

Walking Manitoba & the Churchill Polar Bears

Greetings from Walking Adventures!

A brand new Adventure takes us way up North in Canada to polar bear country! *Walking Manitoba & the Churchill Polar Bears* offers us some close-up interaction with these magnificent beasts, as well as a chance to explore the Canadian province of Manitoba. We'll spend two days in the Winnipeg area, with walks and sightseeing, then fly to Churchill, where we'll come face to face with the Polar Bears! After a couple days of polar bear viewing via the Tundra Buggies®, we'll board the train heading back to Winnipeg, with stops along the way. Throughout this Canadian Adventure, we'll enjoy the history and culture of this wilderness land. We'll meet a Métis woman (French/Native American) and hear her tales of a trapper's life, we'll join the Gerbrandts in their home for dinner and a special Manitoba welcome, and we'll take in the Manitoba countryside on walks that wander through Thompson and Winnipeg.

How do I lock in my place on this Adventure?

If you are among the travelers who submitted an Early Bird deposit, your spot on the list is secure until **March 3**. To make your spot on the tour rock solid, a full deposit of \$500 per person is required (\$50 Early Bird deposit plus \$450 with your Registration Form) by March 3. Travelers who have submitted Early Bird deposits will be accepted in the order in which they submitted their deposit.

If you haven't already Early Birded for this Adventure, send in your completed Registration Form and a \$500 payment as soon as possible. Reservations for this departure will be accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis!

Optional Excursion Deadline

We will need to submit names for the dog sled experience in Churchill by **July 30th**. Please let us know by then if you will be joining us for this excursion!

Train accommodations

As noted in the brochure, each sleeping car has one shower, and the following types of accommodations:

- **Upper & Lower Berths:** Sofa seat in daytime which attendant converts to a full size bed at night with curtains for privacy. Separate ladies and gents washrooms adjacent.
- **Roomette:** Small private room for 1 with sofa seat in daytime which converts to a bed at night. Toilet/wash basin in room.
- **Bedroom:** Private room for 2 with 2 sofa chairs in daytime. Converts to upper and lower beds at night. Toilet/wash basin in room.
- **Drawing Room:** Large private room for 2 or 3, with long sofa plus 2 sofa chairs in daytime. Converts to 2 lower beds and 1 upper bed at night. Toilet/wash basin in room.



The Adventure price includes accommodation in either a bedroom (with 2 people) or roomette (with 1 person). Upgrades or downgrades are available as follows:

- Upper berth – deduct \$180
- Lower berth – deduct \$120
- Drawing room – 2 travelers - \$110 additional per person
- Drawing room – 3 travelers – same as brochure price

How is airfare arranged?

One flight (Winnipeg to Churchill) is included in the tour price. The official start and finish point of this Adventure is Winnipeg. Airfare to and from the start point (Winnipeg) is not included in the program price. More details about flight arrangements and travel agent contact information will follow in the *Adventure Advice* memo mailed after registration— **please do not book your airfare prior to receiving the Adventure Advice flyer!**

Train Uncertainties and a Possible “Plan B”

VIA Rail Canada has not committed to their fall 2010 schedule at this time. Adventure dates are based upon projected 2010 schedules. In the unlikely event that VIA Rail Canada does not offer service on the day we leave Churchill, alternative plans include flying from Churchill to Thompson, then using a motorcoach to finish the journey to Winnipeg. Pricing for this alternate plan is the same as our brochure program, with the exception of train accommodation upgrades and downgrades, which will be reversed to the standard Adventure brochure price.

Travel Insurance

Walking Adventures has negotiated with an insurance carrier to provide travel insurance in the form of a Preferred Benefits™ policy. We are pleased to make this package available and believe that it will provide travelers with an important element of security at a reasonable price. (See the enclosures for more detailed information.)

IMPORTANT: The insurance policy includes time-sensitive coverage provisions for a couple of extra benefits, including pre-existing conditions and trip cancellation coverage for any reason (with additional fee), **provided you purchase the insurance within 14 days of your registration.** Should you choose to add the cost of your airline tickets to your insurance policy, contact our office after you purchase your airfare.

Cancellation policy

Due to the changing contract policies of our vendors, we have adjusted our cancellation policy for 2010. **Please see the General Tour Conditions sheet for more details.**

What Happens Next?

Upon registering for this Adventure, you will receive a welcome letter and an *Adventure Advice* flyer with important information about steps to take in the months before your trip. The final payment for the program is due 90 days before departure, and you will receive a final billing about 2 weeks prior to that point, along with a factsheet of additional information about the Adventure to help you get prepared! Then, about 3 weeks before departure, you will receive a final packet with all the details of the program, including hotel names and contact information, a list of fellow travelers, and a more detailed daily schedule.

We're looking forward to exploring the distinctive countryside of Manitoba with you this fall! So join us as we travel by train, plane, motorcoach, dogsled, and Tundra Buggy® throughout the wilderness regions of *Manitoba & the Churchill Polar Bears!*

