmarks, this historic downtown hotel provides a genteel welcome before and after our northern adventures in Churchill.



Churchill Hotels

In remote Churchill, our simple hotels are clean, comfortable and centrally located, offering a convenient base for exploring this subarctic frontier town.

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/polar-bear-tours/polar-bear-photo-expedition/accommodations.

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There is a Difference in Polar Bear Photo Tours: Choose Wisely!

Churchill Polar Bear Photo Expedition

Choosing the right polar bear photo tour is crucial if you're set on getting once-in-a-lifetime images. And getting the image comes down to commitment. When you're investing in a nature photography trip as significant as this one, our promise of a superior experience makes all the difference. That's why we want you to be aware of some important facts before you make that key decision:

1. **Exclusive Permits Allow Us to Go Where Others Cannot**
   The ability to access the permit-only Churchill Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is a vital part of a rewarding polar bear adventure, particularly one focused on photography. While polar bears can appear anywhere in the Churchill region, the **best polar bear viewing** occurs in the WMA. With our partner Great White Bear Tours, we hold a coveted permit to enter this carefully controlled area. If you want the best possible polar bear photos, you must choose a company that can get you closest to the greatest number of bears.

2. **Our Polar Rovers are the Best Tundra Exploration Vehicles, Hands Down**
   Unusually rugged with an uncommon ability to travel where other vehicles cannot (thanks to our innovative drive train), our exclusive Polar Rover is a truly impressive means of facilitating your polar bear photo opportunities. With large plate glass windows and a window seat for every photographer, an angled front windshield that affords you a clear view of polar bears in front of us, plus a rear outdoor platform, you won't find another vehicle that's comparable! Add interior heating and a flush toilet, and your comfort is ensured.

3. **Our Steel Mesh Deck Lets You Photograph Polar Bears at Your Feet!**
   Since polar bears sometimes like to walk directly beneath the rear viewing platform on our elevated vehicles, each Polar Rover is outfitted with steel-mesh flooring built into the observation deck—offering the chance to watch polar bears sometimes just inches away! Many travelers tell us that this feature, exclusive to our vehicles, provided them with a highlight of their trip.

4. **The Smallest Groups for the Finest Nature Photography Experience**
   With nature travel, especially when photography is the focus, small groups are essential. That’s why we limit our group size to approximately 16 guests aboard one Polar Rover—less than half the capacity they are designed to carry. This ensures you have plenty of room for your gear, and to angle for the shots you want without intrusion by other travelers.

5. **Spend Three Full Days on the Tundra**
   Our Photo Expeditions maximize the time you spend in the polar bear's wild domain. You'll spend three full days exploring the tundra as you look for polar bears, Arctic fox, ptarmigan and, on rare occasions, snowy owl. More unhurried time on your Arctic safari provides a more chances to get the shots you covet.

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6 **Our Private Chartered Plane Maximizes Your Time for Photography**

We charter our own private plane to fly you directly from Winnipeg to Churchill at a time that suits our convenience. We'd know you'd rather spend time exploring the tundra and photographing wildlife instead of dealing with less-than-optimal flight schedules and waiting in line for airport security screenings.

7 **The Finest Photographer-Naturalist Guides**

Whether you're a beginner looking for full instruction, an intermediate looking for a few tips, or an expert looking for an accomplished comrade to shoot alongside, our Photo Expedition guides are second to none. With decades of collective experience, annual in-depth training and access to special resources from WWF scientists, they are constantly by your side to share their knowledge. Our philosophy on guiding is simple: Any nature adventure is only as good as the guide, so we simply must provide the best! **See Photo Expedition Leader bios** and traveler comments regarding the quality of our leaders.

8 **Dog Sledding Included on Every Trip**

Polar bears may be our focus, but sled dogs provide an engaging photography subject, too. We include a personal visit with a local dog musher and his huskies, plus a thrilling chance to race through the boreal forest behind the team! Early in the season, if snow cover is insufficient, we'll be pulled behind the dogs in a wheeled cart.

9 **Cultural Interactions Enhance Our Adventures**

After years of building relationships with the people of Churchill, we are able to offer our guests a chance to enjoy exclusive presentations by respected elders of local Indigenous cultures. These storytellers are some of the last in their communities, and our small groups enjoy a personal perspective on northern lifestyles most visitors aren't privy to.

10 **Our Quality-Value Guarantee Ensures Your Superior Experience**

With Natural Habitat Adventures, you receive our exclusive guarantee that clearly states that we will meet the high expectations set forth in our promotional materials. To our knowledge, this is the most ambitious guarantee made by any adventure travel company. **Read our important promise.**

11 **Feel Good About Your Carbon-Neutral Journey**

We care deeply about our planet, as we know you do. When you travel with us, the carbon emissions from your trip are 100% offset—including your round-trip flights from home. Natural Habitat Adventures is the world's first carbon-neutral travel company.

12 **Natural Habitat Adventures is World Wildlife Fund's Travel Partner**

Because of our commitment to environmentally friendly travel, as well as the exceptional quality of our adventures, World Wildlife Fund, the world's leading environmental conservation organization, has named Natural Habitat Adventures as its worldwide travel partner, a designation that makes us exceedingly proud!



Dates & Pricing Summary:

Price
From $10995 (+Air)

Group Size
Limited to 16 Travelers

Churchill Polar Bear Photo Expedition Dates, Pricing & Info

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2027 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Oct 24 - Oct 30, 2027	**$10995** +internal air	
Oct 27 - Nov 2, 2027	**$10995** +internal air	
Oct 28 - Nov 3, 2027	**$10995** +internal air	
Oct 31 - Nov 6, 2027	**$10995** +internal air	
Nov 1 - Nov 7, 2027	**$10995** +internal air	
Nov 5 - Nov 11, 2027	**$10995** +internal air	
Nov 7 - Nov 13, 2027	**$10995** +internal air	
Nov 10 - Nov 16, 2027	**$10995** +internal air	

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Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Nov 11 - Nov 17, 2027	**$10995** +internal air	

2028 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Prices and dates not confirmed for 2028		
Oct 24 - Oct 30, 2028	**From $10995** +internal air	
Oct 27 - Nov 2, 2028	**From $10995** +internal air	
Oct 28 - Nov 3, 2028	**From $10995** +internal air	
Oct 31 - Nov 6, 2028	**From $10995** +internal air	
Nov 1 - Nov 7, 2028	**From $10995** +internal air	
Nov 5 - Nov 11, 2028	**From $10995** +internal air	
Nov 7 - Nov 13, 2028	**From $10995** +internal air	
Nov 10 - Nov 16, 2028	**From $10995** +internal air	
Nov 11 - Nov 17, 2028	**From $10995** +internal air	

See https://www.nathab.com/polar-bear-tours/polar-bear-photo-expedition/dates-fees for the latest pricing details.

Included

Trip price includes: Accommodations, services of Nat Hab's professional Expedition Leader(s) and assistants, Polar Rover excursions, dog sledding excursion, evening wildlife and cultural presentations, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on final day, **cold-weather gear** including the use of a parka and boots during your trip, some gratuities, airport transfers on Day 1 and final day, all activities and entrance fees, all taxes, permits and service fees.

Not Included

Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, passport and visa fees (if any), optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry, etc.), airline baggage fees, airport and departure taxes (if any), optional travel protection and medical evacuation insurance.

Internal air: Round-trip private charter flights from Winnipeg to Churchill (this will be listed separately on our invoicing).

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Important Information About This Trip

Our Photo Expeditions include three full days photographing bears and exploring the tundra by Polar Rover. In the evenings, our guides share their knowledge of the tundra ecosystem, polar bears and other local wildlife while coaching guests in how to best capture varied subjects in their photos

Regarding polar bears: They are typically in the Churchill area year-round. The highest concentration occurs in October and November as the bears gather to await freeze-up on Hudson Bay and the beginning of their winter hunting season. But bear viewing is never predictable. Sometimes the best viewing happens at the beginning of the season, sometimes it occurs in the middle, and sometimes it's at the end—we never know for sure. Once the bay freezes, many of the bears depart. Historically, this has happened in early December, but an unusually early cold spell can sometimes occur, hastening their departure to the ice. Please be aware that conditions vary, and polar bears here live wild and free: we can never guarantee that you will see them or promise exactly what your experience will be.

Meals

Please understand that the meals in Churchill are specially planned and prepared for well in advance. With ample notice, dietary requirements due to serious medical conditions or strict personal restrictions can be met but must be adhered to during the trip. If you have a very restricted diet, we recommend bringing your own preferred snacks along with the understanding that certain foods are limited in this remote part of the world.

Mandatory Insurance

Since the areas we travel to are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we require that all guests have, at minimum, medical evacuation insurance for this program. This is for the safety of all guests. We require that your chosen independent insurance plan includes at least $250,000 in medical evacuation coverage.

To protect your investment and to provide peace of mind while you travel, we also strongly recommend purchasing comprehensive travel insurance. Plans may cover everything from medical treatment to trip cancellations and delays and lost luggage. Please contact our office if you would like more information about the medical evacuation and comprehensive travel insurance policies we offer by calling 800-543-8917.

Getting There & Getting Home

This trip begins and ends in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Because weather delays are possible, **we recommend that you arrive at least one night prior to Day 1** to rest from your travels and begin the trip refreshed. For guests who come in early, our recommended hotel will be included in your pre-departure materials. If you plan to arrive on Day 1, you must arrive in Winnipeg by 5 pm in order to attend the 7 pm orientation dinner.

You are free to depart Winnipeg at any time on the final day.



Churchill Polar Bear Photo Expedition Extensions

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Northern Tundra Helicopter Adventure

Our exclusive helicopter flight over the tundra is an exhilarating way to view northern wildlife. Track migrating caribou, Arctic fox and the mighty polar bear from an exciting aerial perspective.

$690

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Natural Habitat & WWF: Discovering Our Planet Together

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WWF's membership travel program is operated by Natural Habitat Adventures (Nat Hab). To date, Nat Hab has provided more than $6 million in support of WWF's mission and will continue to give 1% of gross sales plus $175,000 annually through 2028. WWF® and ©1986 Panda Symbol are owned by WWF. All rights reserved.