Discovering Our Planet Together



Ultimate Churchill: Tundra Lodge & Town

Stay Among the Bears on the Tundra & in the Northern Frontier Town of Churchill

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Trip Details:

Days
7 Days / Sep–Nov

Price
From $12995 (+Air)

Ultimate Churchill: Tundra Lodge & Town

Stay Among the Bears on the Tundra & in the Northern Frontier Town of Churchill

Looking for a polar bear adventure that combines the best of both worlds? This is it! Spend two nights at our exclusive Tundra Lodge, a custom-designed hotel positioned in a remote spot near the edge of Hudson Bay in an area of high bear activity. Relish unparalleled proximity to polar bears, in total seclusion—then add two nights in historic Churchill to enjoy cultural activities and a chance to meet the hardy locals who call this subarctic outpost home. Search for polar bears, Arctic fox, Arctic hare and ptarmigan during Polar Rover excursions on the tundra, enjoy close-up bear viewing from the Tundra Lodge, learn about Churchill's colorful past on a tour of the town, and fly through the forest on an exhilarating dog sled ride behind a team of working huskies. This multifaceted northern adventure truly does it all!

Trip Highlights

Stay Among Polar Bears at the Tundra Lodge

Spend two nights at the famous Tundra Lodge, set near the shore of Hudson Bay where polar bear density is highest—then return to the hub of activity in Churchill

Experience Authentic Northern Culture

Explore the frontier town and environs of Churchill, once a Hudson's Bay Company fur trading post, and go dog sledding with a renowned local musher

Take an Arctic Safari in Search of Northern Wildlife

From the Tundra Lodge, head out to look for polar bears and other wildlife from our custom Polar Rovers, designed to facilitate the closest possible encounters



Ultimate Churchill: Tundra Lodge & Town Itinerary

Stay Among the Bears on the Tundra & in the Northern Frontier Town of Churchill

Itinerary at a Glance

Day 1	Winnipeg
Day 2	Winnipeg / Churchill / Tundra Lodge
Day 3	Tundra Lodge
Day 4	Churchill
Day 5	Churchill
Day 6	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

Your adventure begins at the historic Fort Garry Hotel in Winnipeg. Built in 1913 by the Canadian Pacific Railway, this prestigious landmark has long been a symbol of genteel elegance in the heart of Manitoba's capital, which was once a fur-trading post and railway boomtown and today is the cultural and commercial center of Canada's eastern prairie region. Once you arrive, visit our gear room in the hotel to pick up your heavy Arctic parka and winter boots to use while you are in Churchill. This evening, gather for a welcome dinner with our Expedition Leader.

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

Day 2

Winnipeg / Churchill / Tundra Lodge

Stay among polar bears at Nat Hab's remote Tundra Lodge

- Fly by private charter to Churchill, then travel by Polar Rover across the tundra to the lodge
- Gain insight into polar bear behavior and their seasonal return to Hudson Bay from your Expedition Leader
- Watch for polar bears passing the lodge windows and elevated observation decks during dinner

Fly on our private chartered aircraft to Churchill this morning, where we board a custom-designed Polar Rover vehicle for our transfer to the Tundra Lodge. As we drive out of town, watch for Arctic wildlife against the vast, wide-open landscape—we may even get our first polar bear photos en route. Once we reach our hospitable outpost on the tundra, get settled in to spend the next two nights surrounded by the vast expanse of treeless plain on the edge of Hudson Bay. Then it's time to gather for a presentation on polar bears by one of our naturalist Expedition Leaders. Our guides are experts on the natural history of the Canadian Arctic, and you're sure to learn a lot during this enlightening introduction to our northern adventure. Later, as dinner is served in the Tundra Lodge dining room, keep your camera at the ready—we often see polar bears wandering right outside the windows!

Day 3

Tundra Lodge

Encounter polar bears from your lodge on the open tundra

- Watch for mothers with cubs and young males play-fighting near the lodge decks
- Search by Polar Rover for polar bears, Arctic foxes, Arctic hares, snowy owls and ptarmigans
- Look for the northern lights above the tundra when skies are clear

Accommodating just 29 guests, the Tundra Lodge is strategically positioned near the edge of Hudson Bay in the best area for polar bear viewing. Inquisitive bears often approach the lodge, which features rows of windows and safely elevated outdoor observation decks to accommodate our own curiosity. As we watch the bears interact, we're delighted by their antics and rugged beauty. We may see protective mothers with cubs, young males play-fighting, and solitary individuals patrolling the tundra as they wait for the ice to form on Hudson Bay, signaling the start of their winter seal-hunting season.

The unique location of the Tundra Lodge, combined with excursions in our all-terrain Polar Rover vehicles, offers lodge guests the best possible wildlife encounters in the region. The small spit of land where the lodge is situated near the bay often attracts the greatest number of bears in the area. We typically divide up for activities so each traveler enjoys a half-day excursion on the tundra, complemented by a half-day of viewing bears from the lodge. In addition to polar bears, we may also spot caribou, Arctic fox, Arctic hare, snowy owl and ptarmigan. At the end of an exhilarating day, gather inside our cozy accommodation for dinner and a naturalist presentation. And if we are fortunate to have a rare clear autumn night, we might even see the northern lights after dark.

Day 4

Churchill

Aboard a Rover in the Polar Bear Capital of the World

- Watch for polar bears wandering below the Polar Rover's steel-grate observation deck
- Spread out with only 16 travelers aboard, with a window seat for everyone
- Return to Churchill for dinner and an evening cultural presentation

Depart the Tundra Lodge after breakfast and head back out to the tundra for a final full day immersed in nature and wildlife observation. Traveling aboard our Polar Rover, scout for polar bears and other Arctic species. Our vehicles are the newest and best in Churchill, with huge windows, a slanted front windshield that allows us to look down on bears that may wander in front of the vehicle, and a steel-grate outdoor observation deck on the back—bears sometimes wander directly below, and through the mesh we can safely view them just inches away! Our heated vehicles are spacious and comfortable, and while they can accommodate 30-plus passengers, we hold our numbers to 16 or fewer, so everyone has a window seat and plenty of room to spread out for photography. Later this afternoon, we drive back to Churchill and check in to our hotel, where we spend the next two nights. We'll have dinner at a restaurant in town, followed by an evening cultural presentation.

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Day 5

Churchill

Explore Churchill's Indigenous heritage and frontier history

- Join Churchill elders and local hosts to learn about Indigenous traditions and northern life
- See SeaWalls murals painted across buildings along Hudson Bay, created to inspire protection of the oceans
- Drive the tundra roads looking for polar bears along the rocky coast and tide flats

This remote subarctic hamlet of Churchill, with a population of fewer than 900, is accessible only by air or rail. We have a full day to explore its Indigenous heritage, frontier history and contemporary life on a comprehensive tour of this northern outpost and surroundings. Located on the southwest coast of Hudson Bay, Churchill is the hub of a region that has been frequented by humans for at least 4,000 years. Archaeological evidence supports the presence of semi-nomadic Pre-Dorset and Dorset cultures using the area as a seasonal hunting ground, sustained by caribou in summer and ringed seals in winter. The Thule culture, which arrived around 1000 AD, are the ancestors of today's Inuit. Long before Europeans arrived, the Cree, Dene and Inuit had well-established trading networks in the area. Their descendants live on in modern-day Churchill, and we have special opportunities to meet and hear from elders who sustain vital traditions. Henry Hudson was the first European to explore the bay that bears his name, arriving by ship in 1610 in search of the Northwest Passage. Later, in 1670, the Hudson's Bay Company was established, the oldest commercial corporation in the world. It established a fur trading post at the mouth of the Churchill River, which grew in importance when Fort Churchill was built on the site in 1717, with Fort Prince of Wales following in 1731.

On our tour, we'll also learn about contemporary life in Churchill, checking out the Town Center complex that houses the health center, Pre-K to Grade 12 school, library, swimming pool, curling rink, hockey arena, indoor playground, gym and fitness center. A special highlight around town are the SeaWalls murals, a huge public art initiative created in 2017 to educate and inspire protection of the oceans. The murals span a 19-mile stretch along Hudson Bay, adorning walls of buildings, industrial sites and even an abandoned aircraft.

Our adventure continues outside town as we drive over rugged roads on the tundra, scanning the windswept plain and boreal forest edge for Arctic wildlife. With luck, we may spot polar bears ambling along the rocky coastline or resting on the tide flats, patiently waiting for the sea ice to form and hunting season to begin. We also have good chances to see Arctic fox, Arctic hare, and a variety of birds, including snowy white ptarmigan. Back in town, take time to wander the few blocks that make up Churchill's compact core. Browse local shops selling handmade northern crafts, Indigenous artwork and distinctive souvenirs that embody the spirit and resilience of life on the edge of the Arctic. We then gather for dinner and a last overnight in the town of Churchill.

Day 6

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

This morning we learn about and experience a distinctly northern pastime: dog sledding. On a visit with a local Metis musher who has been a significant force in furthering the Indigenous heritage of using sled dogs in the Arctic, hear all about this traditional means of northern transportation, interacting with the lively dog team as we learn about their care and training. Then we take turns enjoying an exhilarating ride as the dogs whisk us down a trail through the boreal forest.

Depending on flight schedules, there may be time for an optional helicopter tour over the tundra—a great chance to spy polar bears from the air. We enjoy a final lunch together in Churchill before our return chartered flight to Winnipeg, followed by a farewell dinner and final night at the Fort Garry Hotel.

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

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Ultimate Churchill: Tundra Lodge & Town Accommodations

Stay Among the Bears on the Tundra & in the Northern Frontier Town of Churchill



Tundra Lodge

Optimally stationed in prime polar bear habitat, this unique custom hotel accommodates 29 guests for unparalleled bear viewing and a remarkably comfortable Arctic immersion.



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/tundra-lodge-town-adventure/accommodations.

The Unmatched Experience of Our Tundra Lodge

Ultimate Churchill: Tundra Lodge & Town

Our exclusive **Tundra Lodge**, which offers access to polar bear terrain around the clock, is the most exciting way to immerse yourself in the King of the Arctic's realm. Many travelers to Churchill also find this frontier town a highlight in itself. And this novel itinerary brings both experiences together: Stay in wild polar bear habitat at the Tundra Lodge, positioned each season for secluded proximity to bears—then add two nights in Churchill to experience the culture of the Canadian North. Here's what you can expect from this unique itinerary:

1. **The Best Polar Bear Viewing Spot on the Planet!**
   Our Tundra Lodge, private for Nat Hab guests alone, is strategically placed on a small spit of land that juts into Hudson Bay. This is where the sea ice first begins to form, attracting polar bears at the start of the bear-viewing season. The Tundra Lodge is set amid the highest polar bear density in the world.

2. **Private Cabins & Spacious Viewing Areas for Bear Observation**
   You won't find a more comfortable way to spend leisurely time watching polar bears than from the Tundra Lodge. Aboard this unique hotel with accommodations fashioned after train sleeper cars, each guest has an individual cabin with sleeping berth and a window for private bear observation. The lounge also features large windows so you'll never miss any action.

3. **Outdoor Viewing Platforms Facilitate Safe Close Encounters**
   Watch bears in the open air from outdoor viewing platforms with see-through steel-mesh decking—bears sometimes wander directly beneath! These platforms provide a safe alternative for outdoor viewing since we can't walk on the ground among the bears.

4. **Exclusive Permits for the Best Bear-Viewing Area**
   Not every polar tour operator holds permits to access the entire Churchill Wildlife Management Area (WMA) where the best—and sometimes only—**polar bear viewing** occurs. Of course, the Nat Hab/Great White Bear team possesses such a permit. Other operators are confined to the paved and gravel road to Halfway Point—which, as the name suggests, is only halfway to the prime polar bear area. If you're coming to Churchill to see polar bears, be sure you get the full experience.

5. **Travel with Two Naturalist Expedition Leaders**
   Ensuring the richest interpretive experience and exceptional personal attention, two Nat Hab Expedition Leaders guide this trip. Their in-depth knowledge and experience mean better, closer and more inspiring encounters with the northern landscape and its Arctic wildlife. You won't find a better guide-to-guest ratio!

6. **Our Polar Rovers are the Most Impressive Vehicles in the North**
   Our custom-built Polar Rovers have an advanced drive train that allows us to safely traverse the tundra with virtually no chance of breakdown, plus a custom-designed heavy-duty suspension system that evens out the ride over rugged terrain. And, with onboard flush toilets, our guests enjoy a superior level of comfort.

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7 **Steel Mesh Decking Facilitates Close-Up Polar Bear Viewing**

Built into the rear viewing platform of every Polar Rover—and into the platforms that separate the individual "cars" of the Tundra Lodge—is a pioneering feature that greatly enhances our opportunities to watch polar bears up close: corrugated steel-mesh floors, allowing close proximity to curious bears that sometimes walk underneath the platforms!

8 **The Smallest Groups for a Superior Nature Adventure**

While it may cost us more to offer, the benefits of a small group are well worth it. Inside the Tundra Lodge, which accommodates 29 guests, there's plenty of room to view bears through sliding windows and from the spacious deck. And while our Polar Rovers can hold 30-plus passengers, we generally travel with just 15 per vehicle on excursions from the Tundra Lodge. Every guest has plenty of space to spread out, angle for photos, and enjoy watching polar bears without being bumped by other travelers.

9 **Private Chartered Flights Maximize Our Time with the Bears**

To achieve the most time with polar bears, rather than making you wait around airports and endure the hassle of security screenings, we charter our own aircraft to take us directly from Winnipeg to Churchill at a time that works best for our itinerary.

10 **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.

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

Natural Habitat Adventures is known for employing the top guides in the industry. Our Expedition Leaders average more than 10 seasons guiding polar bear tours. They also receive additional training from WWF scientists—you won't find more knowledgeable guides in Churchill! These congenial professionals meet each guest in Winnipeg and travel with the group throughout the trip, sharing a multitude of insights. Our philosophy is simple: a nature adventure is only as good as the guide who leads it, so we must provide the best! **See Expedition Leader bios** with traveler comments regarding the quality of our leaders.

12 **Local Cultural Experiences Enhance Your Adventure**

We've been taking travelers to Churchill for decades, and we've built close relationships with the local people. As a result, our guests get exclusive opportunities to meet revered elders of First Nations, Inuit and Metis communities. Many of these Indigenous storytellers are among the last of their generation, and they have graciously agreed to share their history and traditions with our guests.

13 **Our Quality-Value Guarantee Ensures Your Outstanding Polar Bear Experience**

You receive Natural Habitat Adventures' exclusive guarantee that clearly states 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.**

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14 **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.

15 **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 small-group nature adventures, World Wildlife Fund, the world's leading environmental conservation organization, has named Natural Habitat Adventures its worldwide travel partner—a designation that makes us exceedingly proud!



Dates & Pricing Summary:

Price
From $12995 (+Air)

Group Size
Limited to 29 Travelers

Ultimate Churchill: Tundra Lodge & Town Dates, Pricing & Info

Stay Among the Bears on the Tundra & in the Northern Frontier Town of Churchill

2027 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Sep 29 - Oct 5, 2027	**$12995** +internal air	
Oct 1 - Oct 7, 2027	**$12995** +internal air	
Oct 3 - Oct 9, 2027	**$12995** +internal air	
Oct 5 - Oct 11, 2027	**$12995** +internal air	
Oct 7 - Oct 13, 2027	**$12995** +internal air	
Oct 9 - Oct 15, 2027	**$12995** +internal air	
Oct 11 - Oct 17, 2027	**$12995** +internal air	
Nov 14 - Nov 20, 2027	**$12995** +internal air	
Nov 16 - Nov 22, 2027	**$12995** +internal air	

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Nov 18 - Nov 24, 2027	**$12995** +internal air	
Nov 20 - Nov 26, 2027	**$12995** +internal air	

2028 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Prices and dates not confirmed for 2028		
Sep 27 - Oct 3, 2028	**From $12995** +internal air	
Sep 29 - Oct 5, 2028	**From $12995** +internal air	
Oct 1 - Oct 7, 2028	**From $12995** +internal air	
Oct 3 - Oct 9, 2028	**From $12995** +internal air	
Oct 5 - Oct 11, 2028	**From $12995** +internal air	
Oct 7 - Oct 13, 2028	**From $12995** +internal air	
Oct 9 - Oct 15, 2028	**From $12995** +internal air	
Oct 11 - Oct 17, 2028	**From $12995** +internal air	
Nov 14 - Nov 20, 2028	**From $12995** +internal air	
Nov 16 - Nov 22, 2028	**From $12995** +internal air	
Nov 18 - Nov 24, 2028	**From $12995** +internal air	
Nov 20 - Nov 26, 2028	**From $12995** +internal air	

See https://www.nathab.com/polar-bear-tours/tundra-lodge-town-adventure/dates-fees for the latest pricing details.

Included

Trip price includes: Accommodations in hotels and on our private Tundra Lodge, services of Nat Hab's professional Expedition Leaders 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, some alcoholic beverages, **cold-weather gear** including a parka and boots during

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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, some 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

A stay at our exclusive Tundra Lodge offers guests the true feel of the Far North, with polar bears ambling across the tundra right outside the windows. Despite its isolation, the facility is remarkably comfortable, with private bedrooms and a common lounge. The onboard kitchen staff prepares delectable meals served in the spacious dining room. The specialized Polar Rover vehicle located on site provides transportation for half-day excursions over the tundra. Each Tundra Lodge guest will travel on the Polar Rover for one half-day excursion each day; the second half of each day is spent viewing the bears from the comfort of the Tundra Lodge. As the bears approach us, we are able to observe their interactions in the natural environment surrounding the lodge. An important feature of our polar bear trips is the limited group size. Nature is always best experienced in smaller groups, a particularly important element of this trip.

On this unique combination itinerary, we will depart the Tundra Lodge on Day 4 and travel into the town of Churchill to spend two nights, for a chance to experience the culture of this rugged and remote frontier town (sometimes this itinerary will run in reverse). Our polar bear viewing opportunities continue even after we depart the Tundra Lodge, when we return to the tundra from town for an additional full-day Polar Rover excursion on Day 5. Please note that at times, this itinerary may run in reverse with two nights in town, followed by two nights on the Tundra Lodge.

Regarding polar bears in general: Polar bears are typically in the Churchill area year-round, though the highest concentration occurs in October and November, as the bears congregate along Hudson Bay waiting for the ice to freeze. Sometimes the best bear viewing happens in the beginning of the season, sometimes it's in the middle, and sometimes at the end—we never know for sure. Once the bay freezes, many of the bears depart. Historically, this typically happens in early December, but an unusually early cold spell can occur to hasten their departure.

Click here to learn more about the "ebbs and flows" of our fall polar bear season.

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.

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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, recommended hotels 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.



Ultimate Churchill: Tundra Lodge & Town Extensions

Stay Among the Bears on the Tundra & in the Northern Frontier Town of Churchill



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

Natural Habitat & WWF: Discovering Our Planet Together

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