



COLIN BELL

“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!”

Guiding Experience: *Colin has been guiding for over 4 decades - an impressive number of years since 1981.*

Regional Knowledge & Expertise: *Botswana, the Okavango Delta, Africa.*

Ideal for Accompanying: *multi-generational family travel, couples, small groups, journalists.*

Areas of Special Interest: *Conservation, elephants, birdlife.*

Qualifications:

- *Colin is a passionate, inspirational and ground-breaking wildlife conservationist.*
- *Co-founded Wilderness Safaris in 1983, which owns camps and lodges over eight 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: *Cape Town, South Africa*

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 1983 Colin co-founded Wilderness Safaris which, over the decades, grew to own camps and lodges across eight countries, and now manages 2.4 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. This created the blueprint for community owned conservancies right around Southern Africa. He also 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.

In 2016 he co-founded 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.

