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Exploration
Yachting with
254-foot LEGEND

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Cruise the
UNESCO-listed
Komodo National
Park on board the
213-foot LAMIMA





TRAVEL

THE BUCKET LIST

AS BUCKET LISTS GO, THE FOLLOWING EPIC TRAVEL MOMENTS ARE JUST TOO GOOD TO LEAVE Languishing ON ANY LIST. SEIZE THE DAY WITH A TRIP OF A LIFETIME

WORDS MIRIAM CAIN

"Lux-peditions" may not roll off the tip of your tongue, but the trend for ultimate travel experiences is on the rise. From diving the TITANIC to experiencing the silence of the desert, it doesn't have to be all about the thread count in your sheets or the size of the pool; wealthy travelers these days are also looking for something different, a unique experience that allows them to pause, savor and really get under the skin of a destination. Ultimately, it's also about space and being away from the crowds of tourists and the well-trodden path.

There's something about exploring a new place that just can't be beaten, and for those who want for nothing material, having a unique experience certainly carries more cachet. If this sounds like you and you dream of the road less traveled and the opportunity to relinquish all control, then trying something out of your comfort zone can actually be more relaxing than a beach vacation. "If real estate is location, location, location then luxury travel is experience, experience, experience," says Northrop & Johnson Senior Charter Broker Fiona Maureso.

And fortunately, Mother Earth is a clever lady — regardless of the month, some part of her is always enjoying the perfect season. No matter what time of year it happens to be, there is always an adventure to be had. These five adventures will propel you across the planet, and they may even give memories that will live with you forever. Now that is luxury.

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EXPLORATION YACHTING

Exploration yachting, as it has become referred to in the yachting industry, has rapidly become the next frontier in luxury travel. "Clients who have previously spent every summer on charter in the Mediterranean or winter anchored off St. Barts, are looking to spice up their charters with ultra-exclusive charters to remote, hard-to-reach places," says Fiona. "A handful of adventurous yachts have responded to this demand by offering charters in rare destinations."

One such example is the 254-foot (77.4m) LEGEND. Putting her Class 1 ice-breaking capabilities to good use, she offers pure, unadulterated adventure as she chases the Polar summers from the Arctic to Antarctica. Explore a pristine white wilderness with towering icebergs and a huge variety of wildlife on an ultimate adventure. It isn't just the Poles that draw high-octane travelers to their shores, however.

Also breaking new cruising ground are a handful of beautiful Indonesian-style Pinisi yachts. Based in Southeast Asia, with itineraries in places like Komodo and Raja Ampat, you can cruise in absolute luxury aboard some of the most desirable charter yachts through the UNESCO-listed Komodo National Park on the likes of the 213-foot (65.2m) LAMIMA, or the 167.4-foot (51m) DUNIA BARU. These cruising grounds are so remote and free from human civilization that their ecosystems have been largely untouched by the hand of man, with coral reefs in stunningly clear water that go on for miles and miles and are absolutely teeming with colorful fish.

Need to know

The 254-foot (77.4m) LEGEND is available to charter in the Arctic, Baltic and Mediterranean this spring and summer, and Antarctica and Patagonia next winter. Prices from €490,000 per week for up to 26 guests.

The 213-foot (65.2m) LAMIMA is available to charter in Raja Ampat, Komodo and Bali this summer and next winter season. Prices from \$109,000 per week. The 167-foot (51m) DUNIA BARU is available to charter in Raja Ampat, Komodo and Bali this summer. Prices from \$94,500 per week for up to 14 guests. Contact your nearest Northrop & Johnson charter broker for more information.

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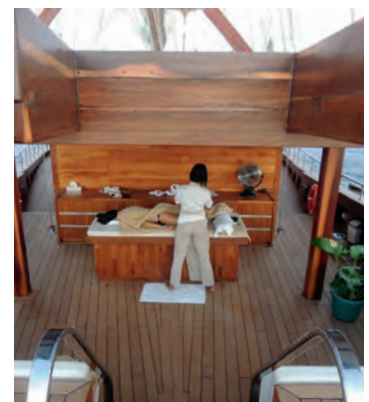


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The ice-breaking 254-foot LEGEND is available to charter in the Arctic, Baltic, Mediterranean, Patagonia and Antarctica

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The beautiful Phinisi-style LAMIMA offers the utmost in luxury



PURE ADVENTURES

If you are looking for extreme excursions into the most off-the-beaten-track destinations in the world, then speak to Matthew Robertson, founder of Momentum Adventure, the luxury adventure travel company. Experts in offering new experiences and fresh horizons, Matthew sent Gwyneth Paltrow to kayak with Komodo dragons in Indonesia, and a group of businessmen to the Borneo jungle for SAS survival training. But you don't need to be a Bear Grylls-type to experience stimulation and excitement. Momentum Adventure specializes in offering unique luxury travel itineraries in remote destinations with style and panache.

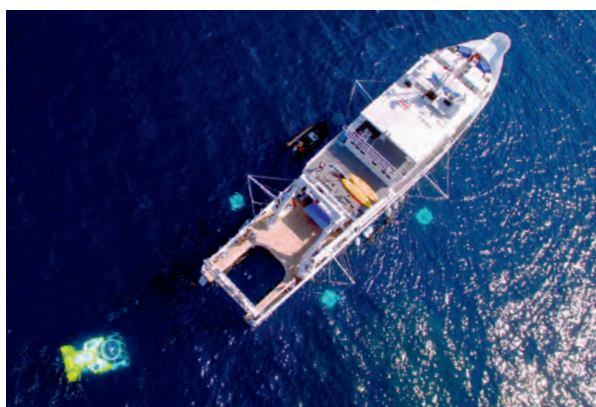
After all, even when you are roughing it in the middle of nowhere, you still need your creature comforts. From abseiling down geothermal fissures to taking horses into the mountains and riding snowmobiles into glaciers, experiences that find their way into Momentum Adventure's itineraries have the distinction of being both challenging and unique. "People want something special that isn't accessible to everyone," explains Matthew. "Every trip we take is bespoke, challenging, out of the box."

For diving enthusiasts Matthew recommends diving with hammerhead sharks at Cocos Island. The island became a National Park in the late 1970s and was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1997. Located 350 miles from the Pacific Coast, the waters are a worthy competitor in bio-diversity to the famous Galapagos Islands, and are famed for the large population of giant manta rays, whale sharks, dolphins and other marine species.

But for experienced divers, their real claim to fame are the thousands of hammerhead sharks. "We have created an 11-day program which takes in the Costa Rica Thermal Dome, and any of the 20 dive spots surrounding Cocos Island," says Matthew. "Back on land in Costa Rica, guests will have three days, accompanied by experienced guides, to explore the Corcovado National Park, one of the most biologically intense places on earth, where you can take night hikes."

Need to know

Price on application.



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DIVE THE TITANIC

Those wanting to take their ultimate travel experience to new depths can go on the ultimate diving experience to discover the wreck of RMS TITANIC. More than 100 years after the 20th century's most famous maritime disaster, epic expeditions to the wreck will take place in July and August of this year. The eight-day journey, organized by travel specialist Blue Marble Private with submersible developer OceanGate, will take just nine adventurous guests at a time. Only a handful have dived down to the watery grave since the wreckage was found in 1985.

Reaching depths of nearly 4,000 meters in a specially designed titanium and carbon fiber submersible alongside a crew of experts, the exploration will include three potential days of diving with dives lasting up to three hours. Dives will take in the deck, the bow, the bridge and the cavern where the grand staircase was once located.

Mission Specialists, as the guests are called, assist the expedition team in the submersible and aboard the expedition yacht. During the voyage, specialists will be collecting scientific data to research and assess the decay of the ship, which is decaying due to extremophile bacteria (rust-eating bacteria) which could eat away the famous shipwreck within the next few decades. "This really is the opportunity of a lifetime," says Blue Marble Private founder Elizabeth Ellis. "Far fewer people have visited the wreck of the TITANIC than the number who have been to space or summited Mount Everest." The cost of the expedition is the equivalent (after inflation) of the \$4,350 First Class passage on the inaugural, and only, voyage that RMS TITANIC took from Southampton to New York.

Need to know

Prices for 2019 are \$105,129 per person with a maximum of up to nine guests/adventurers.





LIVING ON THE EDGE

It isn't just rugged expedition yachts that are drawing high-spending adventurous clients to discover the Poles these days. Bespoke travel outfitter Natural World Safaris has taken many an intrepid holidaymaker to the Arctic, crafting high-end itineraries to encompass the most rare, unique and inaccessible. One such example is their remote safari to the very edge of the Earth in Arctic Canada, where guests camp in a tailor-made safari camp set on the floating sea ice.

"Our Ultimate Floe Edge Experience takes our guests to pristine locations where no human has set foot before and includes experiences such as a hot air balloon ride over the Arctic, snowmobile rides with Inuit guides, and kayaking and snorkeling alongside beluga whales and narwhals at the floe edge," says Natural World Safaris founder Will Bolsover. Guests can also retrace the footsteps of an Inuit while hiking on Baffin Island, or travel

across the Northwest Passage to visit the historic Beechey Island. And although it may not quite be superyacht accommodation, at the end of each day, gourmet meals are still prepared by professional chefs using locally-sourced delicacies. "Creating a truly once-in-a-lifetime experience can be as simple as the setting for a meal which may never have been imagined or encountering wildlife which you have never thought you could see in their natural environment. Attention to detail, access to a black book of contacts, and outstanding experience are the factors needed to create a true bucket-list adventure," says Will.

Need to know

The Ultimate Floe Edge experience starts from \$20,600 per person based on 16 travelers, or \$330,680 total.



LUXPEDITIONS

Philippe Brown, co-founder of London-based tour operator Brown + Hudson, calls their adventures "Luxpeditions". Rather than always trying to find the unknown, Brown + Hudson deliver an authentic slice of action, attracting high-spending clients from all over the world. Philippe has recently arranged trips taking clients to camp on the rim of an active volcano in Indonesia and hiking through ice caves of Afghanistan.

Brown + Hudson have created a bespoke Solomon Islands "Luxpedition" for *Navigator*. The Bear Grylls-meets-Robinson Crusoe offering will appeal to history buffs in search of something a little more high-octane than the run-of-the-mill cultural hotspots around the world. Dropped by helicopter in the Solomon Islands, clients will be challenged to make their way to certain points, with a series of objects—chosen by themselves—to help guide them along the way. From learning to fish with an expert to discovering ancient artifacts with a tribal chief or diving World War II wrecks with a marine biologist and war historian, guests will meet experts in their field as they travel through the Solomon Islands. "Everyone you meet will share insights and clues to help you get to your next destination," says Philippe. "You might learn to build a canoe or make panpipes to call a team member." At the end of the unique adventure guests will be rewarded at a luxurious private camp with spa treatments and a fabulous dinner with the High Shark Priest. Other unique experiences created exclusively by Brown + Hudson could include a safari through Sri Lanka with the film crew from *Planet Earth*, with David Attenborough's voiceover, or a recreation of a *Lord of the Rings* scene with the film crew and original prop/set in New Zealand. ●

Need to know

Solomon Islands Luxpedition is priced from \$650,000 per person.