

Northern Exposure: Polar Bear Express

8 Days: July 30-August 6, 2010



This travel package planned and escorted by Deb Harkness.

This is destined to be one cool trip! Join us as we journey north and escape Iowa heat and humidity. Back by popular demand, this unique trip takes an old tradition and adds a few new twists. Read more about "our most unusual motor coach trip."

July 30 we pick up our travelers in our guaranteed departure cities, on the way to **Green Bay, WI**. Enjoy a **guided tour of the National Railroad Museum**. The museum is dedicated to the history of the American Railroad and is one of the largest in the nation. This evening we'll enjoy **dinner** at a popular local restaurant.



July 31 enjoy **breakfast** before departing for **Sault Ste. Marie, MI**. We'll travel north along the beautiful shores of Lake Michigan. Enjoy a **narrated tour by boat of the Soo Locks**, that will take us you through the Locks, alongside big freighters, under the International Bridge and railroad bridge and cross into Canadian waters. We'll return to the lower harbor through the historic, newly restored Canadian Lock and cruise past the St. Mary's Rapids. We'll stay the night in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan's oldest city. Our hotel has several restaurants nearby.

August 1 help yourself to **breakfast** before our luxury coach heads out into the wilds of eastern Ontario to our next destination, **Cochrane, ON**. Relax and enjoy the very rugged and beautiful scenery along the way.



August 2 after **breakfast** we'll hear "all aboooooard!!!" the **Polar Bear Express**, bound for **Moosonee**. Our trip will take us through a region without roads where one travels by water or on foot (or of course on the Polar Bear Express). Don't worry! We don't have to hunt our food. We have a dining car on board for **lunch**. Moosonee is on James Bay, which extends off from Hudson Bay. If you go north on Hudson Bay, you will come to the Arctic Circle. This settlement was virtually an isolated

trading post until the advent of the railroad in 1932. To this day no roads lead to the town. Access is by rail or air from Cochrane. As we arrive in Moosonee we'll be met by a local bus which will take us to a ferry to reach our modern lodge. We have a restaurant on-site for dinner on your own. After dinner, we'll take you on a **twilight tour** of the Moosenee area with a **local guide**. Your guide will recant what it is like to live in this Northern Frontier community.



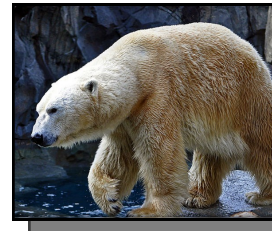
August 3 following **breakfast** we board **water taxis** for a trip to the mouth of the Moose River on **James Bay**. Legends and history will be brought to life by your **guides** during the journey through clear waters and clean air. Be on the lookout for waterfowl and historic sites along the shore of the Mighty Moose. Upon return to Moosonee, we'll visit **Moose Factory Island**, where Hudson's Bay Company began in 1673. Say 'mee-gwich (Cree for "thank you") to your guide as we leave the island.

Your guides throughout the day will not only recant the facts and history, but also give you a taste of the culture. Later in the day we'll board the **Polar Bear Express** for the return to Cochrane for the night, enjoying **dinner** on the train.

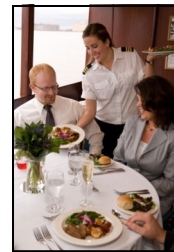
August 4 following **breakfast** we'll tour a star attraction of Cochrane, **The Polar Bear Habitat and Heritage Village**, which houses two polar bears. Nanook is a 27-year old male bear, and Bisitek is a 28-year

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old female. These animals can be viewed from inside or outside of the Viewing Building. (Please note this will be the only opportunity of our adventure that you will have to see live polar bears. The "Polar Bear Express" is the name of the train on which we will travel.) We'll also have time to visit the Heritage Village, where you can stroll into the past simply by walking down the path that leads to the Heritage Village. You will find a Snowmobile Museum, General Store, Service Station, Farm Implement, Blacksmith Shop, Doctor's Office and Farm House. Don't miss stopping in The Bear Shop. Then it's back on the coach headed for our next destination, **Thunder Bay, ON**.



August 5 after **breakfast** we will do a little sightseeing tour in the Thunder Bay area before beginning our very scenic adventure along the north shores of Lake Superior. Once we're back in the good old USA, we'll stop for a guided tour of **Split Rock Lighthouse**, near Two Harbors, MN. This lighthouse is one of Minnesota's best known landmarks. Our journey then continues on to **Duluth, MN**, for our last night together. What better way to end this memorable journey than a **narrated dinner cruise** on beautiful Lake Superior, aboard a



Vista Fleet Cruise. We'll see what makes Duluth "America's great inland water port."

August 6 following **breakfast** sit back and relax as we make our way back to our departure cities. Share memories with your new traveling friends along the way.

Your 8-Day package includes: Luxury motor coach transportation, lodging for 7 nights, luggage handling, admissions/tickets to bolded attractions, gratuities to step-on guides, 7 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 3 dinners (meals inclusive of tax and gratuity).

\$1,755 per person, double occupancy

\$1,705 per person with 3 or 4 persons sharing a room with 2 beds

\$2,046 single room accommodations

Reservations: anytime as long as space is available

Deposit: \$175 per person, due with reservation

Balance Due: June 30

Early Booking Discount: \$50 per person discount applied to final balance if deposit is received by February 8

Cancel by: June 30 for penalty-free cancellations

Peace of Mind Protection: 5% of trip cost due with deposit or **Travel Insurance** is available at a group for this travel package. Please contact us for details.

A valid passport or passport card is required.

Guaranteed departure cities: Newton, Des Moines, Ames, Williams, Fort Dodge, Webster City, Clear Lake, Tama, Waterloo, Waverly, Charles City, Coralville, Cedar Rapids, Independence, West Union, Decorah, Rochester and Owatonna