

CHURCHILL BELUGAS & BEARS

August 2026



Zodiac Excursion

See the annual migration of belugas!

Summer is the perfect time to visit Churchill, Manitoba. During the months of July and August, the Churchill River is teeming with beluga whales who migrate into the warm, shallow waters to give birth and feed on fish. Known as the “canaries of the sea”, these friendly and inquisitive creatures will capture your heart as you enjoy their whale songs. While on land, enjoy the view as the surrounding landscape erupts into colourful summer blooms. Walk through the Hudson’s Bay Company’s massive Prince of Wales Fort, dating from 1717. Experience a dog carting excursion with a professional musher through the boreal forest and explore the Churchill Wildlife Management Area by Tundra Buggy for a chance to see a multitude of northern wildlife. You might even have the opportunity to see the first of the summer polar bears as they begin their migration into the area. Our Churchill tour operator boasts excellent naturalist guides with extensive knowledge of the natural and cultural heritage of the region. This tour flies to Winnipeg, then to Churchill and return.



CANADIAN



GROUP SIZE



ACTIVITY LEVEL

► Departure from:

- BC Interior:** August 11, 2026 - 8 days
- Vancouver Island:** August 11, 2026 - 8 days
- Lower Mainland:** August 11, 2026 - 8 days

► Fares per person

- 1** from **\$11,530** double/twin, **\$13,195** single*

*Pricing details for all departures provided on page 2.



Tundra Buggy

DEPARTURE INFORMATION

Your departure point will be discussed at the time of booking.



I

BC Interior: We depart on Tuesday, August 11 and fly to Winnipeg from Kamloops, Kelowna, or Penticton (pending flight schedules). We fly back to Kamloops, Kelowna, or Penticton from Winnipeg on Tuesday, August 18. Transportation is provided from your pickup location on the day of departure and back when we return.

V

Vancouver Island: We depart on Tuesday, August 11 and fly from Victoria, Nanaimo, or Comox to Winnipeg. We return on Tuesday, August 18, flying from Winnipeg to Victoria, Nanaimo, or Comox.

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 and from Nanaimo or Comox Airport is not provided. 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 Airport at the time of booking.

L

Lower Mainland: We depart on Tuesday, August 11 and fly to Winnipeg from Vancouver. We return on Tuesday, August 18, flying from Winnipeg to Vancouver.

Departure from Vancouver: Home pickup for clients in the Greater Vancouver Area may be arranged at the time of booking.

Departure from Langley, Abbotsford, or Chilliwack: No transportation is provided to or from Abbotsford or Vancouver Airport.

FARES PER PERSON



	Departure Point	Fares per Person	
I	BC Interior	\$11,530 double/twin \$13,195 single	
V	Vancouver Island	\$11,580 double/twin \$13,245 single	
L	Lower Mainland	\$11,560 double/twin \$13,225 single	

- Please add 5% GST.
- Single seats are limited. Please book early if you prefer to travel single.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

► Meals

- **16 total:** 5 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 6 dinners

► Transportation

- Flight from Kamloops, Kelowna, Penticton, Vancouver, Abbotsford, Victoria, Nanaimo or Comox to Winnipeg & return
- Current air taxes, fees & fuel surcharges
- Transportation in Winnipeg
- Flight from Winnipeg to Churchill & return
- Local transportation in Churchill

► Accommodation

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

► Guides & Gratuities

- Professional naturalist guides in Churchill & on Tundra Buggy
- Gratuities for Churchill guides, drivers, boat crew, & docents

► Key Highlights

- Locally-guided tour of Winnipeg
- Manitoba Museum
- Orientation talk about Churchill
- Locally-guided town tour of Churchill
- Polar Bears International House
- Churchill River Zodiac tour to view beluga whales
- Itsanitaq Museum
- Parks Canada Interpretive Centre
- Kayaking with the beluga whales
- Cultural presentation by indigenous person
- Dog carting excursion
- 2nd Zodiac excursion to view beluga whales
- Walking tour of Prince of Wales Fort
- Tundra Buggy trip in Churchill Wildlife Management area

Attractions are subject to change. Please see [Tour Policies](#) for more information.

► Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director with you until your flight to 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 and shorelines, and stand for prolonged periods. You must be able to climb a short steep set of stairs to board the Tundra Buggy. You must be able to get in and out of a Zodiac or a boat without difficulty, and sit on board for several hours while viewing the belugas. There is no luggage handling service in Winnipeg and Churchill. You can handle your own luggage in the airports. Your Churchill room could be on the second floor with no elevator (ground floor rooms cannot be requested).

The coaches and Tundra Buggy cannot carry a scooter. This tour is not appropriate for people who depend on canes, walkers, wheelchairs, or other mobility assistance devices. Additionally, this tour is not appropriate for those who have cognitive impairments such as memory loss or confusion, difficulty expressing thoughts, repeating questions, or getting lost. The tour director, Churchill guide, and drivers have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance.

Please note: Prior to accepting your booking, you will be required to [sign a declaration](#) 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. Early booking is strongly recommended. There will be other people on the Tundra Buggy and zodiac with our group.

ITINERARY

Tuesday, August 11

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.

Accommodation: Lakeview Signature Hotel

Wednesday, August 12

Winnipeg is one of the most culturally diverse cities in Canada with a fascinating history. A locally-guided sightseeing tour explains the French-English relationships and includes sights like Manitoba Legislative Building, Leo Mol Sculpture Garden, Assiniboine Park, and St. Boniface Cathedral. There is free time for lunch at The Forks Public Market so you can 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 Churchill adventure is arranged this evening.

Meals included: Dinner

Accommodation: Lakeview Signature Hotel

Thursday, August 13

Our flight leaves Winnipeg early and takes 3½ hours to Churchill. 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 to the Inukshuk. We also stop at the Polar Bear Holding Facility and listen to a talk by an ambassador at the **Polar Bears International House**. We stay four nights in Churchill (hotel name to be advised later).

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Churchill hotel TBA

Friday, August 14

We take a Zodiac excursion for the **first viewing of the beluga whales** that migrate into the mouth of the Churchill River. This is the world's largest beluga whale population and we can see them at surface

level very close to our boat. We also visit the **Itsanitaq Museum** which houses a superb collection of Inuit carvings and artifacts dating from pre-Dorset, Dorset, Thule, and modern Inuit times. Later, we visit the Parks Canada Interpretive Centre which presents exhibits and a show about the natural history and human settlement of this region.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Churchill hotel TBA

Saturday, August 15

A guided **kayaking excursion** among the beluga whales on the Churchill River is arranged. It lasts for three hours and all equipment is provided. In the afternoon, there is a cultural presentation from a local indigenous person.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Churchill hotel TBA

Sunday, August 16

We participate in an exhilarating **dog carting** excursion hosted by a local resident and dogsledding expert. Meet the team of friendly dogs, hear stories, and enjoy a ride for 2 km on a custom-made dog cart through the northern boreal forest. Today is another Zodiac opportunity to view the beluga whales in the estuary of the Churchill River. We tour the **Prince of Wales Fort National Historic Site**, the oldest and most northerly fort in Canada. It began as a log fort built in 1717 by the Hudson's Bay Company to protect its fur trading interests. Starting in 1731, it was replaced by a massive stone fort in a star shape with sides 90 metres long and walls six metres tall and nine metres thick at the base. There were 42 cannons mounted on the walls. Construction continued for 40 years, but it was never fully completed. During free time this evening, you may want to explore Churchill's authentic shops or view the **SeaWalls murals** around town.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Churchill hotel TBA

Monday, August 17

We embark on the **Tundra Buggy** for a day in the sub-Arctic wilderness of the Churchill Wildlife Management Area near the shore of Hudson Bay. At

this time of year, it is full of flowers, migrating birds, and wildlife such as caribou and Arctic fox.

This evening, we fly from Churchill to Winnipeg.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Lakeview Signature Hotel

Tuesday, August 18

Fly from Winnipeg to your departure airport and travel home.

BELUGA WHALES

Experience one of the world's most wonderful natural phenomena — the annual migration of beluga whales into the warm, shallow waters of the Churchill River to give birth and feed on fish. Known as the "canaries of the sea", these friendly and inquisitive creatures will capture your heart as you enjoy their whale song. The beluga whale is an Arctic and sub-Arctic cetacean, one of two members of the family *Monodontidae*, along with the narwhal.

The beluga is adapted to life in the Arctic, so it has characteristics that differentiate it from other cetaceans, such as its all-white colour and the absence of a dorsal fin which allows it to swim under ice. It has a distinctive protuberance at the front of its head which houses an echolocation organ called the melon. The beluga's body size is between that of a dolphin and a true whale, with males growing up to 5.5 metres long and weighing up to 1,600 kilograms. Like many cetaceans, a large percentage of its weight is blubber. Its sense of hearing is highly developed and its echolocation allows it to move about and find breathing holes under sheet ice.

Belugas are gregarious and form groups of 10 animals on average although, during the summer, they can gather in the hundreds in shallow coastal areas. They are slow swimmers, but can dive to 700 metres below the surface. They are opportunistic feeders and their diets vary according to their locations and the season. Belugas are migratory and the majority of groups spend the winter around the Arctic ice cap; when the sea ice melts in summer, they move to warmer river estuaries to breed.

Although this tour features beluga whales, it is quite diversified so you gain a full perspective of the region, history, and ecosystems. As well as two boat excursions to see the belugas up close, we include a Tundra Buggy ride to experience the Arctic environment, a tour of Prince of Wales Fort, museum visits, a town tour, a dog carting excursion, and the Polar Bear International House. Our Churchill tour operator has been arranging tours here for three decades and boasts excellent naturalist guides with extensive knowledge in the natural and cultural heritage of the region.

TOUR NOTES

Please book early! Our space being held for this tour can be taken away from us at any time if demand is high. The Churchill hotel, Churchill airline, and Tundra Buggy all impose strict cancellation policies due to the high demand and the difficulty of re-selling 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 April 9, 2026, therefore early booking on this tour is vital. Penalties for cancellation are detailed on the next page. Therefore, waiting too long to book usually means "Sorry, wait until next time this tour is offered."

Tundra Buggy: The tour spends most of one day in a Tundra Buggy, a large six-wheel drive vehicle specially designed and built for off-road travel. Riding on huge low-pressure agricultural tires, the Tundra Buggy can move safely over the ground. It has comfortable seats and is equipped with a heater (if needed), 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 animals. There will be other travellers on board.

Limited accommodation: Accommodation in Churchill is very limited and the demand for rooms is far greater than availability. Wells Gray Tours has never run a summer Churchill tour before, although we do offer the Churchill Polar Bears tour (next departure October 2027). This tour is limited to 15 people. Churchill lodging is best described as basic and comfortable.

Rooms for singles: Only 1 single seat is available. Don't delay in booking if you prefer to travel single.

Gratuities are included for local guides, museum docents, boat crew, and Manitoba drivers. The customary gratuity to the Wells Gray tour director is not included and left to your discretion.

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.

Wells Gray Tour Director is with you on August 11 (starting from Kamloops, Kelowna or Victoria) and August 12 and sees you onto your Churchill flight on August 13. A Churchill guide looks after all your activities from August 13 to 17.

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 \$900 and book your own flight which allows seat selection. This applies to the British Columbia to Winnipeg and return flights only.

Flight delays or cancellations: In the event flights are delayed or cancelled by airlines due to weather or other reasons, there may be additional costs to you. Wells Gray Tours will not pay for hotel rooms and meals during the delay. Most travel insurance policies cover expenses incurred for flight delays.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$1,000 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due April 9, 2026. 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 (3% discount on tour fare), or by Visa or Mastercard.

Early Booking Bonus: Receive a \$200 discount on the first 4 seats and \$100 on the next 2 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after April 9, 2026.

Cancellation Policy: Up to March 9, 2026, the cancellation charge is \$850 per person. From March 10 to April 9, the cancellation charge is \$1000 per person (your deposit). From April 10 to June 10, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. After June 10, there is no refund. Wells Gray Tours cannot adjust these penalties or dates as they are imposed by the Churchill package supplier.

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.

Travel Insurance: Travel in Canada's North is not like other parts of the world. You will be travelling to a remote destination. Comprehensive Travel Insurance coverage is mandatory. 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. While your BC Services Card may partly cover you for a medical issue that arises during the tour, you will probably benefit from trip cancellation and trip interruption coverage in case of illness or a mishap before or during the tour. Many other benefits such as luggage insurance are included. 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, emergency evacuation, cancellation, interruption, and luggage.

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Experience Points: This tour earns 155 Experience Points or e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn e-points. One e-point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until April 9, 2026.

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

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