

## Day 1: Arrive Vancouver

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Welcome to Vancouver, British Columbia. Upon arrival, you are privately transferred 30 minutes to your luxury downtown accommodations.

Vancouver welcomes you to Canada's most eclectic city, combining urban sophistication and on-your-doorstep wilderness adventure. It is often ranked as one of the world's most livable cities. Set among lush coastal mountains at the mouth of the mighty Fraser River, Vancouver is rich in both modern and First Nations culture. It is an outdoor mecca for hiking, skiing, kayaking, cycling, sailing, and much more. Magnificent Stanley Park with its iconic totem poles, the brick streets of historic Gastown, and Asian eateries that rival those in the world capitals, are but a few of the many distinct layers of this vibrant city.

This afternoon, settle into the Rosewood Hotel Georgia and enjoy an evening at your leisure.

Overnight - Rosewood Hotel Georgia

## Day 2: Vancouver City & Nature Highlights (B,L)

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This morning, your private guided adventure invites you to experience the rich history of Vancouver along with its natural beauty. Set off with your guide for a day of short walking tours and scenic drives throughout the city. Enjoy views of English Bay, visit well-known neighborhoods such as trendy Yaletown and False Creek, cultural Chinatown, historic Gastown and Granville Island, and also regions that showcase its natural beauty, including Stanley Park and Capilano River Canyon Rainforest. Learn about the importance of sustainability as you watch for the salmon run and experience thrills on the 50-metre-high Lynn Canyon Suspension Bridge.

Along the way, enjoy a gourmet picnic lunch, then spend the rest of your afternoon and evening at your leisure.

Overnight - Rosewood Hotel Georgia

## Day 3: Victoria Whale Watching (B)

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After breakfast, it's an exciting start to your day with a floatplane flight to Victoria. From the air you'll find stunning views of Vancouver, the Strait of Georgia and the Gulf Islands before your water landing into the heart of downtown Victoria. Then, hop on a zodiac for a sea adventure in search of orca and humpback whales along with other marine wildlife. Just short of 200 species of marine mammals and birds call the Salish Sea waterways home, and you could meet seals, sealions, and seabirds a plenty. All the while, enjoy the spectacular vistas of Southern Vancouver Island and the Olympic Mountains.

After your whale watching adventure, there may be time to explore the city of Victoria at your leisure before returning to Vancouver.

The rest of your evening is at your leisure.

Overnight - Rosewood Hotel Georgia

## Day 4: Indigenous BC Art & Culture (B,L)

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Today's insider experience invites you to discover what made British Columbia's West Coast First Nations distinctly different in art and culture from the rest of Canada's First Nations. Your one-of-a-kind journey begins with a guided

scenic drive around famous Stanley Park with your guide trained in Indigenous Art & Culture. Stop and walk to its Totem Pole Gardens as you learn about the region and enjoy amazing city and mountain views.

From there, visit the Bill Reid Gallery, Canada's renowned non-profit art gallery which spotlights Pacific Northwest Indigenous Art and get to know the story behind Bill Reid himself, a BC local, made famous for his contribution to Canadian Indigenous art. Marvel at the masterpieces and then enjoy insider access with a visit to a celebrated authentic contemporary and traditional Indigenous Art Gallery and a private Artist's Studio. Meet with local art experts for a deeper understanding of the collection of traditional and contemporary Indigenous art.

And finally, perhaps today's highlight, is an opportunity to meet celebrated BC Haida Artist Corey Bulpitt, as he works in his Art Studio on a recent commission and shares some of his favorite life stories. This special experience invites you to connect with the local community and leave with a better understanding of an important part of the region's history, taking with you memories that you will surely cherish and share. Why not chat about your favorite pieces over your included lunch today.

After returning to your hotel, the rest of your day is yours to do as you wish.

Overnight - Rosewood Hotel Georgia

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#### Day 5: Vancouver – Winnipeg, Manitoba (B)

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Today, enjoy a private transfer to Vancouver Airport for your departing flight to Winnipeg (flight not included). Upon arrival in Winnipeg, you will be privately transferred to your hotel. The rest of your afternoon and evening is at your leisure.

Overnight - Inn at the Forks

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#### Day 6: Winnipeg City Highlights (B,L)

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After breakfast, enjoy a private tour of just a few of Winnipeg's city highlights. Meet your guide for a private tour of the world's first Museum for Human Rights. Hear powerful stories, encounter immersive exhibits and experiences, and gawk at its stunning architectural design. Afterward head to one of Winnipeg's favorite locations – Forks Market, popular with both locals and visitors. Learn of its 6,000 year history as a meeting place and trade hub, including the time when the Hudson's Bay Company gifted Queen Elizabeth two live beavers. Enjoy a delicious lunch here too.

This afternoon, learn about Manitoba's North ecology, native species and one its most iconic animals – the polar bear with a private guided tour of the Journey to Churchill exhibit at Assiniboine Park. Go even further behind the scenes with an exclusive tour of the laboratories of the Leatherdale International Polar Bear Conservation Centre and learn about their valuable research and work contributing to wildlife conservation and environmental protection. It also serves as a rescue and transition centre for polar bear cubs who have lost their mothers and have no hope for survival on their own in the wild.

Tonight is yours to do as you wish.

Overnight - Inn at the Forks

## Day 7: Winnipeg's History and Nature (B,D)

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Today, it's a morning of art and cultural history with a special visit to the city's new and innovative museum Qaumajug (pronounced Kow-ma-yourk), the newest addition to the Winnipeg Art Gallery and home to the world's largest public collection of contemporary Inuit art. Developed by a community of Indigenous advisors, partners, artists, and more, this first of its kind space offers a vibrant gathering place, where stories are told and heard in the true spirit of reconciliation. On your private guided tour, immerse yourself in the stunning three-story glass walled Visible Vault, as it artfully presents thousands of carvings. After your tour, enjoy a delicious, locally inspired lunch.

From there, it's an afternoon at The Leaf, surrounding yourself in a vibrant display of color, texture and fragrance. With your private guide, journey through four distinct biomes (Hartley and Heather Richardson Tropical Biome, Mediterranean Biome, Shirley Richardson Butterfly Garden, and the seasonally changed Babs Asper Display House), as you learn about the horticultural significance of these distinctly different ecosystems, and how they shape the world and our very own lives.

Afterward, transfer to The Grand Winnipeg Airport Hotel, where you will meet the rest of your group at an orientation dinner for your upcoming Polar Bear adventure.

Overnight - The Grand Winnipeg Airport Hotel

## Day 8: Winnipeg – Nanuk Polar Bear Lodge (B,L,D)

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It's an early departure from Winnipeg with your group where you will fly to Churchill, then connect to a charter flight that travels over the winding Hudson Bay coast to Nanuk Polar Bear Lodge. Have cameras ready for wildlife sightings en-route to the lodge.

Upon arrival, check in for your orientation tour and briefing for your stay in polar bear country.

After lunch, explore the coastline in search of the "Great Ice Bear." Ensure your camera batteries are charged! Back at the lodge, enjoy appetizer hour followed by dinner.

Evenings typically include an informative lecture or slide show presentation narrated by one of your guides or lodge staff. On clear nights, you may also witness the spectacular aurora borealis displays which are common at this latitude.

Please note: Your Manitoba polar bear adventure involves a moderate amount of walking on uneven terrain and getting in and out of boats. Layers of clothing and comfortable walking shoes are recommended. A complete packing list will be provided in your final documents.

All Manitoba Lodge Sightseeing is subject to weather, tide and wildlife. Please Note that wildlife sightings cannot be guaranteed.

Overnight - Nanuk Polar Bear Lodge

## Day 9: Nature Trekking, Polar Bears and Magnificent Photography (B,L,D)

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Each morning after a hot breakfast, your guides will outline the day's excursions. If there are bears near the Lodge, morning tours may be delayed viewing and photographing the bears. The Lodge is always staffed, so you also have the option to stay behind and photograph wildlife around the Lodge or just relax and enjoy the pristine view.

Daily outings may include the following, depending on weather and ground conditions:

Coastal exploration to the tidal flats and Hudson Bay shoreline, either on foot or via specially outfitted all-terrain vehicles. Routes will vary but ample time will be provided to photograph polar bears and the other wildlife that live in this unique environment.

Exploration of the nearby pristine river deltas and vast beach ridges or staying close to the Lodge to photograph the polar bears and other wildlife.

Lodge staff will monitor the skies after dark and provide a gentle wake-up call if the northern lights make an appearance.

Overnight - Nanuk Polar Bear Lodge

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#### Day 10: Nature Trekking, Polar Bears and Magnificent Photography (B,L,D)

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Overnight - Nanuk Polar Bear Lodge

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#### Day 11: Nature Trekking, Polar Bears and Magnificent Photography (B,L,D)

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Overnight - Nanuk Polar Bear Lodge

Day 12: Churchill – Winnipeg (B,L,D)

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After breakfast and check out, we air transfer back to Churchill. Have your cameras ready for the return flight as it affords excellent opportunities for great aerial shots.

Once in Churchill, spend the day on a guided tour to learn about its rich history as a seaport and ex-military town, including 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 depart this evening. Upon arrival, collect your bags, head out of the arrivals doors and back to The Grand Hotel.

Overnight - The Grand Winnipeg Airport Hotel

Day 13: Depart Winnipeg (B)

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After breakfast and check out and depart for your flight home.