

Countless explorers have come to the Arctic regions, many attracted by the rich and unusual web of life that makes life in the Far North so unique. On this Arctic excursion, you'll explore the science of winter ecology as you study the frozen tundra, the great boreal forests and the Hudson Bay. You'll learn about the traditions and heritage of indigenous cultures of the region (including a chance to sleep overnight in an igloo!). And, you'll have the unique opportunity to see the Aurora Borealis. Journeying by train, bus and even snowshoe, you'll appreciate what makes the Arctic so special and important to protect.



The International Experience

Our adventure to the Arctic begins with a 36-hour train journey from Winnipeg to Churchill, Manitoba. Along the way, we'll traverse the frozen plains through boreal forest to the northern tundra. This unusual and exciting way to approach the workshop site provides an opportunity to absorb the vastness of the rare ecosystems of the North.

Known as the "Polar Bear Capital of the World", Churchill has a remarkable diversity of ecosystems. Based at the Churchill Northern Studies Centre, we learn directly from some of the world's top scientists as we conduct field research with them and explore cutting-edge research initiatives. We'll study the characteristics of the boreal forest and tundra ecosystems as we collect and analyze snow samples, study animal adaptations to winter life and develop and implement our own research project. At the end of the day, we'll search for the beautiful northern lights, visible 300 nights a year in this region.

In addition to hands on science activities, students explore the rich cultures of the region. We'll study how humans have been surviving the frigid temperatures (often reaching -50°F) for thousands of years. In the process, we'll build a traditional igloo and sleep overnight in it! We'll also try our hand at craft making and prepare a traditional local meal together. If you've always wanted to dogsled, you'll have a chance! Finally, we'll work hand-in-hand with local students on a service project.



The Curriculum

Our Discover Classroom Earth Curriculum helps prepare students for their international experience *before they travel* with a series of ten hands-on, age-appropriate and user-friendly lessons. The two-hour lessons explore everything from ecology and conservation to culture and language to travel tips and leadership skills. Your workshop fee includes this curriculum as well as staff support in implementing it with participants. The focus of the Arctic curriculum is the cultures of northern Manitoba and the remarkable biodiversity of three very different northern biomes: the tundra, the taiga (boreal forest), and the Arctic waters of the Hudson Bay.



The Service Leadership Project

Following the international workshop, we work with students in their home communities to develop student-designed service projects that bring personal and community meaning to their international experience. Some students focus their energy on making a difference in their home community with projects such as: starting a school recycling program, helping with a stream clean-up project, supporting disadvantaged members of the community, or educating others about local conservation issues. Other students focus their attention on the region they visited with projects such as: raising funds to support Arctic schools, educating others at home about Arctic conservation or supporting conservation organizations working in the region visited.



Winter Arctic Exploration

Recommended Age and Maturity Level

This program is specifically designed for middle-school and high school students. However workshop activities can be modified for college or adult participants. Maturity level should be considered when determining whether students are appropriate candidates for this program.

Free Teacher and Group Size

Global Explorers includes one complimentary spot for every 10 full-paying participants. The complimentary spots are generally reserved for the educators who organize the group locally with Global Explorers' support; they are referred to as Group Sponsors. Our minimum group size is 10 paying participants. Please contact us to discuss possibilities if you have a smaller group.

Included

All travel expenses within Canada, all meals (unless specified), all lodging, all ground transfers, airport departure taxes, basic level of tips for guides and other services, a program t-shirt, workshop journal, textbook(s), curriculum and service project materials (for Group Sponsor), travel insurance, year-long support, guidance and mentoring for local Group Sponsor, and an on-site Global Explorers Representative during workshop.

Not Included

Airfare between your home city and Winnipeg, Manitoba, passport and any personal items.

Accommodations

Accommodations at the Churchill Northern Studies Centre are dormitory-style, simple and comfortable. Rooms are equipped with bunk beds, linens, and electricity. Bathroom facilities are communal with separate facilities for boys/men and girls/women. Accommodations in Winnipeg will be at a full-service hotel and accommodations on the overnight train will be in standard coach.

Flexibility

We do everything we can to ensure a positive workshop experience. Because we can not control all aspects of our workshops (like when an Arctic fox will choose to cross our path), we may need to slightly alter the workshop itinerary on-site. We reserve the right to make these changes in the interest of enjoyment, education, logistics or safety. In order to make these changes smooth, we rely on your cooperation and flexibility.

Safety

We take this topic seriously and ask that all workshop participants do the same. We take an enormous amount of care in preparing our workshops to minimize safety risks and we have created rules and regulations accordingly. It is very important that all travelers obey the rules and regulations set forth by Group Sponsors, on-site Global Explorers staff, guides and lodge managers.

Physical Fitness Level

All of our workshops are designed for adventurous participants! We suggest participants prepare both physically and mentally for their workshops in order to get the most out of the experience. While the hikes and excursions included in this workshop are not strenuous, the cold conditions may be taxing for some travelers. Please call us for more details and discuss any concerns with your physician.

Cancellation and Refund Policy

Nonrefundable \$200 deposit. Withdrawal 46-90 days prior to date of departure is 50% of program costs. Withdrawal 45 days or less prior to date of departure is 100%. We regret having to strictly adhere to these policies but we begin sending non-refundable payments for lodging and transportation and incur other costs long before the workshop.

2006 Price: \$2,500* ☆ Includes 1 free teacher! ☆

*Please contact us if you have fewer than 10 students and we will adjust the price accordingly.

Come Discover Classroom Earth!

www.globalexplorers.org