

## **Polar Bears in Arctic Canada**

*Fully-guided polar bear tour in Churchill, Canada*



*This scheduled group tour visits the Churchill region of northern Canada, where the world's greatest concentration of polar bears can be found.*

*You will travel in a mobile 'Polar Rover', which is a comfortable vehicle with steel mesh flooring on the outdoor observation platform so that you can safely get up close to the bears. An important feature on these trips is the group size, which is limited to 15 travellers or fewer. Nature is best experienced in small groups and this is particularly important inside the Polar Rover so there is plenty of room on board to move around. The professional Polar Bear expedition leaders are extremely competent and considered to be the best in the business, enhancing your experience at every turn.*

*This respected polar bear expedition has been a popular adventure for over 20 years. Its enduring success is due to the extraordinary polar bear viewing opportunities that guests are able to experience as well as the broad introduction to life in the North. You will enjoy two Polar Rover day trips, a night trip as well as time spent exploring this subarctic outpost and all in the company of a professional and experienced expedition leader.*

*The highest concentration of polar bears occurs in the Churchill area in October and November. Sometimes the best viewing is at the beginning of the season, sometimes the middle and sometimes at the end – Polar Bears are wild so you will never know for sure! The bears are waiting for Hudson Bay to freeze, and when it does, many of them depart. Historically, this has been in early December, but an unusually early cold spell may occur, hastening their departure. As a result of this, the window for reliable polar bear sightings in and around Churchill is very short (approx. 5-6 weeks).*

### **Day 1: Arrive Winnipeg**

Your polar bear tour begins in Winnipeg, once a fur-trading post and boomtown for the Canadian Pacific Railway, today Manitoba's cultural and commercial capital at the eastern edge of Canada's vast prairies.

On arrival, transfer to the historic Fort Garry Hotel, Grande dame of Winnipeg hospitality and one of the city's most prominent landmarks. Meet your expedition leader at an orientation dinner this evening.

### **Day 2: Winnipeg - Churchill**

This morning you fly to Churchill, a hospitable outpost town that will be the base for your polar bear adventure.

This evening, after settling in at the lodge, head out onto the tundra for what will likely be your first glimpse of the bears (on occasion, bears are seen from the bus leaving the airport, even before you board the polar rover!) If the skies are clear, the night time tundra excursion might provide one of nature's most exciting experiences – a chance to view the Northern Lights away from the glare of the town's lights. Though they are unpredictable, sometimes the lights begin as a white glow in the sky then the colours begin to flicker and dance.

### **Days 3 & 4: Polar Bear Viewing**

Over the next two days you'll continue your exploration of the Arctic tundra to observe the polar bears in their natural habitat.

The unique 'Polar Rovers' are your mobile means of spending time among the polar bears. Although they can accommodate up to 35 passengers, only 15 passengers are taken on these tours, ensuring that everyone has a window seat. Your expedition leader will know the best places to view the bears as they wait for the ice to solidify on Hudson Bay and begin the winter seal-hunting season. You'll watch as they interact with one another; their antics and rugged beauty are fascinating. From the warmth of the rover, you may see mothers with cubs and young adult males play-fighting. Your knowledgeable expedition leader will offer interpretation along the way, explaining the bears' behaviour and how they thrive in such a harsh environment. In the evenings, you will meet for dinner, followed by presentations on polar bears and the northern environs by the professional staff of naturalists and scientists.



### **Day 5: Churchill**

Your return flight to Winnipeg is scheduled to depart in the mid to late afternoon. The morning might be spent exploring Churchill and perhaps doing some last-minute shopping for handcrafts and souvenirs. Alternatively, an additional activity can be included this morning (at additional cost), such as a helicopter journey over the tundra or an authentic dog-sledding excursion.

In the afternoon, say goodbye to your hosts and board your flight back to Winnipeg, where you stay at the Fort Garry Hotel.

#### **Extending your Polar bear tour**

*This itinerary can be extended to 7 days or more. On a 7-day itinerary, today might be used to tour historic Churchill, and then head out to the tundra for an evening of bear viewing and dinner aboard the vehicle. During the daytime exploration, you may visit local sled dogs en-route to Cape Merry, where Arctic fox and Arctic hare are often seen. If the skies are clear, you can hope to see the Northern Lights.*

#### **Day 6: Departure**

After breakfast you will depart for the airport for your international flight home.

*Note: Historically, there has been a 60% success rate for seeing the Northern Lights on the night time trip to the tundra. Sometimes they are more brilliant than others, but they are always quite a thrill!*



#### **Polar Bear Photo Tour**

An expert photographer-naturalist will lead this journey into the realm of the polar bear, with outstanding guidance to help you capture world-class, close-up photographs!

This special polar bear tour is similar to the tours described above but concentrates your time and proximity among the King of the Arctic, along with an intensive focus on helping you gain outstanding photos.

Beginning in Churchill, you will head out for three full days on the tundra where, on the shores of Hudson Bay, the polar bears congregate awaiting the freeze and the start of their winter hunting season. The specifically designed Polar Rovers take you into the heart of their wild habitat, with plenty of space on board for equipment and movement in order to get those terrific photos. The expert photographer/guide on board will offer guidance during the day and evening lectures on how best to capture Arctic wildlife through the camera's lens—polar bears and also arctic fox, arctic hare and more!

For more detail, including costs, please contact us.

## Price Guide:

Polar bear safaris depart daily between October 10<sup>th</sup> and November 13<sup>th</sup> and accommodate up to 16 passengers on each departure. They are shared group safaris, meaning anyone can join. The cost to join is as follows:

*6-day itinerary - £6,100 per person*

*7-day itinerary - £6,620 per person*

*Photographer-led tours (7-day) - £7,290 per person*

The above costs are based on twin/double share. If you are travelling solo but are happy to share, we can try to accommodate you together with another passenger of the same sex. Otherwise, a single supplement applies. The single supplement is £660 for the 6-day itinerary, and £730 for the 7-day itinerary.

This itinerary can also be booked for private groups, subject to availability. For more information, including rates, please [contact us](#).

### Includes:

- Flights Winnipeg – Churchill inc. taxes
- Accommodation as described
- All meals except lunch or dinner on final day in Churchill
- Services of a professional expedition leader
- Some gratuities
- All activities/entrance fees
- Evening wildlife and cultural presentations
- Taxes and service charges
- Loan of suitable clothing

### Excludes:

- International flights to Winnipeg – please ask for a quote
- Alcoholic beverages
- Travel insurance
- Items of a personal nature

