



Arctic Polar Bear Expedition:

Canada's Premier Polar Bear Adventure

November 6-12, 2024

7 Days – 6 Nights

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Join ODC Network CEO and Naturalist Travis Williams for this all-inclusive 7-day itinerary that begins in Winnipeg, Canada. We have partnered with an outfitter in Churchill to bring you an amazing small group, private and customized adventure. We will explore the Churchill Wildlife Management Area where the best – and often only – polar bear viewing occurs.

Churchill is a rugged and beautiful town in remote northern Manitoba on the western shore of Hudson Bay, approximately 620 miles north of Winnipeg. Lying along the migration path of polar bears and beluga whales, Churchill draws wildlife enthusiasts from all over the globe. No roads lead to Churchill - plane or train are the only ways to get to this remote town. Along with bear and whale watching, travelers may also catch a glimpse of arctic & red fox, snowy owls, wolves, caribou, moose, and the amazing northern lights - which are visible up to 300 nights of the year.

Participants who travel with the ODC on the Arctic Polar Bear Expedition will experience the trip in a way that most never will. You will be part of a group of 16 people –all ODC Explorer Network travelers. Our customized travel program ensures that you have up-close and personalized experiences with private guides who will help facilitate this unique wildlife and cultural adventure.

This trip is an all-inclusive excursion and includes the following experiences and services:

- 7 days of Lodging in Winnipeg and Churchill
- All meals
- All ground transportation and flights from Winnipeg to Churchill
- Naturalist guides on all excursions including a wildlife photographer who will share all trip photos
- Dog Sledding and cultural excursions
- All gratuities



Itinerary

November 6

Flight to Winnipeg. Our Churchill polar bear tour begins in Winnipeg, the capital of Manitoba. Once a center of the fur trade and a Canadian Pacific Railway boomtown, today Winnipeg is a major cultural and commercial center on the eastern edge of the vast Canadian prairie. We'll stay overnight at the historic Fort Garry Hotel, the Grande Dame of Winnipeg hospitality and one of the city's most prestigious landmarks, where we will gather with our Expedition Leader for a welcome dinner.

November 7

Transfer to the airport to fly by chartered plane to Churchill. This hospitable frontier town, originally a Hudson's Bay Company fur trading post, is our base for adventure. The trip opens with an evening presentation on polar bears and the northern environment by our professional naturalist staff.

November 8 & 9

Custom-built Polar Rovers are our mobile means for spending time among the bears. Our Expedition Leaders know the best places to observe polar bears, which congregate here each fall as they wait for Hudson Bay to freeze, signaling the start of the winter seal-hunting season. We may see mothers with cubs, young males play-fighting, or a lone bear ambling over the silent tundra. Our Expedition Leader interprets all we observe, explaining the bears' behavior and how they thrive in such a harsh environment. In the evenings, we'll gather for dinner and presentations on wildlife and local cultures.

November 10

Tour Churchill following the coastal road on a drive to Cape Merry, often spying Arctic fox and Arctic. You will also learn about the culture of this historic community before heading out on the tundra for evening bear viewing and dinner aboard the Polar Rover. If the skies are clear, our nighttime tundra excursion may reveal one of nature's most exhilarating experiences—a chance to view the northern lights away from town. Though never predictable, the aurora borealis display typically starts as a pale glow in the northern sky. The lights often begin to undulate in shimmering curtains of color, most typically green but occasionally red or violet.

November 11

Our return flight to Winnipeg will depart mid-to late afternoon, offering as much time as possible for exploring Churchill today. A highlight this morning will be an authentic dog sled ride. We'll meet a local musher and his team, spending time with the lively and affectionate dogs before taking turns riding behind them on an exhilarating trot through the boreal forest. We'll have a farewell lunch together before flying back to Winnipeg, where a final reception concludes our adventure together.

November 12

Breakfast and return flight home



Trip Cost:

\$8,500 per person
(plus 3% service charge if using a credit card)

Includes: all lodging, guides, meals (food & drinks) ground transportation and flights from Winnipeg to Churchill, professional photographer services during the trip, Dog sledding and cultural excursions, and all gratuities.

Trip cost is based on double occupancy and does not include round-trip flights to Winnipeg. ODC Network can help book your flights.

Payment Schedule:

\$2,500 deposit due at time of registration
\$3,000 due February 1, 2024
\$3,000 due June 1, 2024

For questions and additional information, please contact Travis Williams at 616-368-2907 or travis@outdoordiscovery.org

