Have an Unforgettable personal encounter
Southern Manitoba Farmland

Be captivated.

Riding Mountain National Park

Winnipeg Skyline

Southern Manitoba Farmland
Welcome to Manitoba!

Located in the centre of Canada, Manitoba’s untouched natural beauty and urban elegance will leave you captivated.

Make friends with the majestic polar bear and take in the vibrant culture of the capital city Winnipeg. Paddle alongside curious beluga whales and discover the hospitality and friendliness of our people during the vacation of a lifetime to Manitoba.

Manitoba is the sixth-largest province in Canada at 649,950 square kilometers (or 250,947 square miles). The province has over 100,000 lakes and has a largely continental climate. Winnipeg is a dynamic city of nearly 700,000 people.

Manitoba’s landscape is extremely diverse. The south-western portion of Manitoba is prairie, with farmland and flat, open fields as far as the eye can see. The most northern area of Manitoba features an expanse of tundra, which is relatively flat as well. The rest of the province is dominated by the Canadian Shield, a rocky, tree-rich geography with breathtaking lakes, hills and cliffs.

Churchill is one of the top three places on the planet to see the northern lights. The best time of the year to see this natural phenomenon are the months of March and April.
Manitoba's Premiere Experiences

From wildlife viewing to storytelling, from southern prairie to northern tundra – Manitoba’s premier experiences offer the chance of a lifetime to see, do, taste and live the best of what this province has to offer.

Polar Bear Viewing – October/November
Polar bears are at the top of the must-see list: see them up close as they await the fall freezing of Hudson Bay. Hundreds of polar bears surround the northern town of Churchill each fall. Get a bird’s eye view of the bears with a helicopter ride high above the tundra – watch for Arctic foxes scampering across the white expanse below. Enhance your arctic adventure with a thrilling dogsled ride through the boreal forest and take a journey through Inuit culture at the Eskimo Museum. Marvel at the dancing lightshow of the Aurora Borealis as you feast on bison, caribou or Arctic char for dinner.

Summer Safaris – July/August
A summer expedition to see the bears features a brilliant explosion of colour from the tundra’s wildflowers. Add beluga whale watching to your itinerary – head out on the water to make friends with these curious creatures. Don a wetsuit and snorkel to hear their underwater songs, clicks and whistles. Venture deep into the wilderness on a float plane to spot moose, black bears and caribou on a guided nature trail hike. Bring binoculars and count the number of birds – hawks, falcons, owls, terns and gulls –spied on the way to the 18th century Prince of Wales Fort or the M/V Ithaca shipwreck.

Or make the north just one stop on a Manitoba adventure. Add bison, elk and coyotes to your wildlife checklist of bears and belugas with a visit to the parklands. Here golden prairies of the south give way to the dense green forests of the north. Here, too, the culture of the area’s pioneers lives on; enjoy a Ukrainian feast and festival – a reflection of Manitoba’s cultural diversity.
Fly-in Fishing Lodges – May to September
Spend even more time on the water at a wilderness resort deep in the heart of the boreal forest. Arrive via float plane and learn the secrets of wilderness fishing and how to prepare a traditional shore lunch. Follow the trails forged by fur traders – along the way guides will point out ancient pictographs that reveal the history of the indigenous people. Watch for moose, black bear, caribou and beaver. Listen to calls from eagles, owls, finches and flycatchers. Spend the evening immersed in the culture of French-Canadians and Métis, with a traditional meal, songs and storytelling.

Architectural Secrets in Winnipeg – year round
Discover the hidden stories in one of Manitoba’s landmarks – the Manitoba Legislative Building. This architectural wonder is packed with occult cues, hidden hieroglyphic inscriptions, numerological codes and Freemasonic symbols that have escaped historians and visitors for nearly a hundred years. Find out why there are two sphinxes on the roof and the meaning behind the shining symbolic figure overlooking the city of Winnipeg, the Golden Boy.

Nature and History of Winnipeg – year round
See how the people and the land are connected with a fascinating introduction to bison and the Aboriginal, Métis, voyageurs and pioneers who walked side by side with this iconic symbol of Manitoba. See the herd of 30 bison up close then follow the aspen-lined path to a Plains Cree tipi. Pass around items made from bison, like the smooth black spoon fashioned from a horn. Imagine braving winter inside the sod roof pioneer home and enjoy bannock cooked over an open fire after paddling a voyageur canoe around the lake.
An international symbol for hope.

The Canadian Museum for Human Rights, opening 2014, is the first national museum outside of Canada’s capital region.
Along with its amazing wilderness and diverse cultural experiences, Manitoba is soon to be home to three new incredible attractions that will inspire and excite our visitors.

The Canadian Museum for Human Rights is already a national and international symbol for hope. Its impressive design has left its mark on Winnipeg’s skyline and it reflects the museum’s core mission: to inspire discussion and a commitment to taking action against hate and oppression. Located at the traditional meeting place in Winnipeg, The Forks, the museum will be a centre of learning, of action and of hope. Follow the path from darkness to light, through the interactive exhibitions that share stories of resistance, resilience, perseverance and courage. Nearly a kilometre of bridges lead to the Tower of Hope, a 23-storey glass structure overlooking the city and beyond.

Venture on a journey to Churchill without even leaving Winnipeg. The Journey to Churchill exhibit at the Assiniboine Park Zoo will feature the animals and landscapes of Manitoba’s north. See polar bears from all angles, including an underwater viewing area. Learn about the bears and the issues affecting them at the International Polar Bear Conservation Centre, now open. See the northern lights under the dome of the Aurora Borealis Theatre. The rooftop Tundra Garden will offer great views of the entire 10-acre exhibit, which also features caribou, musk ox, seals and other northern animals. Journey to Churchill is setting a new international standard for polar bear exhibits world-wide.

Winnipeg is “Canada’s Newest Convention Centre” – with a planned expansion of the Winnipeg Convention Centre to meet the needs of today’s meetings and conventions. Featuring a large new ballroom and public lobby space, the additional 69,000 square feet of exhibit space will add to the existing exhibition space, to accommodate over 700 exhibit booths. The impressive third floor City Room, located above what is now a city street, will offer exceptional views of the city. Below, at street level will be a new gathering place in the heart of downtown Winnipeg.
Lords of the Arctic.
Dubbed "Lords of the Arctic", polar bears are the world’s largest land carnivores. They have no natural enemies. Consequently, they have no fear. This means the bears come very close to viewing vehicles, giving you the best look at these giant creatures that can stand up to three metres (10 feet) tall. Unique tundra vehicles, designed to move slowly over snow and ice, provide protection while getting you in prime position to watch and photograph these often curious bears.

Welcome to Churchill, the polar bear capital of the world. Located 1,100 km (700 miles) from Winnipeg, Churchill is one of the few human settlements where polar bears can be observed in the wild. Prime viewing times are in October and November. During this time, hundreds of bears move from their summer habitat on the tundra to the shores of Hudson Bay waiting for the ice packs to form. The ice packs provide access to the seals that sustain these huge creatures.

Stay at a wilderness lodge built on the bears’ migration route. Or sleep under the stars on a stationary tundra lodge, equipped with all the comforts you’ll need.

Polar bears have a highly acute sense of smell. They can pick up a scent from over 30 km away and sniff out seals under three feet of snow and ice.
Come play with me.
While Churchill is best known as the Polar Bear Capital of the World, the summer is also a great time to visit, as the tundra comes alive with countless wildlife, flowers and birds. Travel to Churchill from Winnipeg by plane, or travel by car or RV to Thompson and then board a Via Rail train, watching as the landscape shifts from prairie, to parkland, to boreal forest, to tundra.

Churchill’s summers offer the unbelievable experience of seeing over 3,000 beluga whales frolic in the Churchill River estuary, where they bring their babies to play in the warmer waters of the river as it spills into the Hudson Bay. In July and August, visitors can enjoy boating or kayaking with these vocal whales.

Those seeking a closer adventure can try snorkeling with the whales, a once in a lifetime opportunity to come face to face with these beautiful and friendly animals.

Be on the lookout for the endless supply of arctic wildlife including hundreds of species of birds, caribou and arctic fox. Even the mighty polar bear can make an appearance. Although seen in far fewer numbers than the fall, polar bears are occasionally roused from a summer nap or seen returning to land from drifting ice floes.
Like an impressionist’s canvas, Churchill’s summer landscape is dotted with blooming wildflowers in every color imaginable. There are over 400 species of native plants in the area, making the perfect backdrop for a hike. Wander through the tundra and along the Hudson Bay coastline at low tide. For those looking for a little speed, try dog sledding on a cart with wheels – a lack of snow doesn’t slow down these dogs.

Churchill’s impressive landscape goes hand in hand with its extensive history. The massive stone walls of a former military fortress, Prince of Wales Fort, mark a landing spot for the fur traders who opened Canada’s west. The Eskimo Museum, with its prehistoric artefacts and charming Inuit art, reveal the heart and history of Canada’s northern communities.

And for an even more remote experience, explore some of the wilderness lodges located a short distance outside Churchill. Enjoy luxury and solitude while surrounded by wild nature.

Belugas are highly vocal, emitting strange high-pitched whistles, clicks and chirps, earning them the nickname “sea canaries”.
A sincerely serene impression.
From serenity ... to adrenaline rush in the blink of an eye.
Manitoba is home to some of the best sport fishing in North America. From massive northern pike, trophy walleye, furious lake trout to giant channel catfish. These enormous fish are photographed for bragging rights and then released back into the wild, sustaining populations and ecosystems.

Arrive by float plane to a secluded wilderness lodge, complete with five-star amenities. Discover the best places to find the biggest fish with local aboriginal guides. Mouth watering shore lunches prepared lakeside redefine the phrase “catch of the day”. Manitoba’s 100,000 lakes and hundreds of lodges and outfitters offer a distinct fishing experience for both beginners and seasoned anglers.

The Manitoba Master Angler Awards Program, established over 50 years ago, recognizes anglers’ abilities to catch trophy fish in Manitoba. The program, through its “catch and release” policies, serves as an educational and conservation tool while promoting Manitoba’s world-class sport fishery.

Approximately 16% of the surface of Manitoba is underwater – hence it being known as the “Land of 100,000 Lakes”.

Fishing
Magnificent destinations.

Breathtaking journeys.
Out of the Ordinary Outdoors

In Manitoba the opportunities for outdoor adventure are endless. Hikers, cyclists and skiers can choose from hundreds of kilometres of trails winding their way through Manitoba’s provincial and national parks. Make your way to the top of a magnificent waterfall at the northern Pisew Falls Provincial Park. Leave tracks in the sand at one of Manitoba’s natural oddities, the ancient dunes of the Spirit Sands in Spruce Woods Provincial Park to the west. Trek across the rugged beauty of the Precambrian Shield in Whiteshell Provincial Park to the east.

Immerse yourself in Manitoba’s thrilling nature as you paddle your way down a historic river, following traditional fur trader routes. Or get a different perspective of Winnipeg by paddling on the city’s urban waterways. Manitoba’s largest lake is Lake Winnipeg. It boasts one of the world’s finest natural sand beaches, just an hour’s drive north of Winnipeg. The aptly named Grand Beach features shallow water perfect for wading and soft white sand perfect for lounging. Watch as the sailboats drift by, or strap yourself onto a kite board and let the waves and the wind take you for a ride.

Manitoba’s Bloodvein, Hayes and Seal Rivers are designated as Canadian Heritage Rivers.

Approximately 441 km long, Lake Winnipeg is the 14th largest freshwater lake in the world.
As wild as you want it to be.
Manitoba’s diverse habitats – sub-Arctic tundra, broad plains, forests and parklands – spawn superb wildlife viewing year-round.

Massive bison, moose and elk are easily spotted around the province, especially in the fall. Watch polar bears or belugas on Manitoba’s Hudson Bay coastline.

Oak Hammock Marsh, just minutes north of Winnipeg, is home to almost 300 species of birds. Over 400,000 birds a day pass through as the migrating season begins mid-August.

Riding Mountain National Park is one of Manitoba’s best wildlife watching sites. The 3,000 square km park is a mix of wilderness, town site, forests, grasslands, hills, valleys and lakes. Great Grey Owls are common, as are a large variety of hawks and falcons, as well as moose, elk, deer, black bear and bison.
For thousands of years, people have been gathering here.
Winnipeg: A Gathering Place

Winnipeg, Manitoba’s capital city, has been an important meeting place throughout history.

Spend the day exploring the Exchange District, a 30-block collection of turn-of-the-last-century architecture. Explore hip shops and numerous art galleries, then make your way to the Manitoba Museum and stand on the deck of the Nonsuch, a life-sized 17th century ship which had the gallery built around it.

For theatre buffs, music lovers and dance aficionados, check out the renowned Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre or one of the other dozen professional performing arts companies.

With over 1,100 restaurants ranging from classic diner to elegant fine dining, Winnipeg is a culinary hotbed. Indulge in the tastes of the city at a charming eatery or amidst the energy at Winnipeg’s two casinos.

Explore Winnipeg’s quaint corners and bustling centres. Visit St. Boniface, the city’s French Quarter. Wander through Osborne Village or along Corydon Avenue, dotted with unique shops and restaurants. Enjoy the serenity of Winnipeg’s lush, green parks and pay a visit to the urban herd of bison at FortWhyte Alive. Retrace the path of Winnipeg’s history along the banks of its winding rivers at the city’s most famous gathering place, The Forks.

Experience Manitoba’s culture at its top festivals, like Folklorama, the world’s largest multicultural festival or le Festival du Voyageur, a winter celebration of Manitoba’s fur traders and francophone traditions.
Sample Itinerary #1
An Arctic Adventure in Churchill
Arctic Summer Safari: July/August
Polar Bear Viewing: October/November

Day 1: Arrive in Winnipeg, the heartland of North America, where you must begin with a visit to the Manitoba Museum to prepare for your upcoming adventure to the north.

Day 2: As you travel 1,300 kilometres north, marvel as the geography changes from agricultural prairie farmland of the south, to rocky Canadian Shield, to pristine boreal forest and finally to the permafrost taiga of the sub-Arctic. Train lovers will meander across the landscape over two days, while those in a hurry can be there by plane in less than three hours. Your adventure in Churchill begins with an orientation to the town and area highlights.

Day 3: In October/November it is all polar bears, all the time. Depending on the length of your tour, one to five days are spent viewing bears from the warmth and comfort of specially designed tundra vehicles, from a helicopter providing spectacular aerial views, from the windows of a remote wilderness lodge or, for the adventurous sort, from the ground level with an experienced guide.

Day 4: In the summer, the Churchill area transforms in a brilliant wildlife safari, with over 3,000 beluga whales filling the waters. You can join their fun from aboard a large sea vessel, zodiac, kayak or even face to face through a snorkelling mask. Hiking adventures around the area open a whole new world in Churchill. See National Historic Sites, a variety of wildlife and hundreds of arctic plant species.

Day 5: The town of Churchill is filled with locally owned restaurants serving the best in northern cuisine and quaint gift shops showcasing Arctic art and gifts. Make sure you bring your passport to the local post office where the staff will stamp your passport and give you bragging rights of your visit to the “Polar Bear Capital of the World”.

Day 6: An evening arrival back in Winnipeg sends you home with your mind and heart filled with memories of one of the most memorable places in the world.

www.everythingchurchill.com

Sample Itinerary #2
Flyways & Byways
Season: May - September

Day 1: Start your bird-watching trip in Winnipeg with a multitude of songbirds and waterfowl at an urban wildlife nature centre.

Day 2: Heading north, stop at Oak Hammock Marsh en route to the shores of Lake Winnipeg for offshore seabirds, waterfowl and wetland species.

Day 3: East of Winnipeg, a stay at a resort in Whiteshell Provincial Park will highlight your favourite species within Manitoba's pristine boreal forest.

Day 4 & 5: Spend a couple days in the western region of Manitoba, especially in Riding Mountain National Park where you can spot upwards of 100 species a day, including Manitoba's provincial bird, the Great Gray Owl.

www.birdingmanitoba.com
While Manitoba offers many exciting tourism adventures, such as seeing polar bears and the northern lights, Manitoba is also a great place to come and learn. Whether you are looking to learn English or to gain insight from Manitoba’s agricultural industry, Manitoba has the institutions and experts to satisfy your quest for knowledge.

From small specialty farms to high-tech agricultural plants, an agricultural tour in Manitoba is an active and engaging way to immerse yourself in this province’s culture and environment. In addition to tours of farms and plants, meet with equipment manufacturers and owners of agricultural enterprises. Manitoba is also home to many major grain companies and research institutes. Manitoba offers international education programs allowing visitors to learn and travel in our English and French speaking communities. Immerse yourself in the cultures of Canadians in this friendly, safe and diverse province. Manitoba’s value for money combined with the high quality educational institutions complement the amazing cultural and outdoor adventures that await you in Manitoba.
To learn more and plan your trip to Manitoba, visit

Travel Manitoba
700-155 Carlton Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 3H8 Canada
1-800-665-0040
www.travelmanitoba.com