

# Polar Bear Conservation Adventure 7 Days/6 Nights Program

Program Length:	6 Nights (3 nights Tundra Buggy Lodge, 1 Night Churchill, 2 nights Winnipeg)
Meals:	All
Transportation:	Roundtrip air (Winnipeg/Churchill/ Winnipeg) and transfers in Churchill
Tour Capacity:	20 guests (maximum)

#### ACTIVITIES

#### **Tundra Buggy Adventure**

Search for polar bears in their native habitat on an authentic Tundra Buggy adventure in the Churchill Wildlife Management Area. (3 full days.)

#### **Churchill Area Tour**

A guided bus tour of Churchill's most notable sites, including the Polar Bear Holding Facility (a.k.a. Polar Bear jail) and Inukshuk.

#### **Dog Sledding**

Enjoy an exhilarating dog sled ride while learning about the Métis culture and the history of dog sledding.

#### **Itsanitaq Museum**

Tour one of Canada's finest Inuit collections dating from pre- Dorset, Dorset, Thule and modern Inuit times.

#### **Polar Bears International (PBI)**

Hear from a PBI representative and tour the center to learn about polar bear research and climate change.

#### Parks Canada Visitor Center

View incredibly detailed wildlife dioramas and fur trade exhibits that represent the history of Churchill.

#### **Optional Heli-Tour**

Get an unforgettable "birds-eye-view" of the rugged, remote Churchill countryside – from taiga, tundra and boreal forest. An optional helicopter flight over the area will provide you with a unique view of the landscape and wildlife.

Flight routes are adapted to the migration but generally run across the Hudson Bay shoreline out to the famous Cape Churchill where the largest males tend to congregate waiting for the ice to freeze. In addition to polar bears, you may also watch caribou, seals and a variety of other wildlife. Tour lengths run 60-minutes and originate from town.

Cregor Adventures will be happy to provide you with details on the costs of helicopter "safaris," the length of the trips and what you are likely to see on your visit. Please contact our office for details.

#### DATES & PRICES

#### 2024 Dates & Prices

Oct 31 - Nov 06

\$10,799 per person, based on double occupancy \$575 single supplement

A portion of the proceeds from this trip goes to support the work of Polar Bears International.

#### SAMPLE ITINERARY

## Day 1: Winnipeg, Manitoba

Four Points by Sheraton, which is just across from the Winnipeg airport, will be your hotel for the night. This evening you will meet your guide and other tour participants. You'll have an opportunity to ask last minute questions as well as learn more of the details for your departure. (*Meals: None*)

# Day 2: Winnipeg/Explore Churchill and Its Northern Culture

You'll board a private, chartered plane early this morning for your two and a half hour flight to the polar bear capital of the world – Churchill! Its location, on the northwest shore of Hudson Bay, in northern Manitoba and at the mouth of the Churchill River (where marine, tundra and taiga ecosystems converge,) makes Churchill a world-class natural phenomenon.

Upon arrival, we will immediately depart for a tour of the historic town and the surrounding area.

Churchill is not just a wildlife mecca. It is also steeped in history. Archaeology in the area shows evidence of human presence dating back 4,000 years.

After lunch, we'll visit the Parks Canada Museum. The visitor center offers a variety of programs and exhibits which highlight Wapusk National Park, the Prince of Wales Fort and York Factory National Historic Sites. Walk back in time as you view and learn about the history of Churchill through detailed wildlife dioramas and fur trade exhibits.

We'll also visit the Itsanitaq Museum. The Itsanitaq Museum has a collection of Inuit carvings and artifacts that are among the finest and oldest in the world, dating from Pre-Dorset (1700 B.C.) through Dorset, Thule and modern Inuit times. (This is also one of our favorite places for purchasing beautiful, Innuit artwork.)

# Day 3: Explore Churchill/Transfer to the Tundra Buggy Lodge

Today, life goes to the dogs! We'll visit a local musher and meet his friendly and lively team of sled dogs. He'll first explain the care and keeping of sled dogs. Afterward, he will introduce us to the "pack" and we will have the opportunity to hop in either a dogsled or dogcart (depending upon the ground conditions) for a ride through the boreal forest.

There will also be free time to explore Churchill on your own. One additional option is taking a one-hour helicopter tour (weather permitting.) A helicopter flight provides a different perspective of the tundra's vast expanse. From above, you'll appreciate its rugged beauty. You may also track migrating caribou, Arctic fox and, of course, polar bears!

Late in the afternoon, you'll be transferred to our famous Tundra Buggy Lodge where you will stay in the heart of polar bear territory! Keep an eye out – this will be your first chance to view polar bears and other Arctic wildlife.

# Day 4: A Full Day on the Tundra

You'll rise early for a hearty breakfast. Then, because you are already located in the heart of the Churchill Wildlife Management Area, you'll be the first on the tundra. You'll spend the full day on the tundra observing polar bears and other Arctic wildlife from the warmth and comfort of our authentic Tundra Buggy. Specifically designed for the northern landscape, these all-terrain vehicles enable us to take you to the best locations in the Churchill area to safely experience wildlife.

Through our exclusive permits, you'll venture on a network of 20 miles of established trails. Our professional guides (and our drivers) know this area well. We may see a mother with her cubs digging in the kelp (bear butts!), young adult males play-fighting, or a lone male lumbering across the tundra, backlit by the warm glow of a Manitoba sunset.

Lunch and morning and afternoon snacks will be served.

This evening we will enjoy cocktail hour with other guests. After a fantastic home-cooked dinner, you'll enjoy a presentation by a representative from Polar Bears International. They'll talk about the Arctic region as a whole, polar bears and other Arctic wildlife and the type of research they are conducting.

# Day 5: A Second Full Day on the Tundra

Once again, you'll enjoy a second full day on the tundra. In addition to polar bears, our professional guide will help us keep a close eye out for Arctic Fox and Arctic Hare. They are not easy to spot as their brown coats, in the early part of the season, allows them to blend in with the low brush. Then, later into the season, their coats turn to a winter-white, offering excellent camouflage against the frozen white ground.

Our Tundra Buggy Lodge is located in the heart of the Churchill Wildlife management Area, so while others need to return to town, you are able to stay on the tundra a little while longer. It is during this time (and early in the morning), you'll appreciate the soft, low-level light. This light makes for beautiful photographs.

# Day 6: A Third and Final Full Day on the Tundra/Return to Winnipeg

You'll have one more chance to explore this extraordinary region - home to the "Kings of the Arctic."

After our full day on the tundra, we will be transferred back to the Churchill airport for our return flight to Winnipeg. Reservations are again confirmed at the Four Points by Sheraton.

# Day 7: Depart Winnipeg

#### ACCOMMODATIONS

The Tundra Buggy Lodge provides a unique and immersive experience for our guests, where if the conditions are right, you may awake to polar bears outside your window and fall asleep with the northern lights dancing above!

Each Fall, for the last 20+ years, the Tundra Buggy Lodge has been transported out and assembled about 25 miles east of Churchill on Polar Bear Point. Measuring 100 meters from end to end, the Tundra buggy Lodge is a specially designed facility – comprised of five large, modular units on huge tires, linked together like a train.

The five units consist of two sleeping modules (complete with shared bathrooms and shower facilities), a lounge (with skylights and a rooftop viewing platform), dining room and kitchen, as well as a separate module which houses supplies, staff accommodations and the camp's power station. Between each unit, and at each end, are open-air platforms that provide safe viewing and photographing areas.

Each of the two sleeping modules in the Tundra Buggy Lodge is made up of 10 upper and 10 lower, twin-sized berths (74.5 in. long by 38.5 in. wide.) Each berth includes a window, a reading light, four electrical outlets, a sound-dampening curtain for privacy, bedding (including a warm, Hudson Bay blanket), and towels. In addition, each berth is equipped with a thermostat, allowing our guests to control their individual berth's temperature for their own comfort.

Each sleeping module has three bathrooms, two of which have showers.

After a great day on the tundra viewing Polar Bears and other wildlife, enjoy our Tundra Buggy Lodge lounge- the perfect place to relax and socialize, swapping stories or sharing images with your fellow adventurers. Before dinner, enjoy a glass of wine and appetizers. After dinner, enjoy presentations by our staff and wildlife experts, including researchers from Polar Bears International. The lounge is equipped with WiFi capability, a multi-touch Smart Board, and an audio system.

Perhaps the most unique feature, and our favorite, are the panoramic views from the floor to ceiling windows and a 360° view from the roof-top viewing deck. Perfect for wildlife viewing and an unobstructed view of the Northern Lights!

You'll find our chef cooking up delicious regional cuisine and hearty home-cooked favorites. Right in the Tundra Buggy Lodge dining hall. You'll enjoy regional cuisine and hearty home-cooked favorites.

Hot and cold cereals, muffins, fruit, toast, pancakes and eggs are typical breakfast fare. Lunch will be served on the Tundra Buggy picnic-style, with soup and sandwiches. For dinner you may enjoy anything from chicken to bison lasagna, to Arctic char (a regional favorite). Coffee, tea, hot chocolate and juices are available throughout the day.

An excellent base for observing the polar bears and other wildlife, the warm and casual Tundra Buggy Lodge provides more time for viewing and photographing.

A stay at the Tundra Buggy Lodge is truly an unforgettable experience!

## **Churchill Hotels**

Churchill is a small, northern community with a lot of character and warm hospitality. You won't find big-chain hotels here. However, you will find our hotels in town to be clean and comfortable with all of the amenities. (You will find them comparable to a good motel in other locations across North America.)

A hotel-based tour is for those who would prefer a little more comfort, enjoy spending a little more time on your own and appreciate privacy in the evenings. Staying in town will allow you to walk to and from the different places of interest, shops and restaurants. Perhaps even meet some of the locals!

Our hotels include the Bear Country Inn, Polar Inn, Aurora Inn, Seaport Hotel and the Tundra Inn.

## Winnipeg Hotel

Our base hotel in Winnipeg is the Four Points by Sheraton. It is conveniently located at the airport, so the convenience cannot be beat!

If you would prefer to spend additional time in Winnipeg, we recommend several downtown hotels including The Hotel Fort Garry and The Inn at the Forks. Please give us a call for more information.