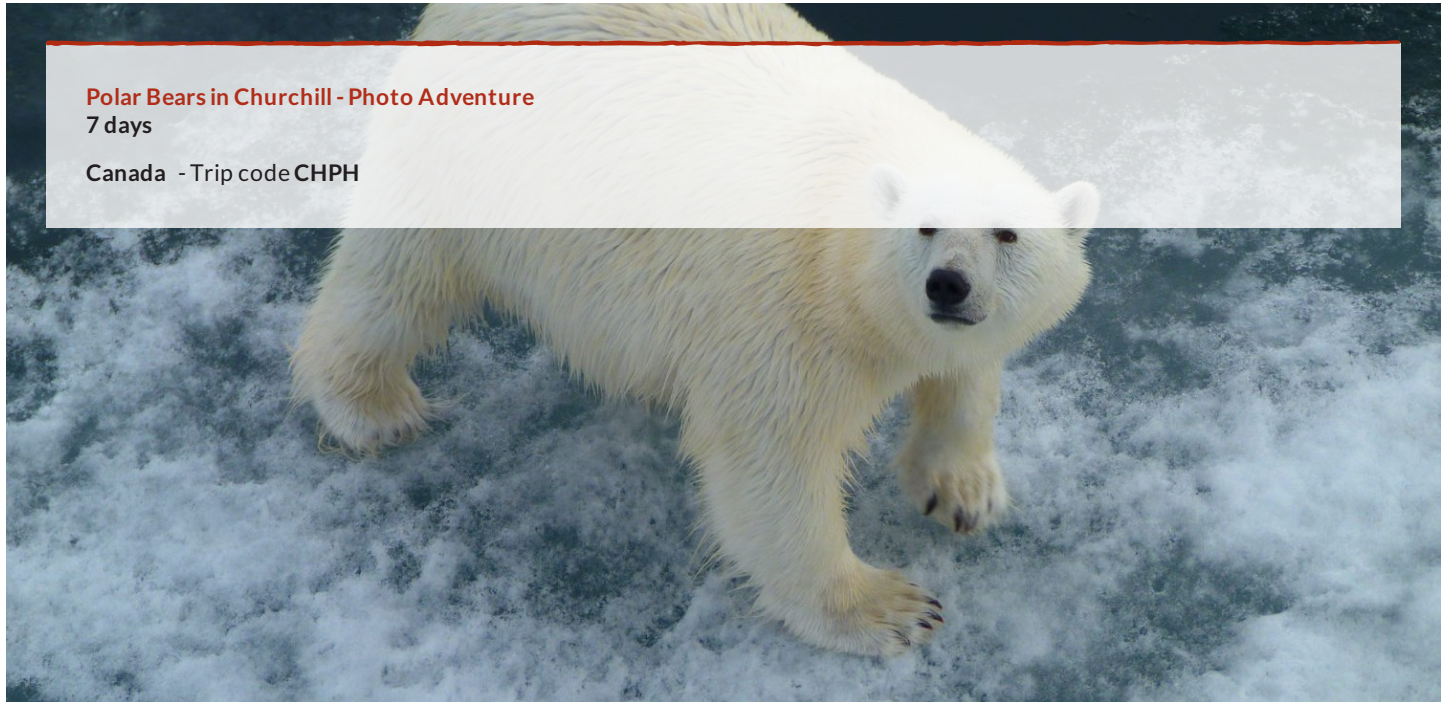


EXPLORE!



Polar Bears in Churchill - Photo Adventure

7 days

Canada - Trip code CHPH

Polar Bears in Churchill - Photo Adventure

An expert photographer-naturalist leads this immersive journey into the Realm of the Polar Bear. Your photo adventure spends three full days on the tundra where polar bears congregate each autumn on the shores of the Hudson Bay, waiting for it to freeze, so that they can start their winter hunting season. Custom-designed Polar Rovers take us into the heart of their wild habitat, with plenty of space for equipment and room to manoeuvre in order to capture those magnificent shots. Your expert guide will also provide evening lectures on how best to capture Arctic wildlife through the camera's lens - notably polar bears, Arctic fox, Arctic hare and more !

Trip highlights

- ★ Spend three full days photographing polar bears on the tundra - guided by our expert Photo Expedition Leader
- ★ Enjoy the comfort of our specially designed Polar Rovers - with it's outdoor observation platform, enabling you to get safely up close to the bears
- ★ Small group adventure - Just 16 guests in a vehicle designed for 30

ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

Premium

Our premium accommodation is hand-picked and chosen for its character, location or local importance. These properties have excellent facilities and a higher level of comfort and service. They provide the perfect wind down after an active day.

TRIP PACE:

Relaxed

You can enjoy easy-going activities and experiences on these Relaxed pace tours, with opportunities to absorb the sights and immerse yourself in the local surroundings, but still come home feeling relaxed and refreshed.

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Winnipeg, Manitoba

Our tour begins in Winnipeg. You will be transferred to your hotel where you will meet your Expedition leader in the evening at your Welcome dinner.



Accommodation: Fort Garry Hotel (or similar)



Meals Provided : Dinner

DAY 2 - Winnipeg to Churchill

Fly to Churchill in the morning, our base for our polar bear adventure. This evening we enjoy a lecture on Arctic photography by our Expedition Leader, who is both an accomplished photographer and seasoned naturalist.



Accommodation: Unspecified Churchill Hotel (or similar)



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 3 - Polar Bear Photography

Uniquely designed Polar Rovers are our mobile means for spending time amongst the bears. Although each vehicle accommodates up to 35 passengers, we take a maximum of 16, ensuring that everyone has a window seat, space for camera gear and plenty of room to photograph. For three full days, we spend our daylight hours on the tundra, photographing polar bears as they roam the edge of Hudson Bay waiting for the ice to freeze.



Accommodation: Unspecified Churchill Hotel (or similar)



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 4 - Polar Bear Photography

You will be delighted by their rugged beauty and playful antics, as we watch the bears interact. From the warmth of our vehicle, we may see mothers with cubs, young males play-fighting, or a lone bear ambling over the tundra in solitary grandeur.



Accommodation: Unspecified Churchill Hotel (or similar)



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 5 - Polar Bear Photography

Out on the white expanse of the tundra we may also spot other northern wildlife including Arctic fox, snowy owl, ptarmigan and gyrfalcon. In addition to sharing photography advice, our Expedition Leader will provide you with a captivating interpretation of the animal behaviour. Each evening, dinner will be followed by presentations on photography, wildlife or local native cultures. If the night skies are clear and we're fortunate enough to see the dancing colours of the aurora borealis, we'll head for a place away from the lights of town to capture this magical event on camera.



Accommodation: Unspecified Churchill Hotel (or similar)



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 6 - Churchill to Winnipeg

You will have time to explore Churchill before boarding our afternoon flight back to Winnipeg. We enjoy a farewell lunch in Churchill and a final dinner reception before our adventure concludes in Winnipeg.



Accommodation: Fort Garry Hotel (or similar)



Meals Provided: Breakfast and Lunch

DAY 7 - Depart Winnipeg

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home.



Meals Provided: Breakfast

Polar information

What's included?



Included meals

Breakfast: 6
Lunch: 5
Dinner: 5



Transport

Polar Rover



Trip staff

Naturalist(s)



Accommodation

6 nights hotel

Trip information

Country information

Canada Trips

Climate

May-Sep is the best time to visit, when the weather is usually warm, dry and pleasant. Temperatures can be a little cooler on the coast and in the mountains; rain can be expected at any time. Early in the season, there can be snow in some areas which may limit walking possibilities.

Time difference to GMT

-7

Plugs

2 Pin Flat

Religion

Roman Catholic, Protestant

Language

English and French

Budgeting and packing

Clothing

Warm gloves or mittens and glove liners Warm hat - make sure it covers your ears Scarf or neck gaiter Warm trousers - Ski pants alopettes are good if you have them Warm socks and sock liners (several pairs) Silk or polypropylene long underwear for layering (tops & bottoms) Turtleneck tops for layering Warm sweaters or fleece tops Comfortable warm trousers for wearing in the evenings Underwear and sleepwear Swimsuit if you wish to use the pool at the Fort Garry Hotel Down parka and boots will be supplied for use on the trip when you arrive in Winnipeg. Please pack a Warm jacket and footwear for arrival into Winnipeg. Sizes for the loaned jacket and boots will be taken in advance, once you have booked onto the tour.

Footwear

Boots will be supplied for use on the trip when you arrive into Winnipeg on Day 1. Sizes will be taken in advance once you have

booked onto the tour.

Luggage: On tour

The weight limit for checked-in baggage on our charter flight between Churchill and Winnipeg is 50 lbs. per person. As luggage space on our transfer vehicles is limited, we ask that you limit your luggage to ONE piece of checked baggage per person. We suggest one water-resistant or waterproof bag and one carry-on or daypack per person. We highly recommend packing light - take only the essentials you will need during your adventure.

Equipment

Photography equipment and chargers Binoculars - these are a must on the tundra. For optimal viewing, we suggest those with specs between 10x42 and 8x42. You may even try 8x35, but only if they contain high quality glass. Practice using your binoculars before your adventure to make sure they are not too powerful or you do not have trouble holding them steady. Couples should consider bringing two pairs of binoculars, so both people can view wildlife simultaneously. Water-resistant daypack for use during outings Hand/foot warmers (highly recommended) Sunglasses (with UV protection) Prescription glasses/contact lenses Yaktrax (optional.) Yaktrax can be extremely helpful to prevent slipping in snowy or icy conditions. Other popular brands of traction devices include DueNorth, Kahtoola, and Stabilicer. (There are a limited number of Yaktrax available for guest use in Churchill.) Small flashlight or headlamp (with spare batteries) - recommended for the evening tundra excursion Toiletries Dry skin lotion Sunscreen & lip balm (SPF 15+) Bring protection for your hands, face, and lips, as the reflection off of the snow and ice can be intense. Small medical kit Battery-operated alarm clock or wristwatch Zip-lock bags are great for protecting camera equipment.

Tipping

Local crew

Our Expedition leaders guide nature trips because they love to view wildlife and to educate people about the splendors of the world in which we live. They are not motivated by gratuities. Rather, they take great pride in making your trip an experience of a lifetime. If you feel your Expedition crew have done an outstanding job and wish to offer a gratuity, we recommend approx. \$15-\$25 USD per person, per day. A portion of this gratuity is shared with local Natural Habitat Adventures staff for their assistance on your adventure. Please note, Canadian dollars is also acceptable.

Country Information

Canada Trips

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price

£13.00

Dinner price

£20.00

Beer price

£3.00

Water price

£1.10

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Canadian Dollars.

Recommended Currency For Exchange

Bring your money in Canadian Dollars or US Dollars cash or Travellers Cheques which can be used almost everywhere, although local stores are not keen to change anything over \$50.

Where To Exchange

Banks or 'Forex' offices in main towns/cities. Your tour leader will advise you on arrival.

ATM Availability

There are ATMs in the towns.

Credit Card Acceptance

Widely accepted just about everywhere.

Travellers Cheques

Canadian Travellers Cheques are the most convenient.

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Polar Rover

Essential information

FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Essential Information

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

Visa Information

Canada Visas are not required for UK, US, Canadian, New Zealand and Australian citizens. All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related questions with the relevant Embassy prior to departure. From March 2016 any visitor travelling to Canada, including those who don't currently need a visa to visit, will have to get an electronic travel authorisation (eTA) to enter Canada. From 1 August 2015, travellers will have the opportunity to go online and apply for their eTA ahead of time. For more information see the official Canadian government website. USA (If flights transit): you will need to apply for an ESTA if you are transiting the USA as you will have to disembark and clear immigration before re-boarding for the onward flight. Citizens of the UK, New Zealand, Australia, Canada and passport holders from several EU countries can enter the United States without a visa under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) - where you apply for an ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorisation), which applies if you enter the country by sea or by air. This must be done on line - <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov> no later than 72 hours prior to travel. Travellers who have not registered before their trip are likely be refused boarding. When completing an application for transit you should enter the words 'In Transit' with your final destination location in the address line You must have an electronic passport with a digital chip containing biometric information about the passport owner. UK passports which are biometric feature a small gold symbol (camera) at the bottom of the front cover. If you have visited Iraq, Syria, Iran or Sudan in the past five years or are dual nationals of these countries, you cannot travel under the Visa Waiver Programme. Instead you will need to apply for a visa from the nearest US Embassy or Consulate. If you are unable to provide a valid visa before boarding flights to the US, or entering via another method, you may not be permitted to travel. For further information please check out the US embassy website. Visa applications - <http://london.usembassy.gov/niv/apply.html>

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our [Essential Information](#) and [Booking Conditions](#).

Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour

specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. [Read more about them here.](#)

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Canada Trips

Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against tetanus, typhoid, infectious hepatitis and polio. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.
