



churchill**northern**studies**centre**

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Hello

Welcome! We are so glad you'll be joining the Churchill Northern Studies Centre (CNSC) on an upcoming Learning Vacation. We can't wait to share our love and understanding of the north with you!

As you know, the CNSC is an active field station in Canada's remote subarctic. We play a vital role in research, and guests – like you – have a huge impact on our success.

We want to make sure you are well-prepared for the challenges associated with living in Northern Canada — especially the climate, since during the colder winter months it regularly gets down to -40!

This guide should provide you with the information you need to prepare for your trip to Churchill. For your own safety and enjoyment, it is essential that you read this guide well in advance of your departure. If you have any questions, please contact our Programming Coordinator by phone (1-204-675-2327 ext. 104) or by email (programming@churchillscience.ca).

We will be sending you more information before your arrival about our organization and our community, and we'll be asking for information from you, too, like proof of COVID vaccination, and an attestation that you have read this document.

Getting to Churchill



As a guest, you are responsible for checking travel requirements as well as the booking and financing for all travel to and from Churchill. We strongly encourage all guests to purchase travel disruption insurance to protect against travel delays and flight cancellations.

There are no permanent roads connecting Churchill to the rest of Canada. Virtually all visitors to Churchill arrive by train ([VIA Rail](#)) or plane ([Calm Air](#)) from Winnipeg, and both options offer regular service. We highly recommend you book your transportation as early as possible and be aware that the train typically takes about 48 hours to reach Churchill from Winnipeg. Alternatively, you could drive to Thompson (8 hours north of Winnipeg) and take the train from there (16-hour trip).

We will greet you at the airport or train station when you arrive and drive you to the Centre, which is about 23km (14mi) outside of town.

In Winnipeg

Located near Winnipeg James Armstrong Richardson International Airport, Hampton Inn by Hilton offers CNSC guests a special rate of \$109 (plus applicable taxes) per night for a queen room with 2 queen beds or a king room, for an upgrade add an additional \$10.

International Guests

Your passport must be valid and not expire within six months of your expected departure from Canada. You must also check and meet the visa requirements of your home country.

All entrants to Canada must have a valid entry visa or eTA. Find out more on the [Government of Canada](#) website.

Guests from the United States

We strongly recommend that any guest in need of an ESTA to apply on the [US official website](#). ESTA applications can be submitted to the National Immigration website no later than 72 hours before departure.

Amenities in Churchill

Medical Services

There is a small, fully staffed hospital and pharmacy at the Churchill Regional Health Centre. We recommend that you bring any medications that you may need, as the pharmacy's hours of operation are limited.

Money

There are automated teller machines (ATMs) in Churchill, including one located within the Northern Store.

Most stores in Churchill accept cash (CDN), Visa, and Mastercard. Many locations also accept US dollars 'at par' without an exchange, so you will get the best exchange rate by using your credit card or changing cash beforehand. Cash, major credit cards, and debit cards are accepted at our CNSC gift shop.

Once in Canada, foreign currency can be exchanged at any bank, or at your arrival airport.

Other Amenities

Churchill is also home to a post office, two grocery stores, a general store, a liquor store, souvenir shops, dog sledding, the Itsanitaq Museum, Polar Bears International Interpretive House, Parks Canada Interpretive Centre, and several restaurants and hotels that are open seasonally.





Learning Vacation Life

Orientation

Once at the CNSC, our Programming Coordinator (or designate) – your main point of contact – will provide an overview of what to expect during your stay. She will introduce you to important safety information and house rules and provide a more detailed itinerary.*

At this time, you will also be assigned your room number, provided with your key, and have the chance to pick up any of the gear you may be renting from us.

We will also travel into town for a supply run to give you the chance to purchase any items or equipment you may have forgotten.

Accommodations

You will be assigned a room within the CNSC for the duration of your stay.

Each room accommodates four guests in bunk beds, with individual closet space, a writing desk, bedside shelves, and individual reading lamps. We provide all linens, including bed sheets, comforters, pillows and towels.

Separate female and male washrooms have toilets, sinks, and private showers. Self-serve laundry facilities are available for a fee.

The building is equipped with wireless internet. Local calls can be made from the Weston Family Welcome Lounge. Cellular coverage is unreliable at the CNSC.

The Centre has a small gift shop which carries postcards, stamps, books, CNSC brand clothing, locally made jams and jellies, and other souvenirs.

Food

We provide three nutritious meals daily when you are on-site. Your itinerary will indicate whether you will have meals at restaurants in town; those will not be provided by the Centre.

We will do our best to accommodate dietary restrictions, provided we have adequate notice. We'll ask you for details about your dietary needs in an upcoming communication.

*Please note, even after your arrival, your itinerary may still be subject to change based on factors beyond our control, like inclement weather and broken equipment. Rest assured that we are committed to ensuring you have a well-rounded, immersive experience, no matter what.

After Your Learning Vacation

Stay Connected

At the end of your Learning Vacation, we will ask you to fill out a survey about your experience. Your valuable feedback will help us improve the program for future guests.

As part of your Learning Vacation fees, you will receive an annual membership, which will provide you with exclusive updates via our official CNSC newsletter (*The Birdfish*). We also invite you to keep track of our research projects and follow our latest updates on our website or social media feeds.

Of course, you can also return for another Learning Vacation in the future — we'd love to see you again!

Be an Ambassador

Our main goal is to understand and sustain the north, and since you will have had a firsthand view of our research and sustainability efforts, you will feel empowered to share your experience with your community once you return home.

Your Legacy

Your financial contribution as a guest has a major impact. Not only does it cover the costs of running the Learning Vacation program – including staff expenses, activities, accommodations, and food – but it also allows us to provide researchers an affordable, accessible location to continue their valuable work.

Being a registered non-profit research station, the CNSC invests all revenue into its mission to understand and sustain the north.



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Your contact:

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