

**WINNER**BEST
SAFARI GUIDE
IN AFRICATATLER TRAVEL
AWARDS 2023

Guiding Experience: *Ralph grew up on safari and has been guiding since 1976.*

Regional Knowledge & Expertise: *Botswana, Ethiopia, Chad, DRC, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Namibia, Angola, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Madagascar, Rwanda, Eritrea, Sudan, South Sudan, Yemen, Somalia and Socotra.*

Ideal for Accompanying: *Adventurous families, multi-generational family travel, solo travellers, photographers, journalists.*

Areas of Special Interest: *Wildlife, culture, exploration, heli exploring, nomad shopping, archaeology, rock art, history, deserts, jungles, following in the footsteps of explorers, opening new destinations.*

Qualifications:

- *Studied wildlife specialising in animal behaviour.*
- *Grew up on safari accompanying his father and other family members on expeditions starting at 3 days old.*
- *Co-owner of Botswana-based Uncharted Africa Safari Co.*
- *A fifth generation guide, known for his deep-rooted commitment to Africa's wildlife and ecology, as well as the preservation of the native Bushmen culture in Botswana.*

Languages: *English.*

Currently Lives: *Botswana and Cape Town.*

RALPH BOUSFIELD

“Come with an open mind. The experience is not just about the safari itself, but it's about coming to Africa, the birthplace of the human race. There is a feeling of coming home here. I've learnt to question what may seem obvious and to seek the unexpected. There are always new frontiers to be explored. I've always liked places that are wild and dark, but most of all I like the places that have stood still forever. It is where I live my life and feel completely at peace.”

OPERATES ANYWHERE IN AFRICA

Ralph Bousfield comes from a long line of African pioneers and adventurers; he went on his first safari at the age of three. His family has guided safaris for five generations, the first guide in the family being his maternal great grandfather, Major Richard Granville Nicholson, who escorted Princess Eugenie to see her son's grave and the site where he was killed in the Zulu war on 1 June 1879.

Ralph studied Nature Conservation and did his thesis on the Wattled Crane as an Indicator Species of Wetland Destruction. He furthered his studies at the International Crane Institute in Wisconsin under the famous George Archibald, who captive-bred the whooping crane back from extinction. Ralph then worked with his mother to establish Botswana's first Wildlife Orphanage and Education Centre. In 1998 Ralph co-produced and presented a sixteen part series for the Discovery Channel entitled "Uncharted Africa", which was filmed in Botswana, Namibia, Kenya and Tanzania.

His passion for the Kalahari and the Bushmen began at a very young age as he was very lucky to have one of the greatest teachers and mentors, his father, Jack Bousfield. Growing up on safari, and hunting as a professional his whole life, his father worked with some of the greatest traditional hunters and trackers in Africa. Jack's respect for the Bushmen rubbed off on Ralph, and from a very young age, he had the good fortune to spend all his free time on safari with his father and his team. Ralph spearheaded the building of Jack's Camp in the Kalahari Desert's striking Makgadikgadi Pans. Jack's Camp and Uncharted Africa were pioneers in tourism in the Makgadikgadi Pans in Botswana and today are part of the Natural Selection portfolio.



**NATURAL
SELECTION**
SAFARIS OF CHARACTER