

CHURCHILL POLAR BEARS

October 2025

**WELLS GRAY TOURS**
a world to experience



3 nights in Churchill with 2 expeditions in the Tundra Buggy to watch polar bears

Experience one of the world's most wonderful natural phenomena — the annual polar bear migration on the coast of Hudson Bay. The world's largest polar bear denning area is 40 km southeast of Churchill and has been protected in Wapusk National Park. The bears occupy this area through the summer and early fall. With October's snow and approaching winter, the polar bears start to migrate north to Churchill and wait for the ice to form on Hudson Bay where they spend the winter hunting seals. Therefore, late October and early November are the prime viewing weeks and polar bear sightings are at their peak. Come to Churchill and experience this amazing opportunity with polar bears!



CANADIAN



GROUP SIZE



ACTIVITY LEVEL

▶ Departure from

- ❶ **BC Interior:** October 21, 2025 - 7 days
- ❷ **Vancouver Island:** October 21, 2025 - 7 days
- ❸ **Lower Mainland:** October 21, 2025 - 7 days

▶ Fares per person

- ❶ from **\$11,385** double/twin, **\$13,025** single*
*Pricing details for all departures provided on page 2.

▶ Early Booking Bonus

\$200 discount on first 4 seats; **\$100** on next 4.

▶ Earn 155 Experience Points



Tundra Buggy

Providing Quality Packaged Travel Since 1972

Your specific departure point will be confirmed at the time of booking. Passengers travelling from the BC Interior, Vancouver Island & Lower Mainland regions will begin and end the tour as follows:

- I BC Interior:** We fly from Kelowna, Penticton, or Kamloops to Winnipeg on Tuesday, October 21. We fly back to Kelowna, Penticton, or Kamloops from Winnipeg on Monday, October 27. Transportation is provided to and from your pickup point. Departure and return from Penticton Airport is dependent on availability. Otherwise, passengers will be transferred to/from Kelowna Airport.

- V Vancouver Island:** We fly from Victoria, Nanaimo, or Comox to Winnipeg on Tuesday, October 21. We fly back to Victoria, Nanaimo, or Comox from Winnipeg on Monday, October 27.

Departure from Victoria: Depending on the number of people booked and coach size, home pickups may be offered in the Greater Victoria Area. The decision is made about 2 weeks before departure and you will be contacted about your pickup point and time.

Departure from Up-Island: Transportation to/from Nanaimo or Comox Airport is not provided. Please note that while we always prioritize convenient connections for our clients, sometimes it is not possible given the airline schedule and availability. You will be contacted regarding your schedule after final payment. Please request departure from Nanaimo or Comox at the time of booking.

- L Lower Mainland:** We fly from Vancouver or Abbotsford to Winnipeg on Tuesday, October 21. We fly back to Vancouver or Abbotsford from Winnipeg on Monday, October 27. Home pickup in the Greater Vancouver Area can be arranged at the time of booking.

Departure from Abbotsford or Chilliwack: No transportation is provided to/from Abbotsford Airport.

FARES PER PERSON

	Departure Point	Fares Per Person	Notes
I	BC Interior	\$11,385 double/twin \$13,025 single	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please add 5% GST. • This tour can only accommodate 4 singles.
V	Vancouver Island	\$11,435 double/twin \$13,075 single	
L	Lower Mainland	\$11,415 double/twin \$13,055 single	

OPTIONS

Winter gear rental: If you don't want to pack your own cold weather clothing, you can take advantage of this convenient service for parka, pants, and boots for 4 days. \$394 per person plus tax.

Helicopter ride: Take a 1-hour helicopter ride over Churchill and Hudson Bay. The date is flexible depending on weather. Price will be available in late spring 2025.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

▶ Meals

- **13 total:** 4 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 5 dinners

▶ Transportation

- Transfers to/from Kelowna, Kamloops, Penticton, Victoria, or Vancouver Airports from the BC Interior, Greater Victoria, or Greater Vancouver Areas
- Flight from Kelowna, Kamloops, Penticton, Victoria, Nanaimo, Comox, Vancouver, or Abbotsford to Winnipeg & return
- Air transportation taxes & security fees
- Transportation in Winnipeg
- Flight from Winnipeg to Churchill & return
- Local transportation in Churchill

▶ Accommodation

- 3 nights accommodation in Winnipeg & taxes
- 3 nights accommodation in Churchill & taxes

▶ Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director

- Your tour director is with you on October 21 and 22 only, and does not join the group in Churchill.

See Tour Notes for further details.

▶ Key Highlights

- Locally-guided tour of Winnipeg
- The Forks
- Manitoba Museum
- Locally-guided town tour of Churchill
- Polar Bear Holding Facility
- Talk at Polar Bears International House
- Parks Canada Interpretive Centre
- 2 days in Tundra Buggy viewing polar bears
- Cultural presentation
- Dog sledding excursion
- Itsanitaq Museum
- Professional naturalist guides in Churchill & on Tundra Buggy

Attractions are subject to change. Please see Tour Policies for more information.

▶ Guides & Gratuities

- Gratuities for guides, drivers & docents in Winnipeg & Churchill



Activity Level 3

High Activity: You are an active traveller who wants to explore wherever you go. You don't mind a mix of full days, early morning starts, and some late nights. You can walk

longer distances, up to 4 km without difficulty which may be over uneven ground or beaches/shorelines. You must be able to climb a short and steep set of stairs to board the Tundra Buggy. There is no luggage handling service in Winnipeg or Churchill. Your Churchill room could be on the second floor with no elevator. There can be longer walks in the airports. This tour is not appropriate for people with canes, walkers, wheelchairs, or other mobility assistance devices. Hiking poles are fine. Additionally, this tour is not appropriate for people who have cognitive impairments such as memory loss or confusion, difficulty expressing thoughts, repeating questions, or getting lost.

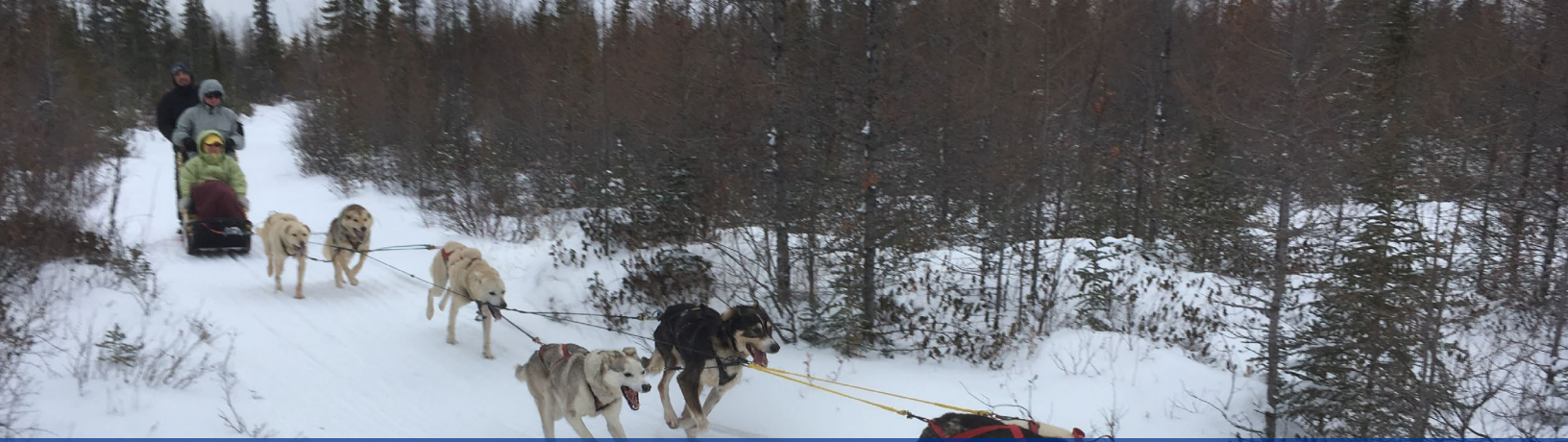
The tour director, Churchill guide and driver have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance. If you are not capable of keeping up with the group or require frequent assistance, the Churchill guide may stop you from participating in some activities or some days of the tour. In extreme situations, you may be required to leave the tour and travel home at your own expense; travel insurance will probably not cover you.

Please read the Activity Level 3 declaration attached to this brochure. By paying the tour deposit, you agree that you are capable of travelling on an Activity Level 3 tour.



Tour Size 15

This tour is limited to 15 participants, making it a more intimate travel experience. There will be other people on the Tundra Buggy with our group.



Dog Sledding in Churchill

ITINERARY

Tuesday, October 21

We fly to **Winnipeg** and stay two nights at the Lakeview Signature Hotel near the airport, so we are conveniently located for the early flight to Churchill on Thursday. Meet your fellow travellers during a welcome dinner.

Meals included: Dinner

Accommodation: Lakeview Signature Hotel

Wednesday, October 22

Winnipeg is one of the most culturally diverse cities in Canada with a fascinating history. A locally-guided sightseeing tour enlightens us on the French-English relationships and includes sights like the Manitoba Legislative Building, Leo Mol Sculpture Garden, Assiniboine Park, and St. Boniface Cathedral. There is free time for lunch at **The Forks** public market with time to browse the many interesting boutiques. This afternoon, we visit the **Manitoba Museum** to discover the fascinating landscapes, flora and fauna, and history of Manitoba. An orientation talk about our upcoming polar bear adventure is arranged this evening.

Accommodation: Lakeview Signature Hotel

Thursday, October 23

An early morning flight gets us to Churchill by 10 am. Founded by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1717, **Churchill** is today a remote outpost of 600 year-round residents. A sightseeing tour of the town with a local guide includes the historic gun batteries of Cape Merry, the Port of Churchill (Canada's only Arctic grain terminal), the shipwreck of the *Ithaca*, and a coastal drive along **Hudson Bay**. Cape Merry provides an excellent vantage point for spotting polar bears. We also stop at the Polar Bear Holding Facility and listen to a talk by an ambassador at the Polar Bears International House. In the afternoon, we visit the **Parks Canada Interpretive Centre** which has exhibits and a show about the natural history and human settlement of this region. We stay three nights in Churchill (hotel name to be advised later).

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: TBA in Churchill

Friday, October 24

We embark on the **Tundra Buggy** for a full day in the Arctic wilderness near the shore of Hudson Bay to watch the polar bears. Often, curious bears approach the vehicle providing wonderful close range encounters and excellent photos. Other animals and birds are frequently spotted as well, including the caribou, lemming, ptarmigan, and white-phase gyrfalcons. Tonight, a cultural presentation is arranged with a local speaker.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: TBA in Churchill

Saturday, October 25

First, we take a thrilling **dog sledding excursion**. As well as the actual dog sled ride, we are introduced to a northern way of life where dog teams have historically played a prominent role. There may be sightings of local wildlife such as the Arctic



Itsanitaq Museum

ITINERARY

Saturday, October 25 continued

fox, Arctic hare, and snowy owl. This afternoon, we visit the **Itsanitaq Museum** which houses a superb collection of Inuit carvings and artifacts dating from pre-Dorset, Dorset, Thule, and modern Inuit times.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: TBA in Churchill

Sunday, October 26

This is a second full day devoted to viewing the polar bears from the Tundra Buggy. Our flight back to Winnipeg departs tonight.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Lakeview Signature Hotel

Monday, October 27

Transportation is provided to Winnipeg Airport, then we fly home.

TOUR NOTES & POLICIES

Tundra Buggy: The tour spends two days in a Tundra Buggy, a large six-wheel drive vehicle specially designed and built for off-road travel in a cold climate. Riding on huge low pressure agricultural tires, the Tundra Buggy can move safely over the snow and ice. It has comfortable seats and is equipped with a heater, restroom, and radio communication to Churchill. Sliding glass windows permit an unobstructed view. With the floor at a height of 2.1 metres and the windows opening at 3 metres, passengers are high enough to be safe from curious polar bears. Although our group will likely occupy at least half of the Tundra Buggy, there will be other travellers on board. This gives plenty of space to move around, so each person has a window seat and the rear outside deck is not so crowded.

Churchill accommodation during the bear viewing season is very limited and the demand for rooms is far greater than availability. Only 4 single rooms are permitted. Wells Gray Tours offers this tour about every 3 years and it is limited to 15 people. Churchill lodging is basic and comfortable.

Wells Gray Tour Director is with you on October 21 (starting from one of the five cities) and October 22, and sees you onto your Churchill flight on October 23. A

Churchill guide from Frontiers North looks after all your activities on October 23 through 26.

Clothing: Dress warmly, no matter what weather forecast you see for Churchill. You will be outside a lot and it is easy to get chilled, even in late October. Bring a winter coat, winter pants, warm sweatshirt, heavy sweater, warm underwear, toque, and warm gloves. You could also purchase the winter gear rental option (see page 2).

Comprehensive travel insurance is required by the Churchill tour company including without limitation medical, emergency evacuation, trip cancellation, and interruption insurance. If you do not buy insurance through Wells Gray Tours, it is essential that you check your policy carefully. Insurance with your credit card or employee benefits may not cover what you need.

Flight seating: We are unable to take requests for window or aisle seating on the planes. The airline will not accept them, as group seating is assigned as a block. If this is important to you, we suggest you take the "No Flight" option with a fare reduction of \$850 and book your own flight which allows seat selection. This applies to the British Columbia to Winnipeg and return flights only.

TOUR NOTES & POLICIES continued

Flight delays or cancellations: Flights can be delayed or cancelled at the last minute, sometimes causing a missed connection. Wells Gray staff will try to assist with rebooking, but the airline usually wants to talk with the individual passenger. There may be an extra payment required if the issue is weather. Wells Gray Tours is not allowed to interfere with this process. Check that your travel insurance policy has a flight delay benefit because that is usually your best recourse for recouping additional flight costs.

Food Allergies: You must notify us no later than at final payment if you have a food allergy. Restaurants in Churchill may not be able to satisfy all food allergies due to the remote location. It is impossible to handle everybody's requests for food preferences. An allergy causes medical distress, a preference does not. For some allergies, please consider bringing your own snacks or food items so you are not dependent on what restaurants are able to serve.

Payments: A deposit of \$1,000 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due June 19, 2025. By paying the deposit, you agree to the [Terms & Conditions](#), Activity Level 3 Declaration, and Cancellation Policy outlined. Payments can be made by online banking or cheque (1.5% discount on tour fare), or by Visa or Mastercard (\$5,000 limit per person on credit cards).

Early Booking Bonus: Receive a \$200 discount on the first 4 seats and \$100 on the next 4 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after June 19, 2025.

Cancellation policies: The hotel, Tundra Buggy, and Churchill airline all impose strict cancellation policies due to the high demand during polar bear viewing season and the difficulty of reselling space if a late cancellation occurs. All payments that Wells Gray Tours makes to the Churchill tour operator are non-refundable. We must commit to using all contracted services by June 19, 2025, therefore early booking on this tour is vital. Churchill rooms may be recalled from our block at any time if unsold, and it is very unlikely that we can get a room for a late booking.

Cancellation Policy: Up to May 20, 2025, the cancellation charge is \$850 per person. From May 21 to June 19, the cancellation charge is \$1,000 per person. From June 20 to July 18, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. After July 18, there is no refund.

Itinerary and Fare Changes: Our many suppliers may notify us about changes to the itinerary prior to departure and sometimes during the tour. We do our best to substitute a similar service if something cancels, but occasionally the only alternative is to provide a refund for the missed activity. Please note that if we are forced to cancel a tour component due to an issue beyond our control, the current penalties still apply if you choose to cancel the entire tour. Fuel surcharges and changes to taxes or other tour costs can occur at any time, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up to departure.





Polar Bear

TOUR NOTES & POLICIES continued

Travel Insurance: A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. This tour stays in Canada, but medical costs can vary wildly from one province to another. Remember that travel insurance typically provides cancellation coverage if you get sick the day before at home or you are in an accident or your flight is cancelled due to weather. Medical questionnaire is not needed. Please contact us for details. If you have your own travel insurance, please read the policy carefully to be sure that you are adequately covered for medical, cancellation, interruption, emergency evacuation, and luggage.

Photo Credits: Pexels (cover photo), Frontiers North (Tundra Buggy), tour director Marion (Dog Sledding in Churchill, Wells Gray Group by Tundra Buggy's Tire), Tourism Manitoba (Itsanitaq Museum), and Adobe Stock (Polar Bear).

Experience Points or E-points: This tour earns 155 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn e-points that are added to your account after the tour returns. One e-point equals \$1. Redeem your earned points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until June 19, 2025.

Consumer Protection BC Licences: Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924, Victoria 65842

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YOU PACK.
NO WORRIES!

www.wellsgraytours.com
1-800-667-9552



Offices are open weekdays from 9 am to 4 pm. Book an appointment or walk-in and visit us. _____

KAMLOOPS

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Kamloops, BC
V2C 1X7
250-374-0831

KELOWNA

2575 Richter St.
Kelowna, BC
V1Y 2R1
250-762-3435

VERNON

3206 35th St.
Vernon, BC
V1T 6B7
250-545-9197

PENTICTON

159 Wade Ave East
Penticton, BC
V2A 8B6
250-493-1255

VICTORIA

102-736 Broughton St.
Victoria, BC
V8W 1E1
250-590-7889

Churchill Polar Bears — October 21, 2025

This tour is rated “Activity Level 3” by the tour planners at Wells Gray Tours using our new scale with 4 levels. This rating means there is a lot of activity as described here:



High Activity: You are an active traveller who wants to explore wherever you go. You don't mind a mix of full days, early morning starts, and some late nights. You can walk longer distances, up to 4 km without difficulty which may be over uneven ground or beaches/shorelines. You must be able to climb a short and steep set of stairs to

board the Tundra Buggy. There is no luggage handling service in Winnipeg or Churchill. Your Churchill room could be on the second floor with no elevator. There can be longer walks in the airports. This tour is not appropriate for people with canes, walkers, wheelchairs, or other mobility assistance devices. Additionally, this tour is not appropriate for people who have cognitive impairments such as memory loss or confusion, difficulty expressing thoughts, repeating questions, or getting lost.

Since a few people who are not capable of doing these activities can hold up the entire group, Wells Gray Tours expects everybody booking a tour with “Activity Level 3” to be reasonably fit physically and mentally. By paying the deposit, you agree that you have read this Activity Level 3 Declaration and the statements are true.

- I want to travel on a Wells Gray tour with a rating of “Activity Level 3” on the new scale with 4 levels.
- I have read the brochure with the full itinerary and description of the activities that are typical on this tour.
- I understand that this is the second highest activity level that a Wells Gray tour can be rated.
- I am confident that I can participate in tour activities at this level, and I will not hold up or delay the other members of the tour.
- I do not require the use of a wheelchair, walker, cane, or other mobility assistance devices.
- I have no cognitive impairment such as memory loss or confusion, difficulty expressing thoughts, repeating questions, or getting lost.
- If my physical or cognitive condition changes between booking and departure date such that I can no longer do this level of activity, I will notify the Wells Gray office or agent. The specified penalties will apply for cancelling and travel insurance may cover this.
- If I am not capable of keeping up with the group or require ongoing assistance, I understand that the Wells Gray tour director has the right to stop me from participating in some activities or some days of the tour. In extreme situations, I acknowledge that I may be required to leave the tour and travel home at my own expense, and that travel insurance will probably not cover me. There will be no refund for unused tour services.

This statement has been implemented by Wells Gray Tours to maintain high quality itineraries, accurate timing, and the enjoyment of all tour participants.