

CHURCHILL POLAR BEARS

October 2027



Polar Bears

A Once-in-a-Lifetime Polar Bear Adventure

Experience the incredible thrill of seeing polar bears in their natural environment during their annual migration along the coast of Hudson Bay. This unforgettable adventure is designed for active travellers who enjoy full days of exploration and early morning starts. You'll travel to Churchill as polar bears gather along the coast, waiting for the sea ice to form so they can begin their winter seal hunt. A highlight of your journey is venturing out onto the tundra aboard a Tundra Buggy, where you'll have an incredible opportunity to observe these magnificent animals in the wild. From the excitement of spotting polar bears in their natural habitat to the unique experience of exploring this remote northern community, every day brings something special. With expert local guides and unforgettable wildlife encounters, this is a rare opportunity to witness one of the world's most spectacular natural phenomena and create memories that will last a lifetime.



CANADIAN TOUR



GROUP SIZE



ACTIVITY LEVEL

► Departure from:

❶ **BC Interior:** October 21, 2027 - 7 days

❷ **Vancouver Island:** October 21, 2027 - 7 days

❸ **Lower Mainland:** October 21, 2027 - 7 days

► Fares per person

❶ from **\$13,545** double/twin, **\$15,260** single*

**Pricing details for all departures provided on page 2.*

► Early Booking Bonus

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

► Earn 175 Experience Points



Tundra Buggy

Providing Quality Packaged Travel Since 1972

WHAT'S INCLUDED

► Meals

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

► Transportation

- Transfers between the BC Interior, Greater Vancouver, or Greater Victoria Areas & the Kelowna, Kamloops, Penticton, Vancouver, or Victoria Airport
- Flights to Winnipeg & return
- Current air transport taxes & 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

► Guides & Gratuities

- Professional naturalist guides from Frontiers North in Churchill & on Tundra Buggy
- Gratuities for guides, drivers & docents in Winnipeg & Churchill

► Key Highlights

- Locally-guided tour of Winnipeg
- The Forks Market
- Manitoba Museum
- Locally-guided town tour of Churchill
- Polar Bear Holding Facility
- Talk at Polar Bears International House
- Parks Canada Visitor Centre in Churchill
- Cultural presentation by an Indigenous resident
- 2 days in Tundra Buggy viewing polar bears
- Dog sledding excursion
- Itsanitaq Museum

Attractions are subject to change. Please see our [Terms & Conditions](#) for more information.

► 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.

FARES PER PERSON

	Departure Point	Fares per Person	Notes
I	BC Interior	\$13,545 double/twin \$15,260 single	• Please add 5% GST. • There are only 2 single seats on this tour. Please book early if you prefer to travel single.
V	Vancouver Island	\$13,595 double/twin \$15,310 single	
L	Lower Mainland	\$13,575 double/twin \$15,290 single	



ITINERARY

Thursday, October 21

Your [departure point](#) will be discussed at the time of booking. 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 Saturday.

Accommodation: Lakeview Signature Hotel

Friday, October 22

Winnipeg is one of the most culturally diverse cities in Canada with a fascinating history. A locally guided sightseeing tour introduces us to the French-English history and relationships including 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 Market** with time to browse its many shops. 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. Meet your fellow travellers during a welcome dinner.

Meals included: Dinner

Accommodation: Lakeview Signature Hotel

Saturday, October 23

An early morning charter flight organized by Frontiers North 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 Visitor Centre which has exhibits and a show about the natural history

and human settlement of this region. A cultural talk is presented by a local Indigenous resident. We stay three nights in Churchill (hotel name to be advised later).

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: TBA in Churchill

Sunday, 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 caribou, lemmings, ptarmigans, and white-phase gyrfalcons.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: TBA in Churchill

Monday, October 25

This is a second full day devoted to viewing the polar bears from the Tundra Buggy.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: TBA in Churchill

Tuesday, October 26

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 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. Our charter flight back to Winnipeg departs tonight.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Lakeview Signature Hotel

Wednesday, October 27

The hotel's shuttle provides a quick transfer to the airport terminal. We fly to our departure airports.

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 on beaches and shorelines. You must be able to climb a short 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 recommended. 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 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.

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 with our group.

TOUR NOTES

Please book early! Viewing the polar bears at Churchill is very popular and in high demand from tourists all over the world. The Churchill tour operator who handles these arrangements has strict policies about our commitment to the number of rooms and Tundra Buggy seats needed. The company will cancel rooms and seats from our original reservation if they can sell to other visitors. If this happens, we have to consider the tour full. We know that British Columbians tend to book closer to departure, but other visitors are happy to book a year to 1½ years out to experience this unique opportunity. Therefore, waiting too long to book usually means “Sorry, wait until our next trip in 2029.”

Churchill accommodation during the bear viewing season is very limited and the demand for rooms is far greater than availability. Only 2 single rooms are permitted for our group. Wells Gray Tours offers this tour every 2-3 years and it is limited to 15 people. Churchill lodging is basic but comfortable.

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. Our group will not fill a Tundra Buggy, so expect to meet other travellers (and bear enthusiasts) on board. There is plenty of space to move around inside and on the rear outside deck.

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. You do not have a tour director with you on October 27 when you fly home from Winnipeg.

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 can also rent your winter gear (see option below).

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. Price available in early 2027.

Flight seating: We are unable to take seating requests of any kind in any class. 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. For more information about the "No Flight" option, please see our [Terms and Conditions](#).

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.

Food Allergies: You must notify us no later than at final payment if you have a food allergy. Restaurants in Churchill probably cannot satisfy all food allergies due to the remote location. 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.

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 17, 2027, 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.



Tundra Buggy with Polar Bear

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$1,000 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due June 17, 2027. By paying the deposit, you agree to the [Terms and Conditions, Company Policies](#), 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.

Cancellation Policy:

- Up to May 17, 2027, the cancellation charge is \$850 per person.
- From May 18 to June 17, the cancellation charge is \$1,000 per person (your deposit).
- From June 18 to July 16, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare.
- After July 16, there is no refund.

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. A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by battleface® travel insurance. 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. battleface® does not require a medical questionnaire. Please contact us for details. Insurance premiums are not refundable whether or not you make a claim. This tour stays in Canada, but medical costs can vary a lot 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.

Photo Credits: Alex Cupeiro & Frontiers North Adventures (Polar Bears), Eric Lindberg & Frontiers North Adventures (Tundra Buggy), Neil Mumby & Frontiers North Adventures (Polar Bear with Tundra Buggies), and Frontiers North Adventures (Tundra Buggy with Polar Bear).

Experience Points or E-points: This tour earns 175 Experience Points or e-points. Redeem up to 175 of your earned e-points from a previous tour until June 17, 2027. Please see information about [loyalty rewards](#) on our website for more information about e-points.

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

For information on itinerary and fare changes and more, please see our [Terms, Conditions, and Company Policies](#).

KAMLOOPS	KELOWNA	VERNON	PENTICTON	VICTORIA
(Head Office)	2575 Richter St.	3206 35th St.	159 Wade Ave E	102-736 Broughton St.
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