**BIO FOR WEBSITE**

**Background**

*The purpose of this section is to ‘pitch yourself as a travel professional’. So please list relevant background, jobs, experience etc. If you don’t want to mention names of companies that’s ok, just put something like ‘leading German travel agent’ etc.*

*Here is an example, however just send me the info you want to include and I will write it up into a paragraph:*

At the age of 16 Petra delved headfirst into the travel industry with a job with a leading German tour operator. During her 40 years with the company she gained extensive travel industry experience; explored the world’s most exotic locations; and became an an expert in the Asia, Africa, Middle East and South Pacific regions. But it was not without its challenges - in 1980 she was sent to China right after the Cultural Revolution. She returned to Germany, not only with culture shock, but with an incredible China programme that paved the way for travel to the country. Is it no wonder we snapped her up!

Born and brought up in a small town north of Frankfurt in the Taunus Mountains I discovered my passion for travelling very soon after I’ve started working at the age of 16 for one of the top touroperators in Germany. My biggest challenge in my young career was in 1980 when I was sent to China right after their cultural revolution and experienced myself a cultural shock…. even though all in all it was a great and positive experience. I’ve created a nice China program for the company and travelled back for many years.

Over the years I’ve gained extensive travel industry experience, having worked for that well-established German tour operator for more than 40 years in a management position. I’ve extensively explored many of the world’s most exotic destinations, becoming an expert in the Asia, Africa, Middle East and South Pacific regions.

I am excited to be part of the professional Red Elephant team since January 2020!

**What I do when not travelling**

*Let’s keep this short & sweet!*

*In the beautiful forest, just steps from Petra’s home, she hikes and bikes distances other people drive.*

You will find me in our beautiful forest just a door step away from my home – either in hiking boots or on my bicycle.

**Weirdest/ Funniest travel memory**

**Being overtaken by sherpas in just flip flops and laden down with huge bags while hiking with her husband across the border from Tibet to Nepal.**

**A street race with a cheetah in Botswana**

**One day in Botswana a cheetah challenged us to a ‘street race’**

* In 1991 crossing the boarder from Tibet to Nepal on foot – that time driving was’nt possible. My husband and I thought we are good and fast hikers but seeing the sherpas in flip-flops, carrying our luggage and being as fast as mountain goats was amazing.
* One day in Botswana an encounter with a cheetah on the tar road – this animal wanted to compete with our car in a “street race” – guess who won!

**Top of my travel bucket list**

*This can be serious or funny – it’s up to you. Also, we don’t have to limit this to RER destinations – as who knows what hotels and other destinations we will contract anyway! Here’s a few examples:*

* A road trip from Ladakh to Kashmir crossing some of the highest mountain passes in the world. I doubt this will be possible in the near future but still dreaming of it!
* Instead explore Europe which I hardly know – Scandinavia, Baltic states, Poland, Italy – they all have stunning and beautiful landscapes and rich culture.

***Any other essential info:***

* cross-cultural competence due to the variety of destinations and different partnerships I was in charge of
* curious to explore new prospects (products, destinations, tasks)