Guide to Churchill, Manitoba, Canada

Travel Manitoba.com
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Where else in the world can you see so many “best” destinations in one place? The Polar Bear Capital of the World. The Beluga Whale Capital of the World. One of the top locations on Earth to see the dancing ribbons of colour of the Aurora borealis. Come to Churchill to see the majestic polar bear in the wild and the thousands of sleek white beluga whales that are just as curious to see you. Find yourself in a birder’s paradise that offers the chance to spot rare species. Delve into the heart of Canada’s fur trade history and the famed Hudson’s Bay Company – this is where it all started. Join the thousands of travellers from around the globe who have made the trip to Churchill and checked off an impressive list of the “best” in the world. Come to Churchill and see it for yourself. Check something new off your list every season.

Make the journey north part of your Churchill adventure – remote but accessible Arctic. Experience rail travel and the changing landscapes as boreal forest transitions to tundra. Watch as black spruce, jack pine, poplar and white pine slowly give way to tundra where lichens and mosses dominate and the sparse trees that survive become more shrub-like and windswept, their branches pointing down wind. If time is short, arrive by plane to this secluded area 1,000 km north of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

How did a small community on the northern edge of the massive Hudson Bay become an internationally renowned tourism destination? A place to include on your ‘must see’ list? It takes only ten words to explain......

Welcome to the Town of Churchill

Located on the edge of the Arctic, Churchill offers a ‘frontier town feel’ with the amenities of an international tourism destination. With its unique position as an accessible Arctic community, the town comes alive each time the train or plane arrives. Polar bears are everywhere – on murals, signs, souvenirs, sculptures – and sometimes the live version wanders in as well. Snowmobiles roar through town in winter and ATVs cruise by in summer.

The town of Churchill grew from a remote outpost to a bustling seaport with the construction of the Hudson Bay Railroad and Port of Churchill in the late 1920s. Through much of the 1950s and 1960s, the town was a thriving military community until the base was decommissioned in the mid-60s. Today, the community boasts a multi-million dollar fully modern Town Centre Complex whose interior walkways are lined with brightly coloured Inuit wall hangings and prints, and a big carved-wood polar bear invites children to slide through his benign mouth. The Pioneer Gallery exhibits striking black and white portraits of the people of Churchill.

As Canada’s only Arctic seaport, the Port of Churchill brought the world of ocean trade to the Churchill region. Preparation for the harbour began in 1927, with construction of the grain elevator beginning in 1930 and the first shipment of grain took place in 1931. In 1997, the Government of Canada sold the port to American company OmniTRAX. The current shipping season runs from mid-July until early November. While the port’s mainstay is shipping grain and other agricultural products from Canada around the world, it is a key link in the trans-shipment of fuel, building materials and goods of all kinds for communities and businesses further north in Nunavut. The 140,000 metric tonne (5 million bushel) grain complex looms over the harbour. It can load grain at the rate of 1,680 metric tonnes (60,000 bushels) per hour.

Set amid rugged wilderness, life in Churchill for its 1,000 residents and thousands of visitors depends on the latest technology as well as traditional life skills. While cell phone coverage is not yet available, this remote but accessible northern community stays connected with the world through high speed and wireless Internet.
Find Your Adventure Outdoors

You don’t have to look far for adventure in Churchill – all around are experiences to check off your list. Dial in your desired level of activity, adrenaline and adventure in any number of ways: in a kayak or canoe, on foot, in the water or behind the power of a dog team.

Kayak next to snow-white belugas that appear to glow in the blue-green waters of the Churchill River. Get up close by donning a wetsuit and snorkel with the white whales. Relax in the water as these friendly creatures swim around and underneath you, while chatting in their unusual chirping and whistling sounds.

Satisfy your need for exciting whitewater on an extended journey up the Seal River to its mouth at Hudson Bay. Scan the horizon for sightings of the awe-inspiring polar bear. Let the feeling of untouched wilderness seep into your consciousness as you witness the worn path of the 400,000 strong Qaminirjuaq barren-land caribou herd’s migration route along the gravelly spine of ancient eskers. Experience a landscape that few will ever see.

Combine your love of hiking with an interest in history, birding, wildlife, wildflowers or archaeology. Hike with comfort knowing that the guided tours provide polar bear security as you walk among the glacier-polished boulders on the Hudson Bay coastline or across the vast expansive tundra carpeted in moss and lichens. Push the limit with a full day hike to experience an amazing mix of nature and history on a rugged and rocky landscape that has been shaped and textured by wind and ice. Choose an easy stroll on the boardwalk of Akudlik Marsh or a walk out to the shipwrecked M/V Ithaca at low tide.

Howl like a husky on a dog sledding adventure as you zip across the frozen landscape in winter or try your hand at igloo building under the swirling lights of the Aurora borealis.

Check the tour operators/suppliers listings and chart at the back to help plan your Churchill adventure.

Bears with Passports

Stop by the post office to get your polar bear souvenir passport stamp – okay it’s not official but it shows you we’re here!
**Polar Bears**

First to check off your list are the “best of” Churchill. Work your way down the list to complete each season.

**Lords of the Arctic**

Churchill is one of the few human settlements where polar bears can be observed in the wild. Thousands of visitors from around the world visit each fall for the excitement of seeing these magnificent animals. Prime viewing times are in October and November, when the bears move from their summer habitat on the tundra back to seal-hunting territory – the pack ice that forms every winter over Hudson Bay. The bears gather along the shore, waiting for the ice to freeze. Given that it is common for the town’s services to be fully booked during this busy season, plan to book your packaged tour six months to a year ahead.

Frequently called “Lords of the Arctic”, these spectacular animals are huge. Male polar bears can grow to more than 600 kg (1,320 lbs) and stand 3.05 metres (10 feet) tall. But don’t let their massive size fool you – these white bears can move with surprising speed and agility. With a highly acute sense of smell, they are also skilled hunters that can pick up a scent from 32 km away and detect the presence of seals under three feet of snow and ice. Polar bears have no natural enemies and consequently no fear.

Unique local tundra vehicles, designed to move smoothly over snow and ice, protect passengers from curious or hungry bears. From this safe and warm vantage point, tourists can watch the bears saunter as they forage for a meal or spar with one another. Polar bears sometimes approach within a few yards of the tundra vehicles to investigate – standing on their hind legs to look in the windows or sniffing with their sensitive noses.

**Bear it All in Churchill**

Thrill at the sight of polar bears in so many ways...
- perched in the comfort of a tundra vehicle in Fall
- relaxing at a wilderness lodge built on the bears’ migration route
- heli-hiking and guided walks in summer
- canoeing the remote and wild Seal River
- peering from a fenced compound that protects a wilderness lodge
- souvenirs in every shape and form
- murals, sculptures, decals throughout the town

Count all the ways you see the bears!
Birds

**Take Flight**

Bring your life list to check off the incredible number of bird species you might identify in the Churchill area—a world-renowned hotspot for birding opportunities. In spring and fall, birders flock here to see the 250 species of birds that nest or pass through Churchill on their annual migrations. Tundra and taiga provide habitat for native birds including a large variety of hawks and falcons like the Gyrfalcon and Peregrine Falcon. Snowy Owls are common, as are Tundra Swans, terns and gulls. Avid birders search for Harlequin Ducks and the rare Ross’s Gull for the potential sighting of a lifetime. Bird Cove, located on the coast about 16 km east of Churchill, provides an excellent location for bird watching. Another popular spot is Akudlik Marsh, located 4 km south of Churchill. The marsh is a nesting area of Ross’s Gull, Little Gull and Rock Wren among many others. An RBA (Rare Bird Alert) board at Akudlik is updated daily throughout the season.

Check out Granary Ponds for another excellent birdwatching site that is easily reached by vehicle or on foot. Located near the grain elevators, this shallow series of ponds is a favourite feeding place for gulls, terns, shorebirds and waterfowl. Of special note, it was at this spot on June 10, 1979, that the Ross’s Gull, perhaps the most sought after species on birders’ lists in Churchill, was first sighted.

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Glacial times

Nine thousand years ago, a massive glacier covered most of Manitoba. Over the Churchill area, the glacier was 3 km thick. The sheer weight and volume of the ice actually pushed the Earth’s crust to a lower elevation but when the ice melted, the ground began to rise. This isostatic rebound has been measured at 83 cm (33 inches) per 100 years in Churchill. The current coastline is a few metres higher than the historic coastline.
Where to Watch Whales

Find your favourite vantage point...
...on a zodiac or boat tour
...in a canoe or kayak
...in the water wearing a wetsuit and snorkel
...from the beach as you hike the shoreline
...from the air on a helicopter tour

Beluga Whales

SEA CANARIES
Next to check off your “must see” list are the thousands of beluga whales or “sea canaries” – named for their strange high-pitched whistles, clicking, chirping and other underwater vocalizations. About 3,000 belugas summer in the warmer waters of the Churchill River after the ice breaks up. Take a tour in a zodiac or larger passenger boat. Watch from your front row seat as these intelligent and curious mammals turn their heads to get a closer look at you. Listen in on the whales’ conversation using hydrophones and try to figure out what they are saying. Adventurous travellers can kayak or snorkel with these friendly sea mammals.
Guide to Churchill, Manitoba, Canada

Photo: Yvette Cardozo
Look Up, Look Down: Lights in the Sky, Colour on the Ground

Soak in the stark beauty of a northern landscape that surprises with bursts of colour – both in the sky and in the delicate plants and flowers. Round out your list by checking off these truly northern awakenings.

NIGHTLY LIGHT SHOWS
Under clear winter skies, watch the colourful artistry of the Aurora borealis light up the pitch-black nights. Churchill is one of the top three places on the planet to see the northern lights. These otherworldly dancing light curtains glow green, red, blue, yellow, pink, purple or white and are at their most resplendent in January through March. Grab a first row seat in the comfort of the plexi-glass covered Tundra Aurora Domes to watch the greatest natural light show not on earth. In summer, the nights are short but warmer. Head out to Goose Creek, stoke up a bonfire, bake some bannock and wait for the show to begin.

The Aurora borealis is a natural phenomenon caused by the interaction of charged particles from the sun with atoms in the upper atmosphere. Scientists from around the world have come to Churchill to study the northern lights in the active night sky. Learn more at: www.churchillscience.ca/?page=ab_attrac_lights

FROM FOREST TO TUNDRA
Check out the diverse landscapes surrounding Churchill, from boreal forest at its northern edge to Arctic tundra. Stand amidst the glacier sculpted boulders at the edge of Hudson Bay to gaze over this expansive inland sea. Turn to savour the raw attraction of the tundra. It is an evocative terrain – thrilling and a bit overwhelming. You are compelled to admire the strength of those that survive in this uncompromising environment. From the low-slung sky and wide-open horizon, look down to find beauty in the details – a miniature shrub pushing through the permafrost and brilliantly coloured bursts of flowering plants that hug the ground for protection.

Amazingly, more than 400 native plant species can be found here. During the short summer, wildflowers explode in a jumble of different colours and shapes. In fall, the ground is covered in scarlet bearberries and yellow willows mixed together with the downy white tufts of Arctic avens. In the distance are patches of forest, with black spruce, scattered white spruce and a thick mat of lichens.
Step Back into Human History

Travel back to the very heart of the fur trade era – the epic Hudson Bay, namesake of the famed Hudson’s Bay Company. Feel a direct link to the last three hundred years on this relatively unchanged landscape. Imagine what their lives were like on this harsh and uncluttered land where it is still easy to see the layers of human history. Come see it for yourself.

Fur Trade & Exploration Era
Get ready to check off a wealth of acclaimed sites that bring the historic fur trade to life. Save some for your next visit.

Prince of Wales Fort National Historic Site of Canada encompasses a massive fortification along with installations at Cape Merry and Sloop Cove. A huge stone fortress that took the Hudson’s Bay Company 40 years to build in the 1700s, it signifies the French-English struggle on Hudson Bay for control of the fur trade. But the fort did not live up to expectations and in 1782 it fell without a shot being fired from any of its 40 cannons. Reconstruction of the fort was undertaken in the 1930s and again in the 1960s. Guides tell the story of the rivalry, the lives of the men who lived there, and point out details of the cannon embrasures, thick walls and star-shaped bastions that make this architectural ruin nationally significant. Plaques on the site honour Sir Thomas Button, Samuel Hearne, Matonabee and the Jens Munck Expedition. Located across the Churchill River on the west peninsula, the site is accessed by boat or helicopter with tours dependent on tides and weather permitting.

Cape Merry National Historic Site of Canada is named after Captain John Merry, Deputy Governor of the Hudson’s Bay Company from 1712-1718, and is home to a stone battery that was constructed in 1746 to provide additional protection at the river mouth. Designed to supplement the defenses of Prince of Wales Fort, the battery was constructed with six cannon emplacements. One lone cannon stands today, a stark reminder of its intent. Located at the mouth of the Churchill River, it is also an excellent location for watching whales that enter the river with the tides, observing waterfowl or migrating birds, or simply enjoying the panoramic view. For guided tour times, check with the Parks Canada office.

Thanks but no thanks
Captain Jens Munck, a Danish explorer, and his crew were the first Europeans to over-winter in the Churchill area in 1619 during their search for the Northwest Passage. By spring, only Munck and two of the 61 crew members had survived the cold and scurvy. They bid a quick “afsked” (farewell) to the newly christened ‘New Danes Land’ and headed back to Europe in 1620. A cairn built in Munck’s memory can be found at Battery Point.
**Sloop Cove National Historic Site of Canada** provided a safe harbour and winter haven for Hudson’s Bay Company sloops in the 18th century. Due to post-glacial land uplift, it is now a meadow surrounded by rocks with iron mooring rings. The rocks bear signatures of Hudson’s Bay Company men, the most famous being Samuel Hearne, northern explorer and Hudson’s Bay Company’s governor. Tour arrangements can be made with private boat operators.

**York Factory National Historic Site of Canada** features the remains of the great Hudson’s Bay Company fur trade post, including the depot built in 1832, the oldest and largest wooden structure still standing on permafrost. Located near the mouth of the Hayes River approximately 250 kilometres southeast of Churchill, the site also features a cemetery containing the graves of Fort officers, traders and hunters. Between 1684 and its closing 273 years later in 1957, York Factory served as a trading post, distribution point and administrative centre for a vast network of fur posts throughout the west. From 1812 to the late 1850s, it was also the main entry point for European immigration to Western Canada. This remote site is staffed by Parks Canada from approximately June 1 to mid-September. Access is limited to charter planes or boats.

The **Parks Canada Visitor Reception Centre** in the VIA Rail Station houses exhibits about the human and natural history of the area. Audio-visual presentations are also available on the wildlife and history of the Churchill area. The centre displays a collection of Hudson’s Bay Company muskets and trade goods, including replicas from the 1700s and 1800s. Parks Canada staff are also happy to provide information on the area, including the Prince of Wales Fort, Cape Merry and York Factory National Historic Sites, and Wapusk National Park of Canada.

**St. Paul’s Anglican Church**, the first prefabricated building in North America and a designated heritage site by the Province of Manitoba, is the oldest church in the North still in use. Many wonder if this is also the world’s most travelled church. It originated as a kit of pre-fab components made in England, was assembled on the west bank of the Churchill River, then was moved in winter by sledge to the other side of the river followed by a final relocation to another street. St. Paul’s also has ties to the exploration era. Lady Franklin donated a stained-glass window, which can still be seen today, in the memory of her husband Sir John Franklin, the famous Arctic explorer.

**Early Cultures**

The Pre-Dorset culture (1700 B.C.) lived a semi-nomadic lifestyle in the Churchill area hunting caribou in summer and ringed seal in winter. They were followed around 600 B.C. by the Dorset people, members of the “Arctic Small Tool Tradition”. The Thule culture, which displaced the Dorset people around 1000 A.D., represents the ancestors of today’s Inuit. Long before Europeans arrived, the Cree, Dene and Inuit had well established trading networks.
**Pre-Dorset to Modern Inuit**

A must see on everyone’s list is the Eskimo Museum. Even if you are not a museum buff, this diverse and eclectic collection will enthral. Established in 1944 by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Churchill-Hudson Bay, the museum boasts an internationally recognized assortment of Inuit carvings and artifacts that are among the finest and oldest in the world dating from Pre-Dorset through Dorset, Thule and modern Inuit times. Immerse yourself in sculptures of stone, bone and ivory, as well as archeological and wildlife specimens. Kids will love the vintage handmade seal skin kayak. Discover for yourself why this museum regularly receives requests for loans from the collection to be shown in expositions around the world.

Pick up souvenirs in the Eskimo Museum gift shop, which specializes in northern books, Canadian Inuit art, unique postcards, art cards, stationery and local wildberry preserves. You can also purchase local crafts such as carvings, prints, beaded mitts, moccasins, mukluks, parkas, stone cut prints and soapstone sculptures in town shops.

**Modern Times**

Rich as Churchill’s history was, the more recent past offers up some interesting twists and turns as well. Continue your checklist with these 20th century points of interest. The Churchill Rocket Research Range was established in 1957 to launch sounding rockets carrying experimental payloads into the upper atmosphere. Chosen in part for its auroral activity levels, the Research Range was the base for scientific research into the upper atmosphere for almost 30 years. Operated by various agencies over the years, including the Canadian Space Agency for a series of NASA launches, over 3,500 sounding rockets were launched from the range before it closed in 1985. The last rocket launched from the Churchill range measured the effect of pollution on the ozone layer. The site’s significance led to a National Historic Site of Canada designation and a commemoration plaque was erected in 2001. Akjuit Aerospace temporarily reinvigorated the range from 1994 to 1998 and renamed it SpacePort Canada.

**Before Human History**

Standing on the edge of Hudson Bay, it is hard to believe that the existing shoreline is superimposed on an ancient tropical shoreline that once was located close to the equator. Dating back to the Ordovician-Silurian geological periods (433-436 million years ago), fossils are found in limestone shelving beds and include huge trilobites and ammonites, as well as the remains of over 10,000 coral colonies and trilobite tracks. The fossils are visible at low tide at Bird Cove, Airport Cove and behind the Boreal Gardens, although the ice and waters of Hudson Bay are slowly eroding them.
Today, the **Churchill Northern Studies Centre** is based in the Research Range’s former operations building. Founded in 1976, the Centre is an independent, non-profit research and education facility. The CNSC provides logistical support to scientific researchers working on a diverse range of topics. A variety of educational programming ranging from general interest courses for the visiting public to university credit courses for students also occurs at the Centre.

Check out the ghostly wreck of the **M/V Ithaca** at the western tip of Bird Cove, about 16 km east of town. Mystery shrouds the exact details of this shipwreck that eerily disappears during swirling mists and high tide. One version tells how the ship ran aground in a terrible windstorm in 1961 while carrying nickel ore from Rankin Inlet to Montreal. Another variation says the ship broke its right rudder and floundered in 1960 while carrying supplies from Churchill to Rankin Inlet. While it is too dangerous to board the ship’s remains, you can get a little closer with a short hike during low tide.

Continue on the crash landing list with a visit to **Miss Piggy**. In 1979, a Curtiss C-46 freight plane owned by Lamb Air developed engine trouble during its approach to the runway but managed to land among the rocks without a fatality. Called Miss Piggy for her cargo capacity and for once carrying a load of pigs, the downed plane can be reached by venturing down a scenic back road skirting the shore of Hudson Bay.

The **Polar Bear Compound** holds up to 23 problem bears captured by Manitoba Conservation officials until the ice freezes over on Hudson Bay. While incarcerated, the bears are isolated from humans to avoid any familiarity or dependence. When capacity is reached, bears are often transported away from Churchill via helicopter. Sorry – no visitors allowed.

The **Dene Village** marks the federal government’s attempt to transition the Sayisi Dene, a Chipewan people from North Knife River and Little Duck Lake, to a new lifestyle by relocating them to Churchill in 1957. In the 1970s, the Sayisi Dene returned inland to Tadoule Lake in an effort to return to their ancestral ways. A memorial cairn was erected in 2000.

The **Churchill River Weir**, constructed in 1999, spans the width of the waterway and created a lake on the upstream side. Fishways allow fish to swim downstream into the Churchill estuary and an observation tower provides an ideal spot for viewing birds, wildlife and surrounding landscape.

**Rockets away** - Once the most active rocket launch site in the world, the Churchill Rocket Research Range also played a key role in the story of Canada’s only domestically manufactured sounding rocket – the Black Brant. Newer series of the rocket continue to be used widely throughout the world for space science research.
100% Natural

Complete your nature checklist with these pristine wilderness sites that are incredibly dense and rich with wildlife.

Wapusk National Park of Canada is an immense lowland area of 11,475 square kilometers south and east of Churchill. This impressive park, established in 1996, represents the features of the Hudson-James Lowlands Natural Region in Canada’s system of national parks. Wapusk, the Cree word for white bear, is home to one of the world’s largest known polar bear maternity denning areas. Wapusk National Park also provides critical habitat for hundreds of thousands of waterfowl and shorebirds that nest along the Hudson Bay coast in summer and gather to feed during spring and fall migrations. Visitors can enter the park through the services of tour operators, but access to this remote park is limited.

The Cape Churchill Wildlife Management Area and Cape Tatnam Wildlife Management Area also serves to protect significant tracts of Hudson Bay coastline from the Churchill townsite south along Hudson Bay and east to the Ontario border. The areas protect the fragile coastal and tundra ecosystem that provides habitat for polar bears, caribou and geese. The old military road to Twin Lakes provides access to boreal forest for wildlife viewing, birdwatching and hiking.

The Boreal Gardens is a privately owned and operated experimental Arctic research project comprised of greenhouses and gardens growing various types of produce. Tours are offered Sundays 2-4 p.m. during July and August, and other times by appointment.

Blogging on Churchill

Check out the following blogs and websites for photos, stories and travel advice from other folks who have visited or live in Churchill.

Stephen Hutchens’s blog – www.sphutchens.com/churchill
Polar Bear Alley’s blog – www.polarbearalley.com
Travel Manitoba – www.itsmymoment.ca

For irreverent humour and gossip, check out the Hudson Bay Post – “Churchill’s monthly newspaper published occasionally” at www.polarbearalley.com/hudson-bay-post.html
Planning Your Trip to Churchill

**Travel to Churchill – By plane or by train**
Churchill is accessible by air or rail only. From Winnipeg, travel by train takes two nights and one day (approx. 36 hours). You can also opt to drive to Thompson, Manitoba, about 650 km north of Winnipeg and join the train there. Take time to see the wolves of Thompson, including the world’s largest wolf mural and a striking wolf rock sculpture. Air service to Churchill is available year-round, seven days a week. For fall trips, book your travel well in advance of departure date to ensure a space.

**By Train**
VIA Rail – 1-888-842-7245 (North America) / www.viarail.ca
Call VIA Rail for current departure and arrival schedules.

**By Plane (Winnipeg to Churchill)**
Calm Air – 1-800-839-2256/1-888-225-6247 / www.calmair.com
Kivalliq Air – 1-877-855-1500 / www.kivalliqair.com

**Local air charters while in Churchill:**
Dymond Lake Air – 1-888-932-2377
Hudson Bay Helicopters – 1-204-675-2576 / www.hudsonbayheli.com

**What to bring along**

**Fall** – During polar bear season, be prepared for snow and cold conditions. Several layers of clothing, including an insulated parka or waterproof jacket, insulated boots, thick mitts or gloves, toque (woolen hat), and long underwear are recommended.

**Winter** – Add a balaclava, quality snow boots that are good to a temperature of -45°C (-25°F), snow/ski pants, and sunglasses to your fall weather gear.

**Summer** – A variety of clothing is required as temperatures can soar to above 25°C (85°F) and drop to 6°C (42°F). A good quality waterproof jacket, hat, sunglasses, hiking boots, shorts, pants, sunscreen, and bug repellent are recommended.

**Be Bear Aware**
While polar bears are a main attraction in Churchill, it pays to be wary of their possible presence at all times. Manitoba Conservation staffs a 24-hour alert line (675-2327 or 675-BEAR) to report bears that come into the Churchill townsite as part of its Polar Bear Alert Program.

**Temperatures**
Churchill – Daily Avg (C)

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<thead>
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Find Churchill’s current weather conditions and forecasts at: www.weatheroffice.gc.ca
From the map of Canada, choose the province of Manitoba and town of Churchill for local conditions.

**Canadian Currency**
To ensure the prevailing rate of exchange, visitors are advised to exchange their funds at any Canadian financial institution, bank, trust company, credit union, caisse populaire, or exchange booths at border entry points. Although U.S. money is readily accepted in Manitoba, using Canadian money is recommended.

**Metric Conversions**
Temperature: Celsius to Fahrenheit – multiply Celsius temperature by 1.8, add 32
Distance: Kilometres to miles – multiply kilometers by 0.6
Volume: Litres to U.S. gallons – divide litres by 3.8

**Parks Canada Visitor Reception Centre**
Phone: 204-675-8863 Hours: Phone for hours of operation.

**Churchill Seasonal Activities Calendar**

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<th>Arctic Flowers</th>
<th>Autumn Colours</th>
<th>Beluga Whales</th>
<th>Birthing</th>
<th>Boreal Gardens</th>
<th>Cape Merry</th>
<th>Dog Sledding &amp; Carting</th>
<th>Hiking</th>
<th>Northern Lights</th>
<th>Polar Bears (* Chance of Sighting)</th>
<th>Prince of Wales Fort</th>
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Churchill Tour Operators and Suppliers

**Arctic Nature Tours**
Interpretive nature tours in Churchill, northern lights, igloo building, flora and fauna photography, arctic wildlife viewing.

Box 1031, Churchill, MB R0B 0E0
Phone: (204) 675-8878
Toll-Free: 1-877-765-2733
Fax: (204) 675-2647
Website: www.polarinn.com
Email: polarinn@mts.net

**Arctic Wolf Adventures**
Guided nature tours and wildlife photography of the Churchill area, cinematography and logistic support.

Box 599, Churchill, MB R0B 0E0
Phone: (204) 675-8298
Email: sandkev@mts.net

**Aurora Domes & Taiga Tours**
Aurora borealis/northern lights viewing from the warmth of the Aurora Domes or the Photographer’s Delight. Seven to 16-passenger track vehicle for private wildlife photography tours.

Box 999, Churchill, MB R0B 0E0
Phone: (204) 675-8298
Email: sandkev@mts.net

**Blue Sky Expeditions**
Authentic dog sledding wilderness adventures. Half and full day excursions offered. Learn more about the sleds and how mushers work the teams.

Box 845, Churchill, MB R0B 0E0
Phone: (204) 675-2001
Website: www.blueskymush.com
Email: jgaazure@mts.net

**Churchill Nature Tours**
Nature study tours in Churchill region. Bird watching, beluga whales, wildflowers, polar bear safaris. All-inclusive packages from Winnipeg. Service en français.

Box 429, Erickson, MB R0J 0P0
Phone: (204) 636-2968
Fax: (204) 636-2557
Website: www.churchillnaturetours.com
Email: mail@churchillnaturetours.com

**Churchill Northern Studies Centre**
High quality learning adventure study tours to Churchill led by scientists and researchers on birding, arctic wildlife, winter survival, northern lights, astronomy, beluga whales and polar bears. Other tours also offered through Elderhostel.

Box 610, Churchill, MB R0B 0E0
Phone: (204) 675-2307
Fax: (204) 675-2139
Website: www.churchillscience.ca
Email: cnsc@churchillscience.ca

**Churchill Wild**
All-inclusive adventures from Churchill. Polar bears, igloo building, northern lights, beluga whales, birds. Inclusive and authentic sub-arctic excursions.

Box 79, Kleefeld, MB R0A 0V0
Phone: (204) 377-5090
Toll-free: 1-866-846-9453
Website: www.churchillwild.com
Email: info@churchillwild.com

**Churchill Wilderness Encounter**

Box 1356, Gimli, MB R0C 1B0
Phone: (204) 642-8148 (summer) or (204) 642-9777 (winter)
Fax: (204) 642-7366
Email: cwe@mts.net

**Fehr-Way Tours Ltd.**
Customized or pre-packaged tours to see beluga whales and polar bears in Churchill. Guide service in French, English, German and Dutch.

6-1050 Henderson Hwy, Winnipeg, MB R2K 2M5
Phone: (204) 989-7011
Toll-free: 1-800-263-3691
Fax: (204) 334-2070
Website: www.fehrwaytours.com
Email: info@fehrwaytours.com
Frontiers North Adventures
Polar bear, beluga whale and northern lights programs. All-inclusive packages feature unique wildlife and landscape of Churchill and Riding Mountain.

Box 40063 RPO Lagimodière, Winnipeg, MB R2C 4P3
Phone: (204) 949-2050
Toll-Free: 1-800-663-9832
Fax: (204) 667-1051
Website: www.frontiersnorth.com
Email: info@frontiersnorth.com

Great White Bear Tours, Inc.
View tundra and boreal regions along the Hudson Bay, polar bears, Arctic fox, ptarmigan, gyrfalcon, snowy owl, caribou. Sleep with polar bears or watch the Aurora borealis on our polar rovers.

Box 91, Churchill, MB R0B 0E0
Phone: (204) 675-2781
Toll-free: 1-866-765-8344
Fax: (204) 675-2930
Website: www.greatwhitebeartours.com
Email: info@greatwhitebeartours.com

Heartland International Travel & Tours
Polar bear viewing to remote Nanuk Lodge, one day to Churchill, Historical Fur Trade Tour to Norway House, Churchill and York Factory, Aurora Borealis Tour.

202-3111 Portage Ave, Winnipeg, MB R3K 0W4
Phone: (204) 989-9630
Toll-free: 1-866-890-3377
Fax: (204) 989-9636
Website: www.heartlandtravel.ca
Email: info@heartlandtravel.ca

Hudson Bay Helicopters
Helicopter sightseeing tours of Churchill area and Wapusk National Park.

Box 337, Churchill, MB R0B 0E0
Phone: (204) 675-2576 or (867) 873-5146
Fax: (204) 675-2331
Website: www.hudsonbayheli.com
Email: info@hudsonbayheli.com

Kayak Churchill
Half-day guided tours of the Churchill River by kayak for beluga whale watching and viewing of the wildlife, flora, and fauna.

Box 931, Churchill, MB R0B 0E0
Phone: (204) 663-9377
Toll-Free: 1-866-OUR-BEAR
Website: www.kayakchurchill.com
Email: info@lazybearlodge.com

Lazy Bear Lodge
Whale tours on Transport Canada certified boat, snorkel with belugas. Summer birding and ice floe tours, cultural and heritage town tours. Fall polar bear and winter Aurora borealis packages.

Box 931, Churchill, MB R0B 0E0
Phone: (204) 663-9377
Toll-Free: 1-866-OUR-BEAR
Fax: (204) 675-2408
Website: www.lazybearlodge.com
Email: info@lazybearlodge.com

Nanuk Polar Bear Lodge
Packaged tours for polar bear photography, eskers, wildlife viewing, northern lights, taiga forest, and history within Cape Tatnum Wildlife Management area on Hudson Bay coastline.

Box 242, Frontier, SK S0N 0W0
Phone: (306) 296-4403
Fax: (306) 296-4405
Website: www.nanukpolarbearlodge.com
Email: info@nanukpolarbearlodge.com

Guide to Churchill, Manitoba, Canada
**Nature 1st (Adventure Walking Tours)**  
Tours guided by professional local naturalist. Visit boreal forest, taiga, tundra and marine ecosystems. Wildlife, birding, flowers, natural history, local sites, and polar bear security.

Box 1136, Churchill, MB R0B 0E0  
Phone: (204) 675-2147  
Fax: (204) 675-2103  
Website: www.nature1sttours.ca  
Email: nature1st@mts.net

**Northern Soul Wilderness Adventures**  
Guided canoe trips on historical canoe routes, including the Seal and Hayes rivers. Professional guides provide instruction, wilderness lore, Aboriginal and cultural activities.

74 Glenéagles Rd., Winnipeg, MB R2J 2Y2  
Phone: (204) 284-4072  
Toll-Free: 1-866-284-4072  
Website: www.northernsoul.ca  
Email: adventure@northernsoul.ca

**North Star Tours**  
Natural history, historical, wildlife, and select Aboriginal culture and heritage custom-packaged tours on the shores of Hudson Bay.

Box 520, Churchill, MB R0B 0E0  
Phone: (204) 675-2356  
Toll-Free: 1-800-665-0690  
Fax: (204) 675-2852  
Email: nortours@mts.net

**Rail Travel Tours**  
Travel package includes round trip rail travel from Winnipeg to Churchill on VIA’s Hudson Bay. Enjoy the scenery of Northern Manitoba by rail plus beluga whales (July & August), polar bears (October), Prince of Wales Fort, scenic shoreline of Hudson Bay, and attractions, shopping in Churchill (two night hotel stay).

Box 44, 123 Main Street, Winnipeg, MB R3C 1A3  
Phone: (204) 897-9551  
Toll-free: 1-866-704-3528  
Fax: (204) 897-9572  
Website: www.railtraveltours.com  
Email: railtraveltours@mts.net

**Sea North Tours Ltd.**  
Transport Canada-certified tour boat. Daily tours for beluga whales, Prince of Wales Fort, birds, polar bears, seals, and floe ice tours. Hydrophone-equipped to listen in on the most vocal whales in the world. Various size of charter boats available, tour with transport kayaks, snorkelling.

Box 222, Churchill, MB R0B 0E0  
Phone: (204) 675-2195  
Toll-free: 1-888-348-7591  
Fax: (204) 675-2198  
Website: www.seanorthtours.com  
Email: seanorth@mts.net

**The Tundra Buggy® Adventure**  
Board an original Tundra Buggy® for an unparalleled polar bear viewing experience or sleep among the bears at our unique Tundra Buggy Lodge. Summer half-day tour of birds, flowers and wildlife.

Box 40063 RPO Lagimodière, Winnipeg MB R2C 4P3  
Phone: (204) 949-2050  
Toll-free: 1-800-663-9832  
Fax: (204) 667-1051  
Website: www.tundrabuggy.com  
Email: info@frontiersnorth.com
Wapusk Adventures
Dog sled rides and adventures at replica trapper’s camp. Northern lights, bird and seal boat tours on Churchill River.

Box 728, Churchill, MB R0B 0E0
Phone: (204) 675-2887
Fax: (204) 675-8042
Email: wapusk@mts.net
Website: www.wapuskadventures.com

Watchee Lodge
Explore Churchill Wildlife Management Area and the Wapusk National Park in search of female polar bears and their young cubs leaving the denning area, in the comfort of heated tracked snowcoaches or travel on snowmobiles with our experienced guides.

Box 187, Churchill, MB R0B 0E0
Phone: (204) 675-2114
Fax: (204) 675-2185
Email: watcheel@mts.net
Website: www.watchee.com

Check websites for latest information on tours and offerings.

Churchill Tour Operators and Suppliers...con’t

Churchill Accommodations

Hotels

Aurora Inn
24 Bernier St, Box 1030, Churchill, MB R0B 0E0
Phone: (204) 675-2071
Toll-Free: 1-888-840-1344
Fax: (204) 675-2850
Website: www.aurora-inn.mb.ca
Email: aurora@mts.net
Internet access: Wireless high speed Internet available

Bear Country Inn
126 Kelsey Blvd., Box 788, Churchill, MB R0B 0E0
Phone: (204) 675-8299
Fax: (204) 675-8803
Email: bearcinn@mts.net

Churchill Motel
Kelsey Blvd & Franklin St, Box 218, Churchill, MB R0B 0E0
Phone: (204) 675-8833
Fax: (204) 675-8228
Email: churchillmotel@hotmail.com

Iceberg Inn
184 Kelsey Blvd, Box 640, Churchill, MB R0B 0E0
Phone: (204) 675-2228
Fax: (204) 675-2228
Website: www.iceberginn.ca

Lazy Bear Lodge
313 Kelsey Blvd., Box 931, Churchill, MB R0B 0E0
Phone: (204) 675-2969
Toll-free: 1-866-Our Bear
Fax: (204) 675-2408
Website: www.lazybearlodge.com
Email: lazy@mts.net

Polar Inn & Suites
153 Kelsey Blvd., Box 1031, Churchill, MB R0B 0E0
Phone: (204) 675-8878
Fax: (204) 675-2647
Website: www.polarinn.com
Email: polarinn@mts.net
Internet access: All rooms have wireless Internet

Seaport Hotel
299 Kelsey Blvd., Box 339, Churchill, MB R0B 0E0
Phone: (204) 675-8807
Toll-free: 1-877-558-4555
Fax: (204) 675-2795
Email: seaport1@mts.net
Internet access: All rooms have wireless high speed Internet

The Tundra Inn
34 Franklin St., Box 999, Churchill, MB R0B 0E0
Phone: (204) 675-8831
Toll-Free: 1-800-265-8563
Fax: (204) 675-2764
Website: www.tundrainn.com
Internet access: All rooms have wireless high speed Internet

Guide to Churchill, Manitoba, Canada
Bed & Breakfasts

**Bear’s Den Bed and Breakfast**
10 Bernier Street, Box 93, Churchill, MB R0B 0E0
Phone: (204) 675-2556
Fax: (204) 675-2361

**Blue Sky Bed and Sled**
Box 845, Churchill, MB R0B 0E0
Phone: (204) 675-2001
Website: www.blueskymush.com
Email: jgaazure@mts.net

**Polar Bear Bed & Breakfast**
26 Hearn St., Box 41
Churchill, MB R0B 0E0
Phone: (204)-675-2819
Website: http://polarbearbb.web.fc2.com
Email: polarbearbandb@yahoo.com
Internet access: Wireless high speed
Internet available

**Up the Creek Bed and Breakfast**
Box 1001, Churchill, MB R0B 0E0
Phone: (204) 675-2655
Fax: (204) 675-2365
Email: upthecreekb_b@yahoo.ca
Internet access: Wireless high speed
Internet available

Churchill Restaurants and Shops

**Restaurants**

**Churchill Motel Restaurant & Dining Room**
Phone: (204) 675-8853

**Gypsy’s Bakery**
Phone: (204) 675-2322

**Lazy Bear Lodge and Café**
Phone: (204) 675-2969

**Northern Nights Dining Room**
Phone: (204) 675-2403

**Seaport Hotel’s Reef Dining Room**
Phone: (204) 675-8807

**Traders Table**
Phone: (204) 675-8494
* Open during Polar Bear Season

**Tundra Inn’s Dining Room**
Phone: (204) 675-8831

**Gift and Souvenir Shops**

**Arctic Trading Company**
Phone: (204) 675-8804

**Eskimo Museum**
Phone: (204) 675-2030

**Great White Bear Tour Gift Shop**
Phone: (204) 675-2781

**Northern Images**
Phone: (204) 675-2681

**Tundra Buggy Gift Shop**
Phone: (204) 675-2121

**Wapusk General Store**
Phone: (204) 675-2887
# ACTIVITY CHART

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**Arctic Wolf Adventures** Phone: (204) 675-8298

**Aurora Domes & Taiga Tours** [www.tundrainn.com] - Toll-Free: 1-800-265-8563

**Blue Sky Expeditions** [www.blueskymush.com] - Phone: (204) 675-2001

**Churchill Nature Tours** [www.churchillnaturetours.com] - Phone: (204) 636-2968

**Churchill Northern Studies Centre** [www.churchillscience.ca] - Phone: (204) 675-2307


**Churchill Wilderness Encounter** Phone: (204) 642-8148 (Summer) or (204) 642-9777 (Winter)

**Fehr-Way Tours Ltd.** [www.fehrwaytours.com] - Toll-Free: 1-800-263-3691

**Frontiers North Adventures** [www.frontiersnorth.com] - Toll-Free: 1-800-663-9832

**The Great Canadian Travel Company Ltd.** [www.greatcanadiantravel.com] - Toll-Free: 1-800-661-3830


**Heartland International Travel & Tours** [www.heartlandtravel.ca] - Toll-Free: 1-866-890-3377

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<td>(204) 675-2576</td>
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<td>Kayak Churchill</td>
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<td>TOLL-FREE: 1-866-284-4072</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.railtraveltours.com">www.railtraveltours.com</a></td>
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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT TRAVEL MANITOBA:
Carlton Street, Winnipeg, MB, www.travelmanitoba.com