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CHURCHILL POLAR BEARS™

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CHURCHILL POLAR BEARS

If someone mentions the name, “Churchill,” you might think of the famed Winston Churchill from the U.K., but Churchill is also a city located in Manitoba, Canada. If you visit Churchill, you might see animals such as polar bears, Beluga whales, Arctic foxes, and the Snowy owl. During the winter, you may be lucky to see the Aurora Borealis or in the summer you can enjoy the midnight sun. Churchill is well known for polar bears that come to the shore in the fall so they are a central element to Eric’s painting.

1. It is impossible to know when the Northern Lights will happen, so pray that you see them when you visit!
2. Prince of Wales Fort was built from 1731-1771 – or 40 years.
3. Miss Piggy plane wreck— a crashed C-46 aircraft. It was named Miss Piggy because she was able to hold so much freight and actually once had pigs on board.
4. Cape Merry Battery was strategically misplaced as a defense for the bay with six cannon emplacements.
5. Kayaking tours help you see Beluga Whales.
6. Cargo Ship on its way to the Port of Churchill (*not in operation anymore as of August 2016*).
7. Hudson Bay is named after Henry Hudson who pushed his crew too far in searching for the Northwest Passage, eventually making the crew mutiny against him. He was never seen again.
8. Killer Whales grow up to 32 feet, almost the size of a school bus.
9. Commercial fishing in Hudson Bay.
10. SS Ithaka is a historic wrecked ship on the Canadian coast that sits high and dry at low tide and surrounded by water in high tide. Her named changed 6 times: Granby in 1927, Parita II in 1948, Valbruna in 1951, Lawrencecliffe Hall in 1952, Federal Explorer in 1955 and finally Ithaka in 1960.
11. Nature and wildlife tours to see polar bears in Wapusk National Park.
12. Dress warm—the dead of winter has average temperatures of -16 Fahrenheit.
13. Inukshuk—Inuit landmark meaning, “Someone was here” or “You are on the right path.”
14. The Town of Churchill became popular during the 1920’s because of the railroad and was a thriving military community during the 1950’s and 1960’s.
15. Parks Canada Visitor Centre is the perfect spot to learn more about Prince Wales Fort or Wapusk National Park.
16. Hudson Bay Railway is a former Canadian National railway that runs over 1000 kilometers.
17. Polar Bear “Prison” is a place where bears are put for one month that wander too close to the town to help them not come back.
18. Dog sled tours are a highlight here and dogs have been utilized for hundreds of years in hunting and traveling.
19. The Snowy Owl is unique because instead of hunting at night like most owls, it hunts during the daytime.
20. Churchill Wildlife Management Area protects polar bears specifically during the summer season.
21. Polar bears are strong swimmers but prefer to be on land, since swimming takes a lot of energy.
22. Arctic Foxes can locate prey around and below them thanks to their big ears.
23. There are more Beluga Whales in Churchill than people.
24. The Province of Manitoba is located close to the center of Canada.