



top ten adventure honeymoon

Text by Nick Walton

HONEYMOONS ARE ALL ROMANCE AND CONNECTION, ABOUT STUNNING SUNSETS AND LONG LIE-INS, BUT TODAY'S NEWLYWEDS ARE INCREASINGLY HEADING IN SEARCH OF ADVENTURE INSTEAD, WITH CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH NATURE AND ADRENALINE OVERLOAD BEING TOP OF THE LIST.

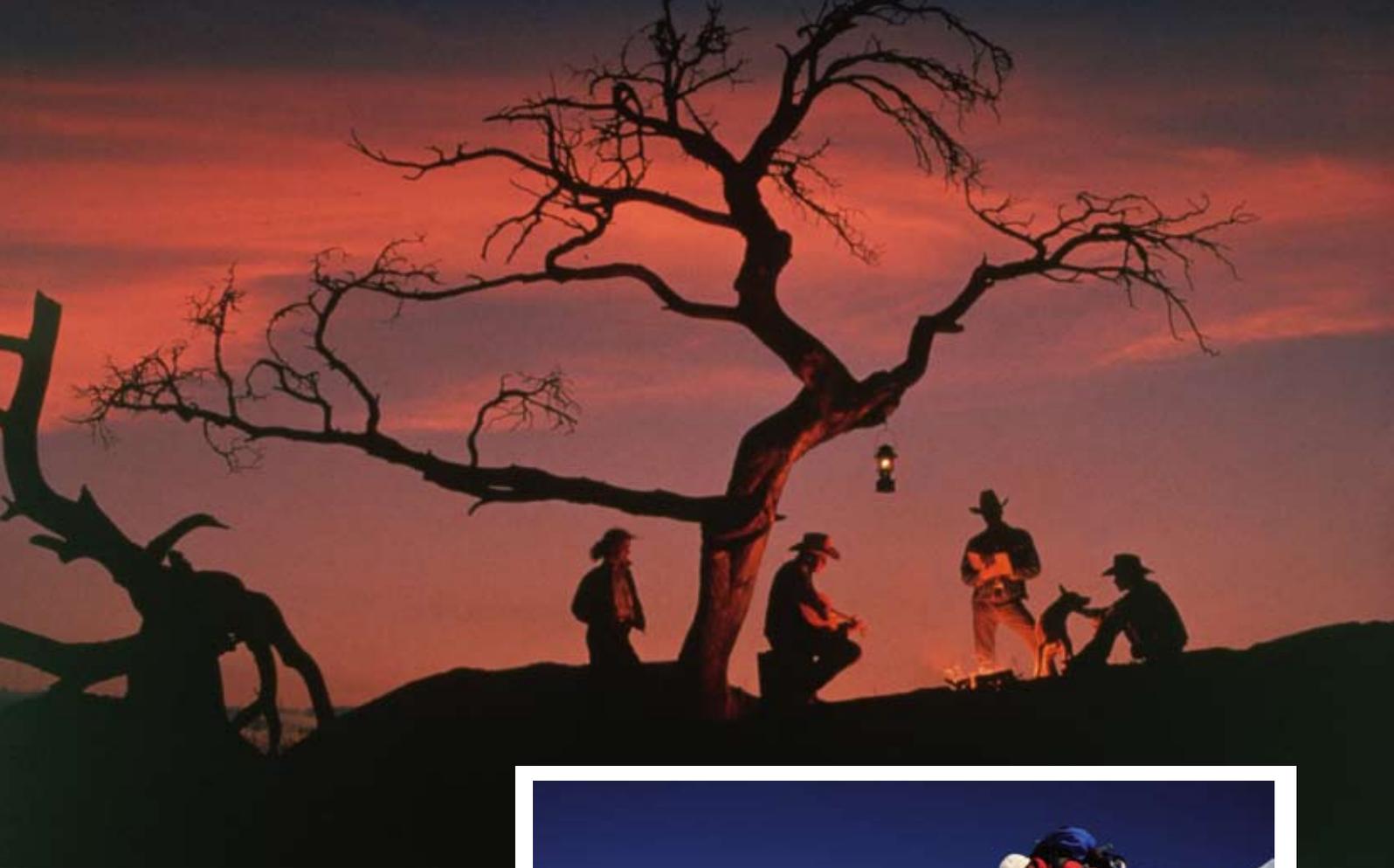
Shanghai Sideways

If you're looking for something a little more urban, how about touring one of Asia's most dynamic and busiest cities by vintage Chinese military motorbike sidecar? Shanghai Sideways specialise in fast-paced, adrenalin-pumping guided motorbike tours of the Paris of the East. From the frenzy of Nanjing Road to the bustle of the Bund, you'll see this amazing city from a whole new perspective, and with room for just two guests, it's perfectly suited for couples looking to break up the romance with some adventure.

Northern Exposure

In the far north of Australia, an hour's drive from Darwin, Bamurru Plains has proven a popular spot for the romantically-inclined looking to get close to some of Australia's famous, and often ferocious creatures, including water buffalo, wild brumby horses, magpie geese and, of course, saltwater crocodiles. The luxury wildlife lodge is located on the edge of one of the region's largest flood plains and is best encountered aboard the Lodge's fleet of air boats, which skim across the flooded landscape, allowing an up-close and personal Aussie experience.





Snow Bound

Australia's Snowy Mountains can be both romantic and adventurous, especially if you're turning to the slopes. The Denman Hotel & Spa offers a wide range of packages, covering everything from multiple-day excursions where guests "rough" it out in the back country, right through to day sessions that end with warm meals back at the hotel. This is an especially good opportunity to try cross-country skiing with experienced guides in stunning natural surrounds.

Yee-Har!

Ever wondered what it would like to be a cowboy or cowgirl and to work on a ranch, ride horses and bring in the cattle from grazing? Creative Western Adventures in Canada offer a unique range of cowperson adventures, including their cattle drive experience, which includes cattle tending, fence mending, pasture checking and of course, plenty of romantic sing-alongs under the starry sky.



AUSTRALIA'S SNOWY MOUNTAINS CAN BE BOTH ROMANTIC AND ADVENTUROUS, ESPECIALLY IF YOU'RE TURNING TO THE SLOPES.

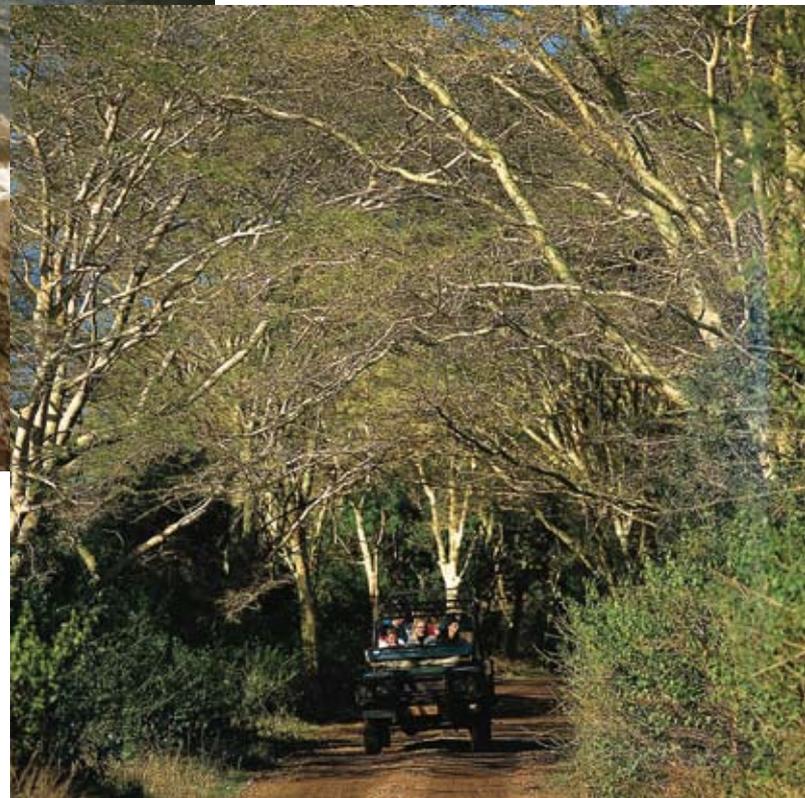


Jelly Fish Lake

Located in Palau, a tiny archipelago nation east of the Philippines, couples can dive into a truly unique environment. Fifth Lake (or *Ongeim'l Tketau* in the local tongue) is located in the centre of Eil Malk Island, one of the nation's famed 'rock islands', home to millions of golden jellyfish. The jellies, which have evolved to be completely stingless, migrate across this picturesque lake with the sunshine, and intrepid swimmers can glide through the water with them in complete safety.

Patagonia Down Pat

If you like the colder climates, adventure company Peregrine will take couples into the most extreme locals to celebrate their recent nuptials. Its new Patagonia Ice Trek Expedition, which ventures deep into the Patagonian ice fields - the largest outside the Polar regions - includes trekking among the staggeringly dramatic spires and buttresses of the Fitzroy Massif, and an ascent of the Marconi Glacier, using snow shoes and crampons.



On Safari

Exploring deepest, darkest Africa has always been one of the ultimate adventures and honeymooners still love to see the stunning and unique wildlife. The Zululand Safari Lodge, located in the Ubizane Wildlife Reserve in South Africa, offers luxury accommodation in the middle of the stunning savannah, but also driving, horseback and walking tours to view the wildlife. Nearby Hluhluwe Game Reserve is the oldest in Africa and is famous for the big five – lion, elephant, rhino, buffalo, and leopard.

Land of Ice

Iceland's volcanoes may have caused plenty of trouble for frequent flyers in recent times but they're still popular spots for the adventurous. The Vatnajokull Voyager is an adventure-packed day trip to Kaftafell and Vatnajokull National Parks, which is well suited to those who may not climb often. The trip takes in the largest glacier in Europe, guided ice hikes, and a zodiac cruise through the massive icebergs of Jokulsarlon Glacier lagoon.



EXPLORING DEEPEST, DARKEST AFRICA HAS ALWAYS BEEN ONE OF THE ULTIMATE ADVENTURES AND HONEYMOONERS STILL LOVE TO SEE THE STUNNING AND UNIQUE WILDLIFE.



Land of Kings

Mongolia remains one of the world's untouched locales and one increasingly popular with adventure travellers for its unique culture and colourful festivals, including the ancient Naadam festival, an annual celebration of wrestling, archery and horse racing. From trips through the Gobi Desert to the snow-capped mountains and endless grassy steppes, and visits to local villages, nights in traditional *yurt* tents and front row seats at the most important festival events, this is a truly a life-changing experience.

Southern Spirit

Queenstown in New Zealand's South Island, is one of the world's best known adventure capitals, and one that's no stranger to honeymooners looking for thrills and spills, that include hikes in stunning rural landscapes, skiing, white water rafting, mountain biking, heart-pumping jetboat rides, bungee jumping, helicopter rides in the stunningly beautiful Milford Sound, and dining on some of the country's freshest produce, including trout, cheeses and wines.

FRV