



What's In My Bag //

Nicholas Sparks Novelist

"A book tour is much less glamorous than people might imagine," says Nicholas Sparks, who is embarking on his 18th this month to promote his newest novel, *The Longest Ride*. On the road, the best-selling author is up at the crack of dawn to hit the early morning shows and typically finishes each day with a late-night flight to his tour's next city. The packed schedule doesn't leave much time for sightseeing, but Sparks' tireless work ethic has allowed him to sell nearly 90 million books worldwide. *The Longest Ride*, a dual love story that weaves together the journeys of an older widow and a young couple, is out September 17. —Matt McCue

TRAVEL UNIFORM: I color coordinate and choose black or tan. The clothing I select is more casual than business, but I wear a lot of LaCoste, Ralph Lauren and Hugo Boss.

HOTEL GYM STAPLE WORKOUT: I do 100 burpees, 100 pushups, 200 squats without weights, 100 lunges and 10 one-minute sprints on the treadmill. That takes close to 40 minutes and is hard.

ITEM HE PACKS TO REMIND HIM OF HOME: Just my phone, with all the photos of the family.

STRANGEST ITEM EVER PACKED: The occasional gift from a fan has been odd. I was once given a photo of a deceased person in a casket who had wanted to be buried with *The Notebook*. It was kind, but I wasn't quite sure how to say thanks.

LAST SOUVENIR PURCHASE: On a recent quick vacation to Florida, I bought a sun visor.

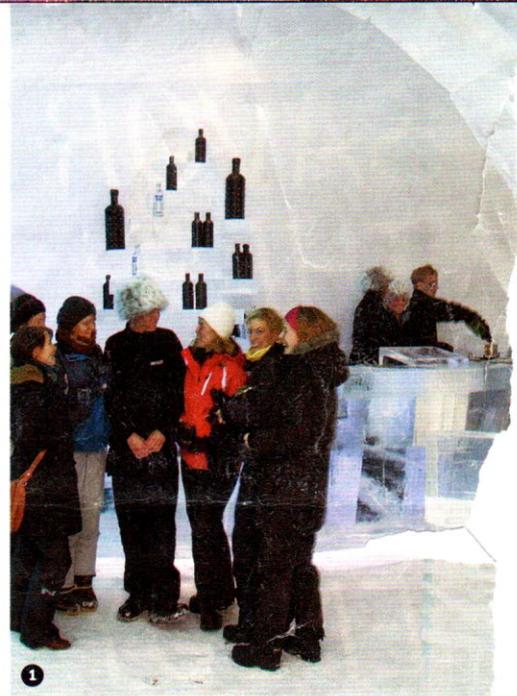
IN-FLIGHT SNACKING: Beef jerky



In-flight reading: I read novels on my iPad. While I normally prefer print books, I read about 120 books a year, so at that speed I don't really want to travel with six to seven hard copies. I recently really enjoyed *Wonder* by R. J. Palacio.

Travel trick: The biggest skill I've acquired is my ability to sleep on an airplane. I put on an eye mask, earplugs and I might take a melatonin.

Favorite airport: I like my local airport in New Bern, North Carolina, because it's easy to get in and out of. It can take you to Charlotte or Atlanta, and from either of those places I can pretty much get to anywhere in the world in one stop.



Bucket List //

Over-the-top Hotel Bars

1 ICEBAR By ICEHOTEL
JUKKASJÄRVI, SWEDEN

Check into the world's largest hotel made of ice and snow and sip a cocktail in the bar, which is kept at 23 degrees Fahrenheit. icehotel.com

2 Sky Bar at State Tower Hotel
BANGKOK, THAILAND

The world's highest open-air bar sits on the hotel's 63rd floor and boasts panoramic views of Bangkok. Enjoy the sky-high city views or admire the subtly changing color of the round and glowing bar anchored in the middle of the rooftop lounge. lebuu.com

3 Rock Bar at Ayana Resort & Spa
BALI, INDONESIA

Ayana's Rock Bar juts out over the Indian Ocean and is perfectly situated for watching the sunset. Order a harakiri—a flavor-packed cocktail made with sake, ginger, wasabi, passion fruit, lime juice and sugar. ayanaresort.com

4 Cave Bar at Hotel More
DUBROVNIK, CROATIA

Set in a natural cave beneath the hotel, Cave Bar boasts three levels and an outlet area to the sea with views of the Adriatic. hotel-more.hr

5 Terrace at La Purificadora Hotel
PUEBLA, MEXICO

This sultry rooftop bar dressed in dark granite and onyx sits adjacent to a narrow glass-walled pool overlooking the colonial city and the Church of San Francisco. lapurificadora.com

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