

NORTHERN LIGHTS & ARCTIC CULTURES

Churchill, Manitoba, Canada

UCLA Alumni

"Seeing the incredible, colorful, undulating natural phenomena of the Northern Lights is a life experience not to be missed. Seeing it with a group of excited and adventuresome UCLA travelers make it even better!"

Dan '67, MBA '69 and Chris '67 Wolfus



Feb 20 - 26, 2022

NORTHERN LIGHTS & ARCTIC CULTURES WITH UCLA

A Winter Adventure in Churchill, Canada—One of the Best Places to See the Aurora Borealis!

As you gaze up at the black night sky, with stars so bright they glitter like diamonds over the frozen tundra, you wait expectantly. The boreal forest around you is swathed in the deep snows of a northern winter, enveloped in silence. Slowly, subtly, the wonder begins. A glow illumines the horizon, as if the moon were about to rise. But then the soft gleam begins to shimmer. It reaches higher, shifting from white to emerald green, forming a bright curtain against the darkness. You catch your breath as you realize these are the northern lights—the ethereal aurora celebrated in the legends of the Inuit, who believed the dancing lights were the spirits of departed loved ones. The magic of the aurora is just as powerful for us, as we witness one of nature's most moving sights.

ITINERARY 7 DAYS

► Day 1: Winnipeg, Manitoba

Arrive in Winnipeg and transfer to the Fort Garry Hotel. Built in 1913 by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway in the style of a French chateau, this distinguished landmark remains the grande dame of Winnipeg hospitality. This evening, enjoy a welcome dinner with your Expedition Leader and fellow travelers.

Overnight Fort Garry Hotel

► Day 2: Fly to Churchill—Town Tour & Aurora Viewing

This morning we board our flight to Churchill. On arrival, we take a short tour of this frontier outpost town that was originally a Hudson's Bay Company fur-trading post established in 1689. Once night falls, we head out in search of our first opportunity to see the spectacle of the northern lights. The display often begins as a pale glow low in the northern sky that slowly begins to shift and undulate. Wavy patterns evolve, colors appear and change, until the lights look like shimmering curtains of green. Sometimes other colors appear, including red, purple and yellow. For centuries, the phenomenon of the northern lights was a mystery, inspiring a host of mythical explanations. While we know now the aurora borealis is caused by the interaction of the solar wind with Earth's magnetic field, more poetic stories of their origin linger, including the Hudson Bay Inuit's belief that the lights are the mystical display of their ancestors' souls dancing in the sky.

Overnight Churchill Hotel & Guesthouse

Itinerary continued on next page

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- » Experience the northern lights in warmth and comfort from our innovative Aurora Pod® with glass ceiling and sides, and from inside heated circular Aurora Domes
- » Learn about the phenomenon of the aurora borealis—plus the natural history and features of the Arctic tundra environs—from our naturalist Expedition Leader
- » Discover local lifestyles and traditions of northern indigenous peoples on an array of winter activities in and around Churchill, including an authentic dog sled ride

Days 3–5: Aurora Viewing & Winter Adventures in Churchill

On these dark, frigid nights in the Canadian North, we look for the aurora in optimal locations away from the glare of artificial lights in town. Yet we don't stand outside in the cold while we wait for the lights to appear: each evening includes a vantage point on the night sky where we can witness the phenomenon in warmth and comfort. Our custom-designed Aurora Pod® features 360-degree views of the heavens, courtesy of its exclusive geometric glass construction, including clear half-walls and a glass ceiling. We'll also look for the lights from Plexiglass Aurora Domes. Relax on the sofas below, climb the ladder to the upper level for an unimpeded view in the round, or stand outside in the open air for a totally clear vista of the skies.

While our nights are focused on the aurora, daytime excursions highlight the austere beauty of our environs and cultural dimensions of the region. On drives onto the tundra, we look for northern wildlife such as Arctic hare and Arctic fox, both artfully camouflaged by their winter-white fur coats. Just a few miles from town, we'll see where the Hudson's Bay Company established a fort near the mouth of the Churchill River in 1717 as part of its fur-trading network across the Canadian North. Yet indigenous cultures had already been flourishing in this harsh climate for thousands of years. We explore their heritage on a dog sled ride through the boreal forest, during a visit to the Eskimo Museum, and through cultural presentations featuring the arts and traditions of the Inuit, Dene and Metis peoples.

Overnights Churchill Hotel & Guesthouse



Day 6: Churchill / Winnipeg

The morning is free to wander Churchill's main street, where several locally owned shops sell authentic local handicrafts, from traditional mukluks to sculptures made of caribou hair. We then transfer to the airport for our return flight to Winnipeg, gathering one last time for a farewell dinner this evening.

Overnight Fort Garry Hotel



Day 7: Winnipeg / Depart

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for flights home.

Please note, all of our activities in Churchill are flexible to accommodate varying weather conditions and flight schedules.

In the interest of traveler comfort or safety, or due to other factors beyond our control, we must occasionally make reasonable changes to itineraries. The very definition of adventure—"an exciting or remarkable undertaking involving the unknown"—requires that we recognize the above itinerary as a general approximation of what we hope to encounter, but it may change. Your guide will determine your final routing and activities in the best interest of the safety of the group and the success of the trip.



TRIP DETAILS

TRIP FEE

Internal Air: \$995
Double: \$6,295
Single: \$6,990

DEPOSIT

Deposit: \$500 per person;
Second, non-refundable deposit of 25% due on August 20, 2021
Final balance is due on October 23, 2021
Special Note: For this UCLA trip in 2022 deposits will be fully refundable through May 1, 2021, after which all normal trip refund and cancellation policies resume.

DATE

February 20-26, 2022

GROUP SIZE

14 Travelers

INCLUDED

- R/T transportation between Winnipeg and Churchill (flights)
- Accommodations
- All meals
- Services of NHA Expedition Leaders and assistants
- Most gratuities
- Airport transfers
- Permits and entrance fees
- All taxes

NOT INCLUDED

- Travel to and from start and end point of trip (international flights to Winnipeg)
- Alcoholic beverages
- Some gratuities
- Items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry, etc.)
- Optional travel insurance



This adventure takes place in Churchill during the prime season to experience one of the natural realm's most wondrous sights—the northern lights. On a full itinerary, we discover the nature and culture of the Canadian North by day, then, once night falls, we scan the skies for the undulating colors of the aurora borealis. However, please join this trip knowing that while Churchill is among the best spots on the planet to observe the aurora, we are never guaranteed to see it, and on some departures, we may not. It's impossible to predict, though our odds are very good, given the frequency and intensity of auroral activity over Churchill.

RESERVATION FORM

Please reserve _____ place(s) on **UCLA Northern Lights & Arctic Culture**, February 20-26, 2022 Please complete this form and mail it to:

Name: _____

Nick Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Dietary Preference: Regular Vegetarian

Name: _____

Nick Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Dietary Preference: Regular Vegetarian

*Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

*PLEASE NOTE: Travelers not living at the same address must fill out separate reservation forms.

Please call me to arrange air travel from my departure city of: _____.



Natural Habitat Adventures
Attn: Court Whelan
PO Box 3065
Boulder, CO 80307

Deposit Information:

\$500 **1st deposit** (non-refundable) — due at time of booking

25% of trip cost — **2nd deposit** (non-refundable) due Aug 20, 2021

Final Balance due 120 days prior to departure (Oct 23, 2021)

Check enclosed, payable to Natural Habitat Adventures

VISA MasterCard American Express Discover Card

Account #: _____ CVV #: _____ Exp Date: ____/____/____

Cardholder Name: _____

PLEASE NOTE: Your final payment will be charged to your credit card at 120 days prior to departure. Should you prefer to pay by check, you must indicate your preference below.

I will pay my final payment by check. Please do not charge my credit card for final payment.

UCLA Alumni Travel is an advantage reserved for UCLA Alumni Association sustaining donors*. Please select an option below.

I am currently a sustaining donor.

I have enclosed a check made payable to the UCLA Foundation for:

\$100 \$500 \$1,000

*Sustaining donors include Gold, Life and Blue Members as well as anyone that has made a qualifying donation of \$100 or more to the UCLA Alumni Association Support Fund in the past year.

Waiver of Liability

I understand that by signing below I am acting for myself and for everyone in my party in acknowledging that the Refund & Cancellation Policy has been read and accepted. I also understand that I and everyone in my party will be required to sign a release of liability form prior to and/or during my trip. I give my permission for NHA to charge my final balance on my credit card at 120 days prior to departure, unless otherwise noted on this form. I also give my permission for NHA to use any image taken of me or anyone in my party by NHA or its affiliates for promotional purposes.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

PLEASE NOTE: Each participant must sign this waiver.

INFORMATION

Payment Policy

A deposit of \$500 is required to confirm your reservation. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure, approximately October 23, 2021. Your final payment will be charged to your credit card 120 days prior to departure, unless you indicate otherwise on your reservation form. Please submit a check prior to the final payment due date should you prefer to pay by check.

Refund & Cancellation Policy

All cancellations must be made in writing. Cancellations made prior to August 20, 2021 will forfeit the full \$500 deposit. Cancellations made between August 20, 2021 and October 23, 2021 require a loss of the \$500 deposit + 25% of the trip cost. Cancellations made between October 23, 2021 and December 21, 2021 will forfeit 50% of the entire program fee, including all extensions. Cancellations made after December 21, 2021 require a loss of the entire program fee, including all extensions. We reserve the right to cancel this tour, and in such case the entire payment will be refunded without penalty or handling fee or any further obligation on our part. *Special Note: For this UCLA trip in 2022 deposits will be fully refundable through May 1, 2021, after which all normal trip refund and cancellation policies resume.*

Health

All participants should be in good health and capable of walking over rough terrain. By forwarding the deposit for passage, the passenger certifies that he/she does not have any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other passengers.

Currency, Fuel & Other Fluctuations

Significant fluctuations in exchange rates, energy prices and other cost factors may necessitate an increase in trip prices before or after your booking. A price increase would be implemented only if absolutely necessary and would serve only to maintain the highest quality of your adventure.

Terms & Conditions

It is UCLA's, NHA's and our cooperating agents' and representatives' goal to select reliable suppliers and contractors to provide air and other transportation, hotels, guides and other travel-related services; we do not assume responsibility, directly or indirectly, for any loss, damage or injury to property or person in connection with such services. Each traveler agrees not to hold UCLA, NHA, its owners, employees, agents and representatives liable, in the absence of their own gross negligence, for any loss or injury, expense or damage that results directly or indirectly from any act or omission of any person or firm that is to or does provide goods or services in connection with the trip or with any available option. You agree that UCLA, NHA and its cooperating agents and representatives shall not be liable for circumstances arising as a result of acts of God, weather, detention, annoyance, delays and expenses arising from quarantine, strikes, theft, pilferage, force majeure, military, political or terrorist action, civil disturbances, government restrictions, failure of any means of conveyance to arrive or depart as scheduled, and discrepancies or changes in transit over which they have no control. NHA reserves the right to change the program fee, dates or itinerary with little or no notice. If such changes do occur, no refunds will be made beyond those described in our cancellation policy, and NHA will not be liable for expenses incurred as a result of the change (such as air ticket change fees, etc.).

Please Note

The information contained in this brochure was prepared well in advance of the departure date. Because of the program provided, dates, pricing, hotels, modes of transportation and in some cases, itineraries, change. If this situation does occur, we will attempt to provide similar alternatives but are not always able to do so. We hope you understand. Please be certain to read Terms & Conditions and Refund & Cancellation Policy prior to signing on to this adventure.

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