

Belugas and Bears

Sentinels of the New Arctic



August 3–9, 2022

AUGUST 03, 2022 – AUGUST 09, 2022

BELUGAS AND BEARS | SENTINELS OF THE NEW ARCTIC

Head north and discover the beauty and wildness of Churchill, Manitoba in the height of the boreal summer. This small town on the banks of the Hudson Bay is known for polar bears roaming along its shoreline before they return to the pack ice in winter. In summer, polar bears share the area with more than 60,000 beluga whales that come to feed, mate, and give birth in the shallow waters of the estuary - as well as a wide variety of other wildlife. These iconic species are contending with a rapidly changing Arctic ecosystem. These changes present polar bears, belugas and humans with both challenges and opportunities. Come and learn about these iconic sentinels of an Arctic in flux—an opportunity that can only be found in northern Canada—and meet the local people who call it home. Pioneering spirits and welcoming smiles are waiting for you.

Program Highlights:

- Travel with and enjoy lectures from renowned researchers and scholars at Duke's Nicholas School of the Environment.
- Begin in Winnipeg with a private reception and private evening guided tour of the Manitoba Museum.
- In Churchill, stay at the iconic Lazy Bear Lodge, hand-built by local pioneer Wally Daudrich from stone and reclaimed boreal forest timbers.
- Embark upon two separate water tours of Hudson Bay to see and photograph many of the 60,000 beluga whales that inhabit the area. Keep an eye out for polar bears, caribou, seals, and a multitude of bird species found along the shore.
- Aboard the Arctic Crawler, venture out onto stark and beautiful landscapes, stopping to enjoy the scenery as you search for arctic hare, snowy owl, ptarmigan, or arctic fox.
- 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 climb into a dog cart for your own exciting ride.
- **What's included:** 6 nights hotel and lodge accommodations; round-trip airfare for the charter flight between Winnipeg and Churchill; 6 breakfasts, 4 lunches, and 3 dinners including a special welcome reception and dinner plus a farewell reception; all excursion transportation and entry fees; full guiding services of an Orbridge Expedition Leader and a local naturalist; and all gratuities.



Itinerary:

ITINERARY NOTE: You are embarking on an adventure where daily activities will be determined by weather, opportunities to view wildlife, and other various elements that make up the incredibly diverse Arctic summer. Guests will receive a daily itinerary while in Churchill, which will be flexible and updated frequently. The itinerary below is a general listing of activities and excursions that may happen during any part of the program.

Day 1: Arrive Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada / Manitoba Museum

Wednesday, August 3, 2022

Welcome to Canada! Join fellow travelers for a warm welcome and private reception at your hotel, then step out for a special private evening guided tour of the Manitoba Museum.

Overnight: Inn at the Forks (R,D)

Day 2: Winnipeg / Flight to Churchill / Cultural and Heritage Tour

Thursday, August 4, 2022

Arrive in beautiful Churchill after a morning flight and transfer to the Lazy Bear Lodge. Enjoy a Cultural and Heritage Tour where you'll have guided site visits of the town's waterfront area, Miss Piggy Plane Crash, Polar Bear "Jail," and Cape Merry.

Overnight: Lazy Bear Lodge (B,L,D)

Day 3: Churchill / Boat Tour / Prince of Wales Fort / Dog Mushing

Friday, August 5, 2022

Board Zodiac boats with your Orbridge Expedition Leader for a 3-hour tour of the Churchill River/Hudson Bay area to learn more about the 60,000 beluga whales that inhabit the area. Visit the Prince of Wales Fort, built to protect the business interests of the Hudson's Bay Company. After lunch, you may choose to explore the area on foot, including several galleries and shops carrying local indigenous art from the Canadian Arctic, or you may select to participate in the following optional excursion available for purchase:

A 3-Hour Kayaking Tour (\$160 per person): Includes a single or double kayak, paddles, wet suit, life jacket, transfers, and an experienced guide. This is an intermediate-level kayaking excursion and includes limited instruction. It is not recommended for beginners.

Optional excursion must be booked in advance through our Guest Services team. Availability is limited. Excursion and pricing is subject to change and non-refundable within 90 days of departure.

This evening, meet an energetic team of sled dogs and their experienced handler. Learn about these industrious animals and the important role they play in the heritage of this remote region. Then, get ready for your own exciting dog mushing experience.

Overnight: Lazy Bear Lodge (B)

Day 4: Churchill / Hudson Bay Coastal Tour

Saturday, August 6, 2022

Today we explore the Hudson Bay area during a full-day water excursion aboard a custom designed wildlife viewing vessel—led by your naturalist leader and boat captain. The shoreline of this entire area is a rich ecosystem of life, home to a diverse group of animals. Polar bears, belugas, caribou, and more than 270 species of birds have been recorded. Harbor, bearded, and ringed seals also thrive here and are the polar bears' primary food source when the bay is frozen. Stop at Seal River, a favorite polar bear gathering spot.

Overnight: Lazy Bear Lodge (B,L)

Day 5: Churchill / Arctic Crawler Experience / Itsanitaq Museum

Sunday, August 7, 2022

Grab your camera, board your expedition vehicle, and head to stark yet beautiful landscapes, stopping to enjoy the scenery and search for wildlife. Your expert naturalist will provide details on the wildlife, vegetation, and ecosystem of the Arctic tundra. After lunch, visit the well-known local Itsanitaq Museum to learn more about the indigenous population and its rich history and culture. While downtown, take some free time to explore on your own. *Overnight:*

Lazy Bear Lodge (B,L,D)

Day 6: Churchill / Flight to Winnipeg

Monday, August 8, 2022

After breakfast, visit the Churchill Northern Studies Centre before transferring to the airport for a charter flight to Winnipeg for a farewell reception with your fellow travelers.

Overnight: Hilton Winnipeg Airport Suites (B,L-aloft,R)

Day 7: Depart Winnipeg

Tuesday, August 9, 2022

Enjoy breakfast, then bid a fond farewell to Canada and head to the airport for flights home. *(B)*

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner, R = Reception

(Itinerary subject to change.)

Activity Level:

Moderate

Guests should be sure-footed on stairs, ramps, and small vessels, and able to walk on uneven ground without assistance. Skiffs provide the mode for much of the exploration on this program and guests should be sure-footed to enter/exit the vessel.

What's Included:

- 6 nights ideally situated and comfortable accommodations
 - Round-trip airfare for the charter flight between Winnipeg and Churchill
 - 6 breakfasts, 4 lunches, and 3 dinners—including a special, private welcome reception and private guided tour of the Manitoba Museum—plus a farewell reception
 - Full guiding services of an Orbridge Expedition Leader and a local naturalist
 - All excursion transportation and entry fees
 - All gratuities
-

Your Guide(s):

Orbridge Expedition Leader



On this program, you will have the benefit of an expert Expedition Leader with extensive local knowledge and experience as a cultural, historic, and naturalist interpreter. With their contribution of exceptional know-how and enthusiasm adding depth to your experience, enjoy the cultures and locations you explore with added confidence, understanding, and appreciation.

Program Accommodations:

Inn at the Forks



August 3

Ideally located in downtown Winnipeg, this modern boutique hotel is near a plethora of shopping, arts, and entertainment options. During leisure time, stroll the city's cobblestone streets or take advantage of the hotel's fully equipped fitness center.

Room Amenities: Individual climate control, 55" HDTV, complimentary Wi-Fi, alarm clock, mini-fridge, coffee and tea maker, safe, bathrobes and slippers, and en suite bathroom with locally made sundries and hair dryer.

Lazy Bear Lodge



August 4 - August 7

This remarkable, handcrafted log lodge will provide cozy comfort during your stay.

A log house builder by trade, Wally Daudrich built the Lazy Bear Lodge himself, literally. Drawn to the area by its sense of freedom, he and a partner dragged logs from the forest by snowmobile, crafting them first into a small café, then a small lodge and finally the two-story, modern lodge of today. Even the wood floors and windows were sustainably sourced. The flooring, made of Douglas fir, was recycled from the Canadian National Railway warehouse built in the early 1920s. The windows were once part of an 1800s Hudson Bay Trading Post.

The friendly staff and scenic surroundings make this property supremely memorable. Get cozy in the comfortable lounge and feast on homemade northern cuisine at the Lazy Bear Cafe.

Lodge rooms are small but cozy, with limited counter and storage space for belongings. Each room has two

double beds, one luggage rack, one small clothes rack, a small desk, one small nightstand, and a small bathroom shelf large enough to hold a few small items. We recommend packing light and carefully utilizing available space.

Additional lighting sources in the lodge rooms are limited. Consider bringing a small portable reading lamp or flashlight if you prefer stronger light.

Room Amenities: Two double beds, cable television with movie channels, complimentary Wi-Fi, coffee maker, and en suite bathroom with shower, sundries and hair dryer.

Hilton Winnipeg Airport Suites



August 8

Located just minutes from Winnipeg James Armstrong Richardson International Airport, this classic property provides well-appointed accommodations and thoughtful amenities. The hotel's restaurant, Oak and Grain, features comfort food with a twist.

Room Amenities: Individual climate control, Hilton's "Serenity Collection" pillowtop mattress, flat-screen TV, complimentary Wi-Fi, alarm clock, mini-fridge, microwave, coffee maker, and en suite bathroom with sundries and hair dryer.

(Accommodations subject to change.)



PROGRAM RATES*
 Double: \$6,795
 Single: \$8,795

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To reserve, please call Duke Travels at (919) 684-3046.

Deposits can be made by check or credit card.

GUEST INFORMATION:

Guest #1 Name (Title/Salutation): _____

Email: _____ Class Year: _____

Home Phone: _____ Alt. Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Guest #2 Name (Title/Salutation): _____

Email: _____ Class Year: _____

Home Phone: _____ Alt. Phone: _____

DEPOSIT PAYMENT:

Check ACH (Automated Clearing House) MasterCard/Visa American Express Discover

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ CVV: _____

Name (as printed on card): _____

Billing Address (if different from above): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

DEPOSIT:

_____ guests joining program (\$850/person) = **TOTAL DEPOSIT: \$** _____

MAIN PROGRAM OPTIONALS (added to your final invoice):

_____ guests joining Kayaking Tour (\$160/person)

I/we have read, understand, and agree to the full Terms & Conditions at terms.orbridge.com and the COVID-19 Acknowledgement at orbridge.com/wellness; and I/we agree that Orbridge, LLC is authorized to charge my credit card above and/or take my/our deposit for this program.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

*Special group rate; limited offer; subject to change. Rate is per person based on double occupancy except where noted as Single, in U.S. dollars. Single availability limited. Group airfare for the round-trip charter flight between Winnipeg and Churchill is included. Airfare otherwise not included.