

Gane & Marshall

TAILOR-MADE DESTINATIONS

Polar Bears in Arctic Canada *6 and 7 day Itineraries*



This small 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 around 15 travellers. 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 the professional and experienced Expedition Leader.

Polar bears are typically found in the Churchill area all year round, however the highest concentration occurs 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.

Your Financial Protection

All monies paid by you for the air holiday package shown [or flights if appropriate] are ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 3145.

For more information see our booking terms and conditions.

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 prestigious landmarks. Meet your Expedition Leader at an orientation dinner this evening.

Day 2: Winnipeg - Churchill

6 & 7 day tours - This morning you will fly to Churchill. This hospitable outpost town will be the base for your adventure.

On the **6-day trip** you will head to the tundra this evening for your first glimpse of the bears, though often 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.

On the **7-day trip**, you will enjoy an evening presentation on polar bears and the northern environs by the professional staff of naturalists and scientists.

Days 3 & 4: Polar Bear Viewing

Both 6 & 7 day tours - The unique 'Polar Rovers' are your mobile means to enable you to spend time among the polar bears. Although they can accommodate an average of 35 passengers, only 15 passengers are taken on these tours, ensuring that everyone has a window seat. The Expedition Leaders know the best places to view bears that are waiting for the ice to solidify on Hudson Bay so they can begin the winter seal-hunting season. We watch them interact. Their antics and rugged beauty are fascinating. From the warmth of the rover, we may see mothers with cubs and young adult males play-fighting. Our 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 wildlife or local cultures.



Day 5: Churchill

On the **7-day trip** you will 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 may be able to view the Northern Lights.

On the **6-day trip** there's free time in Churchill or an opportunity for an optional helicopter excursion over the frozen tundra before boarding your flight back to Winnipeg. Overnight in the Fort Garry Hotel.

Day 6: Churchill / Winnipeg

On the **7 day trip** - Your return flights are scheduled to depart in the mid - late afternoon, to provide you with as much time as possible to explore Churchill. Perhaps pick up last-minute native handcrafts and souvenirs or, if time permits, take an optional helicopter journey over the tundra or an authentic dog-sledding excursion. Overnight at the Fort Garry Hotel.

On the **6 day trip** - After breakfast you will depart for the airport for your return flight.

Day 7: Homeward

On the **7 day trip** - After breakfast depart for the airport for your return flight.

Occasionally, on the 7-day trip, the schedule for the night tundra trip alternates between Day 4 and Day 5. Itineraries may vary slightly, but inclusions are the same.

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.

The tour begins in Churchill where 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!

Price Guide:

The cost of this itinerary is from **£3095 (6 days) or £3295 (7 days) per person***, based on twin share and subject to availability at the time of booking. For more information, or if you would like to enquire about a tailor-made holiday combining part or all of the above itinerary, 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 professional Expedition Leaders
- Some gratuities
- All activities/entrance fees
- Evening wildlife and cultural presentations
- Taxes and service charges
- Loan of suitable clothing

Excludes:

- Flights to Winnipeg – ask for a quote
- Alcoholic beverages
- Travel Insurance – ask us for a quote
- Items of a personal nature

