

Abercrombie & Kent



WILD CANADA: BELUGAS & BEARS - A MARCO POLO JOURNEY (2020)

Set out on a summer wildlife adventure through Canada's northern reaches, witnessing beluga whales as they gather at the mouth of the Churchill River.

Marco Polo Small Group Journeys, Small Group Journeys



Canada, North America



8 days, from AU\$11,000



18 Guests

Journey Overview

Set out on a summer wildlife adventure through Canada's northern reaches, witnessing beluga whales as they gather at the mouth of the Churchill River, searching for magnificent polar bears on shore and discovering the history of the Hudson Bay fur trappers.

Journey Highlights

Explore Winnipeg, Hudson Bay and Churchill on a fascinating adventure, discovering native flora and fauna, local conservation efforts, and the area's rich history during interactive encounters

Witness beluga whales up close as they gather at the mouth of the Churchill River

Embark on a coastal tour of Hudson Bay in search of polar bears in their summer habitat

Partake in an exclusive cooking class with a local chef

Step back in time at Fort Whyte, where you see imposing American bison up close, paddle a canoe once used by fur trappers and witness the daily routines of early prairie settlers

Tour the Churchill Northern Studies Centre, located on an important early rocket base

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Winnipeg, Canada

Arrive in Winnipeg, where you are transferred to your hotel. Gather tonight for a welcome dinner.

Fairmont Winnipeg | Meals: D

Day 2: Winnipeg | Wildlife Encounters

Begin your day at the Assiniboine Park Zoo, going behind the scenes for an up-close perspective of its exhibits. Get an insider's look at the research facilities as well, learning about critical efforts underway to help the Canadian polar bear population. Afterward, tour bustling Winnipeg, capital of the prairie province of Manitoba. Enjoy lunch at leisure before journeying to FortWhyte Alive, where you encounter mighty bison and learn how they influenced local history. Then, paddle a voyageur canoe used by fur trappers; explore a Plains Cree tipi; and step into a one-room sod house, where you sip wild bush tea and taste bannock cooked over a campfire.

Fairmont Winnipeg | Meals: B

Day 3: Churchill | Mighty Bears & Sled Dogs

Fly by charter air to Churchill on the shores of Hudson Bay. Check into your rustic lodge, constructed by hand with trees salvaged from a forest fire. After lunch, a local expert reveals Churchill's intriguing heritage. See the cargo aircraft wreck of "Miss Piggy," and visit the "polar bear jail" for a sense of what it's like to have wild bears at your doorstep. Later, head to the nearby boreal forest to meet a local dog musher and his pack. After learning about this time-honoured form of transportation, take a spin along a forest trail. This evening, learn to capture professional quality images on a smartphone camera with tips from an expert wildlife photographer.

Lazy Bear Lodge | Meals: BLD

Day 4: Hudson Bay | Plying Hudson Bay

This morning, embark on an extended boat trip cruising Hudson Bay. Keep close watch as your captain tries to locate elusive polar bears, beluga whales and other wildlife along the coast and in the water. If conditions allow, disembark to explore the bear's summer habitat on foot. Return to Churchill for a relaxing evening at leisure.

Lazy Bear Lodge | Meals: BL

Day 5: Churchill | Interactive Cooking Class

Cross the Churchill River to the Prince of Wales Fort, a former outpost of the Hudson's Bay Company. During the summer, the waters here are home to thousands of beluga whales; thrill to up-close views of these friendly mammals from a sturdy Zodiac. Later, join your lodge's chef to discover abundant local fish during a hands-on cooking class.

Lazy Bear Lodge | Meals: BL

Day 6: Churchill | Belugas Up Close

Today, a massive Arctic Crawler super-bus carries you into the wilderness in comfort and safety. Keep watch for eagles, bears and other wildlife. Then, view the wreck of the 'Ithaca,' which ran aground just offshore during a 1961 storm. Experience beluga whales again, this time by kayaking or floating on a personal inflatable raft among these gentle giants. Tonight, feast on a hearty meal at your lodge.

Lazy Bear Lodge | Meals: BLD

Day 7: Winnipeg | Subarctic Wonders

Visit the Churchill Northern Studies Centre, where you learn about the role it played during the Cold War-era space race and hear about crucial scientific research being conducted today. A charter flight returns you to Winnipeg. This evening, visit Dalnavert House, built by Hugh John Macdonald, son of Canada's first prime minister and the then-premier of Manitoba. Enjoy a private tour and reception before sitting down to a special farewell dinner.

Fairmont Winnipeg | Meals: BLD

Day 8: Depart Winnipeg

Transfer to the airport and board your homebound flight.

Meals: B

Journey Details

This journey contains some active elements.

Minimum age is 12 years.

First group event: welcome briefing at 6:00 p.m. on Day 1.

Last group event: farewell dinner at 7:00 p.m. on Day 7.

Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests.

Program Note: This journey entails sites with limited accessibility for those with mobility challenges, widely varying temperatures and lodging in basic accommodations.

Dates & Pricing

Prices are in AUD, per person, based on double occupancy

Jul 22, 2020 - Jul 29, 2020

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$11,000 pp	AU\$1,730	Included	Available

Jul 30, 2020 - Aug 6, 2020

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$11,000 pp	AU\$1,730	Included	Available

Aug 7, 2020 - Aug 14, 2020

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$11,000 pp	AU\$1,730	Included	Available

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