earthwatch expeditions
by Nat Hab

Explore with Purpose



Behind the Scenes with Polar Bears

Join Researchers to Observe, Monitor & Help Conserve the Arctic's Top Predator

Table of Contents

Trip Overview 3

Itinerary 4

Accommodations 7

Discovery in the Field 8

Dates, Pricing & Info 9



Trip Details:

Days
7 Days / Oct–Nov

Price
From $8463 (+Air)

Behind the Scenes with Polar Bears

Join Researchers to Observe, Monitor & Help Conserve the Arctic's Top Predator

Each autumn, polar bears gather along western Hudson Bay, waiting for the sea to freeze so they can return to hunting seals. Travel to Churchill during this seasonal gathering for close bear encounters and participation in the vital science contributing to their conservation. Explore the tundra by Polar Rover, learning about polar bear behavior from researchers who connect field observations to the bigger picture of the species health—and the dangers imperiling survival.

Field experiences, scientist presentations and a visit to the Churchill Northern Studies Centre showcase the important link between science and conservation in a region undergoing profound change. Your small group allows time for questions, conversation and sustained observation out in the field. Our home base of Churchill offers a unique immersion in this remote community, where you'll meet residents, head out with a dog musher and discover Inuit art, with the possibility of northern lights illuminating the dark night sky.

Expedition Highlights

Encounter Polar Bears at the Edge of Freeze-Up

Search the coastal tundra by Polar Rover as bears await the return of sea ice. Watch, photograph and explore their behavior with researchers who know the significance of this season.

Go Inside the Science of Polar Bear Conservation

Spend time in the field with scientists investigating bears and their environment. Discover how observations become evidence, and how that evidence helps guide efforts to protect wildlife in a changing North.

Experience Churchill Through Its People

Hear local perspectives on living alongside polar bears, head out with a dog musher and explore Inuit art. A hotel in town keeps you connected to this distinctive Hudson Bay community.

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-548-7555

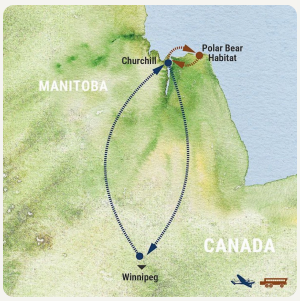


Behind the Scenes with Polar Bears Itinerary

Join Researchers to Observe, Monitor & Help Conserve the Arctic's Top Predator

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

Meet Your Fellow Explorers at the Fort Garry Hotel

- Arrive in Winnipeg and transfer to the historic Fort Garry Hotel
- Meet your Expedition Leader and fellow travelers over a welcome dinner
- Borrow a heavy parka and winter boots for your time in Churchill

Arrive in Winnipeg, Manitoba's capital, and transfer to the historic Fort Garry Hotel downtown.

Built in 1913 for the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, the Fort Garry recalls the era when grand railway hotels welcomed travelers across Canada. Its downtown setting provides a comfortable starting point before tomorrow's flight north.

Meet your Expedition Leader and fellow travelers over a welcome dinner this evening. Discuss the week ahead, from polar bear encounters on the tundra to time with scientists investigating life along Hudson Bay.

You'll also visit the gear room to borrow a heavy parka and winter boots for use during your stay in Churchill.

Day 2

WINNIPEG / CHURCHILL

Fly North to Churchill's Polar Bear Coast

- Fly by private charter from Winnipeg to Churchill
- Transfer to your hotel and explore the town
- Meet the research team for an introduction to the field program

Fly north to Churchill, a remote community on the Hudson Bay coast reached by air or rail. Known as the "Polar Bear Capital of the World," Churchill sits beside a seasonal gathering place for bears that come ashore when the bay's ice melts. Each autumn, they congregate along the coast, waiting for freeze-up to restore access to their seal-hunting grounds. This concentration of wild bears near a community offers unusual opportunities to observe and study them.

Transfer to your hotel in town, your base for the next four nights. Meet the research team to discuss their work, the questions guiding it and the safety practices that govern field activities.

Time exploring Churchill introduces the human side of this shared coastline. Over the coming days, residents will offer their perspectives on living and working alongside one of the world's largest predators.

Days 3–5

CHURCHILL TUNDRA

Encounter Wild Polar Bears & Investigate Their World

- Search for bears and other wildlife aboard a custom, heated Polar Rover
- Explore northern field research with scientists
- Visit the Churchill Northern Studies Centre and attend evening presentations

The next three days combine time on the tundra with access to scientists and the research taking place around western Hudson Bay. Aboard a specialized Polar Rover, cross rugged terrain in search of bears and other wildlife. The heated vehicle provides a window seat for every guest, with room to watch and photograph. When bears are present, spend time observing their activity while researchers interpret what you see.

A bear resting on land or moving toward the coast is living through a season governed by ice. Researchers connect these encounters with their investigations into behavior, habitat use and the conditions that influence the bears' access to food. Their perspectives give each sighting a scientific context, with time to ask questions and discuss what remains unknown.

Field activities are being developed with lead scientists to introduce their ongoing work. These experiences will reflect the research program and conditions during your visit.

At the Churchill Northern Studies Centre, explore the wider environment that sustains the bears. The facility supports research into wildlife, vegetation, marine ecosystems, climate and changing tundra and ice conditions. Its location where boreal forest, tundra and coastal waters meet makes it a valuable base for investigating connections among them.

Return to your hotel each evening. Presentations by scientists or community members offer a chance to pursue questions raised during the day and hear from people whose knowledge comes from years in the region. If skies, auroral activity and scheduling align, an optional outing to a local viewing area offers a chance to watch for the northern lights. Weather, seasonal conditions and bear movements guide the order of activities throughout your stay.

Day 6

CHURCHILL / WINNIPEG

Head Out with a Musher & Discover Inuit Art

- Enjoy a dog-sledding experience with a local musher
- Visit the Itsanitaq Museum
- Fly to Winnipeg and gather for a farewell dinner

Spend your final morning in Churchill with a local musher for a dog-sledding experience. Heading out with a team of dogs offers another way to experience the northern landscape and meet someone whose work draws on this enduring form of travel.

At the Itsanitaq Museum, Inuit carvings and artifacts introduce artistic traditions, history and daily life across the North. Take time to examine the collection, adding a human perspective to the landscapes and wildlife you've encountered. After lunch, transfer to the airport for your charter flight to Winnipeg. Return to the Fort Garry Hotel and gather for a farewell dinner, sharing photographs and discoveries from your time on Hudson Bay.

Day 7

WINNIPEG

Depart Winnipeg

- Enjoy breakfast at the hotel
- Transfer to the airport
- Connect with your flight home

Leave with firsthand experience of Churchill's autumn polar bear gathering and an informed understanding of the research behind their conservation. Time on the tundra and conversations with scientists and residents give lasting depth to your encounters on Hudson Bay. After breakfast, transfer to Winnipeg's airport for your flight home.



Behind the Scenes with Polar Bears Accommodations

Join Researchers to Observe, Monitor & Help Conserve the Arctic's Top Predator



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/earthwatch-expeditions/churchill-polar-bear-research-trip/accommodations.

Discovery in the Field

Behind the Scenes with Polar Bears

1 **Observe Bears with a Researcher's Eye**

From a specialized Polar Rover, watch wild bears with researchers who bring scientific depth to each encounter. Their insights connect the behavior before you to the larger questions of how these animals live, adapt and survive as sea ice changes.

2 **Explore the Connection Between Sea Ice & Survival**

For polar bears, the return of sea ice means access to seals. Discuss how scientists study that relationship and what changing ice conditions mean for the animals you've come to see. Encounters on land gain depth through an understanding of life offshore.

3 **Visit a Working Subarctic Field Station**

At the Churchill Northern Studies Centre, explore the science taking place where tundra, boreal forest and marine environments meet. Research here extends from wildlife to vegetation and climate, revealing connections that matter to the future of this entire region.

4 **Travel in a Small, Engaged Group**

Ask the follow-up question, compare observations and get to know the people behind the research. A deliberately small group creates room for those exchanges, while a window seat for every guest makes Polar Rover outings rewarding for viewing and photography.

5 **Meet the People Who Know Churchill Best**

Conversations with residents and evening presentations by scientists or community members deepen your experience and understanding of this subarctic environment and its wildlife. Hear about life beside polar bears, explore the challenges of coexistence and follow up on discoveries made during the day.

6 **Experience Northern Travel & Inuit Art**

Head out with a local musher for a dog-sledding experience, then visit the Itsanitaq Museum. Its collection of Inuit carvings and artifacts introduces histories and artistic traditions that deepen your understanding of the North.

7 **Watch the Sky After Dark**

When clear skies, auroral activity and the schedule align, an optional evening outing offers a chance to look for the northern lights. Their unpredictable appearance brings its own anticipation to a night outside in Churchill.

8 **Travel with Purpose**

Inulge your curiosity while contributing to the science helping drive polar bear conservation. Time with scientists and planned hands-on research activities connects your wildlife encounters with ongoing efforts to understand these animals, their changing habitat and what their protection requires.



Dates & Pricing Summary:

Price
From $8463 (+Air)

Group Size
Limited to 14 Travelers

Behind the Scenes with Polar Bears Dates, Pricing & Info

Join Researchers to Observe, Monitor & Help Conserve the Arctic's Top Predator

2028 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Prices and dates not confirmed for 2028		
Oct 1 - Oct 7, 2028	**From $9986** +internal air	
Oct 8 - Oct 14, 2028	**From $9986** +internal air	
Oct 15 - Oct 21, 2028	**From $9986** +internal air	
Oct 22 - Oct 28, 2028	**From $9986** +internal air	
Oct 29 - Nov 4, 2028	**From $9986** +internal air	
Nov 5 - Nov 11, 2028	**From $9986** +internal air	
Nov 9 - Nov 16, 2028	**From $8463** +internal air	
Nov 12 - Nov 18, 2028	**From $9986** +internal air	

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Prices and dates not confirmed for 2028		
Nov 19 - Nov 25, 2028	**From $9986** +internal air	

2029 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Prices and dates not confirmed for 2029		
Oct 1 - Oct 7, 2029	**From $10685** +internal air	
Oct 8 - Oct 14, 2029	**From $10685** +internal air	
Oct 15 - Oct 21, 2029	**From $10685** +internal air	
Oct 22 - Oct 28, 2029	**From $10685** +internal air	
Oct 29 - Nov 4, 2029	**From $10685** +internal air	
Nov 5 - Nov 11, 2029	**From $10685** +internal air	
Nov 12 - Nov 18, 2029	**From $10685** +internal air	
Nov 19 - Nov 25, 2029	**From $10685** +internal air	

See https://www.nathab.com/earthwatch-expeditions/churchill-polar-bear-research-trip/dates-fees for the latest pricing details.

Included

Accommodations, services of Earthwatch Expeditions' professional Expedition Leaders, research staff, equipment and permitting, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on final day, some alcoholic beverages, 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), required medical evacuation insurance, optional travel protection insurance.

Important Information About This Trip

Meals

Meals in the far north are hearty and delicious, but they also require special planning and preparation far in advance. With ample notice, we can meet dietary requirements that accommodate serious medical conditions or strict personal restrictions; however this restricted meal plan must continue to be adhered to while on the adventure. If you have a highly restricted diet, we recommend you bring along some of your preferred snacks and an 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 800-548-7555.

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.

Our Earthwatch Expeditions Travel Desk can best assist with your travel reservations, as our staff is familiar with the specific requirements of this program and can help arrange the most efficient itinerary. Please call us at 800-548-7555.



Natural Habitat Adventures · PO Box 3065 · Boulder, CO USA 80307

US & Canada: 800-548-7555 · International: 303-222-8861

© 2026 Natural Habitat Adventures