Accessible, authentic and amazing ways to spend your Manitoba Time.
Manitoba’s Signature Experiences include:

**Hermetic Code Tour of the Manitoba Legislature**
Heartland International Travel and Tours | Winnipeg
The Manitoba Legislative Building is an undisputed architectural gem, however, it’s anything but a typical house of parliament. Concealed in the architecture are hidden hieroglyphic inscriptions, numerological codes and Freemasonic symbols. Join the Hermetic Code Tour to learn more. Questions quickly present themselves. On the roof, there are two sphinxes—one faces the rising sun and the other the setting sun; why? At the foot of the grand staircase, two bison serve as symbols of the province; or are they there to ward off evil? Is the painting on the wall just a war mural, or does it depict the Passion of Christ? What does it all mean? Your guide explains it this way, “the legislature was meant to be a temple of morality, a building that would remind people of the noble aims of society.” Looking around you, you can’t help but feel he may be right.
www.heartlandtravel.ca

**Pathway of the Voyageurs**
Aikens Lake Wilderness Lodge | Aikens Lake
The float plane touches down in the waters of Atikaki Provincial Wilderness Park. First up is an excursion to learn the secrets to wilderness fishing and how to prepare a traditional shore lunch. Then it’s a hike along a historic portage where fur traders once walked. Along the way you see ancient pictographs and learn about the history of Aikens Lake, the Gammons River and the Bloodvein River—The Pathways of the Voyageurs. You keep the camera ready for a chance to snap a picture of a moose, black bear, caribou, beaver or muskrat. The treetops are alive with a rhapsody of bird calls. Then you return to the lodge for an evening of French-Canadian and Métis cuisine, storytelling and song. Night falls, but the day’s adventure is not done yet. You and your party head out for a spectacular star walk. You and nature have never been so close.
www.aikenslake.com

**The Lazy Bear Wilderness Expedition**
Lazy Bear Lodge | Churchill
Dip your paddle into a pristine Northern river. Spot polar bears ambling amid fields of wildflowers. Savour just-caught fish fried up over a campfire. With a splash your float plane touches down for an eight-day Lazy Bear Wilderness Adventure in remote Northern Manitoba. Glide your kayak in the path of early explorers. Camp under the Northern Lights for three nights. Take a jet boat to watch polar bears in the wild. Snorkel into Hudson’s Bay, your heart racing as you gaze into the eyes of beluga whales. Explore a haunting stone fort from Canada’s early fur trading days. Experience Northern culture at a local museum and prowl the streets of Churchill, the world’s Polar Bear Capital. Spend five nights at the Lazy Bear Lodge, a cozy log inn where dinner might be bison or fresh Arctic char, served in front of a crackling wood fire in a huge stone hearth.
www.lazybearlodge.com
Marvels of Manitoba

Churchill Nature Tours | Winnipeg, Riding Mountain National Park, Churchill
Thrill to polar bears tumbling amid tundra wildflowers. Immerse in Ukrainian culture at a festival and feast. Feel your heart race as a pod of beluga whales gathers alongside your boat. Smell wildflowers while savouring a lakeside gourmet picnic. Chat with Hutterite folks, appreciating their simple way of life. Churchill Nature Tours takes you on a jaunt clear across Canada’s prairie province of Manitoba. Experience Winnipeg’s colourful culture. Explore big sky country where forests and plains are alive with elk, bears and coyotes. Fly north to Churchill at the edge of the accessible Arctic. Ride a tundra bus safely into the heart of a polar bear summer playground. Hop a helicopter and see a star-shaped historical fort. Dine on fresh Arctic char in your lodge at day’s end. Then find yourself too excited to sleep at the chance of spotting shimmering Northern Lights.

www.churchillnaturetours.com

Birds, Bears and Belugas

Churchill Wild | Seal River
Gaze into a whale’s eye. Feel your heart race as a polar bear rears up from a patch of purple tundra wildflowers. Spot caribou on the march from your kayak. Listen for wolves howling. Follow the flights of eider ducks and cranes with binoculars. Grab a seat on a bush float plane and fly north to Seal River Lodge, one of Churchill Wild’s wilderness lodges. Hop into a Zodiac and watch ghostly white shapes of belugas emerge from deep, clear Arctic waters. Hear their breathy gasps as they surface. Slip on a dry suit, don a mask and snorkel, and slide into the water to join them. Gulp with excitement as you stare eye to eye at the whales. Hear the underwater symphony of clicks, grunts and whistles as they talk to one another. They look as if they’re smiling; smile back. On dry land, polar bears scrounge for food with cubs in tow. Watch them from the safety of your wilderness lodge’s viewing tower or head out on nature trails with experienced guides for fishing and hiking, always on the lookout for Arctic foxes, lemmings and moose. Finish the day with home-cooked local fish — the one you just caught? — or gourmet treats like freshly baked goose pie with cranberries. Forget about TV; the midnight sun continues to light up the wild landscape well into the night.

www.churchillwild.com

Polar Bears by Tundra Buggy®

Frontiers North Adventures | Churchill
An outback train trip or a 2.5 hour flight from Winnipeg lands you in the northern Manitoba town of Churchill, Canada’s Polar Bear Capital and the jumping-off point for up-close encounters with bears while they await the fall freezing of Hudson Bay. Frontiers North’s experienced guides lead tundra safaris into polar bear country on monster-wheeled Tundra Buggies® that tread gently on the land. You might see mother bears feeding fuzzy white cubs or big males rearing up on hind legs, eyes locked with yours. The sturdy Tundra Buggy® keeps you safe even when a polar bear shows a little “buggy love.” Depending on which adventure you sign up for, a long day’s wildlife spotting can finish in Churchill where you can explore a historic Hudson’s Bay Company trading post, visit the Eskimo Museum and listen to local musicians at the pub. Or you can be one of a small group of less than 40 who choose to stay in the heart of polar bear turf, overnighting three or five nights in Frontiers North’s hotel on wheels, the 100 metre-long modular Tundra Buggy® Lodge. That allows the luxury of photographing bears in the brilliant glow of sunset and watching them prowl while you dine within your warm expedition outpost. Because you sleep with the bears, you awaken to see them shaking off their snowy blankets. The memories and photos you take home make it clear you experienced life in a polar bear’s backyard.

www.frontiersnorth.com
A Prairie Legacy: The Bison and its People
FortWhyte Alive | Winnipeg
At FortWhyte Alive, get up close to a herd of 30 grunting, munching herbivores—the bison! Step into a life on the prairies of old and see how Aboriginals, Métis, Voyageurs and pioneers lived side by side with the iconic symbol of Manitoba. Duck into Plains Cree tipi and pass around items made from the bison. Be sure to run your fingers along the smooth black spoon, fashioned from a mighty horn. Outside, test your aim with the atlatl, a hunting spear/thrower that goes back 10,000 years. Step inside the pioneer home, with its roof made of sod, and imagine sharing the space with your ox! Test your skill on the paddle as you power a mighty Voyageur canoe, then return to the campfire for wild herb tea and bannock. www.fortwhyte.org

Polar Bear Adventure
The Great Canadian Travel Company | Churchill
Tug down your toque on a dogsled ride. Eavesdrop on polar bear cubs wrestling on the tundra. Prowl an old fur trading fort. Shop for Northern arts and crafts. Journey to the northern Manitoba community of Churchill on The Great Canadian Travel Company’s polar bear adventures. Hop into a safe tundra vehicle for close encounters with ice bears. Keep an eye open for ptarmigan, Arctic foxes and hares. Get to know residents of the world’s Polar Bear Capital. Prowl the Eskimo Museum and visit the “Polar Bear Jail.” Drop in at an historic railway station that is the Parks Canada Centre. Motorboat to the 18th century Prince of Wales Fort and Cape Merry with its cannon battery ruins. Helicopter above the tundra. Dine at day’s end on bison, musk ox, caribou or Arctic char. Strolling back to your room, watch the Aurora Borealis shimmy colourful curtains across the skies. www.greatcanadiantravel.com