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OUR WORLD OF LUXURY

The White Nights Ball in St Petersburg, the Chateau Marmont Hotel, a Namibian walking safari... Your most luxurious travel experience? We asked some of travel's top names to relive their most memorable and exhilarating trips – and where they might go next

COMPILED BY: Julia Buckley

LUXURY

huge shark took a bite of the cage, inches from my son's foot.

Four days of safari followed, staying in the Riverdene Lodge at the Shamwari Game Reserve on the Eastern Cape. The wildlife sightings were extraordinary, while by night, we feasted on barbecued springbok, listening to the not-so-distant roars of lions.

Next up: Canada, with orcas and grizzly bears on the agenda, and stops at fine hotels to remind us that you can get wild in style.

VENICE

**FRANCESCA BORTOLOTTI
POSSATI** | CEO,
THE BAUERS, VENICE

I'm lucky enough to live in a city that people dream of visiting, and there's no experience I treasure more than driving a vintage Riva boat around the islands of the lagoon. Whether you're at the wheel

yourself or being chauffeured, it's one of the most memorable experiences you can have — the same feeling as being on the road in a Ferrari. It's just you and the lagoon, with the sound of the water hitting the shore, the seagulls swooping overhead, and the panorama of the islands all around.

Next up: I want to stay at The Brando, on the Tetiaroa atoll in Tahiti. Once Marlon Brando's private island getaway, it's now an eco-resort.

BORNEO

RUZWANA BASHIR |
FOUNDER, PEEK.COM

Seeing endangered orangutans in the rainforests of Borneo was my all-time favourite trip. I took a five-day boat trip up jungle-lined rivers into

From top: Orangutans, Borneo; villa, The Brando

the spectacular Tanjung Puting National Park to reach them, chartering two boats: first, the *Ruhui Rahayu*, a private boat with one bedroom and a deck up front, then a smaller, traditional klotok boat at Camp Leakey, to head up narrow tributaries, the jungle growing denser either side. When night fell, I looked up to see a thick blanket of stars — I've never seen the night sky look so magical. I spotted orangutans swinging between the trees, mothers with their babies, and the dominant male strutting his stuff. It was pretty incredible — one for every nature lover to add to their bucket list.

Next up: I can't wait to visit Bhutan. I want to trek through the countryside and visit the Paro Taktsang monastery, perched on the side of a cliff. I'm also keen to learn about Buddhism and get to grips with the Gross National Happiness index! 🍷



IMAGE: GETTY IMAGES/ANDREW HARRIS