

KWANDWE

SPECIALIST RANGER PROFILES



SPECIALIST GUIDING

Awarded 'Best Safari Guiding Team 2018' in Africa

We pride ourselves on fostering a journey that nurtures lasting memories, a deeper understanding of conservation and a soulful connection to the wilds of Africa. Our highly qualified and experienced rangers guide guests through a dynamic array of safari experiences founded on our ethos of conservation in action.

Included in every stay is the opportunity to experience a Big Game Walk (to view elephant, buffalo or black and white rhino on foot), or a specialised birding or fishing safari with a qualified ranger and tracker team.

Dedicated specialist rangers are on hand with a private vehicle for those who are searching for a more immersive, private experience with us (enquire for rates). Tailormade, these experiences include walking, fishing, birding or photographic safaris with a member of our specialist ranger team.

EXPERTISE & TEAMWORK

There is a special bond between our superbly trained guides and expert trackers which allows for a truly holistic guided experience. They work as an extension of one another, connected in mind and spirit, as they share the land with you. All guides and trackers, regardless of prior experience, complete an extensive training program on arrival where this safari partnership is founded.

Our team continuously work together to train one another, share their skills and evolve. With this incredible sense of team spirit, Kwandwe Private Game Reserve has a family of naturalist guides and trackers of exceptional knowledge and ability.

All rangers have a minimum of back-up trails guide and advanced rifle handling, in addition to all the basic legal requirements.



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NICO BRITS

Expertise Specialist walking

Experience and relevant qualifications 4 years guiding, Field Guides Association of South Africa Level 2 (NQF 4), Trails Guide, Advanced Rifle Handling, Cyber Tracker level 3 and Biome Guide (Albany Thicket)

Background, interests and passions I have been guiding for 4 years here at Kwandwe, but it is not my first time in the African bush. I grew up in a family that has a huge passion for nature and wildlife. As a kid, I spent most of my school holidays on my grandfather's farm, in the far north of South Africa, and this is where my passion for the bush began. I have also spent some time in Zimbabwe, walking and viewing Africa's giants on foot. After that I knew that one day, I would love to share these experiences with people from all over the world.

I did my training in the Waterberg (situated in the Limpopo Province), after which I decided to come to the Eastern Cape. I fell in love with the area and Kwandwe. It offers incredible walking experiences because of its terrain and vegetation, and really allows you to feel a part of the African bush.



RYAN HILLIER

Expertise Specialist walking, photography and fishing

Experience and relevant qualifications 8 years guiding, Field Guide Association of South Africa Level 2 qualification (NQF 4) and Biome Guide (Thicket Biome), Advanced Rifle Handling, Lead Trails Guide.

Background, interests and passions I have been a guide for 8 years, with all that time spent guiding at Kwandwe, as well as a short stint in the Sabi Sands at Kirkman's Kamp. Having grown up on a farm in Zimbabwe, I have been interested in nature from a young age. My introduction to the Hospitality industry began when my family ran a holiday resort in Mozambique. I worked as a dive master and skipper, conducting scuba diving and fishing charters.

Later in Durban, South Africa, I became a fulltime scuba diving instructor. It was only after this that I returned to my childhood dream of becoming a Ranger and moved to Kwandwe. My passions are photography and walking. I am at my happiest when I am behind my camera or viewing animals on foot.



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BRENDON DREDGE

Expertise Specialist walking, birding and fishing

Experience and relevant qualifications 5 years guiding, Field Guide Association of South Africa Level 1 (NQF 2), Advanced Rifle Handling, Lead Trails guide, First Aid, Snake Handling, MSc in Ichthyology.

Background, interests and passions I was born in a small farming town in central Zimbabwe, then moved to Kenya and subsequently Malawi. Growing up around Africa, I was fortunate to experience various wildlife habitats. I became curious about the different flora and fauna, and this became my life.

Straight after university, I completed my training as a guide and joined the Kwandwe team. I have been based at Kwandwe for most of my guiding career, and have had the opportunity to guide at Phinda in KwaZulu Natal and then Sossusvlei in Namibia. I have always loved walking in the wilds of Africa, experiencing the quiet sounds of the bush, having a chance to look closer at some of the smaller creatures, hearing the birds calling, or being able to view some of the larger mammals that Kwandwe has to offer. My interest in fish and fishing has only increased since the completion of my Masters degree and the opportunity to cast a line while surrounded by the wilds of Kwandwe is a true privilege.



RUAN SPRINGORUM

Expertise Photography and fishing

Experience and relevant qualifications 2.5 years of guiding experience, 6 years of Professional Photography, Field Guide Association of South Africa Level 1, Backup Trails Guide, First Aid Level 1, Advanced Rifle Handling, Basic Snake Handling and Awareness, 4x4 Off Road Driver Course.

Background, interests and passions I have been guiding at Kwandwe for 2 and a half years and it is amazing to share my passion for wildlife with others. In my spare time I love to go fly-fishing.

My love and passion for wildlife and photography started at a very young age. I grew up in Nelspruit which is very close to the Kruger National Park and spent a lot of time there with my family. My uncle was a press photographer who did a lot of wildlife photography in his spare time; after he took me to work to take photos of the 1995 Springbok rugby team after they won the world cup I knew I wanted to be a photographer - since then my dream was to be a wildlife photographer. It is an absolute privilege to be able to combine my passions in life and to do it for a living.

