

GO LIKE A PRO

NORTHERN EXPOSURE

Eric Rock has served as Natural Habitat Adventures' head naturalist and guide for 16 years, leading safaris and photography tours of Alaska, the high Arctic, and this year, the company's new base camp in Greenland.

TO GET AWAY

FROM IT ALL, I ...

Take a walk, no matter the weather. Some of my best walks have been in the rain.

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WILDFLOWERS I'VE SEEN ARE IN ...

June, above the Alaska Range timberline.

IF I HAD TO PICK ONE PLACE ABOVE 60 DEGREES NORTH, I'D SHOW YOU ...

Denali National Park's wide-open terrain and subarctic wildlife.

PACK MORE warm, waterproof clothing AND LESS city clothes.

Fleece and hiking boots are acceptable even in Alaska's nicest restaurants.

MOST USEFUL PRE-TRIP PHOTO TIP:

Know your camera. You don't want to miss a shot because you're fussing with adjustments. Camera settings should be second nature and automatic.

FAVORITE BINOCULARS:

Hands down, the Swarovski 8X32 EL – they're light and bright.

I LEARNED THE HARD WAY TO NEVER ...

Leave foul-weather clothing behind. Alaska's weather changes quickly – any guide who says otherwise should be fed to a colony of ravenous ground squirrels.

FAVORITE MONTH IN ALASKA:

The transition of August to September, just as autumn rolls in over the north. Sometimes it lasts three weeks, sometimes three days. No mosquitoes!

I'LL NEVER GET TIRED OF WATCHING ...

Bears. I've learned more from them than from any other creature.

POLAR BEARS OR GRIZZLIES?

I find them equally inspiring – then again, I have a tough time deciding between chocolate and vanilla ice cream.



Hiking in Gallatin Canyon just outside Rock's home in Bozeman, Montana.