



TRAVELLER

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First, business or economy? Business – more leg room. A shark bit my right leg and if I don't get it up, it swells. Also, business has rather nice wine.

Favourite travel destination Indonesia. I have friends and family there and the Balinese culture is beautiful.

Favourite airport Sydney, because I know my way around.

If I ran my own airline I would ... I have just returned from South Australia, flying economy. The seats were very squished and uncomfortable. I feel much freer underwater, even if it is in a shark-diving cage. If I ran my own airline I would make sure there was more space in economy and room for passengers to move around and stretch their legs. Now I know why economy is called "cattle class".

Where would you go with an unlimited travel budget? I would take my family by train across India, by boat through Great Britain and on safari in Africa.

Worst place you've been lost Los Angeles International Airport.

Best trip ever Up the Sepik River in Papua New Guinea, 29 years ago. The villages were truly amazing, with exciting dancing and sounds that went

through me as if I was standing under Big Ben in London. I indulged my senses [taking] in a way of life on the cusp of vanishing.

Most memorable overseas dining Hotel Kumala Pantia in Legian, Bali. Their barbecue pork ribs are the best I have ever had. I go there just for the ribs

I saved myself from the current by making an anchor with hair ribbons.

whenever I can, and sit overlooking the beach at sunset.

In the suitcase Camera housings, paper, paints, shampoo, toiletries, dive gear, three changes of underwear. The rest depends on my destination.

Who would you most like to travel with and why? My friend Jayne Jenkins, a funny quick-witted Welsh woman, because she never gets lost and is great company. Jayne is also very strong and can throw my gear around like a feather.

Other travel tips Forget high heels. Many airports are so large, you may have to walk a kilometre or two to find your gate. And limit your clothing. Most people I travel with take clothes they never wear.

Is there anywhere you'd recommend/like to go for a special occasion? Southern Ocean Lodge on Kangaroo Island, South Australia.

Best overseas purchase A carving from a village along the Sepik of a spirit man that was beautifully carved. It now overlooks the barbecue on my balcony.

Best travel tale After surfacing in the Banda Sea [in the Maluku Islands of Indonesia], I saw the mother ship disappear over the horizon. I saved myself by building a small island out of dead coral plates and making an anchor using my hair ribbons and weight belt so the current wouldn't take me away. They didn't miss me on the boat. Four hours later, a couple of crew came back to fish at the point during their lunch break.

When I saw them coming I thought "help is on the way". I was wrong. The Zodiac sped to the northern point of the reef and stopped. I stood on my island throwing water in the air and screaming

(Indonesians throw water to attract attention on the ocean). I tossed water until I was exhausted. Fortunately, it was a calm day and eventually one of the men stood up. He couldn't see me, but the water attracted his attention. They rescued me and drove me back to the boat, where I still wasn't missed. The problem was, I had been the one in charge of checking the divers into and out of the water. There was one square not crossed off – mine. My husband and two nephews on board were not popular with me for a couple of days.

Best thing about travelling The adventure, and seeing something no one else has ever seen or doing something no one else has ever done. Living on the edge, at times. Looking at the surface of the ocean and seeing nothing but water, then breaking through the surface into a world of life, colour and excitement.

Top travel gripe Bad weather, rough seas, cold water. I have devoted much of my life to conservation, so I hate seeing plastic, litter and filth on the streets. And, the hotel room not being made up when you arrive mid-afternoon.

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