

INTERVIEW

# Star on board

## Stanley Johnson

Writer, broadcaster, father of Boris and recent *I'm a Celebrity* star Stanley first set sail at six weeks old. And, as he tells **Louise Robinson**, he hasn't stopped exploring ever since

### WHAT IS YOUR FIRST HOLIDAY MEMORY?

My grandfather retired to Cornwall, to live at Carbis Bay near St Ives, and I was born in Penzance at the beginning of the war when my father was serving with the RAF and my mother was staying there, so Cornwall was very much a holiday home. My siblings and I would spend hours on the beach or going for long walks with my grandfather to Lelant and the Hayle estuary.

### WHERE IS YOUR FAVOURITE BEACH IN BRITAIN?

I like Woolacombe, in North Devon, which is only an hour's drive from our farm on Exmoor. It does get busy in high season but the beach is so huge that it can easily absorb a crowd, and the scenery is truly spectacular. You can also hop on a boat for a day trip to Lundy and see the puffins.

### WHERE WAS YOUR FIRST CRUISE ?

It wasn't really a cruise, it was six weeks aboard the John Biscoe, a British Antarctic Survey

Stanley has explored the far corners of the Earth...

ANTARCTICA:  
THE LAST  
GREAT  
WILDERNESS  
STANLEY JOHNSON

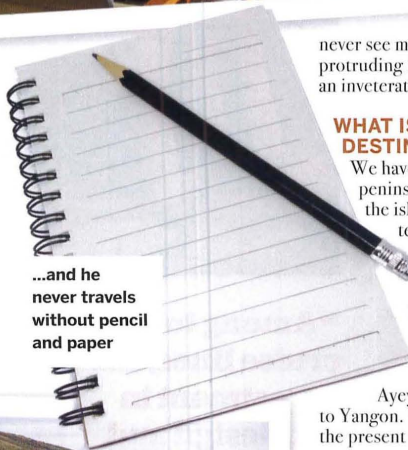
...but his favourite beach is Woolacombe, close to home



Stanley (above) loves the view from his terrace in Greece...



...and he never travels without pencil and paper



vessel. I visited five of their six research bases back in the 1980s and wrote a book called *Antarctica: The Last Great Wilderness*.

### WHAT DO YOU NEVER LEAVE HOME WITHOUT?

Pencil and paper. You will never see me without a little red notebook protruding from a pocket somewhere – I am an inveterate note-taker.

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE DESTINATION?

We have a house in Greece, on the Pelion peninsula, which is more or less opposite the island of Skiathos. The view from the terrace is to die for. We go there for two weeks every summer, and sometimes in September too.

### TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAVOURITE CRUISE...

My wife and I had a wonderful time last year, cruising down the Ayeyarwady in Myanmar from Mandalay to Yangon. We were lucky to get there before the present trouble flared up.

### WHERE IS NEXT ON YOUR WISH LIST?

I want to see snow leopards in the wild so I'm planning a trip to Kyrgyzstan in the near future. ■



Stanley Johnson's new Brexit/Trump political thriller *KOMPROMAT* is published in paperback by Oneworld, price £8.99 ([amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk))