

THE KING OF THE ARCTIC

A WWF Partners Adventure

October 23–28, 2018



**PARTNERS
IN CONSERVATION**

Explore the wonders of the Canadian Arctic on a custom expedition exclusively for WWF Partners in Conservation. There is no greater symbol of both the power and the fragility of nature than the polar bear.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Learn from Dave Aplin, WWF Senior Program Officer, Arctic Program.
- Join a small group of like-minded adventure seekers to witness the world's greatest concentration of polar bears.
- View bears and other Arctic wildlife from our comfortable vehicle, with an outdoor observation platform and large windows. Everyone gets a window seat.
- Experience the unique Arctic outpost of Churchill, with opportunities to learn about Cree and Inuit culture, go dog sledding and take a helicopter tour.

Dear Friends,

Please join me on an exclusive journey for WWF's Partners in Conservation to Churchill, to experience one of the most remarkable natural wonders on Earth—the congregation of hundreds of polar bears awaiting their annual return to the ice. Positioned on the shores of Hudson Bay, Churchill is a unique Arctic community with a rich history and spectacular scenery. High levels of polar bear activity are typical this time of year. From spirited play-fighting between males to the powerful show of force that a protective mother displays when sheltering a young cub, you will see firsthand how their behavior is dynamic, regal and whimsical. I am excited to spend this time together and share my intimate knowledge of polar bears and WWF's work.

Since 1992, WWF's Global Arctic Program has been working with our partners across the frozen north to combat threats to the region in our effort to preserve its culture and rich biodiversity. In Canada, WWF works to minimize conflicts between polar bears and local people by taking measures to keep the bears away from local villages—saving the lives of both bears and people. We also support projects to monitor and research polar bear populations that are showing signs of stress as climate change eats away at the summer sea ice the bears need to survive.

This polar bear trip is an especially thrilling experience, as it offers a unique chance to get up close to these magnificent animals and immerse yourself in their fascinating Arctic world. I hope you can join me for this special journey.

Sincerely,

Dave Aplin

WWF GUEST EXPERT



Based out of Homer, Alaska, **Dave Aplin** is a Senior Program Officer for WWF's Arctic program. With a focus on education and community outreach, he employs his communication skills and sense of humor to coordinate various activities throughout the Bristol Bay region including the Kachemak Shorebird Festival and Salmonfest. For nearly a decade, Dave has developed a special relationship with

the area as he has fought to protect it from numerous threats like Arctic oil development, trans-Arctic shipping, and salmon habitat degradation. Dave Aplin holds a BS in history and an MS in resource management from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and has over three decades of field experience. He is always excited to travel with our closest friends to share our accomplishments and the challenges we face in protecting the species and communities of these extraordinary and still natural regions.



JIM SANO



ERIC ROCK

ITINERARY

Day 1: Winnipeg, Manitoba

Our tour begins in Winnipeg, once a fur-trading post and boomtown for the Canadian Pacific Railway. Today it is Manitoba's cultural and commercial capital at the eastern edge of Canada's vast prairies. Transfer to the historic Fort Garry Hotel, the grande dame of Winnipeg hospitality and one of the city's most prestigious landmarks. Meet your Expedition Leader and WWF Expert at an orientation dinner this evening.

Day 2: Winnipeg / Churchill

Fly to Churchill this morning. This hospitable outpost town, originally a fur-trading post and seaport, is our base for adventure. After arriving and time to check into our rooms, we head to the tundra this evening for our first glimpse of the bears, though we often see them from the vehicle as we leave the airport, even before we board our Polar Rover. If the skies are clear, our nighttime tundra excursion might reveal one of nature's most exhilarating experiences—a chance to view the Northern Lights away from the glare of town. Though they are never predictable, the auroral display often starts as a white glow in the northern sky, then begins to flicker and dance in shimmering curtains of color.



BRENDAN O'NEILL

To learn more about this invitation-only expedition, please contact Court Whelan at 888-993-8687, (Int'l) 303-449-3711 or courtw@nathab.com.

Day 3 & 4: Polar Bear Viewing

Uniquely designed Polar Rovers are our mobile means for spending time among the bears. Though they are built to accommodate up to 35 passengers, we take a maximum of 14 guests, ensuring everyone a window seat. Our Expedition Leaders know the best places to see polar bears, which congregate in the region each fall as they wait for Hudson Bay to freeze, signaling the start of the winter seal-hunting season. As we watch them interact, we're delighted by their antics and rugged beauty. 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 majesty.

Together with Dave Aplin, your knowledgeable Expedition Leader offers interpretation along the way, explaining the bears' behavior and how they thrive in such a harsh environment. In the evenings we'll meet for dinner followed by presentations on wildlife or local cultures.

Day 5: Churchill / Winnipeg

This morning we have the option to learn about a distinctly northern pastime: dog sledding. We'll meet a local musher and hear all about this traditional means of Arctic transportation, interacting with the lively dog team as we learn about their care and training. Then we take turns enjoying an exhilarating ride as the dogs whisk us down a trail through the boreal forest. There is also an opportunity for an optional helicopter excursion over the frozen tundra before boarding our flight back to Winnipeg. Prior to our return flight, we'll stop at the "polar bear jail" where recalcitrant polar bears found in town are held before being re-released far away in the outskirts of the conservation area. On occasion, there may be a bear lift, which occurs when a bear is being transported by helicopter to a distant release site.

Upon returning to Winnipeg, we'll return to the Fort Garry Hotel with some free time before our farewell dinner this evening.

Day 6: Depart

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for flights home.

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I know that something in me changed when I was able to look a bear straight in the eye.

WWF Traveler



HENRY HOLDSWORTH

WHAT TO EXPECT

This polar bear expedition with WWF and Natural Habitat Adventures requires very little walking. Travelers must be able to walk up/down stairs. Our Polar Rover vehicles, designed to travel over the tundra for polar bear observation, can sometimes offer a bumpy ride. Travelers must be prepared for below-freezing temperatures and slippery surfaces.

RESERVATION INFORMATION AND TRIP DETAILS

Dates: October 23–28, 2018. (Dates are based on 2017 schedules and subject to change slightly)

Cost: \$6,695 per person, based on double occupancy. (All prices are in USD)

Group size: Limited to 14 participants.

Included: Roundtrip flights between Winnipeg and Churchill, airport transfers in Winnipeg, accommodations, all meals, cold-weather gear including a parka and boots during your trip, services of Expedition Leaders and staff, some gratuities, all activities/entrance fees, evening presentations, comprehensive pre-departure materials, all taxes and service charges.

Not included: Travel to and from Winnipeg, alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, optional helicopter ride or dog sledding, travel insurance, items of a personal nature (telephone calls, laundry, etc.); anything else not specified as included.

Payments: A deposit of \$500 confirms your space. Payments are accepted by credit card or by check made out to Natural Habitat Adventures. A completed waiver of liability form and participant questionnaire are then due within 14 days.

Cancellations & refunds: Cancellations must be received in writing at Natural Habitat Adventures by U.S. mail, email or fax. At the time Natural Habitat Adventures receives your written cancellation, the following per person penalties apply: On or before 90 days before the trip: Full refund minus \$100. On or before 45 days before the trip: Forfeit 50% of tour cost. After 45 days before the trip: No refund.

Travel insurance: Trip insurance is highly recommended but not required. A quote will be provided at the time of booking.

Getting there & getting home: In case of weather delays, we recommend arriving a day early and either participate in our Extra Day in Winnipeg program or stay on your own. The tour begins with a 7 p.m. welcome dinner on Day 1. You are free to depart any time on the final day.

Booking flights: Our tour operator, Natural Habitat Adventures, has a full-service air department that can book your flights between your hometown and Winnipeg. A small service fee applies.

Extra Day in Winnipeg: For travelers who want to arrive a day early, we offer a guided Extra Day in Winnipeg program. It takes place prior to the tour and includes hotel accommodations, breakfast and lunch, a tour of the city highlighting historical and cultural points of interest, and a guided visit to the acclaimed Manitoba Museum.

Accommodations: In downtown Winnipeg, we will stay at the historic, chateau-style Fort Garry Hotel, considered the top hotel in the city. Churchill's small hotels are concentrated in the center of town and are basic, clean and comfortable. Every guest room has its own private bathroom with a shower.

About WWF & Natural Habitat Adventures

WWF is partnering with Natural Habitat Adventures of Boulder, Colorado for this adventure. For more than a decade, WWF has partnered with Natural Habitat Adventures to take travelers to view nature's greatest sights. WWF selected Natural Habitat Adventures as its partner because of its long-standing commitment to conservation and the exceptional quality of its adventures. Natural Habitat Adventures has donated more than \$2 million to WWF and will continue to give 1% of gross sales plus \$100,000 annually through 2018 in support of WWF's mission.

**For reservations, please contact
Court Whelan at Natural Habitat Adventures
at 888-993-8687, (Int'l) 303-449-3711 or courtwh@nathab.com.**

WWF/US ELISABETH KRUGER

I can't think of a better way to appreciate and understand these incredible animals and their complex behavior than to become immersed in their world.

DAVE APLIN



**PARTNERS
IN CONSERVATION**