

March 2013

SouthWild's owners featured on Conde Nast Traveller's list of Animal Experts.



Condé Nast
Traveller

THE EXPERTS

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



THE EXPERTS

This is the Little Black Book of all the people you need to know in travel: the exceptional individuals who transform trips into adventures, who have the personal history and expertise, the stories and the access, to set them apart from all that is humdrum. These are the pioneers and explorers, wine connoisseurs and tribal historians, wildlife trackers and heli-skiing guides whose insider knowledge we may occasionally hear about through friends of friends, but whose details are rarely put down on paper, particularly not in one stand-alone publication. This has been a dream project for a long time; *Condé Nast Traveller* makes it possible through its years in the field and its one-on-one escapades around the world. This is The Experts, a celebration of some very special characters and their global brilliance.

DAISY FINER
THE EXPERTS EDITOR

ISSY VON SIMSON
THE EXPERTS DEPUTY EDITOR

MELINDA STEVENS
CONDÉ NAST TRAVELLER EDITOR

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ANIMAL EXPERTS

Dreaming of that next epic wildlife adventure? Here are your go-to guys

OLLY WILLIAMS AND SUZI WINSTANLEY

WORLDWIDE

It's the upfront, intimate nature of the experiences that sets Olly Suzi Expeditions (run by Williams and Winstanley) apart. They can arrange for you to see polar bears in the Arctic, free-dive with humpback whales off a private island in the Pacific, or photograph the Big Five in the African bush. This pair of artists has notched up 60 trips over the past 25 years, tracking and painting endangered predators around the planet from the desert to the jungle. Along the way, they have made friends with legendary guides, polar explorers, survival experts and conservationists, all of whom they can hook you up with. You simply tell them what you would like and then, step by step, the pair will build your privately guided, dream expedition. Then you'll be off seeing African wild-dog breeding (beyond rare) or black-rhino conservation in action, in search of elusive Bengal tigers on elephant back or travelling by traditional dog team through frozen Arctic forests. Winstanley is the girlfriend of Damon Albarn. Williams also writes rather good novels, such as *This Way North*.

+44 (0)7768 511706;

www.ollysuziexpeditions.com

CHARLES MUNN

SOUTH AMERICA

For sightings of jaguars, pumas and wolves, the co-founder of SouthWild should be your first port of call. In fact, so confident is Munn that he offers a 100-per-cent guarantee guests will see wildlife at close range on specific trips at certain times of the year (there's even a \$1,000 refund if you don't). Along with his wife Mariana Valqui, a Peruvian-German conservation biologist, he leads the way in South American eco-tourism and wildlife spotting. Qualified up to the eyeballs, with a PhD in Evolution and Ecology from Princeton, Munn can reel off a constant supply of riveting facts and figures, as well as the names of hundreds of species. Camps range from a 'flotel' in the Pantanal to airy lodges with hammocks where you can kick back after a day watching big cats. Journeys include four-by-four rides, boat trips and treks – whatever it takes to get the best view of that puma. Munn also lives and breathes birds – he can identify each one just by listening to its song. And it's contagious. Who knew hyacinth macaws could be so engaging?

+51 1 422 9888;

www.southwild.com

WILL BOLSOVER

WORLDWIDE

Bolsover is all about out-there adventures, whether you're keen to spot polar bears, grizzly bears, big cats or lemurs. His niche company started with gorillas, but his far-reaching affection for all things zoological quickly ensured he gained momentum, while remaining reassuringly discerning about his on-the-ground guides and authentic accommodation. Bolsover personally checks out everywhere he recommends.

He can arrange for you to visit the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre in Sabah, northern Borneo, or pull faces at the cheeky chimpanzees and gorillas in Uganda, while staying at the country's most luxurious lodge. If you want to catch sight of the elusive snow leopard in Ladakh, a remote and magnificent region bordering Nepal and China (you do need to be alert to altitude sickness), Bolsover is the man to call. Plus, all of his Brighton-based team are

former guides or lodge managers, ready to spring into action once you've made your decision between whale-watching or monkey ogling.

+44 (0)1273 691642;

www.naturalworldsafaris.com