

Community CONSERVATION

The Town of Churchill, Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, and Parks Canada work together to maintain a high level of safety around polar bears. When seasonal workers, local businesses, visitors and residents contribute to polar bear awareness, the safety net is more effective. The Churchill region is unique and prospering because of its easily accessible polar bear viewing opportunities and the considerable role citizens play in conserving polar bears. The risk of dangerous polar bear encounters can be reduced significantly if everyone plays a part to help raise awareness.

If you wish to explore the shoreline or venture away from town, it is recommended that you do so with a local tour operator or guide. Your guide has knowledge, experience and skills to keep you safe. If a polar bear becomes curious and approaches your group, guides have experience, specialized training, vehicles and equipment that can provide a safe and enjoyable outdoor experience. Hiring a guide is the easiest way to travel independently in the Churchill area. Respect your guide's decisions and follow their instructions. It is his/her responsibility to choose actions that help protect you and the bears.

Please contact Parks Canada or the Churchill Chamber of Commerce at their respective visitor centres to find more information on the current visitor opportunities in the area.

FOR MORE INFORMATION :

Parks Canada
Box 127
Churchill, MB R0B 0E0
PHONE: (204) 675-8863
E-MAIL: wapusk.np@pc.gc.ca

The Town of Churchill
Box 459
Churchill, MB R0B 0E0
PHONE: (204) 675-8871
E-MAIL: townofchurchill@churchill.ca

Manitoba Conservation and
Water Stewardship
Box 70
Churchill, MB R0B 0E0
PHONE: (204) 675-8897
E-MAIL: mgi@gov.mb.ca

Churchill Chamber of Commerce
Box 271
Churchill, MB R0B 0E0
PHONE: (204) 675-2022
E-MAIL: churchillchamber@mts.net

Polar Bear Alert Program

The priorities of the Polar Bear Alert (PBA) Program are to protect people, polar bears and property in the Churchill area.

The program works because the citizens of Churchill and visitors call the PBA Line (204-675-2327) when they see a polar bear in or near the town of Churchill.

Polar bears that approach the core Churchill area are chased out of town by Polar Bear Alert staff. The staff uses what is known as aversive conditioning, with loud noisemakers and occasionally paint balls or rubber bullets to ensure that the bears continue to be wary of humans and attractants in town.

Polar bears that refuse to stay away from town are captured and placed in the Polar Bear Holding Facility. After a period of time they are either relocated by helicopter, or released directly onto Hudson Bay once the ice has formed. This helps prevent the bears from learning behaviour that makes them a problem bear in the future.

Stay away from wildlife officers who are actively managing a bear in the control area. If you hear cracker shells it means a bear is being hazed or moved from town, and you should look for immediate safety. Please do not distract Polar Bear Alert or Parks Canada staff while they are engaged with a bear.

**Report all polar bear sightings
to the Polar Bear Alert, as soon
as possible.
204-675-BEAR (2327)**