Dear Zoo Friends,

As an avid traveler, I do believe that visiting new places opens a gateway to the world. In 2010, I was very fortunate to travel to Churchill, Manitoba, Canada during bear season. Our Polar Frontier region had just opened at the Zoo and here I was, heading off for a week to learn about the state of polar bears in their native range, from the scientists and staff of Polar Bears International. While my thoughts were on learning about polar bears and the effects a changing climate was causing to their sea ice home, what took me by surprise was the remote beauty of the region.

Did you know you cannot drive to Churchill? Your only options to reach this remote village in the Canadian sub-arctic are to fly in or spend 48 hours on a train from Winnipeg! I flew out of Winnipeg in the early morning hours, well before sunrise. As we traveled the 600+ miles north, and the sky began to lighten, I realized the landscape was a myriad of ponds and waterways, bisecting the land, as far as the eye could see. When Churchill came into sight, there sat the small village, perched on the edge of the mighty Hudson Bay.

When we visit Churchill in its brief summer months, be prepared for the stunning landscape. Scrubby spruce trees, with all their branches on one side due to the ever-present winds, brilliant orange lichens clinging to the massive grey boulders, and everywhere, birds, belugas, and perhaps a few polar bears! Some 100 species of birds nest and raise their young in the region surrounding Churchill, with hundreds more passing through during migration. We will hope to see Gyrfalcon, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Tundra Swans, Long-tailed Ducks, Common Eiders, Pacific and Red-Throated Loons, Bonaparte’s and Little Gulls, a variety of shorebirds and many others, plus some Whiskey Jack’s, the local name for the grey jay!

And don’t worry! We will certainly be on the lookout for those white mammals – beluga whales! The Churchill River/Hudson Bay waters will be packed with well more than 50,000 belugas. Females come to the relatively “warm” water in the river and bay to give birth to their calves. And that other white mammal of the region – Ursus maritimus – commonly known as the polar bear, may make an appearance as the sea ice breaks up and they move onto land until the ice returns in late fall.

Please do join me for this unforgettable cultural, natural history and wildlife adventure! Churchill is certainly one of the most remote places I have visited, but also ranks as one of the most unforgettable, too.

Sincerely,

Barbara Revard
Director of Sustainability

For a complete itinerary and details, please visit columbuszoo.orbridge.com.
Columbus Zoo and Aquarium Presents:

Birds, Belugas and Polar Bears

JULY 27, 2020 – AUGUST 02, 2020 (with optional Winnipeg pre-tour)

$3,995* (plus $995 person round-trip internal airfare)

Head north and discover the beauty and wildness of Churchill, Manitoba. This small town on the banks of the Hudson Bay is known for hosting polar bears in the fall. During summer, visitors can possibly spot polar bears along the local shores—swimming and walking around the rocks and wildflowers—before they return to the pack ice when it forms in early winter. Summertime is also when the bears share the area with more than 60,000 beluga whales—who come to feed, mate, and give birth in the shallow waters—as well as a wide variety of other wildlife.

Program Highlights

- Begin in Winnipeg with a private reception and three-course welcome dinner at Assiniboine Park Zoo along with a presentation on polar bears.
- In Churchill, stay at the iconic Lazy Bear Lodge, hand-built by local pioneer Wally Daudrich from stone and reclaimed boreal forest timbers.
- Explore Churchill’s waterfront area, including panoramic visits to the sites of Miss Piggy Plane Crash, Polar Bear “Jail,” and Cape Merry.
- Enjoy a 6-8 hour Hudson Bay area tour, on board a custom-designed viewing boat to spot for beluga whales, seals, a multitude of birds, and perhaps a few polar bears.
- Embark on Zodiaks to see and experience pods of friendly beluga whales up close, and watch the shoreline for other wildlife.
- Take a Summer Tundra Tour on the Arctic Crawler—a specially designed trekking vehicle, featuring comfortable seating, on-board facilities with flush toilet, large windows that lower for better viewing, and a spacious, fully grated outside rear deck for optimal photography opportunities.
- Meet an energetic team of sled dogs and their experienced handler before climbing into a dog cart for your own exciting ride.
- **What's included:** 6 nights hotel and lodge accommodations; 6 breakfasts, 4 lunches, and 3 dinners including a special welcome reception and dinner plus a farewell reception; all excursion transportation and entry fees; full guiding services of an Orbridge Expedition Leader and a local naturalist; and all gratuities.

Your Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada / Assiniboine Park Zoo
Day 2: Winnipeg / Flight to Churchill / Cultural and Heritage Tour
Day 3: Churchill / Boat Tour / Prince of Wales Fort / Dog Mushing
Day 4: Churchill / Hudson Bay Coastal Tour
Day 5: Churchill / Arctic Crawler Experience / Itsanitaq Museum
Day 6: Churchill / Flight to Winnipeg
Day 7: Depart Winnipeg

*Special group rate; limited offer. Rate is per person based on double occupancy except where noted as Single, in U.S. dollars. Single availability limited. Airfare not included. Group airfare for the charter flight between Winnipeg and Churchill is charged additionally at $995 per person. All program details, dates, and pricing as subject to change.
Birds, Belugas and Polar Bears

JULY 27, 2020 — AUGUST 02, 2020
PRE-TOUR: JULY 25, 2020 — JULY 27, 2020
EARLY RESERVATION BONUS†
RESERVE BY DECEMBER 27, 2019 TO RECEIVE A FREE ORBRIDGE EXPEDITION LIBRARY

RESERVE by Credit Card:

Call Orbridge: (866) 639-0079
Call Patti Cathey at the Columbus Zoo: (614) 724-3558

RESERVE by Check:
Made payable to Orbridge, LLC
Mail to: Columbus Zoo and Aquarium
Community Engagement
9900 Riverside Drive, Powell, OH 43065-0400

GUEST INFORMATION:
Guest #1 Name (Title/Salutation):__________________________________________
Email:_________________________________________________________________
Home Phone: ____________________________ Alt. Phone: _______________________
Address:_________________________________________________________________
City: ____________________________ State: _______ Zip: ________________
Guest #2 Name (Title/Salutation):__________________________________________
Email:_________________________________________________________________
Home Phone: ____________________________ Alt. Phone: _______________________
Double Accommodations: _______________ (sharing with) ______________________
Single Accommodations: ___________________________________________________

DEPOSIT PAYMENT:
☐ Check ☐ ACH (Automated Clearing House) ☐ MasterCard/Visa ☐ American Express ☐ Discover
Card #: __________________________________ Exp. Date: _______ CVV: _______
Name (as printed on card):____________________________________________________
Billing Address (if different from above):_______________________________________
City: ____________________________ State: _______ Zip: ________________

DEPOSIT:
# ________ guests joining pre-tour ($500/person) +
# ________ guests joining program ($850/person) = TOTAL DEPOSIT: $__________

I/we have read, understand, and agree to the full Terms & Conditions attached and detailed in program documents; and that Orbridge, LLC is authorized to charge my credit card above and/or take my/our deposit for this program.

Signature: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

*Special group rate; limited offer. Rate is per person based on double occupancy except where noted as Single, in U.S. dollars. Single availability limited. Airfare not included. Group airfare for the charter flight between Winnipeg and Churchill is charged additionally at $995 per person.

**Pre-tour rate is per person based on double occupancy except where noted as Single, in U.S. dollars. Single availability limited. Airfare not included.

†Place your deposit on or before the specified date (see above), and one Expedition Library per room reserved will be sent within three to four weeks after receipt of final payment.
Terms and Conditions

ORBRIDGER TERMS AND CONDITIONS AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

This Agreement is important. It includes contractual terms and conditions and releases Orbridge, LLC and the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium from liability. It must be signed by all participants.

Responsibility. Orbridge LLC, its shareholders, directors, officers, employees and affiliates (collectively, “Orbridge”), does not own or operate any entity which is to or does provide goods or services for your trip including, for example, ownership or control over hotels or other lodging facilities, airline, vessel, bus, van or other transportation companies, local ground operators, providers or organizers of optional excursions or equipment used thereon, food service or entertainment providers, etc., even if they use the “Orbridge” name. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result, Orbridge is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such person or entity, or of any other third party. Without limitation, Orbridge is not responsible for any injury, loss, or damage to person or property, death, delay or inconvenience in connection with the provision of any goods or services occasioned by or resulting from, but not limited to, acts of God, acts of government, force majeure, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, strikes or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind, or the threat thereof, overbooking or downgrading of accommodations, structural or other defective conditions in hotels or other lodging or vessel facilities, mechanical or other failure of airplanes or other means of transportation or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart timely or safely, dangers associated with or bites from animals, pests or insects, marine life or vegetation of any sort, disasters incident to recreational activities such as scuba diving, snorkeling, paddle boarding, surfing, swimming, kayaking, sailing, canoeing, rafting, hiking, bicycling, rock climbing, etc., sanitation problems, food poisoning, lack of access to or quality of medical care, difficulty in evacuation in case of a medical or other emergency, illness, epidemics or the threat thereof or for any other cause beyond the direct control of Orbridge. In addition, Orbridge releases Orbridge from its own simple negligence and assume all risk thereof.

Rates. Program rates are based on minimum participation levels, current fares (air, water, land), tariffs and currency values. While Orbridge does everything possible to maintain the listed program rates, they are subject to change effective immediately upon posting unless otherwise specified by Orbridge. In the case of invoicing errors, we reserve the right to re-invoice with the correct pricing.

Registration, Deposits and Final Payment. To secure your reservation: a deposit of $500 per person and $500 per person per pre-tour and/or post-tour is due for all other programs at the time of registration and are payable by check, automated clearing house (ACH), money order, wire transfer of same day U.S. funds, or major credit card.

Final payment, including any pre-tour and/or post-tour and optional excursion(s) fee(s), is payable by check, ACH, money order, or wire transfer of same day U.S. funds, and is due 90 days prior to the program’s scheduled departure date.

If your reservation is made between the final payment due date and the program’s scheduled departure date, the full cost of the program, plus any pre-tour and/or post-tour and optional excursion(s) fee(s), is due at the time of registration, payable by check, money order, ACH or wire transfer of same day U.S. funds.

Final payments made by credit card are subject to a 2% transaction fee.

If final payment is not received by Orbridge by the final payment due date, Orbridge may, at any time and with or without notice, cancel your reservation in its sole discretion with no right of refund.

Reservation Grace Period. Reservations made no sooner than 98 calendar days prior to all other programs’ departure dates may be canceled within seven (7) calendar days immediately following the reservation date (“Grace Period”) for a full refund of all Payments received by Orbridge to effectively terminate the reservation.

Notice of termination must be in writing, must be received by Orbridge during the Grace Period, and is effective only on timely receipt of such written notice by Orbridge.

For all other reservations and cancellations, the terms of the Cancellations and Refunds section below apply.

Cancellations and Refunds. All cancellations must be submitted to Orbridge in writing and will be subject to a Cancellation Fee as follows:

If the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge 275 or more calendar days prior to the program’s scheduled departure date, all deposits will be fully refunded. If the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge between 274 and 151 days prior to the scheduled departure date, the Cancellation Fee will be $500 per person per program and $300 per person per program for any pre-tour and/or post-tour. If the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge between 150 days prior to the scheduled departure date and the day before the final payment due date, the Cancellation Fee will be the full deposit per person per program including any pre-tour and/or post-tour. If the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge on the final payment due date or closer to the scheduled departure date, the Cancellation Fee will be the full program price.

In addition to and not in lieu of the foregoing, a Cancellation Fee equal to 100% of the carrier charge applies to all non-refundable airfares due to your cancellation made at any time prior to the scheduled program departure date, as applicable. Refunds, if any, of any Payments in excess of the aggregate Cancellation Fee shall be processed within 30 calendar days of our receipt of your written notice.

Travel Insurance. We strongly recommend that you purchase travel and cancellation insurance to protect your investment in the event of unexpected or unforeseen circumstances. In addition, we recommend that you consider obtaining a policy that will cover some or all of your losses associated with damage or loss of luggage or personal effects. The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium offers a comprehensive insurance package which allows the Pre-Existing Condition Exclusion to be waived if purchased within 21 days of the initial trip payment. Information will be sent to you upon receipt of your reservation and deposit. For details, you can call Patti Cattley at the Zoo at 614-724-3558 or go to the Zoo’s website at: https://www.travelinsure.com/select?pcode=30004.

Cancelled Programs. All programs are subject to cancellation by Orbridge prior to the scheduled departure date for such reasons as, but not limited to, insufficient participation, or logistical problems that, in Orbridge’s sole judgment, may impede program operations or represent conditions or events that may expose program guests and/or Orbridge to undue risk of harm, injury, damage or inconvenience. In the event of program cancellation by Orbridge, Orbridge may offer alternative arrangements such as the option to join another tour on a different date or to a different location. If the price of your alternative booking is lower than your original booking price, Orbridge will refund the difference; or Orbridge shall refund all payments made to Orbridge at the time of cancellation should the alternative arrangement not be offered or selected.

Itineraries. Accommodations, the itinerary, travel directors or expedition leaders, and arranged excursions are subject to change or substitution at any time due to unforeseen circumstances or circumstances beyond Orbridge’s control. Reasonable efforts will be made to operate programs as planned, but adjustments, substitutions and changes may occur after the final itinerary has been issued. Orbridge may, in its sole discretion, withdraw a program or any part of it, make such alterations or substitutions to the itinerary or program inclusions as it deems necessary or desirable, and pass on to program participants any expenditures or additional costs caused by any such adjustments, or by delays or events beyond its reasonable control.

Not Included. Unless otherwise specifically noted in the itinerary, program prices do not include the following expenses, which if applicable are your sole responsibility to pay and satisfy: trip cancellation insurance and passenger travel protection plan; domestic, international, and internal airfare; transfers and luggage handling fees except in connection with scheduled group flights; costs associated with obtaining passports or entry visas; airport departure taxes; airline ticketing fees; airport transfers when arriving/departing on other than scheduled group dates; excess baggage charges; any new value added taxes or GST taxes added to program costs by applicable governmental authority, gratuities to drivers, guides, or ship’s crew not specified; meals and beverages other than those specified as being included in the itinerary; sightseeing not included in the itinerary; personal expenses such as laundry, communication charges and optional activities (which are subject to availability); and ship, air, or transportation fuel surcharges, if applicable.
For a Minor

I, as an authorized parent or guardian of the below named minor, hereby give my permission for my child or ward to participate in the trip and further agree, individually and on behalf of my child or ward, to the terms of the above. In the event the minor is not accompanied by all legal guardians on this trip, I agree to carry with me a notarized document from each legal guardian, not on the trip, granting his or her approval for the minor to travel on this trip and to present said document(s) to any authority requesting such. In the event I am the sole guardian of the minor, I agree to carry documentation evidencing such and present to any authority when requested.

Name of Minor

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

Print Name