Polar Bears of Churchill

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

NOVEMBER 2-7, 2018

Special Rate
SAVE MORE THAN $1,000 per couple
Dear Fellow Columbian,

Witness one of the largest confluences of polar bears in the world with alumni and friends on a six-day journey to remote Churchill, Manitoba, from November 2 – 7, 2018. With an expert naturalist as your guide, observe polar bears interacting and playing from the comfort of a custom-designed Arctic Crawler. Exclusive educational experiences distinguish this program, including presentations by experts at Churchill’s Northern Studies Centre and your local guide.

The Columbia Alumni Association (CAA) is a global network connecting Columbians of all Schools to one another and to the intellectual and social fabric of Columbia University, even after graduation. It links 338,000 alumni through more than 100 Regional Clubs and Shared Interest Groups, online resources, and over 200 thought-provoking programs around the world. The CAA Travel Study Program is one of the benefits offered to alumni and is an opportunity to continue one’s Columbia education through new intellectual, cultural, and geographical horizons.

Space is limited, and will be shared with participants from cosponsoring alumni associations. Please contact the CAA Travel Study Program office at (866) 325-8664, or at travelstudy@columbia.edu for more details and to reserve your place today.

Kind regards,

Donna H. MacPhee ’89CC, P: ’17CC
Vice President for Alumni Relations
President, Columbia Alumni Association

Free Expedition Library
AN EARLY RESERVATION BONUS

Reserve your space by March 23, 2018 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.
As polar bears await the formation of the arctic sea ice over the Hudson Bay—to begin their hunt for ringed seals—they descend upon the tiny seaport town of Churchill, 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.”

On this wildlife expedition, surrounded by experts and featuring up-close experiences, be part of an extraordinary natural phenomenon and unforgettable adventure.

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.

“This was absolutely the experience of a lifetime! And as this was on my bucket list, my expectations were quite high, yet greatly exceeded.”

— Deborah M., Fairfax, VA
Your 6-Day Itinerary
(subject to change)

Day 1: Arrive in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada (R,D)
Welcome reception and dinner
Overnight: Hilton Winnipeg Airport Suites

Day 2: Winnipeg / Churchill / Northern Studies Centre / Parks Canada Interpretive Centre (B,L,D)
Flight to Churchill, 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 / Winnipeg (B,L,D)
Another opportunity to observe and photograph polar bears aboard the Arctic Crawler; flight to Winnipeg
Overnight: Hilton Winnipeg Airport Suites

Day 6: Depart Winnipeg (B)

Program Highlights

• Join with fellow travelers for a warm welcome, then step out for an exclusive private reception and dinner event in Winnipeg.

• 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 of course, 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 huskies and their experienced handler, then bundle up for an exciting dog sled experience.

• What’s included: 5 nights hotel and lodge accommodations; 5 breakfasts, 3 lunches, and 4 dinners including a special welcome reception and dinner; full guiding services of an Orbridge Expedition Leader and local guide; excursion transportation and entry fees; and all gratuities.

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, as well as able to walk on frozen or snow-covered ground and manage stairs without assistance.
Your Accommodations
(subject to change)

HILTON WINNIPEG AIRPORT SUITES
Located at Winnipeg's airport terminal, 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
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 Cafe.

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 want.

Wally estimates he has helped more than 20,000 people see their first polar bear in his 35 years of guiding. In addition to the fall polar bears tours, Wally also provides guided treks by both land and sea to observe polar bears and beluga whales (plus a vast multitude of other wildlife) during the brief arctic summer when the ice melts. His custom-designed Arctic Crawlers help visitors interact with the diverse array of wildlife the area supports.
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 to our expedition a lifetime’s wealth of knowledge about North America’s parks, preserves, and wildlife.

Expedition Leader subject to change.
Secure your reservation with a deposit charged to the credit card below, or with an enclosed check payable to: Orbridge LLC.

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: ________________ CVV: _____

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, fax or scan/email registration form and deposit to:

Columbia Alumni Travel Study Program
P.O. Box 930
Riverside, CT 06878
Fax: (203) 724-0844 • Email: travelstudy@columbia.edu

For more information: Please call (866) 325-8664 or visit http://alumni.columbia.edu/travel

Disclaimer: We reserve the right to cancel or substitute faculty. We cannot guarantee the size of the Columbia group. The Columbia Alumni Association may receive nominal compensation for this travel program contingent upon a minimum number of Columbia University affiliated participants traveling under the auspices of the Columbia Alumni Travel Study Program.

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 and 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 ("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 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 extension; (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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*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 $995 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.
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Columbia Alumni Travel Study Program
P.O. Box 930
Riverside, CT 06878

When you reserve by March 23, 2018**