DAY 0
Time to fly. First Air, Canadian North, West Jet and Air Canada each offers daily jet service from Edmonton and Calgary to Yellowknife, the capital of Canada’s Northwest Territories.

DAY 1
Early in the morning, at the hangar in Yellowknife, Arctic Watch guests meet the private chartered plane that will fly them the 1,000 miles (1,500 km) to Arctic Watch. Your wallet is no longer of any use, your worries from the south are behind you, this the start of your Arctic adventure. The plane is a modern and comfortable aircraft. You will pass from trees, across the treeline and over the barrens; it's time to sit back and relax. You will also pass over the impressive holes in the earth dug for the Diavik mine. Food will be served during the four-and-a-half-hour flight north. After one stop for refueling in the community of Cambridge Bay, guests will land in the afternoon on our private airstrip next to Arctic Watch on Somerset Island. A short walk across the tundra, and an even shorter raft ride across the Cunningham River, brings guests to the lodge. Following a tour of the Arctic Watch facilities and some time to get their luggage settled in their cabins, guests assemble in the great room for a welcome and to meet our staff. Then dinner is served in our cozy dining room. That evening, guests are invited to join Arctic Watch’s guides in the Great Room for an introduction to sea kayaking in polar waters. A basic introduction including safety briefings are provided.

DAY 2
Breakfast is served at 8:30. Guests receive a hands-on introduction to driving all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), which are easy and fun to drive. A short-distance hike to the Cunningham River estuary to watch beluga whales frolic in the shallow water only a few yards offshore among the ice floes is followed by a lunch buffet that includes: hot and nutritious soups such as French-Canadian pea, leek, smoke tomato, potato and cream of corn; freshly baked sourdough and rye breads; specialty meats and cheeses; fresh vegetables; and homemade desserts. In the afternoon, guests hike to Triple Waterfalls, a five-story torrent of free-falling water. There they can see nesting peregrine falcons and other birds such as loons, snow buntings, sandpipers and rough-legged hawks. Exploring the canyon introduces them to the tiny beauty of wild Arctic flowers. Encounters with muskox are common. All that hiking builds an appetite. Hearty evening meals typically include a main course of baked Arctic char, AAA heritage angus Canadian beef, barbecued pork tenderloin or other meats. Side dishes of oven-roasted vegetables, red and white wine, fresh bread, and homemade desserts round out the meal. In the evening, there's free time for local exploration. The library has a broad selection of Arctic and polar titles. Our interpretive centre contains collections of local fossils, skeletal remains of Arctic fauna, and a collection of traditional Inuit skin clothing from Canada, Greenland and Siberia.

DAY 3
Breakfast, served at 8:30, typically includes fresh coffee, home-baked pastries, muffins, cinnamon rolls, fresh fruit,
yogurt, muesli, French toast or pancakes with Quebec maple syrup, eggs, double-smoked bacon and sausages. Guests will travel by ATV, crossing the Cunningham River delta, then driving along the Muskox Ridge Trail, which provides a scenic overview of the entire area. To date, every excursion to this location has resulted in a muskox encounter. Passing an impressive Arctic fox den, guests may have the opportunity to watch fox cubs at play. Following a picnic lunch at Inukshuk Lake, gear is supplied and guests have an opportunity to “catch-and-release” fish for Arctic char. Returning on ATVs, the tour takes an alternate route via the River Trail so guests can view hoodoos (sculptured sand pillars) and local coal deposits. That evening, Richard Weber, internationally recognized polar explorer and owner of Arctic Watch, offers an informal lecture on his North Pole adventures. His historic 1995 unassisted journey to the North Pole and back—a feat that has never been repeated—is highlighted.

**DAY 4**
Another hearty breakfast is served at 8:30. Monday’s focus is on sea kayaking and paddle boarding in Cunningham Inlet. All equipment and basic instructions are provided. Guests will paddle among icebergs, ring seals and bearded seals while watching for beluga whales. Sightings of sea birds, including Arctic terns and eider ducks, can be expected. Lunch is served on the shoreline, with a small hike to explore a local canyon aptly named “Kayak Falls”. Guests have stunning views of the Northwest Passage and the opportunity to see polar bears. In the afternoon, guests return to the Cunningham River estuary to watch the beluga whales. This site is unique in the world because of the density of the whale population and their proximity to the guests. With guests standing on the river banks, the beluga whales frolic in the shallow water and come within several yards (metres), close enough to clearly hear their communication calls. To better appreciate the underwater calls, a hydrophone (underwater microphone) is used. That evening, our resident photographer provides an informal presentation on wildlife photography on Somerset Island.

**DAY 5**
Following breakfast, guests depart, crossing the Cunningham River delta, for a trip to Flatrock Falls. There guests have the option of hiking or travelling by Mercedes Unimog truck. Somerset Island canyons, which guests will visit, are as yet unnamed. They were formed as the result of shifting fault lines and their walls, mostly vertical, vary from 200 to 1,000 feet. Millions of fossils of prehistoric plants and animals litter the ground. Today’s trip also offers opportunities to observe nesting sites of local birds, including terns, plovers and snow geese. A picnic lunch is served directly on the flat rocks that surround this canyon. After lunch, guests travel to Gull Canyon, named by Arctic Watch owners Richard and Josée Auclair, where they will see the striking biological contrasts between barren canyon and lush gull rookery. The Canadian Wildlife Service recently visited this spot to view the gull rookery and observe the presence of peregrine falcons. They claimed this spot to be a unique and special micro-ecosystem. In the evening, our in-house historian provides a presentation to guests on the history of the Northwest Passage. The European sailors that sailed past Somerset some 160 years ago in search of the Northwest Passage including those who didn’t return.

**DAY 6**
An 8:30 breakfast starts another day at Arctic Watch. Today’s excursion is by ATV to Cape Anne. Guests visit five Thule sites along the coast and look for polar bears. The ride includes scenic vistas, icebergs, ancient Inuit campsites and prehistoric giant whale bones. The Thule culture was a bowhead-whale-hunting culture, ancestors of today’s modern Inuit. The Cape Anne Thule site is the largest in the area and includes the remains of 15 stone and bone houses. Polar bears can be often seen on the shoreline, as they wander the coast, waiting for the ice to return. The return trip is overland via the Red Valley and guests can expect to be inspired by the magnitude of the landscape. At the end of a long day, guests will enjoy another delicious dinner at Arctic Watch. This evening guests
can relax with a lecture by Nansen Weber. His presentation focuses on his photographic work in Cunningham Inlet and on Somerset Island - his experiences with fox pups, polar bears, belugas and muskoxen!

**DAY 7**
The first leg of today’s journey is covered by Mercedes Unimog truck. Guests will reach the Arctic Watch raft and kayak put-in on the Cunningham River, 20 kilometres from the lodge. Typically, the final six kilometres require a hike through the Badlands, passing the skeletal remains of two bowhead whales dated at eight thousand years ago. The voyage includes encounters with muskox, snow geese, jaegers, Arctic foxes, sandpipers and rough-legged hawks. While guests savour a picnic lunch on the beach beside the river, staff prepare the rafts, SUPs and kayaks. On the return to Arctic Watch, guests have the choice of paddling their own kayaks or travelling by raft. The river is swift-flowing crystal-clear water with no difficult sections or rapids. The views are amazing and include steep canyon walls and, at one point, a 180-degree turn. Guests can expect to be on the water for two to three hours. Guests enjoy their final dinner and evening at Arctic Watch.

**DAY 8**
By their last day in the High Arctic, guests are familiar with the area of Somerset Island occupied by Arctic Watch. If there is an activity that was missed during the week or one that a guest particularly enjoyed and wants to repeat, there is time today to do these things. In the late afternoon, the plane will arrive to take guests back to Yellowknife. Guests can choose to spend some time visiting Yellowknife or catch a flight south. Embracing the unexpected is part of the legacy – and excitement – of an experience at Arctic Watch. There are no guarantees that we can achieve everything we set out to accomplish. A measure of flexibility is something all of us must bring to an Arctic experience. Note: All programs require a transfer from Yellowknife at a cost of $1,690 per person. The transfer includes hotel nights in Yellowknife (with breakfast); group transfer to and from the charter airport; and the return charter flight from Yellowknife to Arctic Watch lodge. All prices are in USD.