

### Polar Bears of Churchill

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





BOOK WITH CONFIDENCE

30-day refund guarantee



Dear Traveling Owls,

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 an Orbridge Expedition Leader and exclusive educational experiences—including presentations by experts at Churchill's Northern Studies Centre and a local naturalist—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.

Reserve today online at rice.orbridge.com, by calling 866-639-0079 or by returning the enclosed reservation form.

Sincerely,

Deanna Perez Assistant Director, Alumni Engagement

Orbridge takes seriously the responsibility to minimize our global environmental impact. Each year we plant 100,000 trees in U.S. State Forests with afforestation needs as an ongoing initiative among our evolving sustainability efforts. Learn more at orbridge.com/going-green.







### Your 6-Day Itinerary

### (subject to change)

- Day 1: Arrive in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada (R,D) Welcome reception, dinner, and presentation Overnight: Fort Garry Hotel & Spa
- Day 2: Winnipeg / Flight to Churchill / Northern Studies Centre / Parks Canada Interpretive Centre (B,L-aloft,D) Current research and interactive presentation, exhibit exploration Overnight: Lazy Bear Lodge
- Day 3: Churchill / Arctic Crawler™ Experience (B,L) Grab your camera, board the Arctic Crawler™, and head out onto stark and beautiful landscapes for your first opportunity to observe and photograph polar bears in their natural habitat Overnight: Lazy Bear Lodge
- Day 4: Churchill / Cultural and Heritage Tour / Itsanitaq Museum / Dog Sledding (B,D) Panoramic site visits (Miss Piggy Plane Crash site, Polar Bear "Jail," and Cape Merry), museum tour, dog sled ride Overnight: Lazy Bear Lodge
- Day 5: Churchill / Arctic Crawler™ Experience / Flight to Winnipeg (B,L,D) Another opportunity to observe and photograph polar bears aboard the Arctic Crawler™ Overnight: The Grand Winnipeg Airport Hotel
- Day 6: Depart Winnipeg (B)

Activity Level: Guests should be prepared for cold temperatures, be able to walk on frozen or snow-covered ground, and manage stairs without assistance.



### **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.
- Head out for two expeditions aboard the Arctic Crawler<sup>™</sup>—custom designed to allow for up-close encounters with polar bears. Explore the area's unique landscape and its variety of wildlife, including arctic hare, snowy owl, ptarmigan, arctic fox, and polar bears.
- Visit Churchill's Itsanitaq Museum for an exploration of indigenous ways of life while viewing remarkable examples of Inuit craftsmanship.
- 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; roundtrip 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.

NOTE: The itinerary is a general listing of activities and excursions that may happen during any part of the program. 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.



### Your Accommodations (subject to change)

### FORT GARRY HOTEL ...

After an exciting day of exploration, retire to this landmark property in the heart of downtown Winnipeg, featuring high-tech amenities and a modern mix of contemporary style and Old World elegance.

### LAZY BEAR LODGE .....

This remarkable, handcrafted log lodge plus its friendly staff and scenic surroundings make this property supremely memorable. Cozy up in the comfortable lounge and feast on homemade northern cuisine at the Lazy Bear Café.

### THE GRAND WINNIPEG AIRPORT HOTEL

Located next to the Winnipeg airport terminal, this boutique property provides beautifully appointed accommodations and thoughtful amenities. The hotel's restaurant, Blue Marble, uses locally produced ingredients to create an unforgettable dining experience.











### Lazy Bear Lodge—A Pioneer's Dream

A log builder in a previous career, Wally Daudrich built the Lazy Bear Lodge himself, literally. Drawn to the area by its sense of freedom, Wally and a partner dragged fire-killed logs from the forest by snowmobile, crafting them first into a small café, then a small lodge, and finally the two-story, 15,000-square-foot, modern Lazy Bear Lodge of today.

Experience the warm hospitality of Wally and his staff, and dine on fabulous northern cuisine. You can see the gnarled and

knotted log timbers from the northern Boreal forest used to make both the lodge and the furniture. It's the perfect combination of remote northern living with all the cozy comforts and conveniences travelers desire.











### The Arctic Crawler™

### A rugged all-terrain vehicle.

Get up-close access to the wildlife of the tundra aboard this specially-designed trekking vehicle. The Arctic Crawler<sup>™</sup> features a propane heater, comfortable seating, on-board facilities with flush toilet, large windows that lower for better viewing, plus a spacious, fully grated outside rear deck for optimal photography opportunities—including nose to nose visits with the locals. It really is the perfect way to view Churchill's magnificent creatures in person.

And with the expertise of the driver and your Orbridge Expedition Leader, you will see all the stunning natural beauty and diverse wildlife the tundra of the Churchill Wildlife Management Area has to offer.

Your two Arctic Crawler<sup>™</sup> Experiences include lunch with beverages, snacks, and expert in-depth commentary from your Orbridge Expedition Leader and Lazy Bear Lodge expert guide.





### Your Orbridge Expedition Leader:

The company and keen eyes of an expert Orbridge Expedition Leader will make all the difference in your educational experience. Enriched by their wealth of expertise, you'll bring home a deeper understanding of the flora, fauna, natural history, and cultural narrative of the diverse Canadian Arctic.

Orbridge

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		or questions and to learn more, call the Traveling Owls at 13-34-TRIPS (87477) or email travelingowls@rice.edu.	
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**Reservation Grace Period.** Reservations made 121+ days prior to the departure date may be cancelled within 30 days from the reservation date ("Grace Period") for a full refund. Notice of cancellation must be received in writing during the Grace Period. The date of receipt will be used for the effective date.

**Reservation Cancellations and Refunds.** Notice of cancellation must be submitted to Orbridge in writing. The date of receipt will be used for the effective date. If the cancellation notice is received after the Grace Period (if applicable): (a) 91+ days prior to the departure date, all monies paid will be refunded less an administrative fee of \$350 per person for the main program and \$200 per person for a pre/post-tour; (b) 90-76 days prior to the departure date, a 25% cancellation fee for the full cost of the program and the balance will be refunded; (c) 75-61 days prior to the departure date, a 50% cancellation fee for the full cost of the program and the balance will be refunded; (d) 60-46 days prior to the departure date, a 75% cancellation fee for the full cost of the program and the balance will be refunded; (e) within 45 days prior to the departure date, a 100% cancellation fee for the full cost of the program. A 100% cancellation fee applies to all non-refundable airfare. Refunds, if any, will be processed within 30 days of our receipt of your written notice.

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\*Special group rate; limited offer. Rate is per person based on double occupancy except where noted as Single, in U.S. dollars. Group airfare for the charter flight between Winnipeg and Churchill is included. Airfare otherwise not included. \*\*A complement to the educational component of this journey, Expedition Libraries are curated collections of reading and resources tailored to this program. Place your deposit on or before the specified date, and one Expedition Library per household will be sent upon receipt of final payment. Libraries may be purchased; please call for details.



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# Polar Bears of Churchill

**FREE Expedition Library** 

AN EXCLUSIVE EARLY RESERVATION BONUS

Reserve your space by March 22, 2024

OCTOBER 27 - NOVEMBER 1, 2024

Special Alumni Rate: Save more than \$1,000

per couple

to receive the FREE Orbridge Expedition -ibrary we've assembled for this program.\*\*

## 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. ~Deb M., Bainbridge Island, WA

Excellent trip…fun and educational. We would never have done this on our own. ~Linda & Tom N., Spokane, WA Third trip with Orbridge—all three widely different. 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 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



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