

Polar Bears of Churchill



An Exclusive Trip for the Saint Louis Zoo

Experience the thrill of seeing polar bears living freely in their own natural habitat! Every fall, the tundra surrounding Churchill, Manitoba, becomes a stopover for more than 1,000 polar bears on their annual migration to hunt for food on the ice floes of Hudson Bay.

Your northern adventure will allow plenty of opportunity to view bears at close range from the warmth and comfort of special tundra vehicles. You will often see mothers and cubs, as well as young adult males play fighting. This incredible experience is becoming rare as polar bears face the growing threat of extinction because their fragile sea ice habitat is disappearing due to global climate change. You'll also have an opportunity to look for gyrfalcons, snowy owls, ptarmigans, Arctic foxes and other tundra wildlife. Experienced naturalists will interpret the animals' behaviors and their adaptations to the hostile Arctic environment, both during our field excursions and in evening presentations. Other trip offerings include exploring Winnipeg and the Manitoba Museum, a night-time trip to the tundra, an opportunity to explore the remote

and intriguing town of Churchill, and the possibility of seeing the Northern Lights.

Your tour operator, Natural Habitat Adventures has been a leader in worldwide ecotourism and responsible nature travel for over 20 years. This is the fourth Polar Bears of Churchill trip the Saint Louis Zoo has conducted through Natural Habitat Adventures. We are confident your experience will exceed your expectations.

Trip activity level: This is an easy trip with short walks on level ground, but expect very cold temperatures on the tundra.

Be sure to sign up early for this special eight day trip as Polar Bear trips are extremely popular. The trip is limited to 15 participants.

**Escorted by Rachael Macy
Zoological Manager – Carnivores.**



ITINERARY

Polar Bears of Churchill

\$5,825 per person double occupancy (plus airfare to Winnipeg)

November 13 – 20, 2010

(Dates subject to change. Departure date finalized December 2009)

- › **Friday, November 13**
St. Louis/Winnipeg, Manitoba
- › **Saturday, November 14**
Winnipeg
- › **Sunday, November 15**
Churchill
- › **Monday – Wednesday, November 16 – 18**
Churchill
- › **Thursday, November 19**
Churchill/Winnipeg
- › **Friday, November 20**
Winnipeg/St. Louis

For more information, contact the Zoo's Travel Department at (314) 768-5408



Saint Louis Zoo
Animals Always®

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13

St. Louis / Winnipeg, Manitoba

Upon arrival at Winnipeg Airport, your Natural Habitat Adventures representative will pick you up and transfer you downtown to Hotel Fort Garry for your night's stay. After checking in, you are free to relax or explore Winnipeg until you gather for an informal dinner in our hotel. **D**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Winnipeg

After breakfast you will depart for the Manitoba Museum. The "Inuit: People of the North" interactive program will give us an understanding of the traditional lifestyles of the Inuit people. Your guided museum tour tells the story of Manitoba through the ages, from the northern Arctic coast to the southern prairie grasslands. After lunch, you tour the city and arrive back to enjoy the "Fire in the Sky" planetarium presentation about the Northern Lights. We arrive back at Hotel Fort Garry for our trip orientation dinner at 7:00 pm. **B, L, D**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Winnipeg / Churchill

After breakfast, you fly to Churchill (about a 3-hour flight). Upon arrival in Churchill, you will have a brief tour of the town and settle into your hotel accommodations for the next four nights. You will be free this afternoon to explore the town of Churchill on your own. This evening, we will be briefed with a slide show on polar bears and our upcoming adventures. **B, L, D**

MONDAY & TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16 & 17

Churchill / Bear Viewing

You will spend the next two days exploring the Arctic environment in our tundra vehicles as your guides interpret the polar bear's natural history, behavior and their conservation issues as well as tundra ecology. After a hearty breakfast, you travel outside of town by bus to a special boarding site at the edge of the tundra to find our polar buggies. Your journey takes you along glacially-formed natural roadways to the icy coastline of the Hudson Bay where the bears tend to gather.

This is the only time of year that the bears tolerate each other's presence, and their interactions are intriguing. You



may encounter young bears mock-fighting. Although ferocious looking, this play activity actually helps prepare the bears for the hostile environment of the pack ice. An adult male may turn his attention towards us, sometimes approaching within feet, and even lift his massive paws on the side of our vehicle to peer inside. (Don't worry – you're quite safe inside the buggy!)

While on the tundra, you may also see a variety of other northern wildlife, including Arctic fox, snowy owl, ptarmigan and gyrfalcon. You will return to town in the late afternoon to relax before dinner. Depending on the activities of the day, our free evenings will include wildlife or cultural presentations, slide shows or time to relax at your leisure. **B, L, D**



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Churchill / Evening on the Tundra

Today you will have a full-day guided tour of historic Churchill and then, in the evening, we head out to the tundra. You will enjoy dinner in our vehicle and see the Arctic animals in an atmosphere rarely experienced by most visitors. If you chance upon a clear night, the Northern Lights may appear and brighten the entire sky. You return late in the evening. **B, L, D**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Churchill / Winnipeg

Depending on flight schedules, you may have some free time this morning to explore Churchill and shop for Arctic souvenirs, or to participate in an optional helicopter excursion or dog sledding excursion before returning to Winnipeg. Today you will have either a farewell lunch in Churchill or dinner in Winnipeg depending on flight schedules. Our final night will be at the Hotel Fort Garry. **B, L or D**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Winnipeg / St. Louis

After breakfast, you will transfer to the airport for the return flight home. **B**

Trip Inclusions:

- Trips to the tundra on specially designed tundra buggies
- All accommodations
- All meals from dinner Day 1 through breakfast on Day 8 (except either lunch or dinner on your final day in Churchill, depending on your flight schedule)
- Services of Natural Habitats Adventures' professional Program Leader and assistants
- All ground transportation in Churchill and airport transfers in Winnipeg
- Roundtrip air transportation between Winnipeg and Churchill
- All taxes and service charges including Canada's GST
- Trip insurance as provided by Travelex insurance company

Trip Exclusions:

- Roundtrip air transportation from your home city to Winnipeg
- Alcoholic beverages
- Lunch or Dinner on your final day in Churchill
- Gratuities
- Items of a personal nature (telephone calls, laundry, etc.)



Polar Bears of Churchill

November 13 – 20 , 2010 (DATE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)*

Please note: This exciting visit to the Polar Bears is limited and early deposit/registration is encouraged. After April 1, 2010 registrations are subject to availability.

To be assured of space prior to sending in your reservation form, please call: (314) 968-9600.
This form with deposit should be sent to:

Altair Travel and Cruises
2025 South Brentwood Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63144
(314) 968-9600

PERSONAL INFORMATION - Please fill out one reservation form for each traveler.

Full Name (as it appears on your passport)

Mr./Mrs./Ms. _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth _____ Cell Phone (_____) _____

Evening Telephone (_____) _____ Day Telephone (_____) _____

E-mail _____

**Please note passport must have an expiration date of 6 months after return travel date.
Please also include a photocopy of your passport photo page with your registration form.**

Passport Number _____

Date of Expiration (Day/Month/Year) _____ Birthplace _____

ACCOMMODATIONS

Double with _____

Single Occupancy (very limited availability, please contact Altair Travel for more information)

I am a smoker Non-smoker

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Cell Phone: (_____) _____

OTHER INFORMATION:

Dietary preferences: Regular Vegetarian Other _____

Physical Concerns/Limitations _____

Additional travelers in your group: _____

PAYMENT

Package price is \$5825 per person based on **double occupancy**.

Package price is \$6750 per person based on **single occupancy**.
Please contact Altair Travel for availability as this is very limited.

Airfare is additional and is estimated at \$550 to \$660. Air and airfare are always subject to change and availability.

Please contact Altair Travel and Cruises regarding booking and purchasing your airfare. Airfare, air taxes, and fuel supplements are not included in the land package price.

A deposit of \$1000 per person payable by credit card or check, payable to Altair Travel and Cruises is required to hold space on this departure. (Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express are accepted credit cards.)

Please mail your registration form, passport copy and deposit payment to:

**Altair Travel and Cruises
2025 South Brentwood Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63144
(314) 968-9600**

Your final payment will be due prior to April 1, 2010

Inclusions:

- All accommodations
- Trips to the tundra on specially designed tundra vehicles
- Meals from dinner Day 1 through breakfast on Day 8 (except either lunch or dinner on your final day in Churchill, depending on your flight schedule)
- All ground transportation in Churchill
- Airport transfers in Winnipeg
- Roundtrip air transportation between Winnipeg and Churchill
- Services of a NHA professional Expedition Leader and assistants
- All gratuities except those for the NHA Expedition Leader and for optional activities (Extra Day in Winnipeg Program, helicopter ride, dog sledding)
- All taxes and service charges including Canada's GST
- Trip insurance as provided by Travelex insurance company

Not Included:

- Roundtrip air transportation between your home city and Winnipeg
- Alcoholic beverages
- Lunch or dinner on your final day in Churchill
- Items of a personal nature (telephone calls, laundry, etc.)
- Gratuities for the NHA Expedition Leader and optional activities (Extra Day in Winnipeg Program, heli ride, dog sledding)

Terms and Conditions

NHA, a division of Natural Habitat Inc., The Saint Louis Zoo, Altair Travel and Cruises, and our cooperating agents make every effort to select reliable suppliers and contractors to provide air and other transportation, hotels, guides, and other travel related services, but we do not assume responsibility, directly or indirectly, for any loss, damage, or injury to property or person in connection with such services. Each traveler agrees not to hold NHA, its owners, employees, agents or representatives liable, in the absence of their own gross negligence, for any loss or injury, expense, or damage which results directly or indirectly from any act or omission of any person or firm, which is to or does provide goods or services in connection with the trip or with any available option. No refunds will be made for any unused portion of your trip. NHA, The Saint Louis Zoo and Altair Travel and Cruises and its cooperating agents shall not be liable for circumstances arising as a result of Acts of God; weather; detention; annoyance; delays and expenses arising from quarantine; strikes; theft; pilferage; force majeure; military, political or terrorist action; civil disturbances; government restrictions or regulations; failure of conveyance to arrive or depart as scheduled; discrepancies or changes in transit over which they have no control. Participation in the program will require that travelers sign releases and covenants not to sue NHA or its participating agents in the absence of their own gross negligence. On advancement of a deposit, the traveler agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions set forth above.

Viewing the Wildlife Since our programs specialize in viewing wildlife, every effort is made to plan programs where wildlife is known to exist. However, the animals we visit live wild and free and we cannot fully predict or control their migratory patterns (nor would we want to). In an attempt to locate wildlife that may have deviated from its normal pattern, or in the interest of traveler comfort or safety, we may be required to make reasonable changes in itineraries. If it is necessary to change hotels, boats, other facilities and/or program leaders, comparable accommodations will be substituted wherever possible. If such changes or fluctuations in exchange rates occur, additional costs may require the program fee to change with little or no notice.

REFUND AND CANCELLATION POLICY

Should NHA be required to cancel a trip due to unforeseen circumstances, travelers will be refunded for their trip cost, but NHA will not be liable for accompanying expenses (such as gear purchases, airline tickets, etc.).

All cancellations by individual travelers must be made in writing

Cancellation dates and fees are as follows:

Within 90 days of departure (through August 15, 2010): \$100

From 90 days to 45 days prior to departure

(August 16, 2010, through September 30, 2010): 50% of program fee

From 44 days prior through departure (on or after October 1, 2010): 100% of program fee

I understand that by signing below I am acting for myself and for everyone in my party in acknowledging that I have read and accepted the Terms and Conditions, Payment, Refund and Cancellation Policy sections on both sides of this reservation form. I also assume all risks involved with regard to this trip and agree that the Saint Louis Zoo, Natural Habitat Adventures, and its affiliates will in no way be responsible for any injury or damage to me or other members of my party.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN _____

Credit card information

Credit card number _____

Exp Date _____ Security Code _____

Please make a copy of this entire registration form for your records.

**Please note these dates are tentative, and subject to change.*

ADULT HEALTH/EMERGENCY INFORMATION FORM

Please return this form with your registration

Last Name First Name

Address (Street and Apt. #) City Zip Code

Birth Date Home Telephone Number Blood Type (if known)

A. Health/Special Needs Information

1. Do you have any health conditions (e.g. allergies, chronic conditions) or special circumstances (e.g. religious convictions or legal arrangements) which may affect program participation or that we should know about prior to emergency treatment?

2. Do you have a special physical needs (e.g. visually or hearing impaired, wheelchair bound, unable to climb stairs without assistance) for which you will require special attention or specific accommodations? If yes, please explain, listing your needs.

B. Medications

1. Please list any medications you are currently taking: _____

C. Emergency Information

1. Who should we notify in case of an accident or medical emergency?
(Please list an individual other than your traveling companion.)

Name Relationship

Address Telephone Number

2. Please give us the name of your health/accident insurance carrier(s) and appropriate policy certification number(s):

Name of Carrier Policy Number

Name of Carrier Policy Number

Signature