

# THE KING OF THE ARCTIC

A Special WWF Legacy Circle Expedition

November 9-14, 2016





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



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Learn from WWF scientist Dr. Sybille Klenzendorf, Senior Species Conservation Expert for the WWF Network and polar bear authority.
- 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 Inuit culture, go dog sledding and take a helicopter tour.

Dear Friends,

As a valued member of WWF's Legacy Circle, I invite you to join me in Churchill, Manitoba to experience one of the greatest wildlife spectacles on Earth—the largest congregation of polar bears on land awaiting their annual return to the ice. Located on the shores of Hudson Bay, Churchill is a fascinating town with a rich cultural fabric. There is nowhere else on Earth like it, with polar bears outnumbering people during this special time of year. I am thrilled to have this opportunity to spend time with you and share my intimate knowledge of polar bears and WWF's important work in the Arctic.

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 rich biodiversity in a sustainable way. In Canada, WWF supports projects to survey and research a population of polar bears in Hudson Bay that are showing signs of stress as climate change eats away at the summer sea ice the bears need to survive. We also work to minimize conflicts between polar bears and local people by supplying polar bear-proof fences and food bins, and by taking measures to keep the bears away from local villages—saving the lives of both bears and people.

I find this polar bear trip to be an especially exhilarating experience, as it offers a unique chance to get up close to these powerful creatures and immerse yourself in their fascinating Arctic world. I hope you can join me for this special journey and thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

*Sybille Klenzendorf*

Dr. Sybille Klenzendorf



## WWF GUEST EXPERT



**Dr. Sybille Klenzendorf** is WWF's Senior Species Conservation Expert providing the intellectual and operational leadership for WWF's Arctic Program on polar bear issues. She joined WWF in 2002 to lead WWF's tiger conservation program and was the Managing Director for WWF US Species Conservation Program from 2007-2013. Her expertise includes management of threats to flagship species such as

poaching, habitat loss, human-wildlife conflict, and large-scale conservation management.

Sybille has led WWF expeditions across the globe where she is always excited to travel with WWF supporters, including two previous trips to Churchill. She currently lives in Germany with her family, but has worked as a wildlife biologist in the Himalayas, Germany and across North America. Sybille received her doctorate and master's in wildlife science at Virginia Tech, and has a bachelor's degree in biology from George Mason University.



## 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.



*I recently returned from a WWF Legacy Circle trip and it was fantastic! I learned much that I didn't previously know about WWF, making me feel even more enthusiastic about my support.*

Diane Pick, WWF Legacy Circle Member

To learn more about this invitation-only expedition, please contact Emily Cottingham at 888-993-8687 or [emilyc@nathab.com](mailto:emilyc@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 Dr. Sybille Klenzendorf, 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 either being brought to the jail via helicopter, or is being taken from the jail for re-release.

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.

To learn more about this invitation-only expedition, please contact Emily Cottingham at 888-993-8687 or [emilyc@nathab.com](mailto:emilyc@nathab.com).

*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:* November 9–14, 2016. (Dates are based on 2015 schedules and subject to change slightly)

*Cost:* \$6,095 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  
Emily Cottingham at Natural Habitat Adventures  
at 888-993-8687, (Int'l) 303-449-3711 or [emilyc@nathab.com](mailto:emilyc@nathab.com).**

WWW.US.ELISABETH KRUGER



This trip rewards every traveler with a deeper understanding of our precious wildlife and the natural world they inhabit, inspiring us forward in our efforts to protect this magnificent planet we call home.

DR. SYBILLE KLENZENDORF

