



The Ecology of Hudson Bay's Polar Bears

# Lords of the Arctic:

Oct 11 – 18, 2018

November 1 – 8, 2018

Instructor: Stephen Petersen

November 8 – 15, 2018

Participants: 36

Instructor: Rupert Pilkington

\$3,415 CDN

Participants: 36

\$3,415 CDN

## Special October 2018 Session

**T**his special session is instructed by Dr. Stephen Petersen, Head of Conservation and Research for the Assiniboine Park Zoo. His recent research projects have focused on arctic marine mammals (polar bears and seals) and he will engage participants with citizen science projects to help monitor these arctic species (and maybe spot a beluga whale too!) As with our other LOA sessions you will witness the annual migration of Churchill's polar bears. In October and November, polar bears congregate in the Churchill area to await the return of the sea ice and access to their preferred prey – the ringed seal. Spend two full days touring the Churchill Wildlife Management Area aboard a custom-built tundra vehicle. Course participants will enjoy an excellent firsthand view of polar bears in their natural habitat. You will have the opportunity to assist with a citizen science project, collecting data as part of a long-term study contributing to our knowledge of this area. Each evening, in-depth presentations explore the remarkable polar bear along with other arctic marine mammal species and the challenges they are facing in a warming climate. As in our November sessions, this program also includes a 45 minute helitour along the rugged coastline of Hudson Bay, an afternoon of dog sledding and a tour of the community, including the world-famous Itsanitaq (Eskimo) Museum and its renowned collection of historic and contemporary Inuit art and artefacts. *Lords of the Arctic* is our most popular program and all proceeds support scientific research in Churchill! **Book early, our November sessions always fill quickly and we expect this one to as well!** ❄️

2 SESSIONS AVAILABLE, CALL FOR DETAILS!  
**BOOK TODAY!**

**W**itness the annual migration of Churchill's polar bears. Every October and November, polar bears congregate in the Churchill area to await the return of the sea ice and access to their preferred prey – the ringed seal. Spend two full days touring the Churchill Wildlife Management Area aboard a custom-built tundra vehicle. On the first day, course participants will enjoy an excellent firsthand view of polar bears in their natural habitat. On the second day, you will assist one of our visiting researchers with behavioral observations of the bears, collecting data as part of a long-term study contributing to our knowledge of these magnificent animals. Each evening, in-depth presentations by bear biologists explore this remarkable animal and the challenges they are facing in a warming climate. And if that were not enough, this program also includes a 45 minute helitour along the rugged coastline of Hudson Bay, an afternoon of dog sledding and a tour of the community, including the world-famous Itsanitaq Museum and its renowned collection of historic and contemporary Inuit art and artefacts. This is our most popular program and all proceeds support scientific research in Churchill – **Book early!** ❄️



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## Churchill Northern Studies Centre

Subarctic Research and Education Since 1976

The Churchill Northern Studies Centre is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to supporting research and education initiatives in Churchill. The Centre is open year-round to provide logistical services to scientists working in the western Hudson Bay region. In addition to supporting world-class research, we are also proud to offer a wide variety of educational programs to the general public. Course participants have the unique opportunity to learn more about their chosen topic directly from renowned scientists and naturalists.

[www.churchillscience.ca](http://www.churchillscience.ca)

### FOR RESERVATIONS CONTACT:

Churchill Northern Studies Centre  
Box 610  
Churchill, Manitoba, Canada R0B 0E0

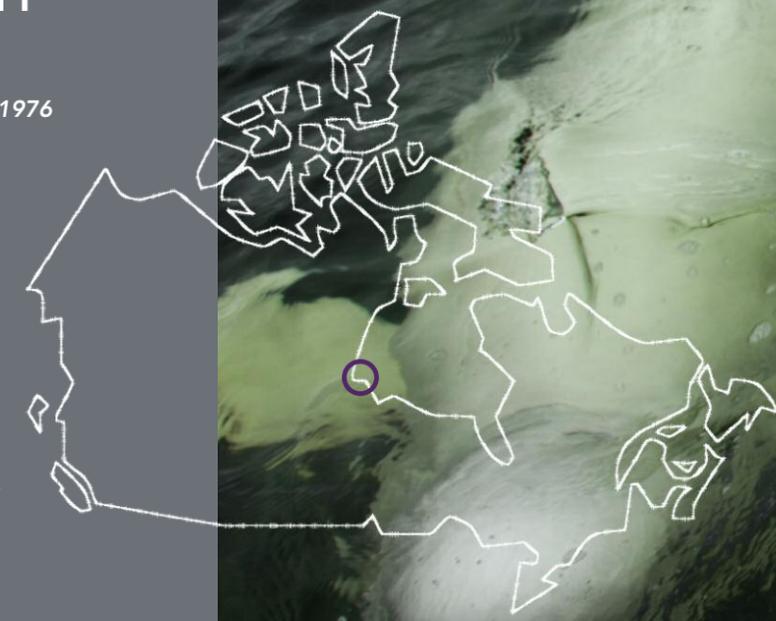
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cnsc@churchillscience.ca  
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**BOOK TODAY!**



Online booking available!

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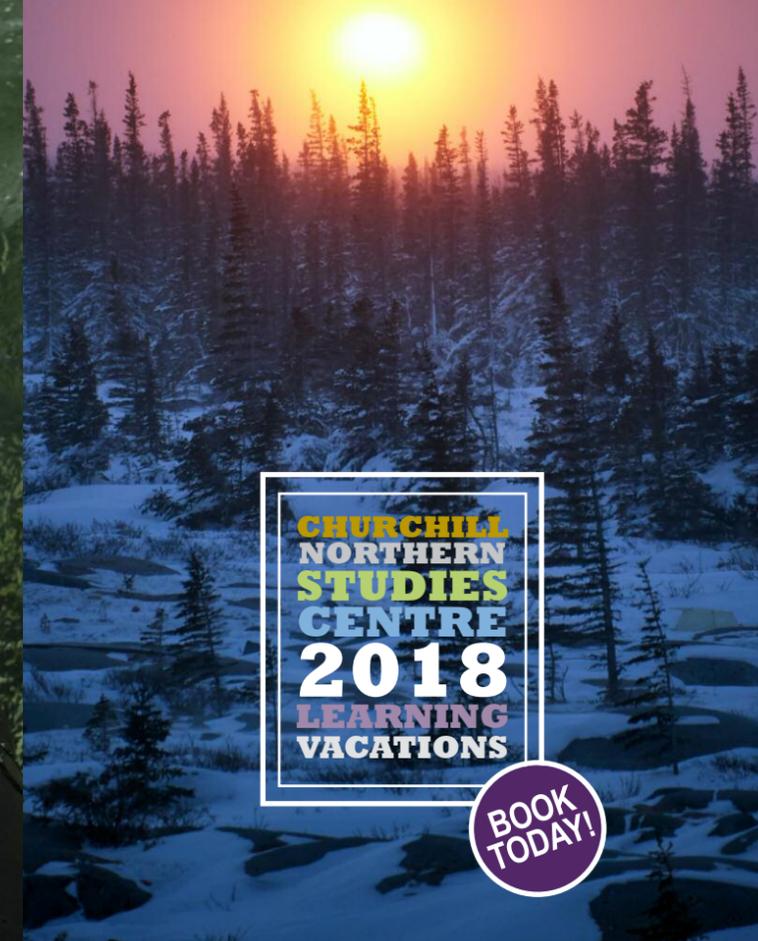


Help us to  
**Understand and Sustain the North**  
by booking your northern adventure today!

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FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS,

# Experience Our North!



**CHURCHILL  
NORTHERN  
STUDIES  
CENTRE  
2018  
LEARNING  
VACATIONS**

**BOOK TODAY!**



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THE CNSC IS, FIRST AND FOREMOST, AN ACTIVE RESEARCH FACILITY LOCATED AT THE EDGE OF THE TUNDRA, 23 km from the Town of Churchill. Our learning vacations promote meaningful interaction between course participants, visiting scientists and the Centre's own in-house research staff. Most importantly, all course revenues go towards supporting the work of the Centre and the local economy.

Programs are typically 5-7 days in length and include all accommodations, meals, local transportation, wildlife viewing excursions, visits to local museums/shops and, of course, evening lectures on a range of topics from wildlife to aboriginal cultures. A sampling of traditional foods and Canadian wines on the last evening provides an excellent opportunity to reflect on your experiences and new friendships. ❄️



**Winter Skies:  
Aurora and Astronomy in Churchill**  
Feb 8 – 13, 2018  
March 8 – 13, 2018  
Participants: 24  
\$1,425 CDN



**I**mmerse yourself in the magnificence of our breathtaking subarctic skies. Located directly beneath the aurora oval, Churchill, Manitoba is the best place on Earth to view the aurora borealis, the spectacular atmospheric phenomenon better known as the Northern Lights. For over 240 years, astronomers and physicists have journeyed to Churchill to probe the upper atmosphere with cameras, balloons, and even rockets. You, too, can marvel at the aurora from the comfort of the CNSC's heated viewing dome by night and explore the Churchill area by day. Local tours, cultural presentations and an afternoon of dog sledding offer a taste of life in the Subarctic. The Churchill Northern Studies Centre, your home for five days, sits in the shadow of massive 1950's era rocket launch towers. As the northern lights arc overhead in curtains of white, green and red, you'll swear you can hear the countdown. ❄️

LOOKING AHEAD:  
Jan 31 – Feb 5, 2019 & Feb. 28 – Mar. 5, 2019

**North of 58:  
Winter Ecology and Northern Culture**  
Feb. 27 – Mar 3, 2018  
Participants: 10  
\$1,695 CDN

Experience an exhilarating subarctic adventure and embrace the natural beauty of Churchill in winter. Explore an amazing environment where Gray Jays lay their eggs at nearly 40 degrees below zero and wood frogs freeze solid, only to thaw again with the coming of spring. Dig beneath the snow for signs of a secret world where lemmings scurry along vast tunnel systems and shrews weighing less than a dime forage for insects. Course participants will build two traditional snow dwellings (igloo and quinzhee) with guidance from skilled locals. You can even sleep in them if you like! A traditional dog sled ride through the forest, snow sampling with a CNSC researcher, and a snowmobile ride onto the sea ice of Hudson Bay round out this truly unique experience. At the end of the day, a hot meal, a warm bed and the glow of the northern lights await. ❄️



**Spring's Wings: Birding in Churchill**

June 7 – 12, 2018 | Participants: 9  
Instructor: Rudolf Koes | \$1,455 CDN



Are you fascinated by birds and want to learn more? Are you a birder that would like to explore the arctic's edge? After nearly 8 months of winter, the ice in the Churchill River begins to move and the tundra comes alive with the carillon cry of hundreds of thousands of returning Snow Geese. Join the migration and experience the excellent birding opportunities to be found in Churchill, Manitoba, a well known birding "hotspot" that you'll want to see firsthand. Daily guided tours and field trips allow you to see a wide variety of bird species, while keeping a sharp eye out for such rarities as the Ross's Gull, Bohemian Waxwing and Harris's Sparrow. Some unique birds common to Churchill include the Pacific Loon, jaegers, Willow Ptarmigan and Smith's Longspur. Our program is led by a birding expert with decades of experience and group sizes are kept to a minimum. There is also ample opportunity to explore the town and the world-famous Itsanitaq Museum with its renowned collection of historic and contemporary Inuit art and artefacts. From arrival to departure your program itinerary is simply focused on full-time birding! ❄️



**Into the Wildflowers:  
Flora of the Subarctic**  
July 5 – July 10, 2018  
Participants: 9  
\$1,595 CDN

**D**iscover the beauty and diversity of the northern plant world on this botanical tour of the Subarctic. Spring brings successive waves of colour, as boreal and arctic wildflowers carpet the landscape through the long days of summer. With over five hundred species of vascular plants, including eleven orchids, Churchill will challenge and intrigue any botanist. Join us as we explore a range of different habitats, from lichen-rich taiga woodlands and wet sedge tundra to dunes, fens, heaths and sand beaches. Keep an eye out for caribou, foxes, and the occasional polar bear - Churchill in summer is a photographer's paradise! You can also hone your plant identification skills with sessions in our in-house herbarium and evening talks on a variety of topics. Also included is a visit to Boreal Projects greenhouse, beluga whale watching on the Churchill River, and a tour of Prince of Wales Fort National Historic Site. ❄️

**Belugas in the Bay:  
Through the Camera Lens**  
June 21 – 26, 2018

Instructors: Kristin Westdal & Christopher Paetkau  
Participants: 22  
\$1,825 CDN

In this special program we explore Churchill's wildlife and landscapes through the camera lens. Your co-instructors share their knowledge for a truly unique opportunity to learn about the ecology and life of belugas as well as how to capture your memories of these amazing animals in their natural habitat! ❄️



**Belugas in the Bay:  
The White Whales of Churchill**  
July 19 – 24, 2018 | Participants: 22  
Instructor: Pierre Richard | \$1,825 CDN

**D**elve into the trip of a lifetime! The Churchill River estuary is one of the summering grounds for the largest population of beluga whales in the Arctic. Nowhere else in the world can you get as up close and personal with this charming and highly vocal white whale. While other beluga populations deal with the combined threats of pollution and population decline, Churchill's whales migrate to the river estuary to feed, give birth and moult their skin. As a participant in Belugas in the Bay, you will have three opportunities to view beluga whales in their natural habitat – an estuary tour, a kayak tour, and a "Beluga & Fort" tour combining whale watching with a guided walk to Prince of Wales Fort National Historic Site, on the opposite side of the Churchill River. Whales are only one part of the experience- you will also observe the many birds in the area, go on walking tours of Cape Merry National Historic Site, other coastal areas and explore town, have evening lectures on marine biology and a local cultural presentation to help round out this truly educational experience. ❄️

**BOOK  
TODAY!**



**Wild Planet: The Subarctic in Summer**  
August 16 – 21, 2018  
Instructor: James Kushny  
Participants: 16  
\$1,985 CDN

**I**magine hiking the coast of western Hudson Bay, an ancient and rugged landscape where boreal forest meets arctic tundra, a land transformed by ice, wind and water. Daily hikes will lead you through a wide variety of habitats including: tundra, boreal forest, inter-tidal zone, fen, beach dune, and coastal pond. Walk from Sloop's Cove to Prince of Wales Fort National Historic Site, tracing the footsteps of early European fur traders and the native people who facilitated their vast empire. Keep a sharp eye out for polar bears – we've seen them before! A visit to the Parks Canada Interpretive Centre and the world-famous Itsanitaq Museum, an afternoon of kayaking, and evening presentations on topics in northern ecology completes your subarctic adventure. This is our most active program so expect to spend between 4-5 hours per day hiking over relatively flat, but uneven terrain. What are you waiting for? Put yourself out there! ❄️

**Other Course Offerings**

**Road Scholar:  
Adventures in Lifelong Learning**

Additional dates for many of these same great programs are offered in association with Road Scholar, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing extraordinary learning adventures geared towards people 55 and over. Call us at (204)675-2307 or visit [www.road scholar.org](http://www.road scholar.org) for more information on program topics, dates and costs. ❄️