

# 2024 ARCTIC SAFARI



September



Seal River Heritage Lodge & Caribou Tundra Camp



## PACKAGE OVERVIEW

Embark on an unforgettable adventure this autumn, immersing yourself in the pristine beauty and enchanting wildlife of Canada's North. Our exclusive Arctic Safari offers an unparalleled journey filled with excitement, discovery, and ground-level encounters with polar bears!

Over four days, you'll enjoy the rustic luxury of Seal River Heritage Lodge, nestled on the rugged shores of Hudson Bay, directly in the path of polar bears and just north of Manitoba's last great wild river, the Seal. Daily hikes will offer chances to spot polar bears, Arctic foxes, Arctic hares, sik-siks, wolverines, migrating snow geese, flocks of sandhill cranes, and more.

Then, spend two nights at the cozy Caribou Tundra Camp on Schmok Lake, a heated-tent camp in the remote Barren Lands near the Nunavut border. Each day, amidst hills ablaze in autumn colors, we'll follow the ancient trails of the Pallermiut Inuit, exploring rolling ridges and dwarf forests in search of the elusive Qamanirjuaq caribou herd that once supported this culture. Activities such as wild blueberry picking, trout fishing, and even a refreshing polar plunge in the crystal-clear lake will enrich your experience.

As evening falls, enjoy sundowners beside a crackling fire under a spectacular Arctic sky, with a very good chance of witnessing a mesmerizing northern lights display. National Geographic photographer and Explorers Club Member Jad Davenport will guide you on this extraordinary journey; you'll photograph shoulder-to-shoulder with Jad as he teaches you travel, wildlife and landscape photography (even with your iPhones or Samsungs!) and regale you with captivating tales from his past assignments.

Limited to just a few fortunate guests each year, the Arctic Safari is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to unplug, rejuvenate your spirit, and naturally reboot your sense of wonder, in one of the wildest places on the planet.

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1 - ANTICIPATION BUILDS DURING YOUR OVERNIGHT STAY IN WINNIPEG

Arrive in Winnipeg where you will enjoy a relaxing stay at our choice hotel, The Grand by Lakeview at the Winnipeg Airport. Meet the rest of your group at an orientation dinner hosted by a Churchill Wild representative.

### DAY 2 - THE ADVENTURE BEGINS!

After an early morning flight, arrive in Churchill where our expediter will meet you at the airport and provide you with instructions of the morning transfers.

Your approximately one hour flight will take you northwest along the rugged Hudson Bay coastline and then inland until you arrive at our Tundra Camp. In the heart of Canadian Barren Lands, this remote camp is perched on the edge of one of Manitoba's 100,000 lakes, near the Nunavut border. Upon arrival, our staff will show you to your private expedition tent and give a brief orientation.

### DAY 3 TO 4 - NATURE TREKKING AND GLAMPING IN THE BARREN LANDS AT CARIBOU TUNDRA CAMP

Your days will typically have a morning and afternoon excursion, with lunches served in Tundra Camp. You may also head out on a full-day excursion with picnic lunch.

After a long and rewarding day of exploration, enjoy a glass of wine with appetizers before sitting down to a full-course dinner prepared by our chefs.

Your time in the remote wilderness surrounding Tundra Camp will be filled with unforgettable adventure: camping in the Barren Lands, walking in the ancient migratory path of the Qaminurjuaq caribou herd and learning about Arctic flora and fauna. The Hudson Plains and Taiga Shield are rich ecosystems filled with history, and our expert naturalist guides are eager to share their extensive knowledge with you as you explore the area on foot during interpretive hikes.

After one last excursion in Tundra Camp, you will be transferred back to Seal River Heritage Lodge for the second part of your adventure.

### DAY 5 & 7 - WILDLIFE VIEWING AT SEAL RIVER HERITAGE LODGE

The location of Seal River Heritage Lodge on the coast of Hudson Bay puts it directly in the path of polar bears who wander the shoreline as they await freeze-up. Your wildlife excursions will target on-the-ground viewing of these iconic animals. During your stay you may also encounter coloured and Arctic fox, sik-siks (Arctic ground squirrels), and Arctic hare. Due to the timing of your trip there is also the potential to see a myriad of Hudson Bay migratory and shorebirds. The stunning backdrop of fall colors will make for spectacular photography throughout your safari.

Your days at Seal River will follow the same general timeline as in Tundra Camp, though meals may sometimes be delayed in favour of wildlife viewing and/or photographic opportunities.

### DAY 8 - BACK TO WINNIPEG

Return transfers are scheduled to begin after breakfast. Have your cameras at the ready for the return flight as it will be the final opportunity for aerial shots.

Back in Churchill, you'll spend the day with one of our tour guides exploring the town and surrounding area and learning about its rich history as a seaport and ex-military base. Your tour will include stops such as the Parks Canada exhibit, the Itsanitaq Museum, and the Polar Bear Jail. Along the way, your guide will point out murals that were commissioned in 2016 as part of the SeaWalls mural festival. Before a group dinner, your guide will give you free time to shop for last-minute souvenirs at the unique gift stores in Churchill.

Your flight south to Winnipeg will take place this evening. Upon arrival, you will collect your bags, head out of the arrivals doors and back to The Grand Hotel.

### DAY 9 - HOMEWARD BOUND

After a restful sleep you will pack your bags in preparation for your flight home.





## PHOTO INSTRUCTION FROM A NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER!

Join acclaimed photographer Jad Davenport as he goes on assignment for National Geographic Creative to the wilds of northern Canada. Gather tips and inspiration from Jad as he helps you capture your experience and develop your own unique storytelling style. Informal evening sessions will give you pointers on topics such “blue-hour” photography and capturing the Northern Lights.



## ABOUT SEAL RIVER HERITAGE LODGE

Perched on the rugged coast of Hudson Bay lies Seal River Heritage Lodge, a veritable oasis on the tundra and one of the National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World. Located near the Seal River Estuary, this property is in a prime location for observing polar bears as they wander the coast during summer and fall, waiting for the Bay to freeze, and for viewing beluga whales in July and August.

The fenced-in compound, viewing platforms and tower lend themselves to unique photography opportunities for northern lights and the wildlife that approach to check out the sights, sounds and smells of the Lodge.

Seal River has eight, double guestrooms in a quiet guest wing, each with an en-suite bathroom. Our cozy lounge, complete with fireplace and large picture windows overlooking the Bay, is the perfect place to relax with a glass of wine, sharing photos or talking with new friends.

**YOUR ADVENTURE INCLUDES:** All accommodations, transfers required within the package dates and airfare between Winnipeg and our Lodge.

- Day 1: Dinner
- Day 2 to 8: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Day 9: None

***Churchill Wild reserves the right to make changes to the Arctic Safari Itinerary due to weather and logistical complications that can arise from traveling in the north and to remote locations.***

**2024 RATE:** \$17,995 CAD per person plus tax (based on double occupancy)

Prices are subject to taxes of 8.5%.

Single guests can sign up to share a room with another person of the same gender at the regular rate per person based on double occupancy.



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