



Discovering Our Planet Together



Belugas, Bears & Summer Wildlife of Churchill

Come Eye to Eye with Friendly Beluga Whales on a Canadian Arctic Safari



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Trip Details:

Days:
7 Days / Jul & Aug

Price:
From
\$7895
(+ Air)

Physical Requirements:
Moderate

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Come Eye to Eye with Friendly Beluga Whales on a Canadian Arctic Safari

Few of nature’s marvels match the intense aliveness of an Arctic summer. In a region that’s frozen, still and dark for much of the year, the Canadian Northland awakens with a frenzy of energy during these long days when the tundra turns green, wildflowers burst into color, animals come forth in great flocks and herds, and belugas return for their summer feasting. More than 3,000 of these amiable white whales congregate at the mouth of the Churchill River, and our motorized rafts and kayaks put us at eye level with these often-curious cetaceans. On the surrounding tundra, look for terrestrial wildlife—including from a scenic helicopter air tour! We frequently spot polar bears roving or dozing on the banks, their creamy coats contrasting with the rocky shoreline and dark boreal forest. With the remote yet easily accessible town of Churchill as our base on Hudson Bay, we are surrounded by the flurry of natural wonders a northern summer provides.

Trip Highlights

More than 3,000 beluga whales enter the Churchill River each summer—come within arm's reach on four different outings by Zodiac and kayak, and listen to their songs via hydrophone

Look for roving polar bears and caribou on a scenic flight over the tundra and taiga forest—the only way to survey the vast expanse of this roadless wilderness on Hudson Bay

By Polar Rover, search for polar bears, Arctic fox, Arctic hare, snowy owl and ptarmigan against a wildflower backdrop, and take a cart ride with a local musher and his dog team



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Itinerary At A Glance

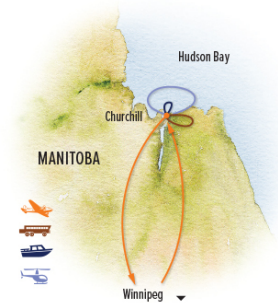
- Day 1**
Winnipeg, Manitoba
- Day 2**
Winnipeg / Private Chartered Flight to Churchill
- Days 3-5**
Beluga Encounters, Wildlife Watching & Helicopter Flightseeing
- Polar Rover**
Polar Rover
- Day 6**
Sled Dog Experience / Private Chartered Flight to Winnipeg
- Day 7**
Winnipeg / Depart
- Please note**
Please note

Belugas, Bears & Summer Wildlife of Churchill Itinerary

Come Eye to Eye with Friendly Beluga Whales on a Canadian Arctic Safari

Day 1: Winnipeg, Manitoba

Arrive in Winnipeg and transfer to the Fort Garry Hotel, built in 1913 by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway. The French-style chateau is still the grande dame of Winnipeg, offering first-class hospitality in Manitoba's capital. Once a fur-trading post and trade hub where the Assiniboine and Red Rivers meet, today Winnipeg is a thriving cultural and commercial center on the eastern Canadian prairie. Gather with your Expedition Leader for a welcome dinner on this first evening of your northern summer adventure.





Day 2: Winnipeg / Private Chartered Flight to Churchill

This morning, fly north by private chartered plane to Churchill, a remote community inaccessible by road and the gateway to Manitoba's Arctic. We spend the day exploring this frontier town near the site of an important 18th-century Hudson's Bay Company fur trading post. During our tour, we visit Churchill's Itsanitaq Museum, showcasing the region's Indigenous cultures with artifacts collected from centuries of habitation. We will also meet local individuals to gain insight into their cultural traditions and daily lives. These captivating storytellers share tales from their personal histories, offering a window into the enduring cultures that have flourished in this daunting environment for thousands of years. Our Expedition Leader offers an introduction to the natural history of the region as we explore the boreal forest, one of three ecosystems that merge where Churchill is located. This juncture is called an ecotone—the nexus of different ecologically and geographically defined areas; in this case, the boreal forest, or taiga, to the south, Arctic tundra to the northwest, and the marine environs of Hudson Bay to the north. In such a dynamic environment, summer wildlife flourishes, and we go in search of it over the next several days.

Days 3–5: Beluga Encounters, Wildlife Watching & Helicopter Flightseeing

With Churchill as our base, we spend four days exploring the tundra, river and sea coast of Hudson Bay. On a helicopter ride over the subarctic plain, search for polar bears that roam the vast tundra, and gain an aerial view on beluga pods that gather where the river meets the sea. More than 3,000 of these small white whales congregate in the mouth of the Churchill River each July and August, and we make several outings to observe them. View belugas up close on two separate Zodiac excursions, then meet them at eye level as we kayak among these gentle, inquisitive cetaceans that often nudge close to our paddles or follow in our human-powered wakes. With their unusual ability to turn their heads from side to side, belugas seem to be as curious about us as we are about them. Through the use of a hydrophone, we can also listen to their otherworldly songs.

We take a boat trip to explore the brackish water habitat where other wildlife thrives along Churchill River estuary, then cross the river to reach Prince of Wales Fort, which we step ashore to explore on foot. The remote, windswept ruins of this Hudson's Bay Company fur trading post built in 1717 occupy an area first scouted by Danish explorer Jens Munk in 1619 on his quest for the Northwest Passage. The fort became an important commercial hub and a key locale in the opening of the Canadian West as British and French forces vied for territorial control. On occasion, we see polar bears roaming just north of this area around the rocky promontory that juts into Hudson Bay. On the opposite bank of the river, the settlement of Churchill grew up when the rail line was built to Hudson Bay in 1929, opening up transport for grain from a new port facility.

Aboard a specialized



Polar Rover

vehicle, traverse the tundra on an Arctic safari in search of northern wildlife as we head to a spot near Hudson Bay for an outdoor cookout. Amid a riot of wildflowers, which carpets the green tundra with color, keep an eye out for Arctic fox, ptarmigan, caribou and polar bears. At this time of year, it is not uncommon to find mothers with cubs. At the interface of the boreal forest and tundra, we investigate this nexus of ecosystems that's home to a variety of flora and fauna, exploring on short walks with our Expedition Leader. On later-season departures, when the sun sets earlier and dark night skies return, there's a possibility we could see the northern lights if conditions are just right. Churchill lies directly beneath the auroral oval, one of the best places on Earth to view the aurora borealis when it is visible.

Day 6: Sled Dog Experience / Private Chartered Flight to Winnipeg

Our chartered flight back to Winnipeg leaves this afternoon, allowing plenty of time to do more in Churchill today. Meet a local musher and his lively team of sled dogs we learn about this historic mode of northern transportation, and ride in a wheeled cart pulled by the avid huskies. Pick up some last-minute gifts or souvenirs on the town's main street, where several shops sell locally made handicrafts from Inuit-designed wall-hangings to caribou fur sculptures. All too soon, it's time to head to the airport for our chartered flight back to Winnipeg. Transfer to the Fort Garry Hotel, where we gather for a festive farewell dinner this evening.

Day 7: Winnipeg / Depart

After breakfast, our Arctic summer tour comes to a close with a transfer to the airport to meet homeward flights.

Please note:

Specific itinerary timing may vary and activities may happen in a different order from what is listed, but inclusions are the same.



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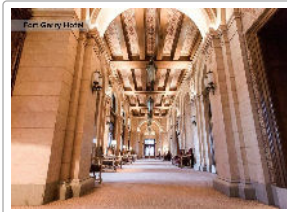
Accommodation Details:

Winnipeg & Churchill Hotels

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/alaska-northern-adventures/churchill-arctic-adventure/accommodations/

Belugas, Bears & Summer Wildlife of Churchill Accommodations

Come Eye to Eye with Friendly Beluga Whales on a Canadian Arctic Safari



Winnipeg & Churchill Hotels

In Winnipeg, stay at the historic Fort Garry Hotel, an elegant landmark built by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway in 1913. In remote Churchill, our simple hotels are clean, comfortable and centrally located.



Why Choose Churchill for Your Arctic Summer Adventure?

Churchill may be best known for its autumn polar bear tours. But summer here is a whole different discovery, filled with energy, beauty, wildlife, wildflowers, and all sorts of surprises! If you're looking for a northern nature adventure off the typical track, Churchill delivers. More than one tour operator offers summer trips in the Churchill area. We're confident ours is a cut above the rest, with elements you won't find elsewhere. Here's what you can expect when you discover a Churchill summer with Nat Hab:

- 1 Small Groups for Better Wildlife Viewing**

With no more than 14 guests, you can expect low-impact wildlife encounters and plenty of personal interaction with our Expedition Leader. And we split our small group in half when we travel by Zodiac to see the belugas, for the most intimate encounters.
- 2 Private Zodiac Excursions Among the Whales**

We use our own private motorized rafts, chartered from Churchill's highest-quality and most reliable boat company, to visit belugas in the mouth of the Churchill River—with no more than seven passengers per boat. This ensures clear viewing, easy photography access, and a flexible timetable.
- 3 Listen to Belugas by Hydrophone**

Belugas are delightfully vocal whales. And while it is thrilling to see them up close, our experience is enhanced by the chance to hear them as well. Most boat excursions don't offer the opportunity to listen in with hydrophones—but we do!
- 4 Kayak with the Pod**

When the tides are right, we offer the chance to kayak among the belugas—an up-close encounter in solitude that's broken only by the splash of your paddle and the whales' inquisitive interactions as they approach your boat.
- 5 Take a Ride Behind Local Sled Dogs**

Just because it's not winter doesn't mean you can't have an authentic sled dog encounter! We meet a local musher to learn all about this historic form of northern transportation and recreation, then take a ride behind his enthusiastic team as they pull us in a wheeled cart.



6 Exclusive Summer Access to the Churchill Wildlife Management Area

We're one of just two tour operators in Churchill with an exclusive permit to access the full range of the Churchill Wildlife Management Area (CWMA) via our Polar Rover tundra vehicle during the summer. This is where we may see polar bears, Arctic fox and other northern wildlife. Other operators use school-bus vehicles and can only drive along the road to Halfway Point, which is, as the name implies, just halfway to the best wildlife-viewing area. You've come all the way to Churchill to see wildlife...why not make sure you have the best chance to do so?

7 Northern Lights? The Odds May Be Good!

Located directly beneath the Van Allen Belt, a band of energy-charged particles that wraps the earth's polar regions, Churchill is one of the best places on Earth to see the aurora borealis. Originating in solar flares, these particles are carried by solar wind, becoming trapped in Earth's magnetic field to create the phenomenon of the northern lights. As days get shorter toward summer's end, our chances increase to witness the lights in a darkening night sky.

8 Cultural Interactions with Local Residents

Through years of developing close relationships with local people, we are able to offer our guests the exclusive opportunity to meet revered elders of the First Nations, Inuit and Metis cultures in Churchill. These Indigenous storytellers are some of the last of their generation in their communities, sharing their knowledge of past and present with our travelers.

9 The Finest Naturalist Guides on the Planet

Natural Habitat Adventures is known worldwide for employing the highest-quality guides in the industry. Our Churchill Expedition Leaders have been guiding tours in this region for an average of more than 10 years. And they receive additional training and resources from WWF's top scientists, ensuring the best interpretive experience available. Expedition Leaders meet each guest in Winnipeg and travel with the group the entire way, sharing their knowledge and insight at every turn. Our philosophy is pretty simple: a nature adventure is only as good as the guide, so we simply must provide the best!

10 Our Quality-Value Guarantee Ensures Your Superior North Country Experience

Natural Habitat Adventures offers an exclusive guarantee, clearly stating that we will meet the lofty expectations we set in our promotional materials. To our knowledge, this is the most ambitious guarantee made by any adventure travel company.

11 Feel Good About Your Carbon-Neutral Journey

We care deeply about our planet, as we know you do. When you travel with us, the carbon emissions from your trip are 100% offset—including your round-trip flights from home. Natural Habitat Adventures has been the world's first carbon-neutral travel company since 2007.



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12 **Natural Habitat Adventures is WWF's Travel Partner**

Because of our commitment to environmentally friendly travel, as well as the exceptional quality of our adventures, World Wildlife Fund, the world's leading environmental conservation organization, has named Natural Habitat Adventures as its worldwide travel partner, a designation that makes us exceedingly proud!





Make It Private with Your Family or Friends

Request Info

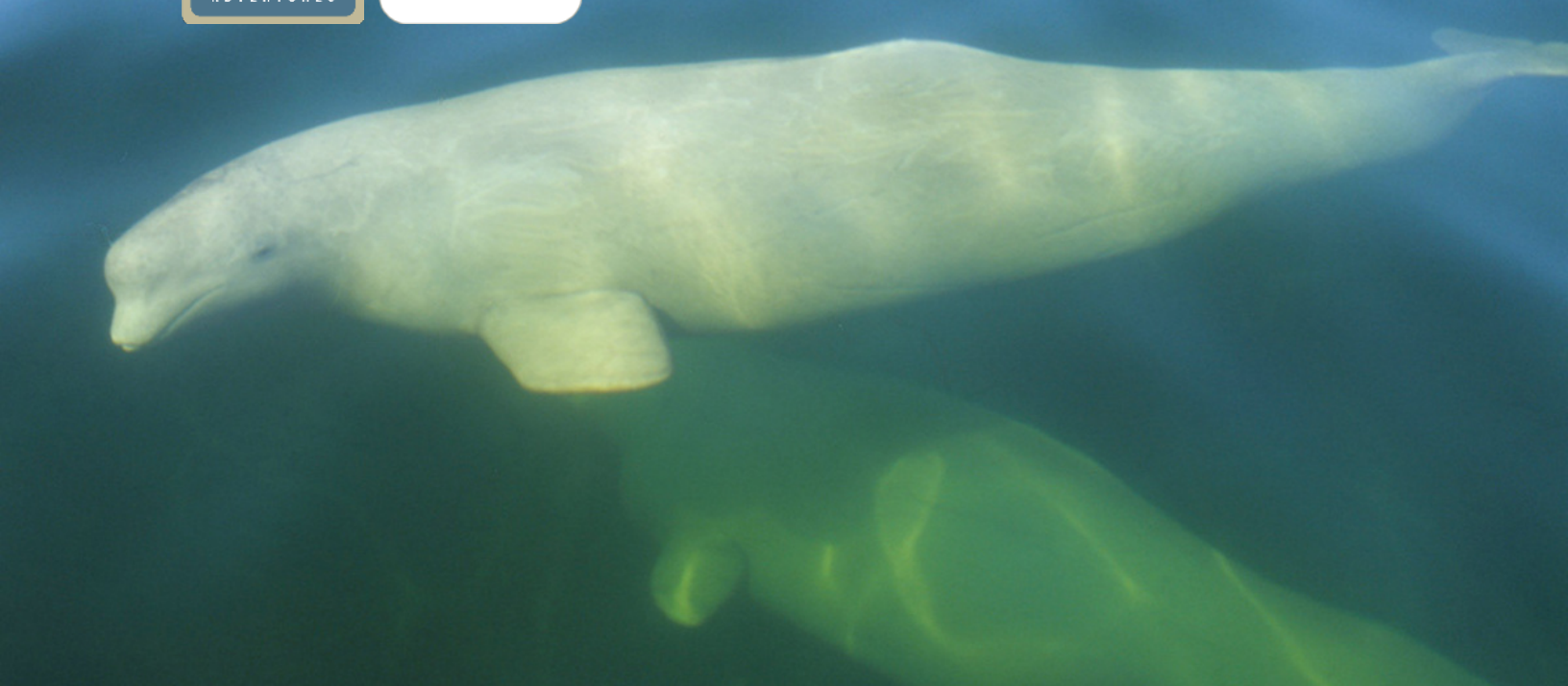
Travel privately, exclusively with your immediate family, multi-generational family or group of friends. And when you choose a private departure, you're assured the most exclusive and authentic Churchill summer adventure on offer. Here are some of the advantages when you Make It Private:

- 1 Your private group of family or friends, with special activities for kids**
- 2 Your own private naturalist guide**
- 3 Exclusive use of a private Zodiac boat for excursions**
- 4 Tundra BBQ aboard a private Polar Rover**
- 5 Private dinner at Fort Garry Hotel**
- 6 Surprisingly affordable pricing**

This **Make It Private** option is available on nearly every Nat Hab trip for family and friend groups. Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917 or look for the "Make It Private" icon in the **pricing section** of a trip online at nathab.com to see prices based on your specific group size.



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Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices:
From \$7895 (+ Air)

Group Size:
Limited to 14 Travelers

Physical Requirements:
Moderate

Belugas, Bears & Summer Wildlife of Churchill Dates, Pricing & Info

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2024 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Jul 15, 2024	Jul 21, 2024	Wildflower Season
Jul 19, 2024	Jul 25, 2024	Wildflower Season
Jul 23, 2024	Jul 29, 2024	Wildflower Season
Jul 27, 2024	Aug 2, 2024	Wildflower Season
Jul 27, 2024	Aug 2, 2024	Wildflower Season Special Photo Departure
Jul 31, 2024	Aug 6, 2024	Wildflower Season Women-Only Departure
Jul 31, 2024	Aug 6, 2024	
Aug 4, 2024	Aug 10, 2024	Wildflower Season
Aug 4, 2024	Aug 10, 2024	Wildflower Season Special Photo Departure



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Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices:

From
\$7895
(+ Air)

Group Size:

Limited to 14
Travelers

Physical Requirements:

Moderate

Departure	Return	Notes
Aug 4, 2024	Aug 10, 2024	Wildflower Season
Aug 8, 2024	Aug 14, 2024	Wildflower Season
Aug 8, 2024	Aug 14, 2024	Wildflower Season

2025 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Jul 27, 2025	Aug 2, 2025	Wildflower Season



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Pricing

2023 Prices

- ▶ **Trip Price:**
\$7895 to \$7995 (+internal air)

Internal Air Cost: \$997 per person (this will be listed separately on our invoicing)

Single Occupancy: For a single room add \$875.



2024 Prices

- ▶ **Trip Price:**
\$8595 to \$8795 (+internal air)

Internal Air Cost: \$1197 per person (this will be listed separately on our invoicing)

Single Occupancy: For a single room add \$915.

Group Size

Limited to 14 Travelers

An important feature of our Arctic summer adventure is the limited group size, as nature is best experienced with smaller numbers, for more intimate wildlife encounters and a lighter environmental footprint.

Take this trip on a private basis, traveling exclusively with your immediate family, multi-generational family or group of friends. for details and pricing.

Included

- ▶ **Trip price includes:** Accommodations, services of Nat Hab's professional Expedition Leader(s) and assistants, Zodiac and **Polar Rover** excursions, helicopter excursion, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on final day, some gratuities, airport transfers on Day 1 and final day, all activities and entrance fees, all taxes, permits and service fees.
- ▶ **Internal air cost includes:** a chartered round-trip flight from Winnipeg and Churchill (this will be listed separately on our invoicing).

Not Included

Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, passport and visa fees (if any), optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry and internet, etc.), airline baggage fees, airport and departure taxes (if any), optional travel protection and medical evacuation insurance.

Physical Requirements

Moderate



The activities on our Churchill wildlife adventure are diverse, requiring general mobility and fitness. This trip involves several walks of approximately 2 miles each in varying climates and environments and can include uneven and slippery terrain. Travelers must be able to walk 2 miles unassisted. Travelers must be able to get into and out of rigid inflatable Zodiac rafts, which can be very unsteady when entering or leaving in rough water. You must also be comfortable changing positions in a moving Zodiac while out on the water. Travelers may have the opportunity to participate in optional kayaking, weather permitting. Though no prior kayaking experience is required, general fitness and mobility, including the ability to get into and out of a kayak, are essential. Travelers must be able to climb in and out of vehicles with as many as four steps many times throughout each day. While travelers are not required to participate in all activities, should you opt out of the day's scheduled activities, we cannot always guarantee that alternatives will be available.

On custom or private departures with smaller groups, our ability to accommodate varying levels of physical abilities or interests is limited, since these trips are staffed with a single Expedition Leader who may be assisted, pending availability, by local guides.

Important Information About This Trip

In summer, the tundra around Churchill bursts into life with grassy, green tussocks and a carpet of wildflowers. Animals, including caribou, are on the move, and birdlife is abundant, with the return of many migratory species. The most impressive phenomenon is the migration of some 3,000 beluga whales into the Seal and Churchill rivers, where we observe these ghost-like creatures at close range, often at arm's length. We may also have opportunities to view mother polar bears with cubs, as they remain in the area all summer long. Be aware that at times black flies or mosquitoes may be present—if you're sensitive to bites, take precautions and wear repellent.

Meals

Meals in the far north are hearty and delicious, but they also require special planning and preparation far in advance. With ample notice, we can meet dietary requirements that accommodate serious medical conditions or strict personal restrictions; however this restricted meal plan must continue to be adhered to while on the adventure. If you have a highly restricted diet, we recommend you bring along some of your preferred snacks and an appreciation that certain foods are limited in this part of the world.

A note regarding northern lights: In Churchill, you're located directly under the auroral oval at one of the world's best places to see northern lights. Chances of spotting aurora borealis increase later in the summer season if conditions are right, meaning there is no cloud cover while the complete darkness of August's "magnetic midnight" appears. Summer sightings are fleeting, but always magical.

Getting There & Getting Home

In case of flight or weather delays, we recommend that you arrive a day early. Please schedule your flights to arrive by 5 pm in order to attend a 7 pm orientation dinner on Day 1 of your program. You are free to depart at any time on the final day.



Natural Habitat & WWF: Discovering Our Planet Together

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Since 2003, Nat Hab has donated more than \$4.5 million to WWF's global conservation efforts and will continue to give 1% of gross sales plus \$150,000 annually through 2023 in support of WWF's mission to conserve nature and reduce the most pressing threats to the diversity of life on Earth. WWF® and ©1986 Panda Symbol are owned by WWF. All rights reserved.