

**In search of
Ursus Maritimus**

**Churchill
Manitoba Canada**

Ursus Maritimus: The Polar bear is among the largest land carnivores,

Polar bears weigh in the range of 880 to 1500 pounds and are between 7 and 11 feet in length.

Polar bears have a white fur but a black skin.

Because polar bears live on the pack ice they are also known as "Ice Bears"

The main diet of polar bears is comprised of seals which they hunt either by stalking or by waiting by the seal's breathing hole in the ice.

There are five "polar bear nations" where the ice bears are found. These include the U. S. (Alaska), Canada, Russia, Denmark (Greenland), and Norway.

From late spring to December each year, polar bears gather where the Churchill River empties into Hudson's Bay. There they wait for the bay to freeze over so they can resume their annual hunt for seal

Thousands of tourist visit Churchill during this season to observe and photograph the bears.

The search starts at 5 am in bustling downtown Churchill. The temperature is 15 degrees F.



The Tundra Buggy is the search vehicle. Tourists are not allowed out of the buggy while in bear country



And what are the bears doing at this early hour?



Sleeping in, of course! You were expecting?

And what does this aggressive predator look like?



Classification:
Kingdom Animalia
Phylum Chordata
Class Mammalia
Order Carnivora
Family Ursidae
Genus Ursus
Species maritimus

(Yawn, I think I'll take another nap.)

When they are not sleeping just what do polar bears do to pass the time?

They watch the other inhabitants.



Check out the tourists



Hey, Buddy can you spare a seal?

Discuss current events with friends.



Seals are down. It's a bear market!

They'll snap back. It's just a blip in the market!

Take a nap



Do a few exercises



Maybe take a stroll.



Do a few stretches just to stay agile.



Count toes. After all one might be missing.



Sometimes they just slide along with the day.



They may pretend that they don't notice that you are there.



What happens if a bear wanders into town? He gets trapped, put in jail and then flown off to the back country.



Occasionally, an arctic fox will wander along.



Or stop for a little rest



If you should tire of watching the “critters”
There is always a tundra scene to admire.



View of Churchill from across the river.



After a long day with the bears, There is time to enjoy a sunset before sleeping.



While we sleep polar bear moms, like moms everywhere, keep watch



Farewell from Churchill

