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1. Geographical location

Churchill is a small place at the edge of Arctic in Canada, northern Manitoba that lies on the Hudson Bay's west shore, approximately 110 kilometres from the Manitoba/Nunavut border. Churchill is also known as 'beluga whale watching hotspot' and also 'polar bear capital of the world'.



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2. Neighbouring cities/countries

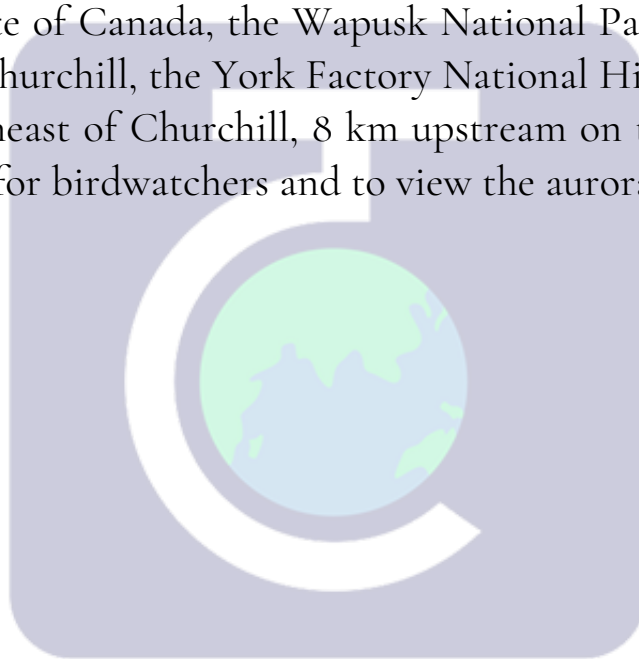
Churchill Is A Small Place At The Edge Of Arctic In Canada, Northern Manitoba That Lies On The Hudson Bay's West Shore, Approximately 110 Kilometres From The Manitoba/Nunavut Border. Churchill Is Also Known As 'beluga Whale Watching Hotspot' And Also 'polar Bear Capital Of The World'.



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3. Significance

It is mostly known for the polar bears and the beluga whales; however, it has other attraction sites like the Cape Merry Battery located on the east shore of the Churchill River across Prince of Wales Fort, the Prince of Wales Fort National Historic Site of Canada located across the Churchill River on the west peninsula, the Sloop Cove located 2.5 kilometers upriver from Prince of Whales Fort National Historic Site of Canada, the Wapusk National Park of Canada located 45 km southeast of Churchill, the York Factory National Historic Site of Canada located 250 km southeast of Churchill, 8 km upstream on the Hayes River. The place is also popular for birdwatchers and to view the aurora borealis.



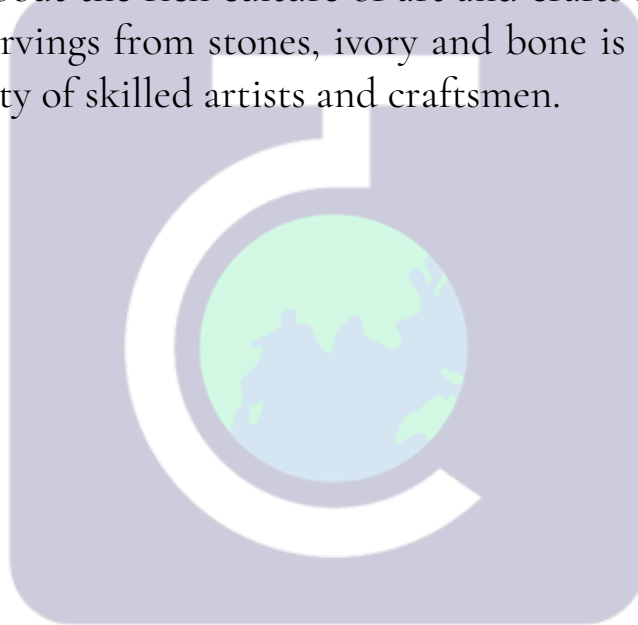
Index**4. History**

The town of Churchill grew from a disconnected outpost to a busy seaport with the construction of the Hudson Bay Railway and Port of Churchill in the late 1920s. The railway arrived earlier in 1929. During the World War II, the region prospered as a northern supply center and military base and continued as a research station and rocket launching site until the mid-1980s. The military base was closed in the 1960s.



Index**5. Cultural identity**

Churchill is significantly multicultural considering the different ethnic groups that have inhabited the area since the medieval eras. One of the well preserved cultures in Churchill is the hunting ventures which have occurred for hundreds of years. Remains of Kayak stands and tent rings are some of the artefacts and evidence supporting the hunting activities. The art exhibitions in the Eskimo Museum tell much about the rich culture of art and crafts in Churchill. Modern Inuit artwork and carvings from stones, ivory and bone is greatly influenced by the traditional identity of skilled artists and craftsmen.



Index**6. Natural resources**

Churchill town does not have many natural resources because of its climatic conditions. However, some animal species have managed to adapt to these conditions and they include polar bears, beluga whales, arctic fox, arctic birds, red fox, bearded seal, caribou, gray wolf, and ringed seal. There are also flat sedimentary rocks underlying the Hudson Bay Lowland and being located at the coastline, the town has ports which serve as a great source of income.



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7. Key site seeing places (paid and free)

7.1. Paid

7.1.1. Prince of Wales Fort National Historic Site

Voyage down the Churchill River and stumble upon Prince of Wales Fort National Historic Site, a fur trade fortification that was constructed over 250 years ago. Molded into the shape of a European star on the bare and windblown Hudson Bay, this historical landmark of Churchill lets you peer into the past to learn about the French-English rivalry, the history of Hudson's Bay Company fur trade outpost and the lives of the men who shaped the past. Embark upon a journey to reach here by boat and be fascinated by the beluga whales that surround you en route. If you wish to get your adrenaline pumping, hike up to the sloop cove and see the signatures of the men who lived here during the 18th-century etched in the stones as well as numerous archaeological sites on your way.

Address : Prince of Wales Fort, Churchill, MB RoB oEo, Canada

Zipcode : RoB oEo

Location : 58.797175, -94.213122

Contact : +1 204-675-8863

Website : <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/lhn-nhs/mb/prince/index.aspx>

Nearest Public Transport : Churchill Train Station (Not recommended)

Entry Fee : Guided walk- CAD 7.80.

Open & Close Timing : Daily: 09:00hrs–15:00hrs

Time Required : 3

Expected Wait Time : 15 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.2. Eskimo Museum / Itsanitaaq Museum

Eskimo Museum is stuffed with artefacts of polar bears and musk ox, narwhal horns, real covered kayaks, big harpoon blades, tiny arrowheads, and a range of carvings that display the complex acts of everyday life. Although the linoleum floors of the room make the interior appear unalluring on the first sight, the museum captivates the visitors by its exciting and unique exhibitions. A diverse collection of northern books is also made available in the museum for purchase by any interested tourist or visitor. The museum features a collection of Inuit

artefacts and carvings that are among the oldest in the world, ranging from about 1700 BC to modern times.

Address : 242 Laverendrye av, Churchill, MB RoB oEo, Canada

Zipcode : RoB oEo

Location : 58.77045589999999, -94.1668598

Contact : +1 204-675-2030

Nearest Public Transport : Churchill Train Station

Entry Fee : Admission by donation of CAD 3.

Open & Close Timing : Summer Monday 13:00hrs-17:00hrs, Tuesday-Saturday 09:00hrs-12:00hrs and 13:00hrs-17:00hrs, Sunday Closed. Winter- Monday-Saturday 13:00hrs-16:30hrs; Sunday Closed.

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.3. Churchill Northern Studies Centre

For the visitors who wish to save money, the Churchill Northern Studies Centre offers free accommodation on board in exchange for the center's voluntary work. The center is a research and education facility offering study material, accommodation, equipment rentals and logistical support to the scientific researchers, professional wildlife photographers and folks from adventure-tour groups. The visitors are welcomed for personal studies and to learn about Churchill's history, culture, and heritage by reading books or gaining knowledge from the experts at the center.

Address : Division No. 23, Unorganized, MB RoB oEo, Canada

Zipcode : RoB oEo

Location : 58.7375015, -93.81903649999998

Contact : +1 204-675-2307

Website : <https://www.churchillscience.ca/>

Nearest Public Transport : Churchill Train Station (Not Recommended)

Entry Fee : Different tours starting from CAD 5 per person.

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 15 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.4. Northern Lights

When in Churchill, don't miss out on the most spectacular natural shows that take place on our planet. Occurring due to the charged particles of solar winds colliding with the gaseous particles of the earth's magnetic field, this hypnotic light show takes over the skies from January to March and late August to early September when the nights are clear. The Aurora Domes allow the visitors to view this natural phenomenon from the comfort of being indoors along with the time and ease to wait for the legendary natural light show to begin. Though the dominant color is green, there are beautiful color variations of Aurora Borealis waiting to be captured through your lenses.

Address : Hearne Ave, Division No. 23, Unorganized, MB, Canada

Location : 58.7576958, -93.99730679999999

Contact : +1 204-675-8853

Website : <http://www.auroradomes.ca/>

Nearest Public Transport : Churchill Train Station (Not Recommended)

Entry Fee : Individual Rates Adults: CAD 120 Children (age 12 years and under): CAD 85

Open & Close Timing : Northern Lights Viewing Time: 20:00hrs-03:00hrs

Time Required : 6

Buy Ticket : Yes

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7.2. Free

7.2.1. MV Ithaca

Perched on the rocky shoals of the bird cove about 15 kilometers east of Churchill since 1960, the shipwreck of MV Ithaca is an iconic rusty behemoth dipped from head to toe in history. It is a wreck of a huge steamship (260 feet) that set sail in September 1960 and crashed along a tidal flat while on a voyage to collect the cargo carrying supplies of 3,000 tons of ore aboard. Keep an eye on the tidal chart and trace the steps of the crew as you hike the gravel road to get a close-up vantage point of this rustic vessel that has been a stopover monument for seamen traveling to the north. It is not recommended to visit the ship during high tides as it disappears during swirling mists. Note: There are different tour agencies that take you on a half day flat walk tour for around CAD 85.

Address : Churchill, MB RoB oEo, Canada



Zipcode : RoB oEo

Location : 58.769193, -93.8890174

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.2. Cape Merry

Formerly known as the  Knight's Round Point , Cape Merry is bordered by the Hudson Bay and the Churchill River, captivating visitors year round with its rich history and scenic natural beauty. Cape Merry Battery was primitively built with 6 cannons, which were intended to complement the Prince of Wales Fort's defense. Currently, the site holds one cannon along with the artefacts and remnants of the gunpowder magazine dating back to the era of fur trade in the early 1700s. Being close to the bay, you may spot some polar bears hoping to nab a seal during summer months or a whale swimming close to the shore.

Address : 127 Churchill, MB RoB oEo, Canada

Zipcode : RoB oEo

Location : 58.78557439999999, -94.20162679999999

Contact : (204) 675-8863

Website : <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/lhn-nhs/mb/prince/natcul/natcul2.aspx>

Nearest Public Transport : Churchill Train Station (Not Recommended)

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.3. Wapusk National Park

Wapusk National Park is the best destination in the "Polar Bear Capital of the World", to view and capture excellent pictures of those white furry polar bears. A retreat for all nature lovers to experience the abundant beauty of this remote subarctic region that will leave them spellbound. Some of the diverse species of birds and animals that find shelter here are caribou, red foxes, Arctic foxes, Caspian terns, polar bears, ivory gulls, lemmings, snowshoe hares and peregrine falcons.

Address : Wapusk National Park, Division No. 23, Unorganized, MB RoB oEo, Canada

Zipcode : RoB oEo

Location : 57.786105, -93.158037999999998

Contact : +1 204-675-8863

Website : <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/mb/wapusk/index.aspx>

Time Required : 3

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.4. York Factory National Historic Site

Plan a journey to the York Factory National Historic Site and travel back in time to when the fur trade was at its peak in Churchill, with the York Factory being a critical hub for fur trade. Built in 1831, the York Factory has great historical significance as it was a gateway to the interiors for British trade goods, employees of Hudson's Bay Company and soldiers. Tour this place with the local guides who elaborate on the reason behind the factory losing its economic significance over the years along with few other important facts.

Address : Division No. 23, York Factory, MB RoB oEo, Canada

Zipcode : RoB oEo

Location : 58.769123, -94.161345999999998

Website : <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/lhn-nhs/mb/yorkfactory/index.aspx>

Nearest Public Transport : Churchill Train Station (Not Recommended)

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Saturday: 09:00hrs-17:00hrs Sunday Closed

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.5. Arctic Trading Company

Arctic Trading Company is a gift shop featuring carvings made of ivory and soapstone, customized leather mukluks, slippers and mitts. The artwork made from caribou hair are also displayed for sale at this company. Visit this place to buy creative artworks made by local artists from all across Northern Canada and you will surely find something interesting to take back home as a gift for your loved ones.

Address : 141 Kelsey Blvd, Churchill, MB R0B 0E0, Canada

Zipcode : R0B 0E0

Location : 58.77014149999999, -94.1751185

Contact : +1 204-675-8804

Website : <http://www.arctictradingco.com/>

Nearest Public Transport : Churchill Train Station

Open & Close Timing : Monday to Saturday: 10:00hrs-18:00hrs, Sunday: 14:00hrs-16:00hrs

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.6. Miss Piggy Plane Wreck

Visit a plane wreck, Miss Piggy, to discover the mysterious facts and the unheard tragedy associated with the aircraft that crashed on November 13, 1979 in Churchill. Being a major tourist attraction in the city, the plane wreck derived its name from the ability to hold too much of freight and few pigs on board. Unfold the reasons behind the wreck, whether it was the loss of oil pressure in the engine or something else that led to the accident of Miss Piggy and find out how the crew struggled to return the plane to the airport before it crashed.

Address : Hudson Bay route Churchill, MB R0B 0E0, Canada

Zipcode : R0B 0E0

Location : 58.76056260000001, -94.08642050000003

Nearest Public Transport : Churchill Train Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.7. Ed Bazlik Jewellers

For all the shopping enthusiasts, Ed Bazlik Jewellers is one of the most popular shops for jewelry and watches in the Churchill city. Apart from a diverse and interesting collection of jewelry and watches, you will also find the essential products such as cameras, memory cards and batteries at this enchanting gift shop.

Address : 219 Kelsey Blvd, Churchill, MB RoB oEo, Canada

Zipcode : RoB oEo

Location : 58.76877820000001, -94.17120940000001

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.8. Northern Images

The Northern Images art gallery promotes the artists from Northern Canada along with their artwork by endorsing the products on their website or the gallery in their Yellowknife city. The gallery features Dene, Inuit and Metis Art along with the exceptional selection of Cape Dorset Print collections, giftware, jewelry, books, traditional handmade crafts, and assortments of prints and originals by various local artists.

Address : 174 Kelsey Blvd, Churchill, MB RoB oEo, Canada

Zipcode : RoB oEo

Location : 58.7692037, -94.17390770000003

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.9. Here Be Bears

Here Be Bears is a little kiosk at the Churchill Airport featuring traditional handmade crafts and a wide collection of jewelry that is reasonably priced. The carvings displayed are wildlife-oriented, mostly of bears, whales, and other common animals that are found in the city of Churchill. So if you haven't stocked

up local souvenirs on your way back, this little shop has you covered.

Address : 1 Airport Road, Main Terminal Churchill Airport, Churchill, Manitoba
R0B 0E0, Canada

Zipcode : R0B 0E0

Location : 58.72261879999999, -94.06519879999996

Contact : +1 418-585-3808

Website : <http://www.herebebears.com/>

Open & Close Timing : Daily 08:00hrs-19:00hrs

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No



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8. Key sites sports & adventure

Churchill is not a sporty town but there are some adventure sports and include dog sledding, bird watching, watching the northern lights swimming with the beluga whales. Such activities, especially boating and swimming, take place in the Hudson Bay, although some of the hotels have their own swimming pools and saunas.

- **Dog Sleigh ride -**

Address : 321 Kelsey Blvd., Churchill, Manitoba RoB oEo, Canada

Location : 58.756318,-94.1377086

Contact No : +1 204-675-2887

Website : <http://wapuskadventures.com/>

Nearest Public Transport : Churchill Train Station

Entry Fees : CAD 95 per person plus GST

Open / Close Time : Daily: 08:30hrs-11:00hrs; 13:30hrs-16:00hrs

Time Required : 3

Wait Time : 20 minutes

- **Hiking -**

Address : Churchill, MB RoB oEo, Canada

Location : 58.745394,-94.1150069

Contact No : +1 204-675-2147

Website : <http://www.natureisttours.ca/>

Nearest Public Transport : Churchill Train Station

Entry Fees : Half Day hiking tours: Adult: CAD 95 per person; Children (age 6-12 years): 50% off when accompanied by 2 adults; Children (under age 6): Free

Time Required : 6

Wait Time : 30 minutes



9. Adventure sports, Local sports, stadiums

- **Town Centre Complex:**

Address : 180 La Vérendrye Ave, Churchill, MB R0B 0E0, Canada

Location : 58.771369,-94.16948789999998

Contact No : +1 204-675-8871

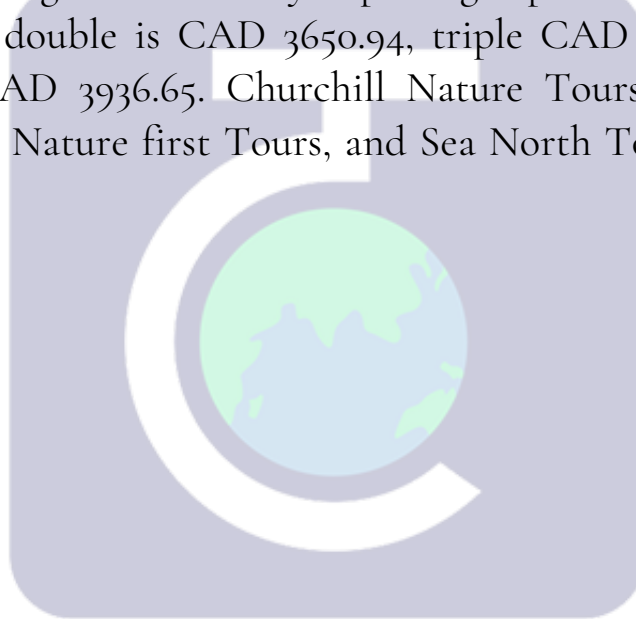
Website : <http://www.churchill.ca/>



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10. Key local guides and tours

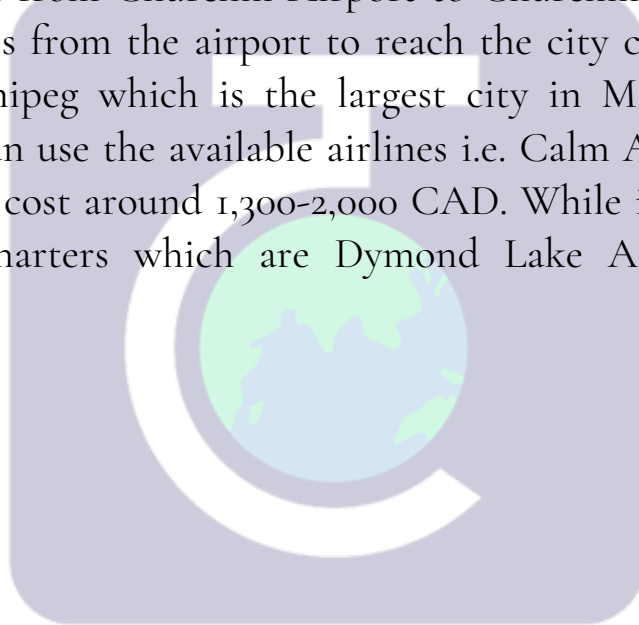
It is not advisable to go to Churchill especially during the bear season without tour guide(s). Tour guides cater to large and small groups, as well as independent travellers. The tour guides use arctic tundra which has a specially designed tundra buggy included. Tour prices in Churchill are based on CAD and are normally converted into USD and will vary from day to day depending on the currency exchange rates. A package tour will vary in pricing depending on the groupings of people, for instance double is CAD 3650.94, triple CAD 3647.38, single CAD 4197.55 and child CAD 3936.65. Churchill Nature Tours, North Star Tours, Waspuk Adventures, Nature first Tours, and Sea North Tours Ltd are key tour guide in Churchill.



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11. Transportation hubs

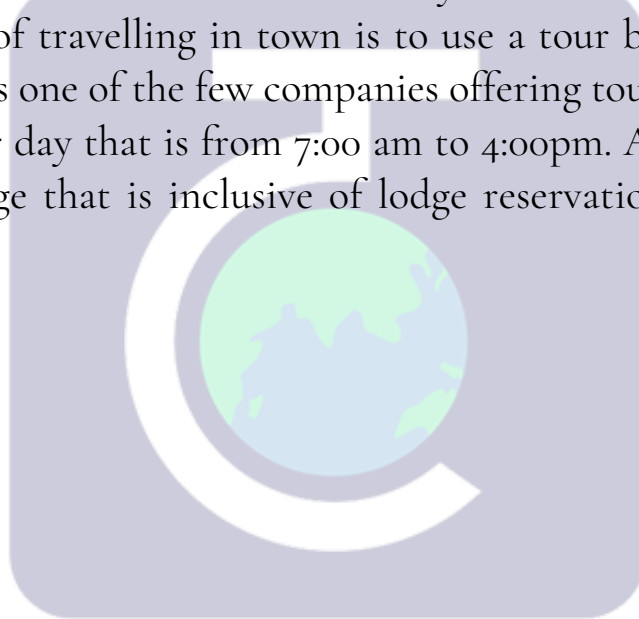
Churchill is not accessible by road and therefore one can only use rail or air transportation means. You can call 'VIA Rail' for current departure and arrival schedules. On average the train takes 38-48 hours from Winnipeg and the economy round-trip tickets cost 310-370 CAD per person (pp) and those of sleeper cars go for 1200-1300 CAD. The main airport in Churchill is Churchill airport. The distance from Churchill Airport to Churchill Town is 7.2 km and takes only 10 minutes from the airport to reach the city center. Flight are also available from Winnipeg which is the largest city in Manitoba Province, to Churchill and one can use the available airlines i.e. Calm Air AND Kivalliq Air. Expect the flights to cost around 1,300-2,000 CAD. While in Churchill, one can use the local air charters which are Dymond Lake Air and Hudson Bay Helicopters.



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12. Transportation cost

The only way to access Churchill town is by air or railroad, because there is no road network to access the town. The nearest town serviced by a road network from other towns is Thompson town 150 miles to the south. So any person interested to drive to Churchill from any other town must leave the car in Thompson and then take a plane (CAD684) or train (CAD 118) in economy class to Churchill. If you arrive in Churchill town you can take a tour bus to your hotel. The best way of travelling in town is to use a tour bus. The Great White Tour Bus Company is one of the few companies offering tours every day. The bus charges 473 CAD per day that is from 7:00 am to 4:00pm. Alternatively, you can choose a tour package that is inclusive of lodge reservations at 7400 CAD for seven days.



Index**13. Baggage allowance**

There is no plenty of room in the train going to Churchill. Planes flying to and from Churchill may carry relatively more bags but very huge bags just like any other airlines are highly discouraged. Larger bags and cases are always strenuous at checkpoints and are mostly locked up in carrier cabins, therefore not accessible when travelling. Hiring a car may be more comfortable and cost effective when moving around Churchill with luggage as some of the taxis may charge for extra luggage. However, most taxi drivers are generous and won't be bothered by few bags.



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14. Must try food and local savouries

Although limited, there are several spots where you can enjoy unique snacks, cuisines and other delicacies in Churchill town. The regional cuisine dishes of Churchill that one must definitely try on their visit to the city are Elk Meatloaf, Bison Stew, Borealis Burger and so on.



15. Restaurant & Nightlife

Restaurants and bar in Churchill combine tasty regional fare with classic cuisine. Kelsey Boulevard is the main street in the town where all the interesting restaurants, nightclubs and pubs are situated making it as the major destination for an amazing nightlife in the city.

Food -

Restaurants and bar in Churchill combine tasty regional fare with classic cuisine. Kelsey Boulevard is the main street in the town where all the interesting restaurants, nightclubs and pubs are situated making it as the major destination for an amazing nightlife in the city.

- **Gypsy's Bakery & Restaurant:**

Address : 253 Kelsey Blvd, Churchill, MB RoB oEo, Canada

Location : 58.7680333,-94.16883949

Contact No : +1 204-675-2322

Website : <http://www.gypsybakery.ca/>

Open / Close Time : Monday to Saturday: 06:00hrs-22:00hrs; Sunday: Closed

- **The Reef (Seaport Hotel):**

Address : 215 Kelsey Blvd, Churchill, MB RoB oEo, Canada

Location : 58.7689077,-94.17166559

Contact No : +1 204-675-8807

Website : <http://www.seaporthotel.ca/>

Open / Close Time : Daily: 07:00hrs-22:00hrs

- **Tundra Inn Dining Room & Pub:**

Address : 34 Franklin St, Churchill, MB RoB oEo, Canada

Location : 58.7705838,-94.17364279

Contact No : +1 204-675-8831

Website : <http://www.tundrainn.com/>

- **Lazy Bear Lodge & Cafe:**

Address : 313 Kelsey Blvd, Churchill, MB RoB oEo, Canada

Location : 58.7660677,-94.16528199

Contact No : +1 866-687-2327

Website : <https://www.lazybearlodge.com/>

Open / Close Time : Winter Daily: 06:00hrs-21:00hrs Summer Daily:
07:00hrs-21:00hrs

- **The Captains Cove (Seaport Hotel):**

Address : 215 Kelsey Blvd, Churchill, MB RoB oEo, Canada

Location : 58.7689077,-94.17166559

Contact No : +1 204-675-8807

Website : <http://www.seaporthotel.ca/dining.html>

Open / Close Time : Daily: 07:00hrs-22:00hrs

- **Tundra Inn Dining Room & Pub:**

Address : 34 Franklin St, Churchill, MB RoB oEo, Canada

Location : 58.7705838,-94.17364279

Contact No : +1 204-675-8831

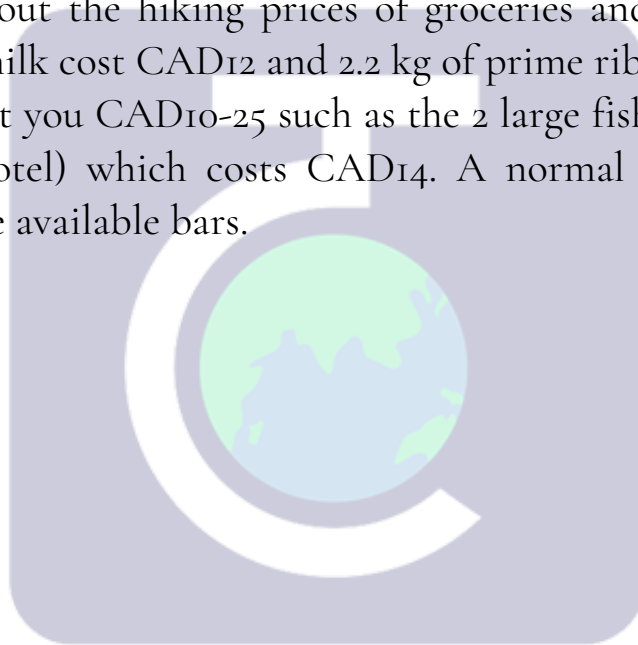
Website : <http://www.tundrainn.com/>

Open / Close Time : Daily: 18:00hrs-00:00hrs



16. Average meal cost

If you are travelling on a budget to Churchill, booking a fully packaged tour (Including food, accommodation, transportation activities and a tour guide) may be a better idea. Everything in Churchill seems to be expensive especially food. This is explainable by the inaccessibility of the town as most goods and supplies have to come in by air or train which is considerably expensive. Residents are ever complaining about the hiking prices of groceries and other essentials for instance; 4 litres of milk cost CAD₁₂ and 2.2 kg of prime rib roast is CAD 80. An average meal will cost you CAD₁₀₋₂₅ such as the 2 large fish and quality chips at the Reef (seaport hotel) which costs CAD₁₄. A normal beer bottle goes for CAD_{7- CAD₁₅} in the available bars.



Index**17. Shopping**

Churchill does not have a mall or many shopping areas. For basic necessities, there are two food/sundry stores on Kelsey Avenue, Churchill. A hardware store is also located on Kelsey across from northern side. It offers items typically found in hardware. The main shops here offer visitors the chance to buy carvings, Inuit art, wild berry preserves, and other souvenirs.



18. Tourist benefits

In 2007, Canada changed its policy on goods and services tax/harmonised sales tax (GST/HST), this means any non-resident visitor cannot claim any tax refund. However, a non-resident visitor can be eligible claim a refund for goods and services tax/harmonised sales tax (GST/HST) under an incentive program called Foreign Convention and Tour incentive program (FCTIP) The foreign convention and tour incentive program offers returns on GST/HST with the following clauses:

- Sporting accommodation in the country that includes eligible tours and/or non-residents that are paid with GST/HST for a short period of time
- Organizers, convention sponsors, and exhibitors are paid on specific services used and/or properties during the contracts held in Canada.



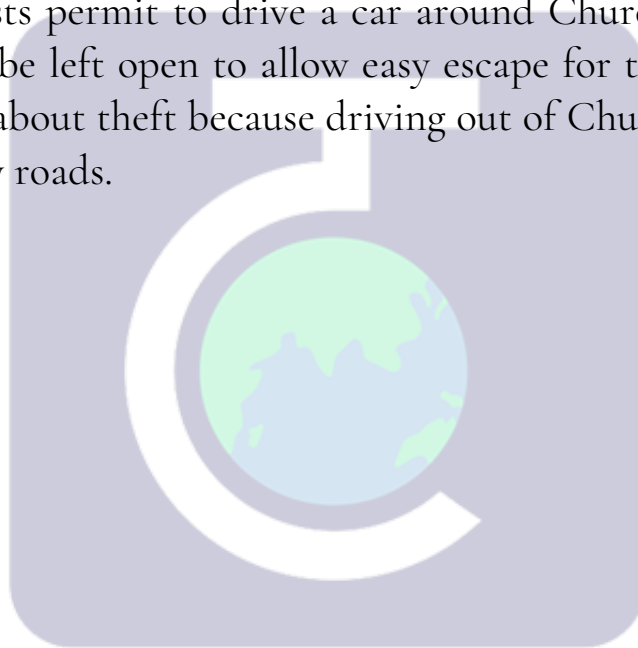
19. Essential local apps

Churchill is recently embracing technology and has some various apps that guide the tourists get along and tour the town more efficiently. These apps include an iPhone and iPad Churchill travel app that gives travellers inside knowledge about off-the-map attractions, shares detailed information on everything from where to eat to why the northern lights glow and gives the visitors an easy way to record every interaction they have with wildlife for future memories. The important apps are Tactica Interactive App which is an iPhone travel app allows the users to create journal entries about every wildlife attraction they have been at and later these entries are easily shared via social networks such as Facebook or Twitter. VIA Rail is another useful mobile app that helps the users manage their VIA Rail train trips on the go and also check the train's status in real time.



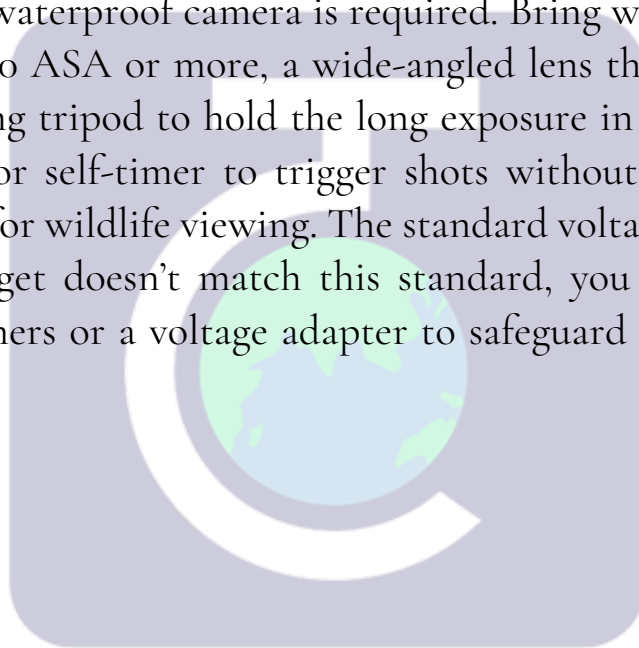
20. Driving

Churchill, Manitoba is accessible mainly through two ways; plane and train. Once in Churchill, getting around the city is always easy by walking, hiring a taxi or renting a car. You are required to present a passport and credit card to hire a car. If you do not hold an international driving licence you should at least have an English, French or exchangeable licence from any other state. Alternatively you can get a local tourists permit to drive a car around Churchill. By practice, car doors should always be left open to allow easy escape for those being chased by bears. Do not worry about theft because driving out of Churchill is impossible as there are no get-away roads.



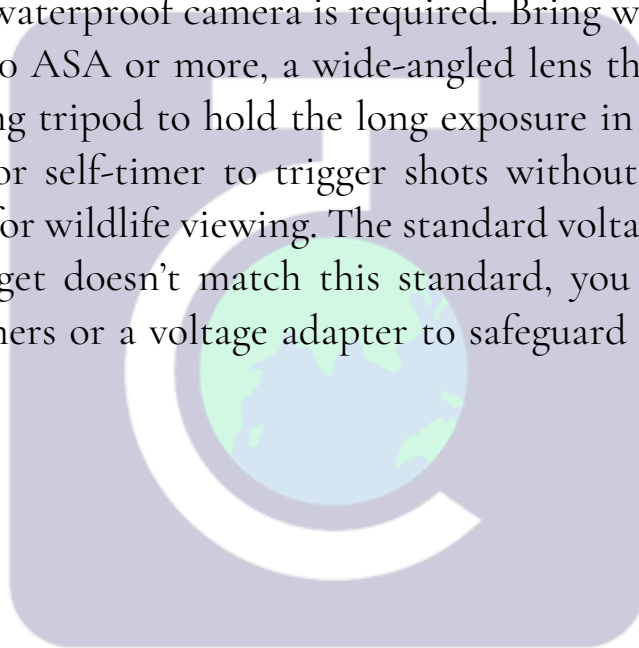
21. Travel essentials

In Churchill, one has to confirm the availability of transportation, lodging and buggy and book them early enough because the hotels book up quickly and the train and plane can fill up. Bring extra rechargeable batteries for your camera as they do not last long in the cold and keep them close to your body to keep them warm. For wildlife photography, a long telephoto lens is required. To swim with the beluga whales, a waterproof camera is required. Bring with you a camera that has fast film with 800 ASA or more, a wide-angled lens that has an aperture of f/2.8 or more, a strong tripod to hold the long exposure in potential high winds and a cable release or self-timer to trigger shots without stirring the camera. Binoculars are great for wildlife viewing. The standard voltage is 211 Volts around Canada. If your gadget doesn't match this standard, you are advised to carry converters, transformers or a voltage adapter to safeguard your phone from any electrical damages.



22. Essential clothes

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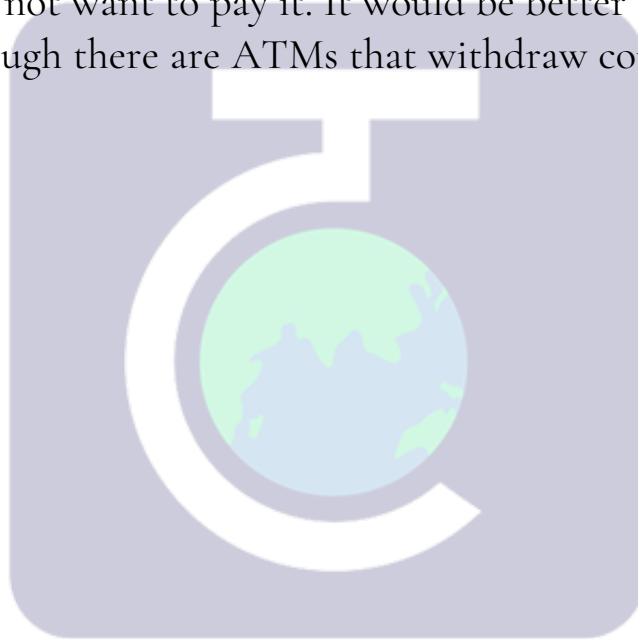
23. Local currency

The local currency of the city of Churchill is Canadian Dollar (CAD). 1.00 CAD = 0.772210 USD



24. Change vendor's commission, ATM charges

In Churchill, there are various rates for ATM transactions, depending on the bank and the type of account you have. Usually there are extra fees if you use another bank's ATM. The rates for the ATM withdrawals would range from CAD 1.50-CAD 2.00. There are also non-bank ATMs that charge an extra fee that is shown before the money is out so you have an option of discontinuing the transaction if you do not want to pay it. It would be better to travel with already converted money though there are ATMs that withdraw converted money in the town.



25. Staying connected

Cell phone reception in Churchill has continuously being upgraded in recent years to a 4G high speed wireless network with a downloading speed of up to 21 megabytes per second. You can use your MTS device or prepaid US SIM to make calls while in Churchill. For MTS users, long distance call rates are charged at 50 CAD per minute. However, locals prefer to use old traditional face to face communication. Churchill town has a number of radio stations including CHFC 12.30 AM CBC Radio one for public news/talk and VF2312 96.9 FM Nations Community Radio. There is also a cable TV connection.



26. Time Zone

The city of Churchill follows Central Time Zone with UTC + 06:00.



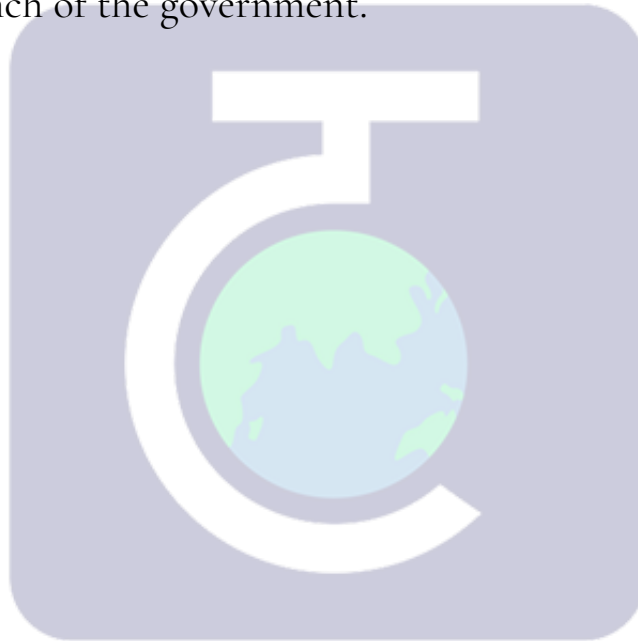
Index**27. Languages**

90% of the population in Churchill speak English as their first language while French, Cree, Inuktitut are spoken by minorities as first or second languages especially those working in hotels and tourism industry for purposes of receiving visitors.



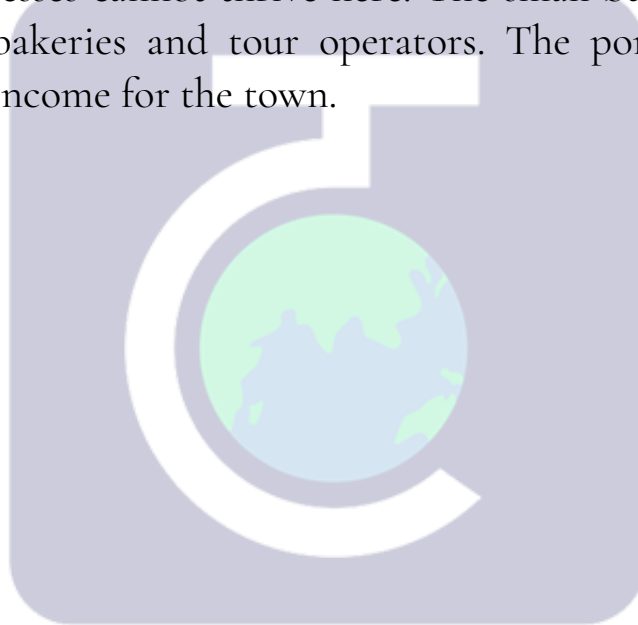
Index**28. Political Scenario**

Churchill is a federal electoral district that elects Members of Parliament to Canada's House of Commons every election. It was created as a district in 1933 and the first elections were held in 1935. The Member of Parliament is Niki Ashton who is a member of the New Democratic Party. Elections are held after every four years. The system of governance is democratic and the parliament acts as the legislative branch of the government.



29. Economic Scenario

The economy of Churchill town is heavily centred on ecotourism with tourists coming from all over the world to witness the abundance of local wildlife, historic attractions, and beautiful environments. Churchill town would face severe economic hardship and its viability would be in substantial risk if there would be any negative effect on local wildlife and habitats. Due to its climate and location, many businesses cannot thrive here. The small businesses here include hotels, restaurants, bakeries and tour operators. The ports in Churchill also generate substantial income for the town.



Index**30. Religious belief**

Churchill has Christianity as the main religion. There are no other religions in Churchill; however, the Christianity is divided into Anglican, Catholic, United Church and other denominations.



31. Visa requirements

Visa is required for people who are not U.S citizens and should also bring a resident alien card. Additional paperwork and verification may be required for visitors from some countries due to security reasons. One is advised to take note of the status of their country of origin or check with the local immigration office to ensure that multiple-entry is allowed to avoid unnecessary delays. U.S citizens are not required to have a visa, however a photo of your I.D and proof of citizenship that is, drivers licence, U.S birth certificate or naturalization certificate are recommended. For children, 18 years and below, only a birth certificate is required. Electronic System of Travel Authorization is the most important requirement for individuals who are from within the list of countries that grant the visa waiver. It is advisable to keep 2 pages free in your passport for arrival and departure stamps. In certain cases, it has been observed that applying and receiving a visa can be a process of 20-30 days. Hence, it is essential that you check the timeline with the relevant authority in the country where you intend to make the visa application.

Index**32. Essential vaccination**

Visitors touring Churchill are required to have pertussis, polio vaccine, varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B and a yearly flu shot. These vaccines are not mandatory but are highly recommended.



Index**33. Theft and Safety**

Churchill is a safe place but safety measures are recommended. It is not advisable to leave valuable items in the hotels, restaurants or attraction sites. Visitors are advised to bring any valuable items with them everywhere at any time in order to protect their own property. Car theft is uncommon as there are no roads out of Churchill.



Index**34. Embassy/Consulate**

Though there are few consulate offices in Manitoba region of Canada, Churchill does not have any consulate office. Nearest consulate offices to Churchill are found in 201 portage avenue Winnipeg. More information is available at <http://embassy.goabroad.com/embassies-in/canada>.



Index**35. Accessibility**

Access to buildings, public space and any other places that the physically challenged may need to access are available and include elevators, ramps, signage, restroom accommodations and convenient entrances. Communication media such as signs, public address system, telephones and the internet are also used to assist the physically challenged people access places they need to.



36. Emergencies

Medical services in Churchill city are by every means available and accessible by visitors at the Churchill Health centre located at 162 La Vérendrye Ave. For any SOS services, call 911.



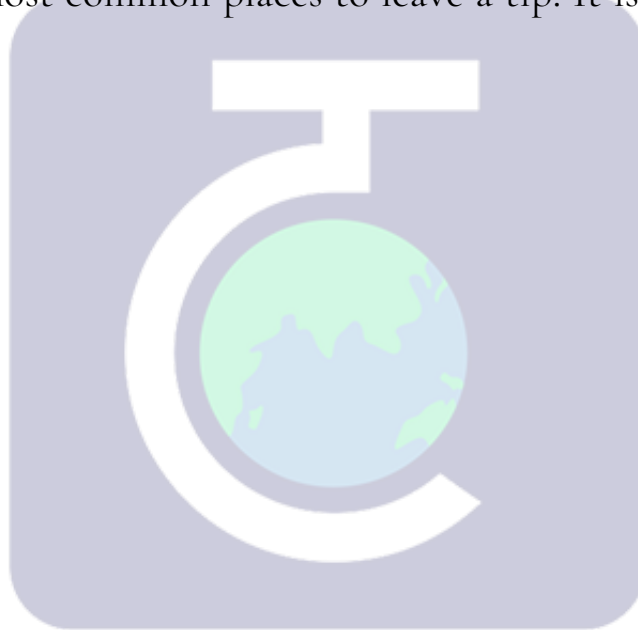
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37. Do's and Don'ts

Do's: • Go to Churchill with some knowledge about polar bears; it will be odd not to know anything • Like the locals, always leave your car unlocked in case someone needs to escape quickly from the bears. • Arrange for sufficient medicines to meet your personal medical needs. Check with the embassy of the country you are visiting to ensure your medicine is legal in the countries you are travelling to. Obtain a doctor's letter stating who the medicines are for, what they are, the dosage, and leave medicines in their original packaging. Don'ts: • Do not walk alone or aimlessly in the city if you can't outrun a bear. • Never play dead hoping that a polar bear will toy with you and walk away. They don't buy that idea. • Don't look at a bear straight in the eyes • In Hudson Bay, don't walk among the rocks without a guide, bears can always creep from anywhere and tear you to pieces. • When you unexpectedly encounter a bear, do not panic, walk away calmly and boldly and don't turn your back to the bear • Do not litter in Churchill; keep the city clean to avoid breaking the by-laws • Don't drive in the winter climate if you lack prior experience. • It is advisable that do not carry unsealed/ unbranded food articles as the same may be banned for import.

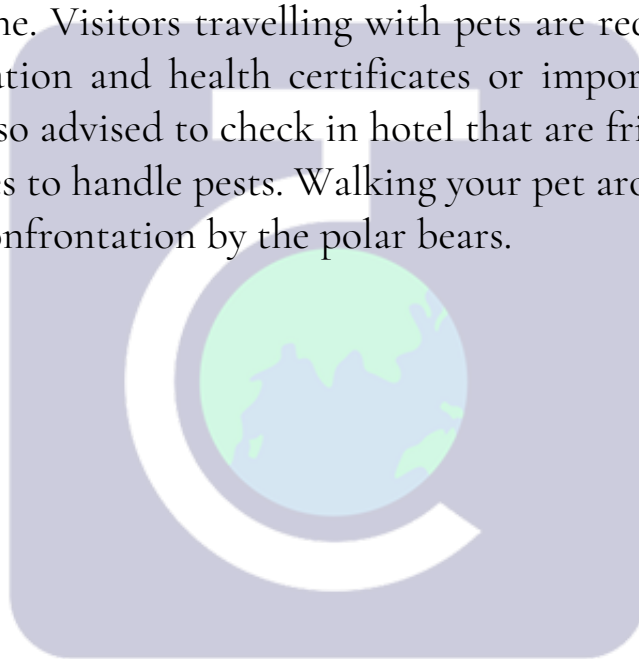
38.Tipping basics

Tipping in Churchill is not mandatory but generally acceptable as most service providers receive a low pay and therefore rely on the tips to boost their earnings. In most cases, a tip in the range of 15% - 20% is perfectly acceptable and these tipping amounts are usually suggested on pre tax bills. The usual gratitude that is automatically printed on the bills are around 15% to 18%. Housekeepers, bars and restaurants are the most common places to leave a tip. It is also usual to pay the bellboys.



Index**39.Pet info**

Pets in Churchill excluding guide dogs are not allowed in passenger cars and so must only travel on trains that offer checked baggage services. Cats, dogs and small rodents are the only pets allowed in VIA trains and must be carried in a rigid cage large enough for them to stand in and must be kept shut with a padlock. These pets must undergo all the necessary vaccines which include rabies vaccine, gastro vaccine. Visitors travelling with pets are required to have all the necessary documentation and health certificates or importation certificates of their pets. You are also advised to check in hotel that are friendly to pets or have the necessary facilities to handle pests. Walking your pet around the town should be guided to avoid confrontation by the polar bears.



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Conclusion – Why to select this destination

Churchill is a pretty unique location located in the Manitoba province, Canada that has exceptional attractions making it a must visit town. Churchill is known for polar bears that are more common during the fall season (from October to November). The big white bears are usually out on the Arctic sea ice during winter season (from January to February). Churchill is the only town in the world where people can have epic and close view of the polar bears, learn about them and their adaptability characteristics. During summer, the beluga whales flock the Churchill River traversing in from Hudson Bay. Visitors can clearly spot the whales through kayaking, zodiac or jumping into the water and swimming among the enormous yet friendly creatures. The most unique attraction in Churchill is the Northern Lights dance. Churchill is situated right below the aurora oval making it the best place to view the aurora borealis or rather the Northern Lights. Churchill is also popular for its historic sites which are the Cape Merry Battery, York Factory National Historic Site of Canada, the Prince of Wales Fort National Historic Site of Canada. These sites have great historical significance and tell much about ancient trade, architecture, battles and invasions as well as tragic events of plane and ship accidents. The parks such as Wapusk National Park of Canada have significant wildlife with most common being the polar bears, a dozen species of birds, Arctic hare, wild flowers and other ecosystem features. The Eskimo Museum presents exhibits of the oldest artefacts in Churchill such as Inuit archaeological sculptures and findings. Churchill holds a variety of activities for adrenaline thirst tourist. These events include boating and kayaking in Hudson Bay to watch Beluga whales. Snorkelling activities are provided by tour companies such as Sea North Tours which includes jumping and swimming amongst the whales. Scuba diving is also allowed for experienced divers. Hiking along the Tundra and flat walks can also be arranged through guided tours to mitigate the dangers of polar bears. For those who want to take a magical experience across Churchill, helicopter tours are available for an epic aerial viewing of the scenic landscapes and the bears below. Food is available in delicious and unique cuisines at very cost effective prices and drinks come in different brands that will guarantee a wonderful party/nightlife in Churchill. When you tour Churchill, do not forget to shop especially gifts for your relatives back at home. Some amazing shopping places include Ed Bazlik Jewellers, Arctic Trading Company and the Northern Images store.

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