Polar Bears & Beluga Whales

Animals of the Arctic – Summer Expedition
Dear Vassar alumnae/i and friends,

Join me for a special opportunity to learn about the diverse wildlife and unique cultural heritage of the Canadian Arctic. This trip is scheduled for the height of summer, the best time to head north.

During our seven-day journey, we will visit both Winnipeg and Churchill, Manitoba. Churchill is one of the planet's top locations for observing the Northern Lights (a bucket-list item for me). Even if they don’t naturally appear for us, we will get to experience them during a dinner in the Aurora Borealis Theater in Winnipeg. The Assiniboine Park Zoo’s underwater tunnels look amazing, too. What a great way to see zoo animals doing the things that are usually hidden to us land-dwellers!

In remote Churchill, we will have amazing opportunities to observe the arctic wildlife, including polar bears and beluga whales. An Orbridge Expedition Leader will help us see the landscape and its inhabitants from a naturalist’s point of view. I’ll certainly provide some archaeological insights into the animal and human ways of life there. I’m sure to have lots to say about the Eskimo Museum, as Native American cultures of North America are my expertise.

Vassar travelers get a special discount on this travel package and we’ll have fun chatting about the Vassar of yesterday, today, and tomorrow. I’ll have just finished my fourth year teaching here when we depart, so I’m eager to hear stories about what the College has meant to you.

Call (866) 639-0079 to make your reservation, and I’ll see you in Winnipeg!

April M. Beisaw, Ph.D., RPA
Assistant Professor of Anthropology

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**Free Expedition Library**

**AN EARLY RESERVATION BONUS**

Reserve your space by **March 15, 2016** and receive the FREE Orbridge Expedition Library we’ve assembled for this program.

This exclusive gift is to thank you for joining us early. Guests who reserve after the specified date may purchase libraries. Call for details.
An unforgettable expedition to the polar bear and beluga whale capital of the world

With 60,000 beluga whales filling the bay and countless polar bears roaming the tundra, summer is the perfect time to visit Churchill—a small town on the banks of the Hudson Bay. Come and see this annual spectacle of wildlife that can only be found here in the Canadian north, and meet the local people who call it home.
Your 7-Day Itinerary*

**Day 1:** Arrive in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada / Assiniboine Park Zoo (R,D)
Welcome reception and dinner; presentation
Overnight: Grand Winnipeg Airport Hotel

**Day 2:** Winnipeg / Churchill / Cultural and Heritage Tour (B,L)
Flight to Churchill; panoramic site visits:
Miss Piggy Plane Crash site, Polar Bear "Jail," and Cape Merry
Overnight: Lazy Bear Lodge

**Day 3:** Churchill / Boat Tour / Prince of Wales Fort / Dog Sledding (B,D)
3-hour Zodiac boat tour providing up-close whale watching and photography opportunities; dog sled ride
Overnight: Lazy Bear Lodge

**Day 4:** Churchill / Hudson Bay Coastal Tour (B,L)
Full-day bear- and whale-spotting excursion aboard the Sam Hearne
Overnight: Lazy Bear Lodge

**Day 5:** Churchill / Arctic Crawler Experience / Eskimo Museum (B,L,D)
With cameras in-hand, board the Arctic Crawler to traverse the beautiful landscapes and search for wildlife; Eskimo Museum tour
Overnight: Lazy Bear Lodge

**Day 6:** Churchill / Northern Studies Centre / Winnipeg (B,L,R)
Interactive presentation and learn about current research; flight to Winnipeg;
farewell reception
Overnight: Grand Winnipeg Airport Hotel

**Day 7:** Depart Winnipeg (B)

**Activity Level:** Guests should be able to walk on uneven ground and manage stairs without assistance.

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Program Highlights

- Join fellow travelers for a warm welcome, then step out for a special evening reception in Assiniboine Park Zoo’s underwater viewing tunnels. Observe the polar bears and seals as they swim in the crystal clear pools above you. A three-course meal with wine is served under the dancing Northern Lights, in the Aurora Borealis Theatre. Following dinner, enjoy a presentation on the magnificent polar bears.

- Embark upon two separate water tours of Hudson Bay and learn more about the 60,000 beluga whales that inhabit the area, plus keep an eye out for polar bears, caribou, seals, walrus, and a multitude of bird species found along the shoreline.

- Aboard the Arctic Crawler, venture out onto stark and beautiful landscapes, stopping to enjoy the scenery as you search for arctic hare, snowy owl, ptarmigan, or arctic fox.

- Visit Churchill’s Eskimo Museum for an exploration of indigenous ways of life while viewing remarkable examples of Inuit craftsmanship.

- Meet an energetic team of huskies and their experienced handler, then climb into a dog sled 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, and a farewell reception; full guiding services and specialized presentations by an Orbridge Expedition Leader; excursion transportation and entry fees; luggage porterage; and all gratuities.

*Subject to change.
Your Accommodations*

GRAND WINNIPEG AIRPORT HOTEL
Located across from the Winnipeg airport terminal, this boutique property provides beautifully-appointed accommodations and thoughtful amenities. The hotel’s restaurant, Blue Marble, uses locally produced ingredients to create an unforgettable dining experience.

LAZY BEAR LODGE
This remarkable, handcrafted log lodge will provide cozy comfort during your stay. A log builder by trade, Wally Daudrich built the Lazy Bear Lodge himself, literally. Drawn to the area by its sense of freedom, Wally and a partner dragged logs from the forest by snowmobile, crafting them first into a small café, then a small lodge, and finally the two-story, 15,000-square-foot, modern Lazy Bear Lodge of today. Experience the warm hospitality of Wally and his staff, and dine on fabulous northern cuisine, all in the stunning property he has built.

Your Orbridge Expedition Leader
Whether Marylou, Kent, or another experienced naturalist, your Expedition Leader will add exceptional depth of expertise and warm hospitality to each day’s adventures.

In addition to her practice as experienced guide, naturalist, and summertime park ranger in Alaska’s Glacier Bay National Park, Marylou lectures worldwide on a number of topics from the bears and wolves of the Arctic to the leopard seals and whales of the Antarctic. Together, watch and learn about the drama and beauty of Churchill and its wild inhabitants.

Kent has led national park tours as a park ranger since 1984. Having worked with the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the Colorado Division of Wildlife, he brings a lifetime’s wealth of knowledge about North America’s parks, preserves, and wildlife.
**The Sam Hearne**

An expedition vessel ideal for wildlife-spotting.

This 23-passenger flat-bottomed water craft is perfect for your day-long journey onto Hudson Bay and possible close encounters with polar bears along the rocky shorelines. This former landing craft has plenty of seating, on-board facilities with flush toilet, and the ability to get in very close to shore. Captained by Lazy Bear Lodge owner Wally Daudrich, it is the only licensed boat of its kind with this special access.

Cruise along the coast of the Hudson Bay to places such as Seal River and Hubbard Point, a favorite gathering spot for polar bears, disembarking to walk around the area if conditions permit.

Come aboard and join your naturalist guide for an amazing day of discovery in this remote and fascinating place.

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**The Arctic Crawler**

A rugged all-terrain vehicle.

Get up-close access to the wildlife of the tundra aboard this specially-designed trekking vehicle. The Arctic Crawler features comfortable seating, on-board facilities with flush toilet, large windows that lower for better viewing, plus a spacious, fully-grated outside rear deck for optimal photography opportunities. With the expertise of the driver and your Orbridge Expedition Leader, you will witness all the stunning natural beauty and diverse wildlife the tundra of the Churchill Wildlife Management Area has to offer.
Polar Bears & Beluga Whales
JULY 23-29, 2016

Option 1: Call (866) 639-0079 to complete your reservation.

Option 2: Secure your reservation with a deposit charged to the credit card below, or with an enclosed check payable to: Orbridge, LLC.

Guest Information:
Guest #1 (as printed on passport): ___________ Class Year ___________
Guest #2 (as printed on passport): ___________ Class Year ___________
Address: ____________________________________________
City: ___________ State: ___________ Zip: ___________
Email: ___________ Phone: ___________ Alt. Phone: ___________
Category Preference (if applicable): 1st choice ___________, 2nd choice ___________

Deposit:
(#) _______ guests joining program ($850/person) = Total deposit: $ ____________

Deposit Payment:
☐ Check enclosed ☐ Online Check/ACH ☐ MasterCard/Visa ☐ American Express ☐ Discover
Card #: ___________________ Exp. date: ___________ CVV: ___________
Name (as printed on card): __________________________
Billing address (if different from above): __________________________
City: ___________ State: ___________ Zip: ___________

I/we have read, understand, and agree to the full Terms & Conditions at http://terms.orbridge.com 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: ___________

Mail or fax reservation form and deposit to:
Orbridge
P.O. Box 10339, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
Fax: (206) 452-5655

Reserve by March 15, 2016 for an Early Reservation Bonus**

Registration, Deposits and Final Payment. To confirm and secure your reservation, a deposit of $850 per person per program, a deposit for any extension(s), and any non-refundable advance payments, payable by check, online check/ACH, money order, wire transfer of same day U.S. funds, or major credit card, is due at the time of registration. Final payment, including any extension(s) and optional(s), is payable by check, online check/ACH, money order, or wire transfer of same day U.S. funds ONLY and due no later than 90 days prior to the scheduled program departure date. If your reservation is made fewer than 90 days prior to departure, the entire cost of the program, including any extension(s) and optional(s), is due at the time of registration by check, money order, or wire transfer of same day U.S. funds ONLY. If final payment is not received by Orbridge at least 90 days prior to the scheduled program departure date, Orbridge may, at any time and with or without notice, cancel your reservation in its sole discretion with no right of refund. All payments we receive from you are herein defined as "Payments." CST#2098750-40 WST#60028994

Cancellations and Refunds. All cancellations must be submitted to Orbridge in writing and will be subject to a cancellation fee ("Cancellation Fee") as follows: (a) if the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge 151 or more days prior to the scheduled departure date, the cancellation fee will be $500 per person per program; $300 per person per extension, and any non-refundable advance payment(s); (b) if the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge between 150 and 91 days prior to the scheduled departure date the cancellation fee will be $1,000 per person per program including any extension(s) and non-refundable payment(s); (c) if the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge 90 or fewer days prior to the scheduled departure date, the cancellation fee will be the full program price, including any extension(s) and non-refundable payments. Cancellation fees and terms for Optional(s) vary and are detailed separately. In addition to and not in lieu of the foregoing, a Cancellation Fee equal to 100% of the camper 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.

For complete Terms & Conditions, visit http://terms.orbridge.com © Copyright 2016 Orbridge, LLC 1 www.orbridge.com 1 (866) 639-0079

*Special group rate; limited offer. Rate is per person based on double occupancy except where noted as Single, in U.S. dollars. Airfare not included. Group airfare for the charter flight between Winnipeg and Churchill is charged additionally at $795 per person. **A complement to the educational component of this journey, Expedition Libraries are curated collections of reading and resources tailored to this program. Place your deposit on or before the specified date, and one Expedition Library per room will be sent upon receipt of final payment. Libraries may be purchased; please call for details.
Polar Bears & Beluga Whales
JULY 23-29, 2016
Special Alumnae/i Rate: Save more than $1,000 per couple

Vassar Travel Program
Educational Excursions for Alumnae/i, Family, and Friends

With Guest Faculty April M. Beisaw, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Vassar College

April M. Beisaw teaches courses on archaeology and forensic anthropology at Vassar College. She is the author of Identifying and Interpreting Animal Remains: A Manual and senior editor of The Archaeology of Institutional Life. As a North American archaeologist, April’s varied research projects focus on revising dominant narratives of Native American occupation in central Pennsylvania, refocusing urban water debates on the cultural costs of water systems, and remembering past cultural innovations, such as the octagon house movement of the 1850s.

Vassar Travel Program
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