Discovering Our Planet Together



Polar Bear Quest & Helicopter Safari

A Total Northern Immersion! Scout for Bears, Go Dog Sledding & Helicopter to a Polar Bear Den

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Trip Details:

Days
7 Days / Oct–Nov

Price
From $11995 (+Air)

Polar Bear Quest & Helicopter Safari

A Total Northern Immersion! Scout for Bears, Go Dog Sledding & Helicopter to a Polar Bear Den

This expedition offers our most comprehensive encounter with the world of the polar bear and the Canadian North. Heated Polar Rovers take us onto the tundra in search of bears, and we watch them roam, play and interact, sometimes entertaining us at close range through large picture windows or from our thrilling perch on the outdoor viewing platform. But this epic adventure doesn't end there: We also helicopter in to a vacant polar bear den, take an authentic dog sled ride through the boreal forest, and explore the historic town of Churchill, enjoying cultural activities with local residents as we learn about life on the Arctic frontier. When night falls, watch for the northern lights—though never guaranteed, the mystical aurora is as frequent and vivid in Churchill as any place on Earth.

Trip Highlights

Explore by Polar Rover, Helicopter & Dog Sled

Encounter the northern wilds by Polar Rover tundra vehicle, aerial flightseeing, and classic dog team on Churchill's most comprehensive polar bear adventure!

The Best Bear-Viewing Vehicles

Our custom-built Polar Rovers are the most advanced tundra expedition vehicles, safely providing the closest and most exhilarating polar bear encounters

Search for the Northern Lights in Comfort

Head outside town into total darkness to look for the aurora borealis from heated Aurora Domes offering a 360° view on the night sky

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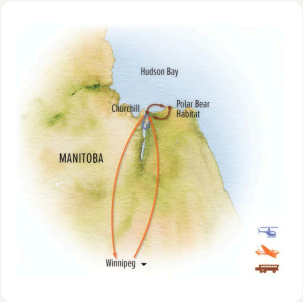


Polar Bear Quest & Helicopter Safari Itinerary

A Total Northern Immersion! Scout for Bears, Go Dog Sledding & Helicopter to a Polar Bear Den

Itinerary at a Glance

Day 1	Winnipeg
Day 2	Winnipeg / Churchill
Day 3	Churchill
Day 4	Churchill
Day 5	Churchill
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 Expedition Leader and fellow travelers for a welcome dinner

Our polar bear adventure begins in the vibrant city of Winnipeg. Once an important Hudson's Bay Company fur-trading post and later a boomtown for the Canadian Pacific Railway on the eastern edge of the vast Canadian prairie, today Winnipeg is Manitoba's cultural, commercial and provincial capital. Transfer on arrival to the historic Fort Garry Hotel, grande dame of Winnipeg hospitality and one of the city's most prestigious landmarks. The hotel was built in 1913 by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway to provide luxury accommodations for upper-class train travelers as part of an effort to lure them to Canada's West. Meet your Expedition Leader at a welcome dinner at our hotel this evening. You'll also have a chance to visit our gear room to borrow a heavy parka and winter boots to use during your time on the tundra in Churchill.

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Day 2

Winnipeg / Churchill

Fly north to Churchill for an evening polar bear search

- Reach Churchill by private charter, crossing into a remote town accessible only by air or rail
- Explore the historic Hudson Bay outpost with your Expedition Leader
- Head onto the tundra by heated Polar Rover for an evening search for polar bears

Fly to Churchill—which is inaccessible by road—via our private chartered plane. On arrival, explore this remote frontier town on a guided tour with our Expedition Leader. Originally a Hudson's Bay Company fur-trading post, Churchill is home to about 900 people, and, in late fall, a few hundred polar bears that congregate along the shores of Hudson Bay. We head out onto the tundra this evening in search of our first glimpse of bears. Dinner is served aboard our heated Polar Rover as we experience the wonder of an Arctic night.

Day 3

Churchill

Survey polar bear country by helicopter, dog sled and on foot

- Fly over Hudson Bay, tundra and boreal forest, watching for polar bears and caribou
- Land on the tundra to look for Arctic foxes, Arctic hares and an unoccupied polar bear den
- Ride behind a local musher's dog team and learn about northern life from Indigenous hosts

An exciting adventure is in store as we survey Hudson Bay, the surrounding tundra and boreal forest from a helicopter. Looking down on the vast expanse of subarctic wilderness below, we may see roaming polar bears and caribou. The helicopter descends for a landing, and we disembark to explore the tundra on foot, looking for Arctic fox and Arctic hare, and perhaps even crawling inside an unoccupied polar bear den. Later, we try a more traditional means of Arctic transportation on an authentic dog-sledding excursion. Meet a local musher, visit with the dogs, observe the team as they prepare for the run, then head out for a thrilling ride behind an eager team of huskies!

Our immersion in northern life continues as hosts from Churchill's Indigenous communities tell us about their traditions and daily lives. These captivating storytellers share tales from their personal and collective histories, offering insight into the cultures that have flourished for thousands of years in this harsh environment. We also visit Churchill's Itsanitaq Museum, with artifacts collected from centuries of local habitation.

Day 4

Churchill

Polar bears by day and a chance for the northern lights after dark

- Search the tundra by Polar Rover, capped at 15 travelers with a window seat for everyone
- Watch polar bears gather along Hudson Bay as they await the autumn freeze
- Look for the northern lights through the Aurora Dome's 360° Plexiglass roof

Our exclusive Polar Rovers are our mobile means for a full day on the tundra among the polar bears. Although these custom-designed vehicles accommodate more than 30 passengers, we take a maximum of 15, ensuring everyone has a window seat and unimpeded access to watch and photograph polar bears through the big plate-glass windows. Our Expedition Leaders know the best places to look for bears, which are waiting for Hudson Bay to freeze so they can begin their winter seal-hunting season on the ice. As we watch the bears interact, we are delighted by their antics and rugged beauty.

Tonight, we'll visit heated Aurora Domes outside town in hopes of witnessing the northern lights. The domed structure is topped with a round Plexiglass roof offering a 360° view in the round on the night sky. On the lower level, relax on comfortable furniture in the lounge space while enjoying snacks and hot beverages. The phenomenon of the aurora often begins slowly as a faint white or pale green glow, then intensifies in scope and color as the lights undulate across the sky. Most frequently the aurora appears as a shimmering green curtain, though occasionally it is red or even purple. The Hudson Bay Inuit believed the lights were the mystical display of their ancestors' souls dancing in the sky. Though we now know the aurora borealis is caused by the interaction of the solar wind with Earth's magnetic field, they are no less entrancing.

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Day 5

Churchill

Follow polar bears across the open tundra

- Travel deep into the subarctic aboard a heated Polar Rover
- Linger when polar bears come into view, watching and photographing their behavior
- Gather for an evening presentation on Arctic wildlife or northern cultures

Once again we board our Polar Rover for a full day of wildlife watching and exploring the subarctic landscape. Our pace is leisurely as we move over the tundra, pausing whenever we see polar bears to observe their behavior and capture photos. At the end of an exhilarating day, we return to town for dinner, followed by a presentation on wildlife or cultural aspects of life in the Canadian North.

Day 6

Churchill / Winnipeg

A final morning in Churchill before returning to Winnipeg

- Browse Churchill's locally owned shops for handmade mukluks, caribou-hair sculptures and other Indigenous crafts
- Fly from Churchill to Winnipeg by private charter
- Join your Expedition Leader and fellow travelers for a farewell dinner at the Fort Garry Hotel

With free time in town this morning, you may wish to pick up some last-minute handicrafts or souvenirs. After a final lunch in Churchill, we fly back to Winnipeg aboard our chartered plane, with a farewell dinner at our hotel before our adventure concludes.

Day 7

Winnipeg

Depart Winnipeg after your Arctic adventure

- 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.

Please note: *Itineraries may vary slightly and activities may happen at times different from what is listed, but inclusions are the same.*

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 only 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 more details on the ***ebbs and flows of the Churchill polar bear viewing season*** *.*

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Polar Bear Quest & Helicopter Safari Accommodations

A Total Northern Immersion! Scout for Bears, Go Dog Sledding & Helicopter to a Polar Bear Den



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/ultimate-churchill/accommodations.

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The Unmatched Experience of Our Polar Bear Quest & Helicopter Safari

Polar Bear Quest & Helicopter Safari

If you're coming all the way to the Polar Bear Capital of the World, why not take in the entire Northland experience? You'll find no more comprehensive Churchill adventure. Find out why our *Polar Bear Quest & Helicopter Safari* offers a supreme polar bear experience:

1 **The Full Arctic Experience**

In addition to multiple bear-viewing opportunities, this trip includes an array of activities for in-depth exploration of the nature, culture and history of Churchill. In addition to dog sledding and opportunities to meet local Churchill residents and enjoy presentations on indigenous cultures, we add a helicopter flight over the tundra, a landing to view (and crawl inside!) a vacant polar bear den, and an evening inside heated Aurora Domes to watch for the northern lights, if skies are clear.

2 **Exclusive Permits to Access the Best Polar Bear Viewing Area**

Not every polar bear tour operator in Churchill holds permits to access the full range of the Churchill Wildlife Management Area where the best—and often only—polar bear viewing happens. Naturally, in our commitment to running the world's greatest nature journeys, the Natural Habitat/Great White Bear team possesses this critical permit. Operators without it must turn back along the road at Halfway Point, which, as you might guess, is just halfway to the **best polar bear viewing** area.

3 **Polar Rovers: No Better Bear-Viewing Vehicles**

The original "tundra buggy" designed for polar bear viewing was invented in the 1980s. Since then, our partner in Manitoba, a world-renowned specialty vehicle designer, has substantially improved upon the concept by creating the world's most comfortable tundra vehicle—the Polar Rover—which we operate exclusively in Churchill. Its innovative drive train allows us to traverse the tundra with virtually no chance of a breakdown. With an advanced suspension system that smooths the ride, and onboard flush toilets (rather than smelly drop buckets), our guests enjoy the highest level of comfort and safety.

4 **Steel-Mesh Observation Platform for Close-Up Viewing**

Every Polar Rover has an elevated outdoor rear observation platform, with a feature we pioneered for optimal bear viewing—a grated steel-mesh floor that allow us to witness—sometimes mere inches away—curious bears that occasionally wander beneath our vehicles!

5 **The Smallest Groups for the Best Nature Experience**

An essential element of our nature expeditions is a small group. While it costs us more to operate trips with fewer travelers, the experience is far superior, and that's why we insist on it. By limiting our group to a maximum 15 guests (even though our Polar Rovers can hold well over 30), we ensure that everyone gets a window seat and plenty of room to spread out, angle for photos and enjoy a personal experience with the polar bears without too much intrusion from other guests.

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6 **Private Chartered Flights Give Us More Time with the Bears**

So we don't waste precious time coordinating with airline schedules or navigating long lines through airport security, we charter our own private aircraft, flying directly from Winnipeg to Churchill at a time most convenient for us. We'd rather maximize your time on the tundra, instead of sitting around airports.

7 **We Provide Heavy Parkas & Winter Boots for Your Use**

No need to go spend a lot of money buying heavy outdoor gear you may use just once—we provide Arctic-style parkas and heavy-duty winter boots for your use in Churchill, at no cost.

8 **The Finest Naturalist Guides on the Planet**

Natural Habitat Adventures is known worldwide for the highest-quality guides in the industry. Our Expedition Leaders have been guiding tours in Churchill for an average of 10-plus years, and they receive additional training resources from WWF's top scientists. This means that our guests enjoy the best interpretive experience available! Expedition Leaders meet each guest in Winnipeg and travel with the group the entire way, sharing their wealth of knowledge at every turn. Our philosophy is simple: a nature adventure is only as good as the guide, so we simply must provide the best! **See Expedition Leader bios** with traveler comments regarding the quality of our leaders.

9 **Our Quality-Value Guarantee Ensures Your Polar Bear Experience**

Natural Habitat Adventures offers an exclusive guarantee, clearly stating that we will meet the lofty expectations we set in our promotional materials. To our knowledge, this is the most ambitious guarantee made by any adventure travel company. **Read our important promise.**

10 **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 has been the world's first carbon-neutral travel company since 2007.

11 **Natural Habitat Adventures is WWF'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 $11995 (+Air)

Group Size
Limited to 15 Travelers

Polar Bear Quest & Helicopter Safari Dates, Pricing & Info

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2027 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Oct 12 - Oct 18, 2027	**$11995** +internal air	
Oct 17 - Oct 23, 2027	**$11995** +internal air	
Oct 23 - Oct 29, 2027	**$11995** +internal air	
Oct 30 - Nov 5, 2027	**$11995** +internal air	
Nov 9 - Nov 15, 2027	**$11995** +internal air	
Nov 19 - Nov 25, 2027	**$11995** +internal air	

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2028 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Prices and dates not confirmed for 2028		
Oct 12 - Oct 18, 2028	**From $11995** +internal air	
Oct 17 - Oct 23, 2028	**From $11995** +internal air	
Oct 23 - Oct 29, 2028	**From $11995** +internal air	
Oct 30 - Nov 5, 2028	**From $11995** +internal air	
Nov 9 - Nov 15, 2028	**From $11995** +internal air	
Nov 19 - Nov 25, 2028	**From $11995** +internal air	

See https://www.nathab.com/polar-bear-tours/ultimate-churchill/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, helicopter excursion to female bears' denning area, dog sledding excursion, evening wildlife and cultural presentations, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on final day, **cold-weather gear** including 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).

Important Information About This Trip

This trip is designed for guests who want the fullest experience of the Canadian North. Included are daytime Polar Rover trips to see polar bears, a nighttime excursion (with the possibility to view the northern lights if they are visible), dog sledding and a helicopter flight over the tundra. During our years of experience in Churchill, we have forged intimate relationships with the local people, including indigenous Inuit, Metis and First Nations hosts who teach our guests about the cultures, lifestyles and history of people who have long been at home in the Canadian Arctic.

Polar bears are typically in the Churchill area all year-round. The highest concentration occurs in October and November. Sometimes the best bear viewing happens at the beginning of the season, sometimes the middle and sometimes at the end—we

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never know for sure. Each fall, the bears congregate as they wait for Hudson Bay to freeze, and when it does, many of them depart. Historically, this happens in early December, but an unusually early cold spell may occur, hastening their departure.

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 while on the adventure. If you have a very restricted diet, we recommend bringing some of your preferred snacks along with the appreciation that certain foods are limited in this 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.

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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.