

# **Polar Bears & Beluga Whales**



**Animals of the Arctic | Summer Expedition**



Howdy, Ags!

Join fellow travelers for a special opportunity to witness the diverse wildlife and pioneer spirit of the Canadian Arctic in summer.

During this seven-day journey to remote Churchill, Manitoba, watch polar bears interact and play from a custom-designed water vessel, the *Sam Hearne*. During another outing in Zodiac boats, watch as beluga whales, seals, and a multitude of other wildlife enjoy the brief arctic summer. Back on land, explore the plants and animals who live in this vast arctic wilderness. Meet and greet sled dogs, their mushers, and staff at their outfitters camp, then enjoy the thrill of a dogsled ride along local trails.

The expert guidance of a naturalist Orbridge Expedition Leader and exclusive educational experiences distinguish this program, including expert presentations from Assiniboine Park Zoo and Churchill's Northern Studies Centre.

Our rate for Traveling Aggies guests on this departure represents a significant savings (more than \$1,000 per couple) over that of non-affiliated guests. Please reserve online at <http://texas-am.orbridge.com>, by calling (800) 633-7514 or by returning the enclosed reservation form.

Gig 'em,

*Jennifer Bohac*

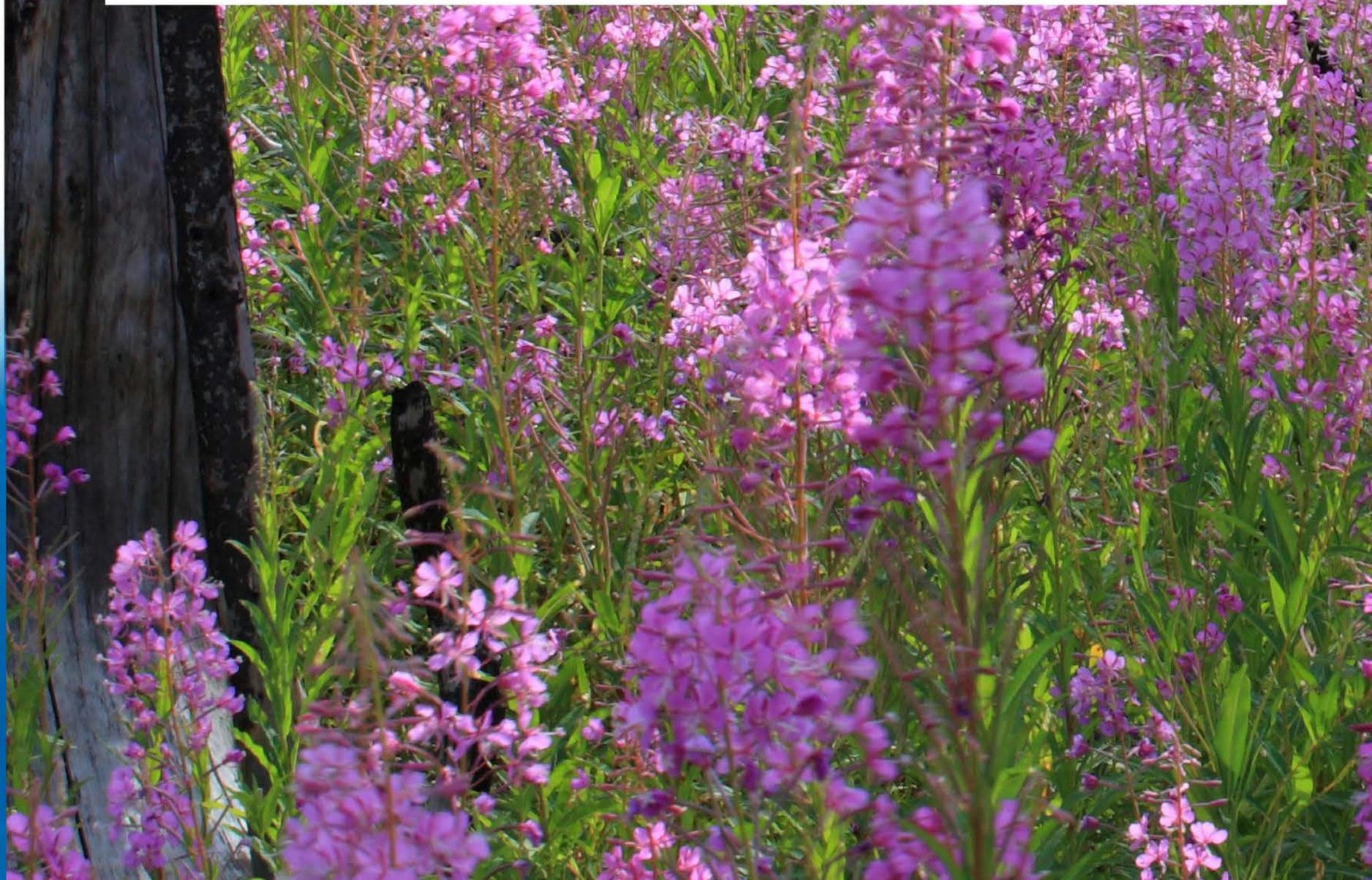
Jennifer Bohac '87, Ph.D.  
Director of Travel Programs

## Free Expedition Library

AN EARLY RESERVATION BONUS

Reserve your space by **December 9, 2016**, to receive the FREE Orbridge Expedition Library we've assembled for this program.

*This exclusive gift is to thank you for joining us early. Guests who reserve after the specified date may purchase libraries. Call for details.*



With 60,000 beluga whales filling the bay and countless polar bears roaming the tundra, summer is the perfect time to visit Churchill— a small town on the banks of the Hudson Bay. Come and see this annual spectacle of wildlife that can only be found here in the Canadian north, and meet the local people who call it home.





## Your 7-Day Itinerary

*NOTE: Daily activities will be determined by weather, opportunities to view wildlife, and other various elements that make up the diverse arctic summer. Guests will receive a daily itinerary, 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 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada / Assiniboine Park Zoo (R,D)  
Welcome reception and dinner; presentation  
Overnight: Hilton Winnipeg Airport Suites

**Day 2:** Winnipeg / Churchill / Cultural and Heritage Tour (B,L)  
Flight to Churchill; panoramic site visits: Miss Piggy Plane Crash site, Polar Bear "Jail," and Cape Merry  
Overnight: Lazy Bear Lodge

**Day 3:** Churchill / Boat Tour / Prince of Wales Fort / Dog Sledding (B,D)  
3-hour Zodiac boat tour providing up-close whale watching and photography opportunities; dog sled ride  
Overnight: Lazy Bear Lodge

**Day 4:** Churchill / Hudson Bay Coastal Tour (B,L)  
Full-day bear- and whale-spotting excursion aboard the *Sam Hearne*  
Overnight: Lazy Bear Lodge

**Day 5:** Churchill / Arctic Crawler Experience / Eskimo Museum (B,L,D)  
With cameras in-hand, board the Arctic Crawler to traverse the beautiful landscapes and search for wildlife; Eskimo Museum tour  
Overnight: Lazy Bear Lodge

**Day 6:** Churchill / Northern Studies Centre / Winnipeg (B,L,R)  
Interactive presentation and learn about current research; flight to Winnipeg; farewell reception  
Overnight: Hilton Winnipeg Airport Suites

**Day 7:** Depart Winnipeg (B)

## Program Highlights

- Join fellow travelers for a warm welcome, then step out for a special evening reception in Assiniboine Park Zoo's underwater viewing tunnels. Observe the polar bears and seals as they swim in the crystal clear pools above you. A three-course meal with wine is served under the dancing Northern Lights, in the Aurora Borealis Theatre. Following dinner, enjoy a presentation on the magnificent polar bears.
- Embark upon two separate water tours of Hudson Bay and learn more about the 60,000 beluga whales that inhabit the area, plus keep an eye out for polar bears, caribou, seals, walrus, and a multitude of bird species found along the shoreline.
- 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.
- Choose between three optional guided excursion activities: a 3-hour kayaking tour, a 3-hour snorkeling tour, or a nature walk.
- Visit Churchill's Eskimo Museum for an exploration of indigenous ways of life while viewing remarkable examples of Inuit craftsmanship.
- Meet an energetic team of huskies and their experienced handler, then climb into a dog sled for your own exciting ride.
- **What's included:** 6 nights hotel and lodge accommodations; 6 breakfasts, 4 lunches, and 3 dinners including a special welcome reception and dinner, and a farewell reception; full guiding services and specialized presentations by an Orbridge Expedition Leader; excursion transportation and entry fees; and all gratuities.

**Activity Level:** 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.



## Your Accommodations\*

### HILTON WINNIPEG AIRPORT SUITES

Located at Winnipeg's airport terminal, this classic property provides well-appointed accommodations and thoughtful amenities. The hotel's restaurant, Bistro 1800, features gourmet "Urban Prairie" menu options.



### LAZY BEAR LODGE

This remarkable, handcrafted log lodge will provide cozy comfort during your stay. A log builder by trade, Wally Daudrich built the Lazy Bear Lodge himself, literally.

Drawn to the area by its sense of freedom, Wally 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, 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, all in the stunning property he has built.



*\*Subject to change.*

## Your Orbridge Expedition Leader

Whether Lynette, Kent or another experienced naturalist, your Expedition Leader will add exceptional depth of expertise and warm hospitality to each day's adventures.



Lynette's passion for the outdoors began at an early age on her family's dairy farm. A move to Montana and a degree in Ecology enabled her to continue to nurture her love of exploration throughout the western U.S. Since then, she has had the good fortune to study grizzly and black bears, pine marten, coyotes, foxes and wolves in various research projects in some of the West's most remote areas.



Kent has led national park tours as a park ranger since 1984. Having worked with the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the Colorado Division of Wildlife, he brings a lifetime's wealth of knowledge about North America's parks, preserves, and wildlife.



## The Sam Hearne

An expedition vessel ideal for wildlife-spotting.

This 23-passenger flat-bottomed water craft is perfect for your day-long journey onto Hudson Bay and possible close encounters with polar bears along the rocky shorelines. This former landing craft has plenty of seating, on-board facilities with flush toilet, and the ability to get in very close to shore. Captained by Lazy Bear Lodge owner Wally Daudrich, it is the only licensed boat of its kind with this special access.

Cruise along the coast of the Hudson Bay to places such as Seal River and Hubbard Point, a favorite gathering spot for polar bears, disembarking to walk around the area if conditions permit.

Come aboard and join your naturalist guide for an amazing day of discovery in this remote and fascinating place.



## 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 features 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. With the expertise of the driver and your Orbridge Expedition Leader, you will witness all the stunning natural beauty and diverse wildlife the tundra of the Churchill Wildlife Management Area has to offer.

# Polar Bears & Beluga Whales

JULY 15-21, 2017

**Option 1:** Reserve online now at <http://texas-am.orbridge.com> or call (800) 633-7514.

**Option 2:** Secure your reservation with a deposit charged to the credit card below, or with an enclosed check payable to: Orbridge, LLC.

Standard Rate:	Special Rate:
<b><del>\$4,499</del></b>	<b>\$3,995*</b>
<small>\$6,499 Single</small>	<small>\$5,995 Single</small>
<i>Internal airfare additional at \$895 per person</i>	

**Guest Information:**

Guest #1 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year \_\_\_\_\_

Guest #2 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alt. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Category Preference (if applicable): 1st choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd choice \_\_\_\_\_

**Deposit:**

(#) \_\_\_\_\_ guests joining program (\$850/person) = **Total deposit: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Deposit Payment:**

Check enclosed    Online Check/ACH    MasterCard/Visa    American Express    Discover

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date: \_\_\_\_\_ CWV: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (as printed on card): \_\_\_\_\_

Billing address (if different from above): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**I/we have read, understand, and agree to the full Terms & Conditions at <http://terms.orbridge.com> and detailed in program documents; and that Orbridge LLC is authorized to charge my credit card above and/or take my/our deposit for this program.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail or fax reservation form and deposit to:**   Traveling Aggies, The Association of Former Students  
 505 George Bush Drive, College Station, TX 77840  
 Fax: (979) 845-9263

No funds donated to The Association of Former Students or to Texas A&M University have been used in the production or mailing of this travel brochure; all such costs are covered by the tour supplier.

## Reserve by December 9, 2016 for an Early Reservation Bonus\*\*

**Registration, Deposits and Final Payment.** To confirm and secure your reservation, a deposit of \$850 per person per program, a deposit for any extension(s), and any non-refundable advanced payments, payable by check, online check/ACH, money order, wire transfer of same day U.S. funds, or major credit card, is due at the time of registration. Final payment, including any extension(s) and optional(s), is payable by check, online check/ACH, money order, or wire transfer of same day U.S. funds ONLY and due no later than 90 days prior to the scheduled program departure date. If your reservation is made fewer than 90 days prior to departure, the entire cost of the program, including any extension(s) and optional(s), is due at the time of registration by check, money order, or wire transfer of same day U.S. funds ONLY. If final payment is not received by Orbridge at least 90 days prior to the scheduled program departure date, Orbridge may, at any time and with or without notice, cancel your reservation in its sole discretion with no right of refund. All payments we receive from you are herein defined as "Payments." CST#2098750-40 WST#602828994

**Cancellations and Refunds.** All cancellations must be submitted to Orbridge in writing and will be subject to a cancellation fee ("Cancellation Fee") as follows: (a) if the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge 275 or more calendar days prior to the scheduled departure date, all deposits will be fully refunded; (b) if the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge between 274 and 151 days prior to the scheduled departure date, the Cancellation Fee will be \$500 per person per program and \$300 per person per program for extensions; (c) if the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge between 150 and 91 days prior to the scheduled departure date the Cancellation Fee will be the full deposit per person per program including any extension; (d) if the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge 90 or fewer days prior to the scheduled departure date, the Cancellation Fee will be the full program price. In addition to and not in lieu of the foregoing, a Cancellation Fee equal to 100% of the carrier charge applies to all non-refundable airfares due to your cancellation made at any time prior to the scheduled program departure date, as applicable. Refunds, if any, of any Payments in excess of the aggregate Cancellation Fee shall be processed within 30 calendar 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. Airfare not included. Group airfare for the charter flight between Winnipeg and Churchill is charged additionally at \$895 per person. \*\*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 room will be sent upon receipt of final payment. Libraries may be purchased; please call for details.



# Traveling Aggies

A PROGRAM OF  
The Association of Former Students



# Polar Bears & Beluga Whales

JULY 15-21, 2017

Special Traveling Aggies Rate: **Save up to \$1,000**  
per couple

## What Traveling Aggies Are Saying...

*We will forever cherish our amazing memory of the trips taken with the Traveling Aggies, as well as wonderful new friendships we have made! Now, whenever we travel on 'non-Aggie' trips, we realize nothing can compare!*

~ Randy '74 and Gail Parker

*Going on a tour with fellow Aggies is the most amazing part of the tour! Jennifer '87 was the only one I knew on this tour, but left with a whole new group of Aggie friends!*

~ Bonnie Denny

*If you have ever wondered about taking a trip with the Traveling Aggies, stop wondering and just go! You will love it.*

~ Mary Labay

Traveling Aggies  
The Association of Former Students  
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by December 9, 2016\*\*