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50 AMAZING WILDLIFE ADVENTURES

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As our tastes become more sophisticated, operators are rising to the challenge with a new generation of wildlife encounters. Richard Madden picks 50 of the best

Experiences here in Europe. You can spot wolves, wolverines, brown bears and lynx in Finland, elk and beavers in Sweden, or bison in Belarus.

You can spot wolves, wolverines, brown bears and lynx in Finland, elk and beavers in Sweden, or bison in Belarus. In Britain, the Wildwood Trust—which has helped return beavers, water voles, pine martens and dormice to regions where they had become extinct—announced plans last year to reintroduce lynx in the next few years—and we want them to be led by the best knowledgable guides. The pages cover the widest possible range of charismatic species across every continent, with an emphasis on the latest destinations, camps and experiences being introduced in 2018. Here are 50 of the very best.

From giant flat-screen televisions to 3D 12-channel surround sound IMAX, the technology now exists to bring the wonders of the natural world to our living rooms and cinema screens whenever we want. Hence the appeal of Blue Planet II, the most-watched television series in Britain last year—so popular in China that the internet was slowed. Yet nothing can match the visceral thrill of witnessing wildlife in the wild. Whether it is swimming with a whale shark in Australia’s Ningaloo Reef, or seeing gorillas up close in Uganda, watching a herd of rhinos charging in South Africa’s Kruger National Park from the comfort of a luxury safari vehicle, or watching the wonder of nature from your own luxury treehouse in Samburu, from seeing eagles in Europe’s first safari hotel in Namibia to jumping out of an airplane on a walking safari in Tanzania, the thrill of being on the ground and in the thick of everything in our great planet and with the wildlife that inhabits it. "Whatever you do, don’t run!" Whatever you do, don’t run! Whatever you do, don’t run!}

The Telegraph
fews years, wolves in around 20 years, and brown bears within 50. If you want to help lay down the foundations for such projects, included in the volunteer programme is a volunteer programme the Scottish Highlands with wolves and brown bears. It’s just one of 50 amazing wildlife adventures that are one of the most beautiful Highland valleys, and help to foster this vital import of rewilding ecosystems. These findings will help determine whether to reinstate wolves and brown bears back into the landscape. Volunteers can see and hear the call of wolves and brown bears back into the landscape. Volunteers can see and hear the call of wolves and brown bears back into the landscape. Volunteers can see and hear the call of wolves and brown bears back into the landscape. Volunteers can see and hear the call of wolves and brown bears back into the landscape.

In most of the Scottish Highlands, deer and deer have significantly damaged the forest habitat. The wild brown bears that are one of the most beautiful Highland valleys, and help to foster this vital import of rewilding ecosystems. These findings will help determine whether to reinstate wolves and brown bears back into the landscape. Volunteers can see and hear the call of wolves and brown bears back into the landscape.
12 **THE GREAT TRACK, NICARAGUA**

**Heads down for the ultimate wildlife adventure**

Nicaragua is a wild land with no tourist infrastructure, and this family-friendly adventure invites you to explore the rugged terrain and untouched rainforest of the country’s remote north-west region.

Enjoy the chance to see some of the most elusive wildlife in the Americas, including the highly endangered black howler monkey and the endangered black-legged paca, a rodent species found only in Central America. The region is also home to a variety of birds, including the spectacular quetzal.

**Duration:** 10 days

**Price:** From £4,395 per person, including flights (minimum of 4 participants)

**Contact:** Naturetrek (01548 842592; naturetrek.co.uk)

### South & Central America

#### **GUATEMALA**

**The Grizzly Bears and Whales of Alaska’s Inside Passage**

 boasts some of the world’s most spectacular marine wildlife, including humpback whales, grizzly bears, andAlaskan brown bears. Join a group tour to experience the Inside Passage, known for its stunning scenery and rich wildlife.

**Duration:** 6 nights

**Price:** From £2,053 per person, excluding flights

**Contact:** Discover-the-world.co.uk

#### **ECUADOR**

**The Amazon with Benedict Allen**

Join explorer Benedict Allen on this adventure through the heart of the Amazon rainforest, searching for its amazing wildlife and unique cultures. You’ll explore the dense jungle and spot a variety of exotic birds, including the majesticoropendola.

**Duration:** 13 days

**Price:** From £1,390 per person, including flights

**Contact:** Pura Aventura (01273 676712; pura-aventura.com)

#### **GUATEMALA, COSTA RICA, COLOMBIA**

**The Jaguar is one of South America’s most charismatic species**

The jaguar is one of South America’s most charismatic species, and this adventure offers the chance to see these elusive cats in their natural habitat.

**Duration:** 10 days

**Price:** From £4,295 per person, including flights

**Contact:** World Wide Tours (01589 839000; worldwidetours.co.uk)

### GRIFFIN'S GLOBE

#### **BIRDS OF SHORE**

**A fantastic opportunity to view the world’s most beautiful shore birds**

This adventure takes you to some of the world’s best birding locations, where you’ll have the chance to see a wide variety of shore birds, including raptors, waders, and wigeons.

**Duration:** 10 days

**Price:** From £5,995 per person, including flights

**Contact:** World Birding (01254 404040; worldbirding.co.uk)

#### **GALAPAGOS CRUISE, ANNIversary**

**An anniversary cruise to celebrate 20 years of exploring the Galapagos Islands**

This cruise celebrates 20 years of exploring the Galapagos Islands, the world’s most diverse wildlife hotspots. You’ll visit some of the world’s most remote islands and see a wide variety of marine life, including marine iguanas, sea lions, and penguins.

**Duration:** 14 days

**Price:** From £4,995 per person, including flights

**Contact:** AmaWaterways (0800 022 022; amawaterways.co.uk)

### Amazing WILDLIFE Adventures

#### **YELLOWSTONE IN AUTUMN**

**A perfect time to explore the park**

This adventure takes you to Yellowstone National Park in autumn, a perfect time to see the park’s colorful foliage and the park’s many wildlife species. You’ll have the chance to see elk, pronghorn antelope, and other mammals, as well as a variety of birds, including bald eagles and ospreys.

**Duration:** 8 days

**Price:** From £2,995 per person, including flights

**Contact:** World Tarps (01323 740850; world-tarps.co.uk)

#### **BIRDS OF BOLIVIA**

**A birdwatching adventure in Bolivia**

This adventure takes you to Bolivia’s Amazon rainforest, where you’ll have the chance to see a wide variety of birds, including the world’s largest eagle, the harpy eagle.

**Duration:** 11 days

**Price:** From £4,995 per person, including flights

**Contact:** Audley Travel (0203 176 5370; audleytravel.com)

### Tailor-made Travel

Tailor the itinerary for a private adventure, ensuring that you see the wildlife and landscapes that interest you. For more information, please call 0203 176 5370 or visit hayes-jervis.co.uk

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*Advertisement feature for Hayes & Jarvis*
WATER WORLD

**THE VALUE CAN’T BE MEASURED**

Daniel Atkinson's latest masterpiece has stimulated interest in the creatures of the world's marine environments around the heroes and friends that can be reached by cruise ships in order to explore Rudolph Wegelin and his friends to climb the mountains of Indonesia (sharks, manta rays, Napoleon thrusters) or the USS Makinen, with more than 500 friends, to watch these fascinating creatures.

**SHOREbird**

**WHEN I LOVE ALASKA**

Steve Backshall, TV presenter

I'm so excited to find a place where there are so many birds and wildlife options available.

**WORLD-CLASS GUIDING**

Wildlife enthusiasts will see holidays that are truly unique habitats on our doorstep – more and more wildlife are living on expeditions. From Scottish Highlands and Islands, and to Europe, rather than to long flights, expeditions.

**CLOSED TO HOME**

Great photographers are moving to some unusual places, enjoying the best wildlife, and for a trip in the company of a wildlife photographer to a much more likely to find a creature comforts of a luxury camp.

**THE 'BLUE PLANET II' EFFECT**

...and keeping daily diaries of your travels, and coming to watch these magnificent creatures. There's growing evidence that people will pay more to be accompanied by the best and most knowledgeable wildlife guide. So many times, the best decision of the journey from your home to the adventure of a lifetime, and the way to find friends, because we are

**TRACING THE TRENDS**

What's new, different and inspiring in the world of wildlife holidays

**TRAVEL**

**Victoria Falls, Botswana Safari and Cape Town**

Departures from April to November, 2018

Get this incredible three-country tour. What you use of the very best that this continent has to offer. Experience one of the most beautiful landscapes on the planet, the amazing Victoria Falls, as well as one of the most rugged landscapes that the Scottish Highlands and Islands offer. So much more likely to find an interesting habitat.

**WHAT'S INCLUDED**

- Remote scheduled flights from the UK, plus all transfers
- Eight nights’ excellent quality, hotel-included meals and activities
- A programme of included excursions
- Fully supported by a knowledgeable and professional wildlife guide

**BOOK A FULLY ASSURED TOUR**

Victoria Falls, Botswana Safari and Cape Town

**BOOK A FULLY ASSURED TOUR**

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**19**
50
AMAZING WILDLIFE ADVENTURES

Pantanal, which borders Bolivia and Paraguay, is home to around 300 bird species including hyacinth macaws, jabiru storks, ibis, guans, and parrots. Combine this with a stay at a rainforest lodge taking guided wildlife excursions by canoe, horse, motorboat and on foot.

- Tendays from £5,400 including international flights. Last Frontiers (01296 653000; lastfrontiers.com).

17 TERRA DEL FUEGO, SOUTH AMERICA

The new 200-berth expedition cruise ship Terra Australis sails into the Fjords of Terra del Fuego, visits wildlife-rich Ainsworth Bay, Pia Glacier and Glacier Alley before sailing at Wulaia Bay, where Darwin landed in 1833. Patagonia Explorer cruises across the Beagle Channel and visits the glaciers of the Patagonian archipelago and the Strait of Magellan. Complete your trip at Isla Magdalena’s penguin colony.

- A 17-day tour of South America including a four-day cruise costs £6,100 including flights. Audley Travel (01993 838630; audleytravel.com).

ASIA

18 SNOW LEOPARDS, Ladakh

A trek to find the majestic cat is more of a pilgrimage than a holiday other rare, high-altitude wildlife such as snow fox, argali, musk deer and short-horned gazelle. Ladakh’s winter wonderland offers incredible biodiversity and a rare opportunity to dive an underwater volcano (Sangeang). Expect thrilling drift dives, schooling pelagics and sharks, while mantas, thresher sharks, leaf scorpionfish, nudibranchs, pipefish and pygmy seahorses patrol the coral reefs.

- Eight nights cost from £2,895 including international and domestic flights, 14 boat dives and unlimited house reef diving. Departing Sept 21 2018. Dive WorldWide (01962 302087; diveworldwide.com).

21 WILDLIFE OF KAMCHATKA, Russia

Access to the region can be challenging, but the rewards are more than worth it with a high chance of spotting brown bear, the world’s only marine bear, and a rare opportunity to dive an underwater volcano (Sangeang). Expect thrilling drift dives, schooling pelagics and sharks, while mantas, thresher sharks, leaf scorpionfish, nudibranchs, pipefish and pygmy seahorses patrol the coral reefs.


WHY I LOVE SNOW LEOPARDS

Nigel Richardson, Telegraph Travel writer

She wasn’t visible at first. Then she moved, rippling silently down a gully and paddling straight up to us, the most captivating creature: fur like mist, pale jade eyes, the regal and remote air of a monarch whose realm is the roof of the world.
For a new perspective on Australia.

Travel with the company that was born there.

So much is included:

- Experiences & local experiences
- Return flights from the UK
- All flights within Australia
- Island-picked accommodation
- A selection of meals
- Tour Director and expert local guides
- Overseas transfers and porterage

Learn the ancient history and heritage of Uluru (Ayers Rock) with a glass of wine as the sun sets. Explore the unique ecosystem and wildlife of the Great Barrier Reef, and take an enriching tour of the Sydney Opera House. Experience exclusive destination, small group tours, and enjoy the personal service of your local Australian family members. You can enjoy every moment of your unforgettable journey.
27 OKAVANGO SAFARI, BOTSWANA

Many Botswana fans will have experienced a trip to the Okavango Delta in Botswana’s north-west, but this life-affirming cruise is quite a new level. Now for 2018, the slow-speed cruise offers a boat from luxury yacht Eos, navigating waters from an unvisited channel. You’ll need explosives to keep up with the pace as you watch hundreds of elephants and hippos cross the river in front of you and make for a safe passage amongst all the marine life. The Vista Suite is here... it’s luxurious with floor-to-ceiling windows, ridge roofs, and a flat bed. A real treat. 

For more information, visit: www.specialsafaris.com

28 DAKAR, SENEGAL

Dakar is a city that’s not to be missed. A continent away from its neighbours in West Africa, Dakar is a city that’s rich in culture and history, with a mix of traditional and modern architecture. The beach is a must-see, with its white sand and blue waters, perfect for relaxing and soaking up the sun. The city is also home to a variety of restaurants and bars, where you can enjoy local cuisine and drinks.

For more information, visit: www.dakar.travel

33 WILD DOGS AND BUTHELEZI, ZIMBABWE

In 2018, the BBC will be screening a documentary on the highly endangered wild dog, sometimes called the painted dog, which was filmed in Zimbabwe. The film, which features the Buthelezi Wild Dog Project, was filmed at the African Wildlife Foundation’s Vundwe Lodge, which is located in the author’s home country of Zimbabwe. The documentary, which is titled “Wild Dogs: An African Mystery,” will be screened on the BBC’s Animal Planet channel.

For more information, visit: www.africanwildlifefoundation.org

36 ORANGE BUSH CAMPS, ZIMBABWE

Opened in 2017, this one of the best camps on the Orange River, offering top-notch amenities. While the tents are no more than basic, the views are incredible, located on a hill overlooking the river. The camp includes a restaurant, bar, and pool, along with guided walks and boat trips. The rates are reasonable, starting from £350 per person per night.

For more information, visit: www.orangebushcamps.com

Continued from page 25

Continued from Page 21

30 FLYING SAFARI KENYA

Thew hite rhinoceros, the majestic elephant, thec affered cheetah — all are seen in the wild from the comfort of a seat in the li ght plane. The journey is divided into two parts: a flight over three nights of camping in the Masai Mara, and a night spent in the expansiveoi in the Maasai Mara National Reserve.

For more information, visit: www.seabourn.com

33 WILDFI D DISCOVERY TOUR, MADAGASCAR

This small group tour led by highly trained guides explores the beauty of Madagascar’s protected areas in a two-to-four week itinerary. You’ll see many species of lemurs, chameleons, and giant butterflies, as well as beautiful beaches and crystal-clear waters. With small groups and intimate experiences, this tour is perfect for those who want to see the best of Madagascar in comfort and style.

For more information, visit: www.wilderness-tours.com

34 ZIMBABWE

Seabourn Quest, the luxury cruise ship, is currently sailing the waters of the South Pacific, offering guests stunning views and luxurious accommodations. The ship is equipped with state-of-the-art technology, including high-speed internet and satellite TV, and offers a variety of entertainment options, from live music and shows to sports facilities and fitness classes.

For more information, visit: www.seabourn.com
THE APPLIANCE OF SCIENCE
From smart skincare to very smart drones, Richard Madden has the right tech for your trip.

GOPRO KARMA DRONE
As in the best wildlife documentaries, drones should be used for filming overviews and not close-ups, so animals remain unaware of their presence. The Karma Drone is compact and ultra-portable, and its computer games-style touch displays stream live view of what the drone is seeing. There’s a built-in tutorial and flight simulator, which makes learning to fly easy, and it has a built-in tutorial and flight simulator, which makes learning to fly easy, and it has built-in tutorial and flight simulator, which makes learning to fly easy, and it has an automatic take-off and landing button for first-timers. Cleverly, it flies back to you and lands if it gets out of range - or if there’s a lost connection or low battery. Safety keep well away from aircraft, airports, airports, airports, airports, airports, airports, airports, and keep at least 55m away from people, vehicles or animals. Drones are illegal in some countries or parts of countries, check the Drone Code at dronesafe.uk.

SKINCUTICALS
Weather can damage your skin on a wildlife trip and prevention is better than cure. Skinceuticals has created a range of antioxidant, vitamin C-rich, moisturising and hydrating serums and creams that protect against sun damage and environmental irritants. Choose from Brightening UV Defense (moisturising SPF 30 sunscreen) £40.95; C E Ferulic (vitamin C antioxidant) £129; Hydrating B5 (oil-free gel) £61.95; and Redness Neutraliser (gel cream) £78.75.

LEKI TREKKING POLES
Lightweight, strong, excellent grip and ease of carrying when not in use are all advantages of these Leki Carbonlite 2017 poles. Together they weigh only 14oz and collapse down from 4ft 4in (135cm) fully extended to just 2ft (63cm). Tidy!

LEDLENSER HEADTORCH
Flexibility is key when it comes to headtorches. Variable brightness, adjustable beam width, ability to aim and adjust the angle of view make all the difference - and this model, the LedLenser H7.2, ticks all the boxes. There’s also a rechargeable version.

SUMMARY
If you’re after both high-quality stills and outstanding video quality, there’s no better hybrid camera than the Panasonic Lumix GH5. Launched last year, it can shoot 4K video at 60fps – cinematic quality. On the downside, 4K will burn up both disk space and computer memory.

TICK REMOVER CARD
Lyme disease, transmitted via ticks, is an increasing problem in Europe. This credit card-sized tick remover fits into a wallet and has a magnifying lens and two reusable tools of different sizes – one for the tick’s head and body parts, and the other for the tick’s mouth and body parts – and does the trick nicely.

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SWAROVSKI BINOCULARS
Offering crystal-clear sharpness even in low light, these CL Companion 8x30 Binoculars are easy to carry and will fit into a large jacket pocket. Their 8x magnification (equivalent to a 400mm lens on a 35mm camera) makes them a great choice for all-round viewing.

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WILDLIFE TOURISM - DOES IT HELP?
Richard Mudd explains how to book a wildlife holiday and keep a clear conscience

I

t's not uncommon for a wildlife or natural history holiday to end as though you really know what you're talking about. This is a problem if you choose poorly, especially if you're on a budget, or if you have a clear conscience. However, if you choose poorly, especially if you know what you're talking about, you're likely to end up with a lifetime's stock of useless facts, and not much else.

To address this, it's important to consider a few key questions:

- Are you making a clear conscience decision?
- Are you making a clear conscience decision about your impact on the local communities?
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WHAT TO PACK FOR A WILD ADVENTURE

FJALLRAVEN

This down jacket is made from a high-fashion, high-quality waxed fabric that is waterproof, windproof, and breathable. It is practical, designed for outdoors and features an artificial fur lining at the front. It’s feather-light, easy to pack, and fits smoothly into an interior pocket for storage. The jacket is suitable for all weather conditions and features a concealed opening in the ear flap for added protection. Fitted with a hood, it’s perfect for those who enjoy outdoor activities such as hiking, camping, or birdwatching.

WHY I LOVE SVALBARD

Brian Jackson, Telegraph Travel writer

I savour these trips, which take you through the far north, exploring the wildlife and the landscape. You can see polar bears, walruses, and reindeer close up, and there are opportunities to enjoy the midnight sun and the Northern Lights.

THE FJORDS OF NORWAY

Lying within the Arctic Circle, Svalbard is one of the most remote wildlife destinations in the world and home to some 5,000 polar bears. Join a guided cruise from Oslo, which takes you through the world’s largest glacial system and offers the chance to see orcas, polar bears, and other wildlife. The journey includes visits to the Spitzbergen Islands and the Franz Josef Land archipelago.

POLAR REGIONS

IT’S A BUDGET CRUISE

There are many budget cruise options available for those wanting to explore the polar regions. These cruises are typically smaller in size and offer a more intimate experience. They are designed for those who want to see the wildlife and landscapes of the Arctic and Antarctic without breaking the bank. Many budget cruises offer optional excursions, such as kayaking or hiking, for those who want to get closer to the wildlife and explore the remote areas.

50 ANTARCTICA

BAUHUSS

PANGAEA SAFARIS

WHY I LOVE ANTARCTICA

Ranulph Fiennes & Sir Chris Bonington

I love exploring the wilderness of Antarctica, where the landscapes are breathtaking and the wildlife is extraordinary. The opportunity to see penguins, seals, and whales up close is truly unforgettable. The journey also offers the chance to witness the beauty of the Southern Lights and the Midnight Sun.