

PRO ADVICE ON OPTICS FOR A CARIBOU HUNT

It is my experience that a caribou hunt with Arctic Adventures will offer you many opportunities to take a trophy bull. The quality of that trophy and the total hunting experience will be enhanced by extensive glassing and critically "looking" at a great number of animals. To do so effectively and comfortably requires quality optics, binoculars and spotting scopes, which will provide high level optical performance as well as stand up to the harsh arctic conditions. The high performance and fully waterproof/fog proof products from Leica Sport Optics have proven year after year to fulfill these requirements.

Specific recommendations are difficult, as each individual will have different preferences as to size, weight and magnification. My only firm recommendation is to take a full size 32 or 42 mm binocular. Compacts are lightweight and cute but they can't do what a full size binocular can do for you. Leica binoculars of 8 or 10 power are commonly used for hunting situations. However, it is my experience that magnification is often given too much consideration in the selection process over other factors such as field of view and eye relief. Over the years I have come to prefer Leica's 8x42 Ultravid BR binocular as an outstanding binocular for hunting. Magnification for the 8x42 Ultravid is more than enough for most situations, it provides a wider field of view, an extremely bright and sharp image, and the longer eye relief of an 8 power binocular provides greater usability and comfort for those that wear eye glasses.

However, if you are still torn over the issue of magnification, Leica also offers the superb new line of Leica Duovid Binoculars. Available exclusively from Leica, the Duovid offers the hunter a high performance dual magnification binocular. Currently available in an 8+12x42 or a 10+15x50, these binoculars offer the versatility of lower power with wider field of view and brighter images for general glassing and the ability to switch to the higher magnification for trophy evaluation -- all without sacrifice of image quality or durability. One well known writer has recently stated "this is my perfect hunting binocular."

A hunt in the tundra can be demanding if you decide you want to find that "perfect" trophy. To look at the maximum number of animals can require more than just a mile or two of walking. Because of the other gear you will want to carry on a day's long hunt you may be tempted to leave your spotting scope behind – do not! It will allow you to better evaluate trophy quality at a distance and will, in the process, save you lots of steps. In the end it can greatly contribute to the taking of a better trophy by allowing you to really score the animal and thus avoid that dreaded "Ground Shrinkage."

We have for years used the Leica Televid 77 in our Arctic Adventure hunts. It provides a bright, clear image and works well but recently we have leaned more towards the new Leica APO-Televid 62 spotting scope for our annual hunt. We and our guests were amazed at the stellar performance of this new lightweight and more compact instrument. It has now found a permanent place in my daypack!

In addition, Leica last year introduced the Geovid BRF, which is a premium optic binocular with a built-in rangefinder. The Geovid is a wonderful alternative to carrying both a binocular and a range finder, all without sacrificing image quality. The Geovid is available in an 8x42 or 10x42, includes a 10-1,300+ yd. rangefinder with scan mode (similar to the Leica LRF 1200 and 900), and is relatively lightweight at 32 oz. (both 8x42 and 10x42 models). Many people have purchased the Geovid so that they can have basically one piece of optical equipment to carry, and the Geovid does the rest. It is truly a magnificent piece of equipment.

I am sure you will find your Arctic Adventures hunt a most memorable experience. Premium optics will only contribute to your enjoyment and to the memories.

Terry Moore, V.P. Leica Optics, has hunted Lake Ikirtuuq each year for the past 10 years with invited professional writers.

