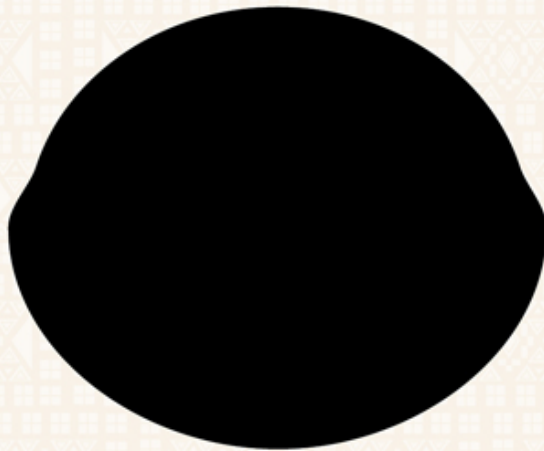


Polar Bears of Churchill

A 6-Day Expedition to the Polar Bear Capital of the World



OCTOBER 27, 2021 – NOVEMBER 01, 2021

PRE-TOUR: OCTOBER 25, 2021 — OCTOBER 27, 2021

POLAR BEARS OF CHURCHILL

On this wildlife expedition, surrounded by experts and featuring up-close experiences, be part of an extraordinary natural phenomenon and unforgettable adventure.



Dear UCLA Alumni and Friends,

We are thrilled to present you with a special opportunity to witness one of the largest confluences of polar bears in the world. Much like the bears themselves, visitors make their way to Churchill each fall when temperatures drop, brimming with anticipation. The reward: experiences of a lifetime.

As polar bears await the formation of arctic sea ice over the Hudson Bay—to begin their hunt for ringed seals—they descend upon this tiny seaport town, forming one of the largest congregations of polar bears in the world. During this annual spectacle, it is possible to observe, photograph, and learn about these “Kings of the North.”

The quality guidance of a naturalist Orbridge Expedition Leader and exclusive educational experiences, including presentations by experts at Churchill’s Northern Studies Centre and your local guide, distinguish this program.

Space is limited. With significant savings of more than \$1,000 per couple, we anticipate this tour will fill quickly, so be certain to reserve your spot today and share this brochure with family and friends who may be interested in traveling with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christel Aragon', with a stylized, flowing script.

Christel Aragon
Director, UCLA Alumni Travel

310-206-0613 | travel@alumni.ucla.edu

PS: Orbridge and UCLA take your health and wellness seriously. Visit orbridge.com/wellness to learn about our enhanced COVID-19 protocols.

Please note: The information contained in this document is current as of 1/28/2021

Program Highlights:

- Begin in Winnipeg with a private reception and three-course welcome dinner at Assiniboine Park Zoo along with a presentation on polar bears.
- Learn about Churchill's unique ecosystem at the Churchill Northern Studies Centre.
- Enjoy two full-day expeditions aboard a custom-designed Arctic Crawler—a specially designed trekking vehicle, featuring comfortable seating, on-board facilities with flush toilet, large windows that lower for better viewing, and a spacious, fully grated outside rear deck for optimal photography opportunities.
- Discover the cultural history of this region during a guided tour through the Itsanitq Museum and a talk with a Parks Canada ranger.
- Meet an energetic team of sled dogs and their experienced handler, then bundle up for an exciting dog sled experience.
- **What's included:** 5 nights in ideally-situated and comfortable accommodations; round-trip airfare between Winnipeg and Churchill; 5 breakfasts, 3 picnic-style lunches, and 4 dinners, including a special welcome reception and dinner; full guiding services of an Orbridge Expedition Leader and a local naturalist; all excursion transportation and entry fees; all gratuities; and airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times.



Itinerary:

ITINERARY NOTE: You are embarking on an adventure where daily activities will be determined by weather, opportunities to view wildlife, and other various elements that make up the incredibly diverse landscape. Guests will receive a daily itinerary while in Churchill, which will be flexible and updated frequently. The itinerary below is a general listing of activities and excursions that may happen during any part of the program.

Day 1: Arrive Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Wednesday, October 27, 2021

Welcome to Canada! Join fellow travelers for a warm welcome, then step out for a special evening reception in the Assiniboine Park Zoo's underwater viewing tunnels. Observe polar bears and seals as they swim in the crystal clear pools above you. A three-course meal with wine is served under the dancing Northern Lights in the Aurora Borealis Theatre. Following dinner, enjoy a presentation on the magnificent polar bears.

Overnight: Inn at the Forks (R,D)

Day 2: Winnipeg / Flight to Churchill / Northern Studies Centre / Parks Canada

Interpretive Centre

Thursday, October 28, 2021

Arrive in Churchill after a morning flight from Winnipeg (with lunch aloft) and head to the Churchill Northern Studies Centre, getting acquainted with the town along the way. At the Centre, an informative introduction to this unique ecosystem and the environmental research currently underway will shed light on the significance of your surroundings. Afterward, visit the Parks Canada Interpretive Centre. Take part in an interactive presentation that discusses the history, culture, and wildlife of Churchill. Explore the exhibit at your leisure after the presentation.

Overnight: Lazy Bear Lodge (B,L-aloft,D)

Day 3: Churchill / Arctic Crawler Experience

Friday, October 29, 2021

Grab your camera, board your expedition vehicle, and head out onto stark, yet beautiful, landscapes for your first opportunity to observe and photograph polar bears in their natural habitat. Our expert naturalist and local guide will present perspectives on the bears' behavior, survival, and habitat—as well as international conservation programs.

Overnight: Lazy Bear Lodge (B,L)

Day 4: Churchill / Cultural and Heritage Tour / Itsanitaq Museum / Dog Sledding

Saturday, October 30, 2021

After a hearty breakfast, get ready for your Cultural and Heritage Tour where you'll have panoramic site visits of the Miss Piggy Plane Crash, Polar Bear "Jail" and Cape Merry. After lunch, explore the Itsanitaq Museum and Churchill at your leisure. In the evening, meet an energetic team of sled dogs and their experienced handler. Learn about these industrious animals and the important role they play in the heritage of this remote region. Then, bundle up for your own exciting dog sled experience.

Overnight: Lazy Bear Lodge (B,D)

Day 5: Churchill / Arctic Crawler Experience / Flight to Winnipeg

Sunday, October 31, 2021

Today we have our second opportunity to observe and photograph polar bears. Take advantage of the Arctic Crawler's large viewing deck and tall windows to enjoy a panoramic view of the area. Participate in field presentations and interpretations by your Orbridge Expedition Leader and local guide. Enjoy the scenery and search for wildlife, perhaps catching sight of the arctic hare, snowy owl, ptarmigan or arctic fox living in this rugged area. Following a farewell dinner, depart the inimitable tundra for your flight to Winnipeg.

Overnight: Hilton Winnipeg Airport Suites (B,L,D)

Day 6: Depart Winnipeg

Monday, November 1, 2021

Enjoy breakfast, then bid a fond farewell to Canada and head to the airport for your flight home. (B)

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner, R = Reception

(Itinerary subject to change.)

Activity Level:

Moderate

Activities are generally not very strenuous and walking is at a fairly slow pace in order to observe and learn as much as possible. **Our expectation is that guests on this program are able to walk on uneven surfaces, icy, snow-covered ground, and stairs without assistance.**

What's Included:

- 5 nights in ideally-situated and comfortable accommodations
 - Round-trip airfare between Winnipeg and Churchill
 - 5 breakfasts, 3 picnic-style lunches, and 4 dinners, including a special welcome reception and dinner
 - Full guiding services of an Orbridge Naturalist / Expedition Leader and a local naturalist
 - All excursion transportation and entry fees
 - All gratuities
 - Airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times
-

Your Guide(s):

Kent Taylor — Orbridge Expedition Leader



Kent Taylor has led national park tours as a park ranger since 1984. Having worked with the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the Colorado Division of Wildlife, he brings to your expedition a lifetime of knowledge about North America's parks, preserves, and wildlife.

Program Accommodations:

Inn at the Forks



October 27

Ideally located in downtown Winnipeg, this modern boutique hotel is near a plethora of shopping, arts, and entertainment options. During leisure time, stroll the city's cobblestone streets or take advantage of the hotel's fully equipped fitness center.

Room Amenities: Individual climate control, 55" HDTV, complimentary Wi-Fi, alarm clock, mini-fridge, coffee and tea maker, safe, bathrobes and slippers, and en suite bathroom with locally made sundries and hair dryer.

Lazy Bear Lodge



October 28 - October 30

This remarkable, handcrafted log lodge will provide cozy comfort during your stay.

A log house builder by trade, Wally Daudrich built the Lazy Bear Lodge himself, literally. Drawn to the area by its sense of freedom, he and a partner dragged logs from the forest by snowmobile, crafting them first into a small café, then a small lodge and finally the two-story, modern lodge of today. Even the wood floors and windows were sustainably sourced. The flooring, made of Douglas fir, was recycled from the Canadian National Railway warehouse built in the early 1920s. The windows were once part of an 1800s Hudson Bay Trading Post.

The friendly staff and scenic surroundings make this property supremely memorable. Get cozy in the comfortable lounge and feast on homemade northern cuisine at the Lazy Bear Cafe.

Lodge rooms are small but cozy, with limited counter and storage space for belongings. Each room has two

double beds, one luggage rack, one small clothes rack, a small desk, one small nightstand, and a small bathroom shelf large enough to hold a few small items. We recommend packing light and carefully utilizing available space.

Additional lighting sources in the lodge rooms are limited. Consider bringing a small portable reading lamp or flashlight if you prefer stronger light.

Room Amenities: Two double beds, cable television with movie channels, complimentary Wi-Fi, coffee maker, and en suite bathroom with shower, sundries and hair dryer.

Hilton Winnipeg Airport Suites



October 31

Located just minutes from Winnipeg James Armstrong Richardson International Airport, this classic property provides well-appointed accommodations and thoughtful amenities. The hotel's restaurant, Oak and Grain, features comfort food with a twist.

Room Amenities: Individual climate control, Hilton's "Serenity Collection" pillowtop mattress, flat-screen TV, complimentary Wi-Fi, alarm clock, mini-fridge, microwave, coffee maker, and en suite bathroom with sundries and hair dryer.

(Accommodations subject to change.)

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What Guests Are Saying:

"Everything we visited was well worth the trip. I learned a TREMENDOUS amount, not just about polar bears but about the arctic and Churchill as well.

Our Expedition Leader was wonderful! He's truly passionate about wildlife and is a font of knowledge.

The staff at Lazy Bear Lodge was terrific. Everyone went above and beyond to make our trip exceptional!"

—Deb M., Bainbridge Island, WA

"Good value based upon the high cost to travel to this remote place. I thoroughly enjoyed every place we went, and was impressed with the food at Lazy Bear. Lazy Bear Lodge was delightful! A wonderful surprise."

—Michelle M., Carlisle, MA

"Excellent trip...fun and educational. We would never have done this on our own.

We were so impressed with the food!

We've all seen dog sled pictures. Going on a dog sled and being around the dogs is a whole different experience.

Our guide made the trip! He was knowledgeable, fun and kind to all. He knew the "lay of the land"—so helpful when you get to a remote destination."

—Linda & Tom N., Spokane, WA

"Third trip with Orbridge—all three widely different (Tanzania, Northern Italy, Polar Bears). All three were thought out, planned and executed extremely well. Looking forward to my next trip with Orbridge, wherever that might be!"

—Dave & Pam P., Nashville, TN

"The books we received pre-departure are wonderful. Now that we've been there, I'm going to read them again. The dog sledding was beyond excellent. The Lazy Bear is beyond expectations. For me, it is the gold standard in accommodations.

Our Expedition Leader was a delightful person with great experience.”

–Ellen H., Morgantown, WV

“The pre-departure experience was great, especially the time and patience Orbridge Guest Services afforded me as I tried to ascertain what photography gear I could/should bring.

I think the program is excellent, particularly in how it accommodates the wide range of mobility and levels of interest in the group.

The hotel was excellent. The restaurant was surprisingly good, and the staff was great at all junctures.

Our local guide was a rockstar—there's really no substitute for the breadth and depth of field experience he has on the taiga/tundra and in Churchill among both the full-time and seasonal residents, staff, scientists/naturalists and visitors.

Our Expedition Leader was everything you could hope for in a group leader: well-informed about the topic at hand, well-informed about many other things including other trips/expeditions, positive, patient, frank but diplomatic, and most of all, seemed genuinely passionate and excited about the bears and their natural (and sometimes unnatural) environment(s).”

–Allan H., Dallas, TX

“I concluded it was well worth every penny. I would encourage anyone to experience this beautiful and interesting part of our world.”

–Diane B., Destin, FL

Optional Pre-Tour:

WINNIPEG



Enjoy additional days in Winnipeg to experience a multiple award-winning exhibit at Assiniboine Park Zoo, featuring nine playful polar bears and a host of arctic animals. Also visit Winnipeg's architectural marvel, the Canadian Museum of Human Rights, and enjoy a guided tour of the Manitoba Museum.

Itinerary:

Day +1: Arrive in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Monday, October 25, 2021

Settle into your accommodations, and enjoy the remainder of the day and evening at leisure.

Overnight: Inn at the Forks

Day +2: Winnipeg

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before touring the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. Interpretive guides connect guests to stories about people who are making or have made human rights history in the area. Explore the equality, language, and labor rights of indigenous people.

Afterward, take a guided tour at Assiniboine Park Zoo to discover *Journey to Churchill*—an

exhibit featuring polar bears, musk oxen, Arctic foxes, wolves, and other northern species—the most comprehensive northern species exhibit of its kind in the world. Experience a variety of landscapes and animal-viewing areas, view interpretive signage and interactive displays, and learn about biodiversity, climate change, and conservation.

Overnight: Inn at the Forks (B,L)

Day +3: Winnipeg / Main Program Begins

Wednesday, October 27, 2021

After breakfast, visit the Manitoba Museum for a guided program, *Indigenous Peoples of the North*, to gain an understanding of the traditional lifestyles of the indigenous people. Learn about the limited resources of the area integral to their survival.

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch

This pre-tour is not escorted by an Orbridge Expedition Leader. Included sightseeing is accompanied by a local guide. Space is limited, so it's recommended to reserve early for best availability.

(Itinerary subject to change.)

Activity Level:

Moderate

It is our expectation that guests on this program are able to walk a mile at a moderate pace, get in and out of a motor coach, and walk up a flight of stairs without assistance.

Accommodations:

Inn at the Forks



October 25 - October 26

Ideally located in downtown Winnipeg, this modern boutique hotel is near a plethora of shopping, arts, and entertainment options. During leisure time, stroll the city's cobblestone streets or take advantage of the hotel's fully equipped fitness center.

Room Amenities: Individual climate control, 55" HDTV, complimentary Wi-Fi, alarm clock, mini-fridge, coffee and tea maker, safe, bathrobes and slippers, and en suite bathroom with locally made sundries and hair dryer.

(Accommodations subject to change.)

What's Included:

- 2 nights accommodations at Inn at the Forks, or similar
- 2 breakfasts and 1 lunch
- Admission to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights for a half-day guided tour
- Admission to the Manitoba Museum, including a private docent-led tour
- Admission to Assiniboine Park Zoo for guided *Journey to Churchill* tour
- Luggage portage
- Airport transfer for guests arriving during the suggested times