

Churchill, Manitoba, Canada

The Polar Bear Capital of the World sits where the Churchill River meets Hudson Bay — a rare subarctic port call combining big Arctic wildlife, 18th-century fortifications, and Inuit heritage.

Docked (Port of Churchill grain pier)

Typical call: 8-10 hrs

Canadian Dollar (CAD)

English

Wildlife: polar bears & beluga whales

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: Arrive: All aboard:

Excursion: Notes:

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Deep-water bulk cargo pier at Port of Churchill; cruise ships dock portside, short walk to town

Best For: Beluga whale encounters (June–Aug), polar bear sightings, Arctic history

Walk to centre: ~10 min on foot from pier to town centre

Don't Miss: Cape Merry National Historic Site and the Itsanitsaq Museum

🚗 Getting around: 🚗 **Taxi** ✅ Varies (metered/arranged)

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Beluga Whale Boat Tour** — Thousands of beluga whales gather in the Churchill River from June through August.
- Tundra Buggy Polar Bear Tour** — Ride a purpose-built Tundra Buggy across the Churchill Wildlife Management Area for a safe, close-up look at polar bears on the subarctic tundra.
- Prince of Wales Fort** — A massive stone fortress built by the Hudson's Bay Company starting in 1731, across the Churchill River from town.
- Helicopter Tundra & Coast Flight** — A 60–90 minute helicopter tour over Hudson Bay, the tundra, and the Churchill River delta offers sweeping views of the subarctic landscape and...
- Itsanitsaq Museum & Town Walk** — The Itsanitsaq Museum (founded 1944) holds one of Canada's finest collections of Inuit carvings and artifacts dating back 3,700 years.

BEST WALKS

- Pier to Cape Merry** 2.5 km one-way | Easy | Polar bear caution — Walk from the Port of Churchill pier along the waterfront toward Cape Merry National Historic Site at the mouth of the Churchill River.
- Town Centre Stroll** 1-2 km loop | Easy | Guided recommended — Walk from the pier into the small town centre to visit the Itsanitsaq Museum on La Verendrye Avenue, browse local shops, and see the community murals.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		21°	7°	5d
Jun		54°	39°	8d
Aug		62°	50°	12d
Sep		52°	42°	12d
Oct		37°	29°	10d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:02AM–8:31PM · Jun 4:06AM–10:28PM · Aug 5:37AM–9:02PM · Sep 6:47AM–7:35PM · Oct 7:54AM–6:08PM

Representative sunrise/sunset — 2025, 15th of each month; local civil time including DST (America/Winnipeg). Source: Astral; not a forecast or climate average.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Polar bears are real and present year-round. Never walk alone outside of town. Use the Polar Bear Alert line (204-675-2327) if you encounter one, and shelter immediately.
- Dress for subarctic conditions. Even in July, temperatures can drop suddenly with wind off Hudson Bay. Layers, waterproof outerwear, and sturdy footwear are essential.
- Beluga season is June–August. Summer calls are ideal for whale encounters. Swimming or snorkeling with belugas is now prohibited under Canadian regulations — boat and Zodiac tours are the way to go.
- Book tours before you board. Churchill's small pool of licensed operators fills up quickly when a cruise ship is in port. Pre-book Tundra Buggy, helicopter, and beluga tours well in advance.
- Cash is useful. Some smaller operators and the Itsanitsaq Museum (donations appreciated) prefer cash. ATM availability in Churchill is limited — bring Canadian dollars.
- No road access. Churchill is connected to the rest of Canada only by rail (VIA Rail) and air. Don't expect to leave independently if you miss the ship — plan accordingly.

Churchill, Manitoba, Canada — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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|----------|------------------------|---|----------|-------------------------|--|
| 1 | Cape Merry | Historic fort with cannons, offering views of Hudson Bay. | 2 | Itsanitaq Museum | Museum dedicated to Inuit art, culture, and history. |
| P | Cruise port / terminal | | | | |