

# Stanford **TRAVEL/STUDY**

## **POLAR BEAR EXPEDITION**

**October 24 to November 1, 2021**

**Among the bears.** Spend three nights at the Tundra Buggy Lodge, a string of tundra vehicles that allows us to wake up in our semiprivate bunk beds with polar bears right outside our window. **Energy to spare.** Travel with recent Department of Energy Under Secretary for Science and Energy (2014–17), Stanford professor Franklin “Lynn” Orr Jr., '69, who is looking forward to enlightening us about clean energy technologies, energy research initiatives and climate change. **Awash in experts.** Learn all about polar bears and their natural habitat from our guides and experts with Polar Bears International. In Winnipeg, tour the Manitoba Museum with the curator of the Hudson’s Bay Company Gallery, as well as the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

## **FACULTY LEADER**

### **Franklin Orr**

Franklin “Lynn” Orr Jr., '69, has worked on energy research for his whole career. He and his students study how complicated fluid mixtures move around in the porous rocks of Earth’s crust. He also led university-wide energy research efforts through the Global Climate and Energy Project and the Precourt Institute for Energy. That work turned out to be good training for a two-year assignment as Under Secretary for Science and Energy at the U.S. Department of Energy, the largest supporter of the physical sciences and applied energy research for the country, from which he has now returned to Stanford.

Lynn’s prior service as Dean of the School of Earth Sciences convinced him that Travel/Study trips provide the best classroom ever—the Earth itself—to illustrate the grand themes of Earth sciences. He says, “Hudson Bay, Iceland and Greenland have convinced me that the high latitudes give us essential clues about the effects of climate change. The climate has changed much more rapidly in the far north than it has farther south, and we will be able to see firsthand some of the changes that have occurred.” During our program, he will discuss the consequences of climate change for humans and wildlife in the Arctic, as well as the transition to clean energy systems that will help us reduce the adverse effects of climate change in the future.

## **ITINERARY**

Sunday, October 24

WINNIPEG, CANADA

Arrive in Winnipeg and check in to our hotel, one of Canada’s landmark railway hotels. This evening gather for a welcome reception and orientation, and to collect our gear for the upcoming exploration of Churchill. FORT GARRY HOTEL (D)

Monday, October 25

WINNIPEG

After breakfast enjoy our faculty leader’s first lecture before transferring to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. Continue to the Forks National Historic Site for lunch and a short exploration of the area before walking back to our hotel. This afternoon our visit to the Assiniboine Park Zoo includes a special behind-the-scenes tour of its “Journey to Churchill” exhibit and a chance to meet with the Polar Bear Rescue Team at the zoo’s Leatherdale International Polar Bear Conservation Centre. Enjoy a private

reception and dinner at the “Gateway to the Arctic” exhibit, where polar bears swim above us in an underwater passage. FORT GARRY HOTEL (B,L,D)

Tuesday, October 26

WINNIPEG

This morning head to the Manitoba Museum for a private, curator-led tour of the Hudson’s Bay Company Collection to explore Inuit art objects rarely seen by the public. Continue to the Manitoba Legislative Building, where we learn of the intricacies of the Hermetic code with a Canadian architectural historian who talks about its secrets, symbols and significance. FORT GARRY HOTEL (B,L,D)

Wednesday, October 27

WINNIPEG / CHURCHILL

Depart early this morning on our flight to Churchill. Upon arrival go on a tour of Churchill that includes Cape Merry, a look at an inuksuk (boulders stacked in the indigenous tradition) at Town Beach and a visit to Manitoba Conservation’s Polar Bear Holding Facility, where polar bears who wander into town are kept until they can be released back into the wild. After lunch attend a private presentation at the Parks Canada Visitor Centre. Continue to our hotel to check in and enjoy the afternoon at leisure.

TUNDRA INN OR POLAR INN (B,L,D)

Thursday, October 28

CHURCHILL / TUNDRA BUGGY LODGE

Begin this morning with an exhilarating dogsled excursion on a custom-made sled, which will be hosted and led by a local resident and dogsledding expert. In the afternoon transfer to the Tundra Buggy Lodge, where the concentration of polar bears in the region is highest. The lodge will be our home for the next three nights. We will be joined by the lodge staff and experts from Polar Bears International for briefings and informational talks about the polar bears in their natural habitat. TUNDRA BUGGY LODGE (B,L,D)

Friday & Saturday, October 29 to 30

TUNDRA BUGGY LODGE

For the next two days, enjoy full-day Tundra Buggy adventures in the Churchill Wildlife Management Area, where we search for polar bears, arctic foxes, snowy owls and other wildlife meandering slowly around the tundra. Partake in a homestyle lunch served directly on our Tundra Buggy before heading back in the late afternoon. During dinner keep an eye out for polar bears, as they are known to walk right by the lodge while folks are eating. Participate in a post-dinner lecture or venture outside to possibly catch sight of the northern lights (weather permitting). TUNDRA BUGGY LODGE (B,L,D—BOTH DAYS)

Sunday, October 31

TUNDRA BUGGY LODGE / CHURCHILL / WINNIPEG

After breakfast depart for our last full day on the Tundra Buggy exploring polar bear country before transferring to the Churchill airport for flights back to Winnipeg. FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON (B,L,D)

Monday, November 1

WINNIPEG / U.S.

After breakfast take a shuttle to the airport for flights back to the U.S. (B)

### **The Tundra Buggy Lodge Experience**

The Tundra Buggy Lodge is located in the heart of polar bear country and offers a unique, immersive experience where you can fall asleep and wake up with polar bears right outside your window. On clear nights you can watch the northern lights dance above, unhindered by the lights of town. The lodge consists of two accommodations units, a lounge car, a dining car and staff quarters. Outdoor viewing platforms connect to each unit and allow for photography, and the lodge's exterior field lights enable us to continue watching the bears even after the sun goes down. The sleeping accommodations consist of upper and lower sleeping berths, each with a window, reading light and four outlets; a sound-dampening curtain provides privacy by separating the berths from the aisle. In addition, each unit has three shared bathrooms, two of which are equipped with showers. The lounge car is the perfect spot to enjoy lectures by our faculty leader and our expert field staff. The lodge provides Wi-Fi and includes panoramic views through ceiling-high windows and a rooftop viewing deck with a 360-degree view of the tundra.

### **INFORMATION**

#### **Covid-19 and Travel**

With travel requirements and local Covid-19 conditions changing weekly, travel protocols for specific destinations will be shared with confirmed travelers closer to departure. To read more about Travel/Study's approach to ensuring traveler health and safety, visit our [Covid-19 Travel page](#).

#### **Size**

This trip requires a minimum of 28 participants and is limited to 38. Travel/Study is committed to providing a low-density experience on all programs and will implement protocols to do so, including social distancing on transportation as well as during lectures, meals and excursions. Single accommodations are limited.

#### **Cost\***

\$11,795 per person, double occupancy

\$11,995 per person, single occupancy at hotels, shared accommodations on the Tundra Buggy Lodge

\$15,995 per person, single occupancy throughout

\*Stanford Alumni Association nonmembers add \$300 per person

#### **Included**

- 5 nights of best-available hotel accommodations; 3 nights of accommodations at Tundra Buggy Lodge
- 8 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 8 dinners
- Welcome and farewell receptions
- Gratuities to guides, drivers and Tundra Buggy crew for all group activities
- Flights between Winnipeg and Churchill
- All tours and excursions as described in the itinerary
- Gear rentals, which include parka, pants and boots
- Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days
- On-tour quarantine-related trip-cancellation, -interruption and -delay insurance coverage
- General medical, accident and evacuation insurance

- Educational program with lecture series and predeparture materials, including an education resource list and travel information
- Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

#### **Not Included**

- Your personal flights to and from the program
- Passport and visa fees
- Immunization costs
- Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
- Independent and private transfers
- Nonquarantine-related trip-cancellation, -interruption and -delay insurance coverage
- Baggage insurance
- Excess-baggage charges
- Personal items such as internet access, telephone calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

#### **Air Arrangements**

You are responsible for booking and purchasing airfare to the start location and from the end location of the program. These air purchases are NOT included in the program cost. To assist you in making these independent arrangements, we will send you details with your confirmation materials on when to arrive and depart.

#### **What to Expect**

We expect travelers to be active and in good health due to the remoteness of the Tundra Buggy Lodge and the lack of medical facilities in the tundra; however, the actual program does not require a high degree of physical fitness. Temperatures during peak season vary from between 0 and 45 F, and conditions range from sunny and clear to snowy and overcast; windy days are common. Hotel accommodations are first-rate in Winnipeg, and modest, yet clean and comfortable, in Churchill. Also, please note that transportation resources in Churchill are at capacity, which can result in flight changes, mechanical delays and other issues. Flexibility, a sense of humor and a willingness to be respectful of local infrastructure are essential for full enjoyment of this trip. We welcome travelers 10 years of age and older on this program.

### **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

#### **Eligibility**

We encourage membership in the Stanford Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is \$300 more than the members' price. A person traveling as a paid guest of a current member will not be charged the nonmember fee. To purchase a membership, call (650) 725-0692 or visit [alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership](http://alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership).

#### **Deposits, Payments and Cancellations**

A \$1,000-per-person deposit is required to reserve space on this program. Final payment is due 90 days prior to program start. Deposits and any payments are fully refundable until 90 days prior to program start. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) is resold, in which case a \$1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

### **Insurance**

Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage, as well as on-tour quarantine-related trip-cancellation, -interruption and -delay insurance coverage, under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional nonquarantine-related trip-cancellation, -interruption and -delay insurance coverage and/or baggage insurance. Information offering such insurance will be included in your confirmation materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your insurance within 14 days of receiving your welcome email.

### **Responsibility**

The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motor coach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates include arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. We reserve the right to cancel any program prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. We also reserve the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. Neither the Stanford Alumni Association, nor Stanford University, nor our operators accept liability for any carrier's cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect at the time the brochure is published and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign an Assumption of Risk.

California Seller of Travel Program Registration #2048 523-50