Polar Bears of Churchill

A 6-Day Expedition to the Polar Bear Capital of the World
Dear Alumni and Friends,

We are thrilled to present you with a special opportunity to witness one of the largest confluences of polar bears in the world.

During this six-day journey to remote Churchill, Manitoba, it is possible to observe polar bears interact and play from a custom designed Tundra Buggy®. The quality guidance of a naturalist Orbridge Expedition Leader and exclusive educational experiences distinguish this program, including expert presentations from Churchill Northern Studies Centre, Polar Bears International, Manitoba Museum, the Eskimo Museum, and Parks Canada.

Our rate for University of Washington guests on this departure represents a significant savings (more than $1,400 per couple) over that of non-affiliated guests, so be certain to reserve your spot today—and to share this brochure with friends and family who may be interested in traveling with you! Reserve online at http://uw.orbridge.com, by phone at (866) 639-0079, or by returning the enclosed registration form.

Warm regards,

Pauline Ranieri
Director, UW Alumni Tours

Membership in the Alumni Association is a requirement for participation – one membership per reservation. Membership is open to all friends and alumni of the UW.

Free Expedition Library
AN EARLY RESERVATION BONUS

Reserve your space by May 29, 2015 and receive the FREE Orbridge Expedition Library we’ve assembled for this program.

This exclusive gift is to thank you for joining us early. Guests who reserve after the specified date may purchase libraries. Call for details.
An Expedition to “the Polar Bear Capital of the World”

Much like the bears themselves, visitors make their way to Churchill each fall when temperatures drop, brimming with anticipation. The reward: experiences of a lifetime.

As polar bears await the formation of the arctic sea ice, they descend upon the tiny seaport town of Churchill, forming a ‘celebration’—a polar bear gathering—and in this case, the largest congregation of polar bears in the world. As they wait for the Hudson Bay to freeze so they can begin their hunt for ringed seal, it is possible to observe, photograph, and learn about the “Kings of the North.”

On this wildlife expedition, surrounded by experts and featuring up-close experiences, be part of an extraordinary natural phenomenon and unforgettable adventure.

“This was absolutely the experience of a lifetime! And as this was on my bucket list, my expectations were quite high, yet greatly exceeded.”

— Deborah M., Fairfax, VA
Your 6-Day Itinerary  (subject to change)

Day 1  Arrive Winnipeg (R,D)
Join with fellow travelers for a warm welcome, then step out for a special evening of Hudson Bay history at the Manitoba Museum. Surrounded by historic artifacts, a private reception, presentation, and five-course welcome dinner in this award-winning heritage center will be a magical and educational beginning.

Day 2  Winnipeg / Churchill / Churchill Northern Studies Centre (B,L,D)
Arrive in Churchill and head to the Churchill Northern Studies Centre for an introduction to environmental research underway in this unique ecosystem. Later, gain a broader perspective of this area’s historic sites, wildlife populations, and natural reserves during a talk with a Parks Canada park ranger.

Day 3  Churchill – Tundra Buggy® Excursion (B,L,D)
Board your expedition vehicle and head out onto stark and beautiful landscapes, stopping to enjoy the scenery and search for wildlife. Today we are joined by a Polar Bears International Field Ambassador, contributing expert perspectives on conservation of the bears’ environment.

Day 4  Churchill – Dog Sledding / Eskimo Museum (B,L,D)
Meet an energetic team of huskies and their experienced handler, then bundle in for an exciting dog sled experience yourself. After lunch, visit Churchill’s Eskimo Museum for a docent-led tour detailing indigenous ways of life while viewing remarkable examples of Inuit craftsmanship.

Day 5  Churchill – Tundra Buggy Excursion / Winnipeg (B,L,D aloft)
Today we have our second opportunity to observe and photograph the Great White Bear. If we’re lucky, perhaps we’ll see the arctic hare, snowy owl, ptarmigan, or even an arctic fox living in this rugged area. This evening, we bid farewell to the Far North and return to Winnipeg.

Day 6  Depart Winnipeg (B)
Your Orbridge Expedition Leader

Whether Marylou, Kent, or another experienced naturalist, your Expedition Leader will add exceptional depth of expertise and warm hospitality to each day’s adventures.

In addition to her practice as experienced guide, naturalist, and summertime Park Ranger in Alaska’s Glacier Bay National Park, Marylou lectures worldwide on a number of topics from the bears and wolves of the Arctic to the leopard seals and whales of the Antarctic. Together, watch and learn about the drama and beauty of Churchill and its wild inhabitants.

Kent has led national park tours as a park ranger since 1984. Having worked with the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the Colorado Division of Wildlife, he brings to our expedition a lifetime’s wealth of knowledge about North America’s parks, preserves, and wildlife.

Activity Level

Guests should be prepared for cold temperatures, as well as able to walk on frozen or snow-covered ground and manage stairs without assistance.
The Tundra Buggy Experience

The Tundra Buggy—the original polar bear expedition vehicle—is part of your adventure. Built for security and all terrain, the tires alone on this spartan rig are 5.5 feet high. Its wide-bodied enclosure contains cushioned seats, windows that open, and an observation deck for even more viewing angles.

“What an amazing way to travel and to see the tundra!”
—Eric B, Timonium, MD

Your Accommodations

Sheraton Four Points Hotel / Winnipeg, Manitoba
This first-class, full-service hotel is located near the airport. It offers a restaurant and lounge where guests can meet and relax, a fitness center, and fully-appointed guest rooms with complimentary internet access.

The Aurora Inn / Churchill, Manitoba*
The Aurora Inn is a simple, comfortable property that is located near the center of the community. Its rooms are two-story units containing bedroom lofts, en suite facilities, TV and VCR, and complimentary internet access.

What’s Included

- In-depth educational program with informative presentations and exclusive small-group experiences throughout
- Full guiding services and specialized interpretation of a naturalist Orbridge Expedition Leader
- Five nights ideally-situated and comfortable accommodations
- All meals—5 breakfasts, 4 lunches, and 5 dinners—including a special welcome reception and dinner
- All excursion transportation, entry fees, and gratuities to the Orbridge Expedition Leader, local guides, drivers, porters, and hotel housekeeping staff

*In Churchill, guests will either stay at the Aurora Inn, The Tundra Inn, or The Polar Inn, all simple, comfortable, and similar in quality and convenience. Please note that while this program journeys to remote regions where facilities are limited, we have selected the best available hotels that satisfy our standards of comfort.
Option 1: Reserve online now at http://uw.orbridge.com or call (866) 639-0079.

Option 2: Secure your reservation with a deposit charged to the credit card below, or with an enclosed check payable to: Orbridge, LLC.

Guest Information:

Guest #1 (as printed on passport): ___________________________ Class Year: __________

Guest #2 (as printed on passport): ___________________________ Class Year: __________

Address:

City: ___________________________ State: ___________ Zip: ___________

Email: ___________________________ Phone: ___________ Alt. Phone: ___________

Category Preference (if applicable): 1st choice: ___________ 2nd choice: ___________

Deposit:

(#) ______ guests joining program ($850/person) = Total deposit: $__________

Deposit Payment:

☐ Check enclosed ☐ Online Check/ACH ☐ MasterCard/Vista ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Card #: ___________________________ Exp. date: ___________ CVV: ___________

Name (as printed on card): ___________________________

Billing address (if different from above):

City: ___________________________ State: ___________ Zip: ___________

I/we have read, understand, and agree to the full Terms & Conditions at http://terms.orbridge.com and detailed in program documents, and understand that the University of Washington Alumni Association is the "Sponsoring Entity." Further, Orbridge LLC is authorized to charge my credit card above and/or take my/our deposit for this program.

Signature: ___________________________ Date: ___________

Mail or fax reservation form and deposit to: Orbridge

Orbridge

P.O. Box 10339, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

Fax: (206) 452-5655

See also the University of Washington Alumni Association's (UWAA) Release of Liability, Assumption of All Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement form which you have to sign as a condition of your going on this trip. This form is sent to all participants upon placing a tour deposit and is due to be returned within 30 days after receipt or at least 60 days before the beginning of the trip, whichever is sooner. This document can be found at www.UWAlumni.com/tours or by emailing uwatur@uw.edu or calling (206) 685-9276.

Registration, Deposits and Final Payment. To confirm and secure your reservation, a deposit of $850 per person per program, a deposit for any extension(s), and any non-refundable advance payments, payable by check, online check/ACH, money order, wire transfer of same day U.S. funds, or major credit card, is due at the time of registration. Final payment, including any extension(s) and optional(s), is payable by check, online check/ACH, money order, or wire transfer of same day U.S. funds ONLY and due no less than 90 days prior to the scheduled program departure date. If your reservation is made fewer than 90 days prior to departure, the entire cost of the program, including any extension(s) and optional(s), is due at the time of registration by check, money order, or wire transfer of same day U.S. funds ONLY. If final payment is not received by Orbridge at least 90 days prior to the scheduled program departure date, (a) the reservation is subject to a late payment fee equal to 2% (or the maximum legal rate, if less) of the total invoice amount, per week until paid in full, and (b) Orbridge may, at any time and with or without notice, cancel your reservation in its sole and absolute discretion. All payments we receive from you are herein defined as "Payments." CST#209873-40-WST#60288794

Cancellations and Refunds. All cancellations must be submitted to Orbridge in writing and will be subject to a cancellation fee ("Cancellation Fee") as follows: (a) if the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge 101 or more days prior to the scheduled departure date, the cancellation fee will be $300 per person per program, $1000 per person per extension, and any non-refundable advance payment(s); (b) if the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge between 101 and 91 days prior to the scheduled departure date the cancellation fee will be forfeiture of the full deposit per person per program including any extension(s) and non-refundable payment(s); (c) if the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge 90 days or fewer days prior to the scheduled departure date, the cancellation fee will be the full program price, including any extension(s) and non-refundable payments. Cancellation fees and terms for Options vary and are detailed separately. In addition to and not in lieu of the foregoing, a Cancellation Fee equal to 100% of the carrier charge applies to all non-refundable airfares due to your cancellation made at any time prior to the scheduled program departure date, as applicable. Refunds, if any, of any Payments in excess of the aggregate Cancellation Fee shall be processed within 30 calendar days of our receipt of your written notice. For complete Terms & Conditions, visit http://terms.orbridge.com | Copyright © 2015 Orbridge, LLC | www.orbridge.com | (866) 639-0079
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OCTOBER 29 – NOVEMBER 3, 2015

Special Alumni Rate:
Save more than $1400 per couple

University of Washington Alumni Association
Washington Commons at UW Tower
4333 Brooklyn Avenue NE
Box 359508 Seattle, WA 98195-9508

Reserve your space by May 29, 2015**
and receive a FREE Orbridge Expedition Library. See inside for more details.