Polar Bears of Churchill

A 6-Day Expedition to the Polar Bear Capital of the World

OCTOBER 24-29, 2020

with optional
WINNIPEG PRE-TOUR
October 22-24, 2020
Howdy, Ags!

Join former students and friends as we present you with a special opportunity to witness one of the largest confluences of polar bears in the world. Much like the bears themselves, visitors make their way to Churchill each fall when temperatures drop, brimming with anticipation. The reward: experiences of a lifetime.

As polar bears await the formation of arctic sea ice over the Hudson Bay—to begin their hunt for ringed seals—they descend upon this tiny seaport town, forming one of the largest congregations of polar bears in the world. During this annual spectacle, it is possible to observe, photograph, and learn about these “Kings of the North.”

The quality guidance of a naturalist Orbridge Expedition Leader and exclusive educational experiences, including presentations by experts at Churchill’s Northern Studies Centre and your local guide, distinguish this program.

Space is limited. With significant savings of more than $1,000 per couple, we anticipate this tour will fill quickly, so be certain to reserve your spot today and share this brochure with family and friends who may be interested in traveling with you.

Reserve today online at texas-am.orbridge.com, by calling (866) 639-0079 or by returning the enclosed reservation form.

Gig ’em,

Jennifer Bohac  Marisa Liles
Jennifer Bohac ’87, Ph.D.  Marisa Liles
Director of Travel  Director of Travel
Outreach and Engagement  Operations and Customer Service
The Association of Former Students  The Association of Former Students

Free Expedition Library
AN EARLY RESERVATION BONUS

Reserve your space by March 13, 2020, 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.

Orbridge takes seriously the responsibility to minimize our global environmental impact. Starting in 2019, we will annually plant 100,000 trees in U.S. State Forests with afforestation needs as an ongoing initiative among our evolving sustainability efforts.
Your 6-Day Itinerary
(subject to change)

Day 1: Arrive in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada (R)
Welcome reception
Overnight: Inn at the Forks

Day 2: Winnipeg / Flight to Churchill / Northern Studies Centre / Parks Canada Interpretive Centre (B,L-aloft,D)
Current research and interactive presentation, exhibit exploration
Overnight: Lazy Bear Lodge

Day 3: Churchill / Arctic Crawler Experience (B,L)
Grab your camera, board the Arctic Crawler, and head out onto stark and beautiful landscapes for your first opportunity to observe and photograph polar bears in their natural habitat
Overnight: Lazy Bear Lodge

Day 4: Churchill / Cultural and Heritage Tour / Itsanitaq Museum / Dog Sledding (B,D)
Panoramic site visits (Miss Piggy Plane Crash site, Polar Bear “Jail,” and Cape Merry), museum tour, dog sled ride
Overnight: Lazy Bear Lodge

Day 5: Churchill / Arctic Crawler Experience / Flight to Winnipeg (B,L,D)
Another opportunity to observe and photograph polar bears aboard the Arctic Crawler
Overnight: Hilton Winnipeg Airport Suites

Day 6: Depart Winnipeg (B)

Program Highlights
• Join fellow travelers in Winnipeg for a warm welcome reception.
• Head out for two expeditions aboard the Arctic Crawler—custom designed to allow for up-close encounters with polar bears. Explore the area’s unique landscape and its variety of wildlife, including arctic hare, snowy owl, ptarmigan, arctic fox, and polar bears.
• 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 bundle up for an exciting dog sled experience.
• What’s included: 5 nights hotel and lodge accommodations; a welcome reception, 5 breakfasts, 3 picnic-style lunches, and 3 dinners; full guiding services of an Orbridge Expedition Leader and local naturalist; entry fees; excursion transportation; all gratuities; and airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times.

NOTE: The itinerary is a general listing of activities and excursions that may happen during any part of the program. Daily activities will be determined by weather, opportunities to view wildlife, and other various elements that make up the incredibly diverse landscape. Guests will receive a daily itinerary while in Churchill, which will be flexible and updated frequently.

Activity Level: Guests should be prepared for cold temperatures, be able to walk on frozen or snow-covered ground, and manage stairs without assistance.
Your Accommodations
(subject to change)

INN AT THE FORKS
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.

LAZY BEAR LODGE
This remarkable, handcrafted log lodge plus its friendly staff and scenic surroundings make this property supremely memorable. Cozy up in the comfortable lounge and feast on homemade northern cuisine at the Lazy Bear Café.

HILTON WINNIPEG AIRPORT SUITES
Located just minutes from 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.

Lazy Bear Lodge—A Pioneer’s Dream
A log builder in a previous career, Wally Daudrich built the Lazy Bear Lodge himself, literally. Drawn to the area by its sense of freedom, Wally and a partner dragged fire-killed 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. You can see the gnarled and knotted log timbers from the northern Boreal forest used to make both the lodge and the furniture. It’s the perfect combination of remote northern living with all the cozy comforts and conveniences travelers desire.

Expedition Leader subject to change.

Your Orbridge Expedition Leader
Your Expedition Leader will add exceptional depth of expertise and warm hospitality to each day’s adventures.

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 a propane heater, 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—including nose to nose visits with the locals. It really is the perfect way to view Churchill’s magnificent creatures in person.

And with the expertise of the driver and your Orbridge Expedition Leader, you will see all the stunning natural beauty and diverse wildlife the tundra of the Churchill Wildlife Management Area has to offer.

Your two Arctic Crawler Experiences include lunch with beverages, snacks, and expert in-depth commentary from your Orbridge Expedition Leader and Lazy Bear Lodge expert guide.

Early Reservation Bonus: See reverse for details.
What’s Included

• 2 nights accommodations at Inn at the Forks (or similar)
• 2 breakfasts and 1 lunch
• Admission to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights for a half-day guided tour
• Admission to Manitoba Museum for Inuit Peoples of the North program
• Admission to Assiniboine Park Zoo for guided Journey to Churchill tour
• Luggage porterage
• Airport transfer for guests arriving during the suggested times

Pre-Tour Itinerary
(subject to change)

Day +1: Arrive in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
Day and evening at leisure

Day +2: Winnipeg (B,L)
Canadian Museum for Human Rights guided tour

Day +3: Winnipeg / Main Program Begins (B)
Guided program at the Manitoba Museum, Assiniboine Park Zoo experience, join guests on the main program

Optional Pre-Tour Winnipeg

Enjoy additional days in Winnipeg to experience a multiple award-winning exhibit at Assiniboine Park Zoo, featuring nine playful polar bears and a host of arctic animals, and a visit to Winnipeg’s architectural marvel—the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. Plus explore the Manitoba Museum and enjoy a guided tour.
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OCTOBER 24-29, 2020
Winnipeg Pre-Tour: October 22-24, 2020

Reserve by Credit Card:
Online: texas-am.orbridge.com
Phone: (866) 639-0079
Fax: (206) 452-5655

Reserve by Check:
Made payable to Orbridge, LLC
Mail to: Orbridge, P.O. Box 10339
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

We strongly suggest purchasing travel insurance. Travel insurance information will be sent to you with your confirmation letter from the Traveling Aggies. For more information, contact Orbridge at (866) 639-0079 or you may call the Traveling Aggies at (979) 845-7514.

GUEST INFORMATION:
Guest #1 Name (Title/Salutation):
____________________________________________________

Email: ____________________________________________
Home Phone: __________________________ Alt. Phone: __________
Address: _________________________________________
City: __________________________ State: _______ Zip: _______
Guest #2 Name (Title/Salutation):
____________________________________________________

Email: ____________________________________________
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 pre-tour ($500/person) +
# _________ guests joining program ($850/person) = TOTAL DEPOSIT: $ _________

I/we have read, understand, and agree to the full Terms & Conditions at 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: __________________________

Registration, Deposits and Final Payment. To confirm and secure your reservation, a deposit of $850 per person and $500 per person per pre-tour and/or post-tour is due at the time of registration, payable by check, automated clearing house (ACH), money order, wire transfer of same day U.S. funds, or major credit card. Final payment, including any pre-tour and/or post-tour and optional excursion(s) fee(s), is payable by check, ACH, money order, or wire transfer of same day U.S. funds, and is due no later than 90 days prior to the scheduled program departure date. If your reservation is made between the final payment due date and the date the program starts, 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. Final payments made by credit card are subject to a 2% transaction fee. If final payment is not received by Orbridge by the final payment due 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.”

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Cancellations and Refunds. All cancellations must be submitted to Orbridge in writing and will be subject to a cancellation fee as follows: (a) if the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge 274 or more calendar days prior to the program’s 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 any pre-tour and/or post-tour; (c) if the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge between 150 days prior to the scheduled departure date and the day before the final payment due date, the Cancellation Fee will be the full deposit per person per program including any pre-tour and/or post-tour; (d) if the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge on the final payment due date or closer 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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What Guests Are Saying...

Every Traveling Aggies trip that I have taken, I have made a "new" Aggie friend.

~ Henry Presnal '57

We will forever cherish our amazing memory of 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

Traveling Aggie trips are always "special" whether in large groups or small and we look forward to our next one soon.

~ Will '71 and Carolyn '81 Dierksen