



Global Explorers

WHERE // Arctic Exploration: Canada

Program Highlights

- ⌄ Come face-to-face with beluga whales during their annual migration in the Churchill River and Hudson Bay.
- ⌄ Gaze at the surreal and entrancing glow of the Aurora Borealis, or Northern Lights.
- ⌄ Experience an epic train journey through the beautiful Canadian Prairies to the Hudson Bay and conduct field research on tundra and boreal diversity.

“This experience aided in the discovery of my passions and dreams. I am now on my own path of figuring out what makes me truly alive.”

- Stephen, Student Explorer



Program Description

The lure and intrigue of the Far North has brought explorers to the Arctic for years, but it still remains a vast, remote land. Polar bears, giant herds of caribou, great boreal forests and a fascinating mix of cultures call this region home. The Arctic Exploration program exposes the area’s natural diversity as we employ scientific research techniques alongside biologists. We may spot polar bears, catch a glimpse of the Aurora Borealis during one of the very few hours of summertime darkness, and have discussions with Cree, Metis or Inuit community members. We hear first-hand from the local people how this unique place is changing and impacting its residents – from beluga whales to polar bears to human beings.

Pre-Travel Curriculum

- ⌄ Northern Canada biomes, Arctic conservation and climate issues.
- ⌄ First Nations history and culture.
- ⌄ Leadership skills, service learning and responsible travel knowledge.



Program Itinerary

Days 1 – 3

Today we travel to Winnipeg, Manitoba and settle into a hotel. We begin Day 2 with a city tour of Winnipeg, followed by a visit to The Manitoba Museum. Next, we board a train that will take us to Churchill over the next two nights. On the train, we have time to admire the amazing landscape and conduct some preliminary research using GPS units by plotting our journey as we head north.

Days 4 – 5

We arrive in Churchill early this morning after another adventurous night aboard the train and get situated at a local lodge or research center. We then head out on our first excursion into the Arctic tundra, where our instructor acquaints us with the area. On Day 5, we conduct field research and set up transect-plot studies in at least two of three distinctive ecosystems here. We begin by venturing into the boreal forest and continue on to the tundra. This afternoon, we visit a nearby lake to fish and go for a chilly swim. In the evening, we are treated to a handicraft making lesson, storytelling or drumming with a local community member.

Days 6 – 8

This morning, we head out to the Hudson Bay to learn about and search for beluga whales – one of the most amazing whale-watching experiences in the world! We spend the afternoon continuing our field research. Our next morning we visit the tundra, taiga and coastal Hudson Bay ecosystems where we progress with our research. After lunch, we head into town to explore Churchill and the Eskimo Museum. This evening includes a traditional Arctic dinner and a potential viewing of the Aurora Borealis. On Day 8, we participate in a service project in partnership with Parks Canada, the equivalent to the U.S. National Park Service. After dinner we catch an evening train to Winnipeg and ride off into the sunset.

Days 9 – 10

On the train, we have plenty of time to reflect and record our final thoughts in our journals. We arrive at the Winnipeg train station in the morning of Day 10 and stay in a hotel overnight.

Day 11

Return home.

Program Details

Expedition Length: 11 days

Location: Canada – Churchill, MB and the Hudson Bay

What's Included:

All lodging in Canada; all meals and drinking water in Canada; all transportation in Canada; all daily activities and related fees; Global Explorers Expedition Leader; local guides and drivers; all gratuities; basic travel insurance; preparatory materials and support; t-shirts and journals; carbon offsets for international air travel.

What's Not Included:

International airfare between your home city and Winnipeg, MB, Canada; passport fees; spending money (for souvenirs and extra snacks); expenses as a result of travel delays or cancellations that fall outside of Global Explorers' control.

Maturity Level:

This program is open to middle school and high school groups.

Group Size:

We require a minimum group size of 10 paying participants for this program.

Accommodations:

Students stay either in dormitory-style rooms with bunk beds at the CNSC, a research facility, or in shared rooms at a local rustic hotel. On the train ride, students have comfortable seats with room to move, stretch and relax.