



COLIN BELL SPECIALIST SAFARI GUIDE – NS



Operates anywhere in Africa

You could say Colin made his own luck – instead of going into the world of finance after completing his economics degree at Wits University in South Africa, he landed his first job as a safari guide in Botswana in 1977. In those days, a cold beer came out of a long-wet sock, tied to the side mirror of his Land Rover, and cooled while hanging in the breeze. That was as good as it got.

In 1983 Colin co-founded Wilderness Safaris which, over the decades it grew to own camps and lodges across seven countries, managing over 2 million hectares of prime wilderness lands. One of Colin's career successes that he is most proud of at his time at Wilderness was to initiate some of the very first sustainable partnerships between impoverished remote rural communities and safari companies that created the blueprint for community owned conservancies right around Southern Africa as well initiated the process (and signed the first cheque) that resulted in the successful reintroduction of both black and white rhino back into the wilds of the Okavango Delta.

Colin sold his shares in Wilderness over 15 years ago and was one of the chief-founders of Natural Selection which was created as a conservation-driven tourism company. He believes that wildlife enriches our lives and makes us caring, nurturing, human beings. Colin has co-authored two books on wildlife and the environment - *Africa's Finest*, about the good, the bad and the ugly of the safari tourism industry (along with solutions for true sustainability) and *The Last Elephants* – a Smithsonian published book of the plight of elephants right around Africa.

Years of guiding experience

Colin has an impressive 41 years of guiding experience.

Regional knowledge and expertise

Botswana, Okavango Delta, Africa.

Ideal for accompanying

multi-generation family travel, couples, small groups, journalists.

Areas of special interest

Conservation, especially Elephants. Birdlife.

Experiences & Expertise

- Colin is a passionate, inspirational and ground-breaking wildlife conservationist.
- He co-founded Wilderness Safaris in 1983, which owned camps and lodges over seven countries.
- Initiated some of the first sustainable partnerships between impoverished remote rural communities and safari companies.
- Successfully helped to reintroduce both black and white rhino back into the wilds of the Okavango Delta.
- Co-founded Natural Selection.
- Accomplished author of two books; *Africa's Finest* & *The Last Elephants*

Languages: English

Currently Lives: in Cape Town, South Africa

'To me, Africa is where we all began. Each and every one of us has had their DNA crafted here in Africa. Getting to know what makes each of us tick and ultimately better understanding oneself can best be fully unlocked after spending quality time in remote, rural Africa. Travels to the continent leads to inner content – but be warned, it is addictive!'- Colin Bell

To book Colin as your specialist guide contact:

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