

# Wildlife Encounters From Around The World

One of the reasons that many people travel is to get the chance to see wildlife up close that they would otherwise never get the chance to see. Below, you'll get to read about wildlife encounters from international travelers and learn why these particular encounters have stayed with each individual. Sit down, grab your bowl of popcorn and enjoy these amazing stories.

Growing up in south Florida, I've always wanted to see a Hawksbill Sea Turtle in the wild. Finally on my second trip to Dead Man's Reef, on Grand Bahama Island, my wish came true and more. Not only did I get to see one Hawksbill, but 6! To say I was excited is an understatement. What made the experience even more meaningful was that I got to swim with each one over the reef while freediving. This allowed me to truly be immersed in their environment. To this day, I consider freediving with Hawksbill Sea Turtles to be my most prized wildlife experience. -[TreePot Travels](#)

In Thailand we were amazed at how comfortable the monkeys were around us. We were surprised at how aggressively they stole our food, but the monkeys had learned that when the tourist boats show up, they would be fed. The food was to keep the monkeys on the beach so people would pay to see them. Now, the monkeys just expect food. This has changed our view of wild animals for profit. We now have a huge appreciation for the signs in North America that say "Do not feed the wildlife". In the future we will support animal conservation instead of animal tourism. -[Chasing Adventure](#)

I finally got the opportunity (and the guts) to go cage diving with Great Whites in South Africa a few years ago. It was something I had always wanted to do. As I was climbing out of the cage, our guide said very calmly "Do NOT turn around." In a bit of a panic and stuck halfway on the ladder, I looked anyway and saw the entire shark out of the water just over my right shoulder! I could have reached out and touched it. Yes it was scary, but to see how absolutely massive and powerful they are up close was an incredible experience! -[Short Road To Happy](#)

With 400 meters per hour, the three-toed sloth is the slowest mammal on earth. In French Guiana (South America) Coen and I saw our first sloth and fortunately were driving slow enough to stop in time. I halted oncoming traffic while Coen picked up the sloth, which appeared totally undisturbed by it, and put it in the roadside. We followed it for a long time as it crawled deeper into the bush, in search for a tree where he'd spend the coming week. It felt good having saved a wild animal from becoming roadkill. -[Land Cruising Adventure](#)

When we were in Borneo we decided to go to Bako National Park. Early on we saw snakes, lizards and proboscis monkeys. After lunch on our way back to the boat our guide stopped and pointed out a Bornean Bearded Pig, we had seen these before so it was that exciting until from nowhere her tiny piglets appeared. The piglets were intrigued by us and kept coming up close to us and then one would panic and they would all scatter and regroup. This happened 4 or 5 times before the mother got restless and came to collect them. It was just so cute and unexpected while being slightly scary at the same time with the mother always looking threatening. -[Global Goose](#)

On the last day of a Tanzanian safari, we made the steep drive down into Ngorongoro Crater, a caldera with more than 120 species of mammals. Though it was densely populated with a variety of wildlife, there was one stately Bovidae that caught my attention, the wildebeest. I got out of the jeep, put my feet on the soil of the African crater, stood with my arms open wide in amazement and watched dozens of wildebeest saunter by. -[Bucket List Journey](#)

We had stopped in the Brachina Gorge in the Flinders Ranges for lunch. After sitting around and chatting for a little while, a Yellow-footed rock-wallaby came hopping up to us. We spent a good part of the next hour watching it hop around us and posing for pictures. A short while later another, smaller Yellow-footed rock-wallaby decided to join in. It was a game of “chase-y” between the big and small Wallaby, as the smaller Wallaby was very curious and came very close to us, the other Wallaby would get angry or worried and chase it away. After an hour or so of watching this game and taking so many photos that we ran one camera battery flat, we decided to leave the cute little animals alone. -[Travelling King](#)

In 2008 I lived in Brisbane, Australia and regularly made my way down to Byron Bay which is only two hours away by car. We decided to take a private kayaking tour around the bay and made our way out and passed Julian Rocks on the way out of the bay. On the horizon we could spot a humpback whale breaching and let ourselves float while watching this incredible scene for about 10 to 15 minutes. Every time, the whale was breaching it was closer. When we couldn't see him for a few minutes we decided to continue our kayaking journey, then all of a sudden it happened. The whale appeared under the group and lifted our kayak up in the air. What was only a few seconds felt like minutes and even though I had a waterproof camera on me, I froze and the picture will for always be engraved in my memory... what an incredible experience!

10 minutes later the whale breached once more, as if he tried to say “Good bye mate!” – [Off The Path](#)

While cycling through northern British Columbia with my son, we saw a bear on the side of the road. Staying far away, we stopped to take its picture. The bear, however, had other ideas. Long story short, my 10-year-old son and I were soon barreling down the road at top speed with the bear hot on our heels. Bears can run 35 miles per hour. Fortunately, two adrenaline-fueled cyclists can go a little bit faster. -[Family On Bikes](#)

Going on safari in South Africa was on my bucket list since before I even graduated high school. At the age of 26, I finally got to go –and it was more amazing than I had imagined. You don't just take pictures of animals, but you immerse yourself in the bush, learn about conservation issues and get up close to some of the world's most exotic creatures. I recommend doing a private reserve outside of Kruger to be able to offroad and get closer to the wildlife.- [Jessie On A Journey](#)

My most recent memorable wildlife encounters were underwater in northern Queensland off of Lizard Island diving on the Great Barrier Reef. I made two dives – one to “snake pit” appropriately named for the impressive sea snakes that live here and another to Cod Hole where giant Potato fish swam all around, their fins brushing into me! This part of the world is so rich in underwater life – other highlights of snorkeling that same day were swimming with giant sea turtles (one pictured here) and giant colorful sea clams!-[Daves Travel Corner](#)



I was visiting Yellowstone a while back, enjoying snowmobiling through the snowy expanses when I found myself lagging behind. I decided to just stop and enjoy the scenery and silence while the gang speed off. I found myself hanging with some buffalo and noticed that some of the babies were nursing. They ignored me and went about their business and I was itching to get some photographs, but I was reluctant to rock the boat with the activity and noise that would involve. So I didn't get any pictures, but I do have images in my brain that I treasure. This is a photo I took on old-fashioned film when the buffalo started moving. -[Travels With Carole](#)

In the summer of 2012 I traveled to Sri Lanka to volunteer at an elephant home for injured and rescued elephants. I have always been enamored by elephants. I don't know why but, I have always loved them. While there I was able to bathe the elephants, create enrichment activities for them and simply observe their movements. I learned so much about elephants and how they should be treated vs. how they are treated in some places. It was one of the best summer experiences of my life. -[Mandy Mashups](#)

## One Comment



1.

[Phoebe \(Short Road t](#) March 20, 2014 at 9:23 am #

WOW! Such incredibly pictures and experiences!! Thanks again for including me!  
Phoebe (Short Road t recently posted...[First Afternoon Tea in London](#) ❤️