



Churchill Polar Bears Independent Adventure

2 days, Winnipeg to Winnipeg

Trip code TNCPBC

What's included

- Tundra Buggy ride to view polar bears and other arctic wildlife (1-day)
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

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VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

VALIDITY: Valid for all trips departing January 1st, 2015 and onwards

Itinerary



NOTE: Accommodations vary per departure and are subject to change until tour start date; they are not final and should be used as examples only. Travellers may login to the G Adventures App to view accommodations specific to their departure.

Meet at a private hanger in Winnipeg for an early morning flight to Churchill. Opt to take a town and area historical tour, go dog sledding, or visit the museum and Parks Canada visitor centre.

Churchill is a small, northern community with a lot of character; big-chain hotels or gourmet restaurants won't be found here. Visitors will, however, find warm down-home hospitality and clean, comfortable hotels with all the amenities. Staying in town allows you to walk to and from different venues, spend some time on your own, and, perhaps, meet some of the locals.

Churchill is located along the treeline of the northern edge of the boreal forest, and attracts arctic and boreal species of wildlife, birds, and plants. Commonly seen species include arctic and red foxes, arctic hare, caribou, gyrfalcons, snowy owls, ptarmigan, and, in the summer (June-Aug), beluga whales.

Meet at a private hanger in Winnipeg (located at 30 Hangar Line Road) for the early morning flight. A cold boxed breakfast will be served in-flight. Please arrive by no later than 6:45am to ensure you are on time for your flight.



Today's Activities

Plane

Winnipeg J. A. Richardson International Airport - Churchill Airport

2h

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's... yup, it is a plane, actually.

Free Time

Churchill

Enjoy free time in the afternoon to explore the town.



Optional Activities - Day 1

Town and Historical Tour

Churchill

Take a tour of Churchill to absorb its very interesting history (this town is not just about polar bears). Learn how it grew from a remote outpost to a bustling seaport with the construction of the Hudson Bay Railroad and Port of Churchill in the late 1920s, then became a military post in the 50s and 60s. Visit key sites and make a stop at the "polar bear prison" where wayward bears who wander into town are sent. If lucky, see a polar bear airlift – helicopters are used to relocate brazen bears to remote locations.

Parks Canada Interpretive Centre

Churchill

Free

Pay a visit to the Parks Canada Interpretive Centre located in a historic rail station to learn all about Churchill. See exhibits on the human and natural history of the area, and displays of Hudson's Bay Company muskets and trade goods. Parks Canada staff members are on hand to answer questions.

Itsanitaq Inuit Museum

Churchill

3CAD

Take a tour of this small museum known for its beautiful Inuit carvings and artifacts. View both historic and modern carvings, and shop for high-quality Inuit art.

Enjoy polar bear viewing by Tundra Buggy with a local naturalist guide. Take in the majestic arctic landscape, and search for polar bears, arctic fox, and ptarmigan. Evening flight back to Winnipeg where the tour ends.

It will be an early start, but worth it. Get picked up at the hotel and be transferred to the Tundra Buggy launch at around 7:30am.

Polar bears begin to swim ashore in mid-July. In October they begin to gather in numbers along the coast, waiting for pack ice to form over the Hudson Bay, at which point the bears disappear in search of seals. Churchill's 'bear season' begins in early October and lasts until early November.

Known as the "Lords of the Arctic," these spectacular animals are massive with the average male polar bear growing to more than 600kg (1,320 lbs) and standing 3.05m (10 ft). While large, they are surprisingly quick and have great agility. The bears have a highly acute sense of smell and are skilled hunters - able to pick up a scent from more than 30km (19 mi) away. They can even detect the presence of seals under 3 ft (.9m) of snow and ice. Polar bears have no natural enemies and no fear of other animals (including humans).

In the evening, transfer back to the airport for an evening flight back to Winnipeg. The group will then be transferred back to the Four Points by Sheraton (overnight not included) where the tour ends.

Hotel night in Winnipeg is not included. If you would like the night booked for you, please speak to your agent.



Meals included

Lunch



Today's Activities

Polar Bear Excursion

Churchill

Head out by Tundra Buggy to enjoy polar bear viewing, as these great creatures gather in numbers along the coast of the Hudson Bay waiting for pack ice to form. Once it forms, the bears disappear in search of seals. Churchill's 'bear season' begins in early October and lasts until early November. There is no way to describe the thrill of viewing these great bears in their natural habitat with an expert naturalist/guide.

Tundra Buggy

Churchill

Pile into this sturdy, big-wheeled truck designed specifically for polar bear observation missions.

Plane

Churchill Airport – Winnipeg J. A. Richardson International Airport

2h

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's... yup, it is a plane, actually.

What's included

- Tundra Buggy ride to view polar bears and other arctic wildlife (1-day)
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

What are the main highlights of this trip?

Overnight in the polar bear capital of the world, witness the gigantic beasts in their natural habitat, make your friends jealous with stunning shots of arctic scenery, experience a once-in-a-lifetime moment with these endangered animals

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Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

What important notes should I be aware of before the trip?

ARRIVE EARLY

****Please be at the Aerocentre by no later than 6:45am on Day 1 of your tour.** It is highly recommended that you make arrangements to stay in Winnipeg on the night prior to departure as your flight will leave VERY early in the morning of day 1. The actual flight time will be confirmed to you a few weeks prior to departure. It is also recommended that you book a hotel in Winnipeg for your return on day 2, as your flight will not get in until late evening. We do recommend that you book these additional accommodations with us for convenience and to save yourself some money on transfer costs. Our pre/post hotel (optional) is located within walking distance of the Winnipeg airport and does include a transfer to the private hanger on day 1. Please speak to your sales agent for details.

DEPOSITS AND PAYMENTS

Please note that this trip does have different deposit/payment terms as well as different terms and conditions compared to other G Adventures trips. Please note the following:

Deposits based on your home country:

500 AUD/CAD/CHF/NZD/USD

400 EUR

300 GBP

Final payments: is due at 90 days prior to trip

Cancellation terms:

61-90 days prior to departure - 50% of the price of the tour penalty

60-0 days prior to departure - 100% of the price of the tour penalty

LEGAL DRINKING AGE

Please note that the legal drinking age in the United States is 21 and in Canada, 19 (with Alberta and Quebec at 18).

Drinking laws in both countries are strictly enforced.

While this should not stop those under legal drinking age from booking a tour, it is important to note that if a traveller is under-age there are certain optional nighttime activities that they may not legally be able to participate in. When trying to book the right trip, we recommend that travellers under legal drinking age take this into consideration when booking.

If you are interested in dog sledding, it must be pre-booked directly with the local supplier (unfortunately G Adventures cannot do this for you - nor can we intervene in any way once you have booked and paid). We recommend www.wapuskadventures.com and dogsledding excursion should be booked on the afternoon of Day 1 of your tour.

What is the role of the group leader during this trip?

This tour is run by a local specialist operator in conjunction with G Adventures. There is no G Adventures staff on this tour. You will be assisted by local hotel staff. They will be able to provide information on the places you are travelling through, offer suggestions for things to do and see, recommend great local eating venues and various activities.

What meals are included in this trip?

1 lunch

What are the meals like on this trip?

Eating is a big part of traveling. Travelling with G Adventures you experience the vast array of wonderful food that is available out in the world. Generally meals are not included in the trip price when there is a choice of eating options, to give you the maximum flexibility in deciding where, what and with whom to eat. It also gives you more budgeting flexibility.

Please note that due to its remote location in Northern Canada, food is quite expensive in Churchill. You can expect to pay \$20 - \$30 CAD for a main course. There are a few restaurants and a pub in the Town of Churchill, all within walking distance of your hotel. Normal Canadian fare is offered as well as local game, such as caribou, Arctic Charr and bison.

What are the modes of transportation on my trip?

Local flight, bus/van, Tundra Buggy.

How will we travel between destinations?

Land Transfers & Included Tours/activities: Many of the land transfers and included tours will be shared with other travellers.

Are local flights included in the cost of the trip?

Local flights from Winnipeg to Churchill and return are included.

Single Supplements

A mandatory single supplement applies for single travellers. Please contact us for rates.

Where will we stay during the trip?

Comfort hotel (1 nt).

What should I expect from the accommodations on this trip?

Accommodation in Churchill is at the Tundra Inn. While not fancy, the hotel is comfortable, with some amenities and located in the middle of town. This hotel features 31 spacious rooms with double or queen size beds; private bath and shower; cable television; phones; internet connection; coffee maker, hair dryers and in house laundry facilities. A kitchenette is also available just off the lobby.

****Accommodation is subject to change without notice to a similar hotel.**

What is the joining hotel?

For details of your joining hotel please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the G Adventures App or contact your travel agent.

What are the joining instructions?

Pre and post accommodation in Winnipeg is not included, nor is a transfer to the Winnipeg airport private hangar on day 1. Should you like to pre-book these services with us, please ask your Adventure Specialist for details.

The trip will begin at the Kelly Western Aerocentre 30 Hangar Line Road. Please arrive by no later than 6:45am to ensure you are on time for your flight. This is a private hangar on the other side of the Winnipeg airport. It is easiest reached by taking a taxi, taxi fare should be approximately \$20 if staying at a hotel near the airport. Upon arrival at the hangar you will check in with the representative who will have your name on the list of the private charter.

Exact time of your departure will be provided to you prior to your trip.

Please note that our pre/post hotel (optional) is located at the Winnipeg airport, and can be reached by foot. We highly recommend that you book this service with us as it also includes a transfer to the private hanger.

What should I do if I can't find my airport transfer or experience arrival issues?

We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, as soon as possible please contact your starting point hotel, requesting that you speak to or leave a message for your CEO (if you are not on a group tour please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier). If you are unable to get in touch with your leader, please refer to our emergency contact details.

Who do I contact for arrival issues or in the event of an emergency?

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call the G Adventures Local Representative. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so they may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

G Adventures Local Representative (Las Vegas)

From outside the USA: 1-412-423-8143

From within the USA: 412-423-8143

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local representative, please call the numbers listed below which will connect you directly with our Sales team who will happily assist you. Hours of operation by region can be found [here](#).

Toll-free, North America only: 1 888 800 4100

Calls from UK: 0344 272 0000

Calls from Germany: 0800 365 1000

Calls from Australia: 1 300 796 618

Calls from New Zealand: 0800 333 307

Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

What are the packing guidelines and luggage restrictions?

You will be on the move a lot, so our advice is to pack as lightly as possible.

We recommend using a backpack for your convenience, or a medium-sized suitcase if you prefer. Heavy luggage is not recommended for the health of the CEO, who will take a lead in loading the storage trailer. Due to space in the trailer, we will not be able to accommodate more than one piece of main luggage per person. A good size day-pack (20-35L) is also essential to carry your personal gear for the day, as access to luggage between destinations will be limited. This daypack will be used to carry your personal gear for the day, your lunch and a water bottle.

What should I pack for this trip?

Cold Weather:

- Long-sleeved shirts or sweater
- Warm gloves
- Warm layers
- Scarf
- Warm hat
- Warm waterproof jacket

Documents:

- Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Visas or vaccination certificates (With photocopies)

Essentials:

- Toiletries (required) (Shampoo, bodywash, soap, etc.)
- First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, bandaids/plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)
- Locks for bags
- Binoculars (optional)
- Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- Long pants/jeans
- Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)
- Fleece top/sweater
- Moneybelt
- Cash, credit and debit cards
- Footwear
- Outlet adapter
- Day pack (Used for daily excursions or short overnights)
- Hat
- Personal entertainment (Reading and writing materials, cards, music player, etc.)
- Reusable water bottle
- Ear plugs
- Headphones (Noise-cancelling recommended)
- Sleepwear
- Small travel towel
- Sunglasses
- Swimwear
- Watch and alarm clock
- Waterproof backpack cover
- Windproof rain jacket

Health & Safety:

- Face masks (Clients will be only be required to wear a face mask where it is mandated by local regulations.)
- Hand sanitizer
- Pen (Please bring your own pen for filling out documents.) Note: Layering is the key to dressing warmly in Churchill. Note: It is very expensive to purchase sundry items in Churchill (upwards of 2 to 3 times more than what you would pay in other areas of Canada), we highly recommend you bring whatever you need for 2 days with you

Where can I do my laundry on this trip?

Laundry facilities are offered by some of our hotels for a charge.

What are the visas and entry requirements for my trip?

All countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). Contact your local embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your own responsibility to have the correct travel documentation. Visa requirements for your trip will vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information up to date as far as possible, but rules do change and sometimes without warning. While we provide the following information in good faith, it is vital that you check the information yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

Visa information specific to your destination and nationality can be found in our Important Pre-Departure Information page [here](#)

Where can I read detailed notes about this trip?

Polar bear season runs from beginning of Oct to mid November. You can expect snow, but that is not always a given. Temperatures are generally around the freezing point in October, but can dip as low as -20°C/-10°F towards mid November. Be prepared with extra layers and a very good windbreaker to protect you from the VERY harsh tundra winds.

What should I consider when planning my personal expenses and discretionary spending for this itinerary?

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

What should I know about currency, credit cards, and exchanging money while on this tour?

There are no banks in the community for exchanging money or travelers cheques, so you should bring sufficient Canadian dollars with you (EUR and US cash should be exchanged in Winnipeg). There are a few ATM's in town but it is best not to rely on them. Master card and Visa are accepted in most retail outlets in the community but certain services like carvers and artists will only accept Canadian cash.

What emergency funds do I need access to on this trip?

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD \$200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

What are the tipping guidelines for this trip?

It is customary in North America to tip service providers such as waiters, bartenders and taxi drivers, at approximately 18-20%, depending on the service. Tipping is an expected - though not compulsory - component of your tour program and an expression of satisfaction with the persons who have assisted you on your tour. Although it may not be customary to you, it is of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels. There are times during the trip where there is opportunity to tip any local guides used. Recommendations for tipping local guides would range from \$2-8 USD per activity depending on the quality and length of the service; ask your CEO for specific recommendations based on the circumstances and culture.

Also at the end of each trip if you felt your G Adventures Chief Experience Officer did an outstanding job, tipping is appreciated. The amount is entirely a personal preference; however as a guideline \$5-10 USD per person, per day can be used as a guide. If your CEO(s) exceeded your expectations, feel free to tip more.

What activities are optional on this trip?

Churchill

- Town and Historical Tour
- Parks Canada Interpretive Centre (Free)
- Itsanitaq Inuit Museum (3CAD per person)

Are there any health considerations I should know before travelling?

Please note inoculations may be required for the country visited. It is your responsibility to consult with your travel doctor for up to date medical travel information well before departure.

You should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information well before departure. We recommend that you carry a First Aid kit and hand sanitizers / antibacterial wipes as well as any personal medical requirements. Please be aware that quite often we are in remote areas and away from medical facilities, and for legal reasons our leaders are prohibited from administering any type of drug including headache tablets, antibiotics, etc. When selecting your trip please carefully read the brochure and itinerary and assess your ability to cope with our style of travel. Please refer to the Physical and Culture Shock ratings in this dossier for trip specific information. For travelers over 70 years a completed Medical Form is required. G Adventures reserves the right to exclude any traveler from all or part of a trip without refund if in the reasonable opinion of our CEO they are unable to complete the itinerary without undue risk to themselves and/or the rest of the group.

What general safety tips and free-time guidelines should I follow?

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your CEO has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it is deemed necessary due to safety concerns. Your CEO will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy or explore at your leisure. While your CEO will assist you with options available in a given location please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgment when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions.

Protests and Demonstrations- Protests and demonstrations, even those that are well intended, have the potential to turn violent with no warning. Counter protests can also turn violent. Action by security forces to disperse demonstrators and protesters may occur at any time. If you are in an area where demonstrators or protesters are gathering, avoid the temptation of staying for a good photo opportunity and leave the area immediately.

Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards) have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our CEOs to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s).

Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk.

We take all prudent measures in relation to your safety. For ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling, please visit:

www.gadventures.com/travel-resources/safety/

Are there any specific safety considerations for this itinerary?

It's unwise to wander the back streets of Churchill late at night as bears occasionally enter the town. All vehicles and houses are usually left unlocked, so if you do meet an animal, then take cover immediately in a calm and orderly fashion.

Don't be tempted to feed the bears, as it's punishable by an instant fine and it's also extremely dangerous.

What are the mandatory group rules regarding laws and behaviour?

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter, and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of prostitutes is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our CEOs have the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they use prostitutes.

What are the mandatory travel insurance requirements for this trip?

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your CEO, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy please bear in mind that all clients must have medical coverage and that we require a minimum coverage of USD 200,000 for repatriation and emergency rescue. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number.

What is Planeterra?

Planeterra International Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to turning travel into impact by helping local communities earn an income from tourism. Planeterra connects underserved local communities to the benefits of tourism by developing and supporting small community-owned businesses. These businesses support Indigenous people, empower women, grant youth access to employment opportunities, and protect the environment. Planeterra also works to ensure these businesses have a thriving customer base by integrating their projects into G Adventures' itineraries globally.

G Adventures is Planeterra's largest corporate donor, covering all operating costs, so 100% of your donation will bring opportunity to people in need.

G Adventures Dollar-a-day Program - Make Every Day Count - Turn your travel into impact with [Planeterra Foundation](#).

Did you know? Most communities around the world do not benefit from tourism. Give back to the places you visit on your travels by creating opportunities for local people to earn an income, and protect the environment.

Make every day count by donating \$1/day for the length of your trip, and join us in empowering the communities you will visit when you travel. 100% of your donation goes directly to Planeterra projects.

How can I share feedback about my trip experience?

Earn 5% off your next G Adventures Tour (up to \$100 USD)*

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us and to thank you for your time, we are pleased to offer a 5% discount (up to a maximum of \$100 USD) off your next G Adventures holiday. All you need to do is submit the form within 4 weeks of the completion of your tour, and you'll be able to join the thousands of travellers who have taken 2, 3, 4 or even 10 or more tours with us!

Discount cannot be combined with other offers or applied to 'Independent' style trips. Maximum discount value is \$100 USD (or equivalent currency). Valid for new bookings only. G Adventures reserves the right to withdraw or modify this offer at any time without notice. Limited to one discount per person.

Does G Adventures have an email newsletter I can subscribe to?

Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from G Adventures, subscribe at www.gadventures.com/newsletters/

Stay current on how our company invests in our global community through our foundation – Planeterra. Sign up for [Planeterra's monthly news](#) to learn more about how to give back and support the people and places we love to visit.

What are the age restrictions for this trip?

You must be 18 to travel unaccompanied on a G Adventures tour. For minors travelling with a guardian over 21 years old, the minimum age is 12.

Are international flights included in this trip?

No, international flights are generally not included in the price of your tour.

However, on some combo tours travelling between two different countries, international flights are included as part of the itinerary and price of the tour. Please speak to your GCO or booking agent for further details.

In addition, check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.

What should LGBTQ+ travellers know about safety and travel considerations on this trip?

The safety and well-being of all of our travelers is a priority at G Adventures and that includes our travelers who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. We recognize that there are specific concerns and questions you may have about your adventure in terms of safety and security. We encourage you to visit our [LGBTQ+ page](#) for useful resources to ensure you feel safe and comfortable throughout the duration of your trip. The Equaldex tool linked on this page can be of particular help when deciding where you may want to visit next.

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