

JOSH BERNSTEIN

EXPLORER | EDUCATOR | STORYTELLER

Explorer, educator, and storyteller Josh Bernstein (FN '04, FRGS) has traveled more than 2,000,000 miles by train, plane, bus, bike, and camel to over 80 countries and all seven continents in the pursuit of knowledge and discovery. He is the founder and chair of the [First Light](#) group of companies which includes the First Light Institute, First Light Education, First Light Studios, First Light Expeditions, and the First Light Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charity. Together, this for profit / not-for-profit hybrid ecosystem focuses on the most important global challenge we face today: ensuring a sustainable future for humanity and our planet by creating engagement, building advocacy, and inspiring action.

EXPLORER

As the host of over 50 hours of prime-time, award-winning documentary content for History, Discovery, National Geographic, Smithsonian Institution, and NASA, Josh has traced the Ark of the Covenant from the caverns of Jerusalem to the mountains of Ethiopia, communed with tribal chiefs in the most remote jungles of the Amazon Rainforest, and has hunted with alleged cannibals by moonlight in the forests of Papua New Guinea. He has ventured deep underground with NASA scientists to explore the origins of life on Earth and helped recover the Apollo F-1 engines off the floor of the Atlantic Ocean—all on a quest to shed light on some of the most fascinating mysteries on our planet.

EDUCATOR

For 25 years, Josh was a wilderness guide with BOSS, the [Boulder Outdoor Survival School](#), the oldest and largest survival school in the country. Josh first attended BOSS as a student in 1988 and rose through the ranks from apprentice to instructor to marketing director to president & CEO of the company, which he then led for 17 years. In 2013, Josh sold BOSS and moved to Washington, DC to work with the Smithsonian Institution on a new STEAM education initiative with grants from the Smithsonian, the Department of Education, the Bezos Family Foundation, and others. The success of Josh's work with the Smithsonian led to the opportunity to create two additional STEM programs for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA): [Project Ianos](#) with the Aldrin Family Foundation in 2021-2022 and [Students To Launch](#) with the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) in 2022-2023. All of these STEAM initiatives used best-in-class methodologies to help the students of today prepare to face and solve the challenges of tomorrow.

STORYTELLER

A critically acclaimed author and public speaker, Josh connects and communicates with audiences through a variety of media, including books, photographs, documentaries, and feature films produced by [First Light Studios](#). As a television presenter, Josh is known to audiences in 220 countries and territories around the world for his approachable, authentic style and insatiable curiosity. For three years, Josh hosted the record-breaking hit series *Digging for the Truth* on the History Channel which, to this day, is still the highest-rated and most respected adventure-archaeology series on TV. He was also the host and executive producer of the Discovery Channel's epic series *Into the Unknown with Josh Bernstein*. His newest series is called [Explorer At Large](#) and seeks to build a sacred connection between people and our planet through multi-media content and programs that spotlight STEM solutions, celebrate indigenous wisdom, and inspire wonder.



In addition to his work on camera, Josh executive produces and narrates feature films, documentaries, and short-form videos for global clients including governments, government agencies, and other high-profile institutions and foundations committed to quality storytelling that makes a difference.

PHOTOGRAPHER

A professional photographer for over 30 years, Josh has created images published in *Vogue*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Men's Health*, *Men's Journal*, *Backpacker*, *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, and for solo gallery exhibitions stretching from New York to California.

AFFILIATIONS

Academy of Television Arts & Sciences (Member)
Explorers Club (Fellow & Former Board Member)
Royal Geographical Society (Fellow)

Sea-Space Symposium (Board Member)
Sierra Club (Lifetime member)
Boulder Outdoor Survival School (Board member)

CERTIFICATIONS

International Association of Nitrox & Technical Divers (IANTD) – Cave Diver, Nitrox Diver
Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) – Rescue Diver, Master Diver, Emergency O2 Provider
Technical Diving International (TDI/SDI/ERSI) – Advanced Wreck Diver, Deco Procedures Diver, Evolution Air Diluent Diver, JJ-CCR Air Diluent Diver, Exosuit ADS Pilot, Full Face Mask Diver, Sidemount Diver

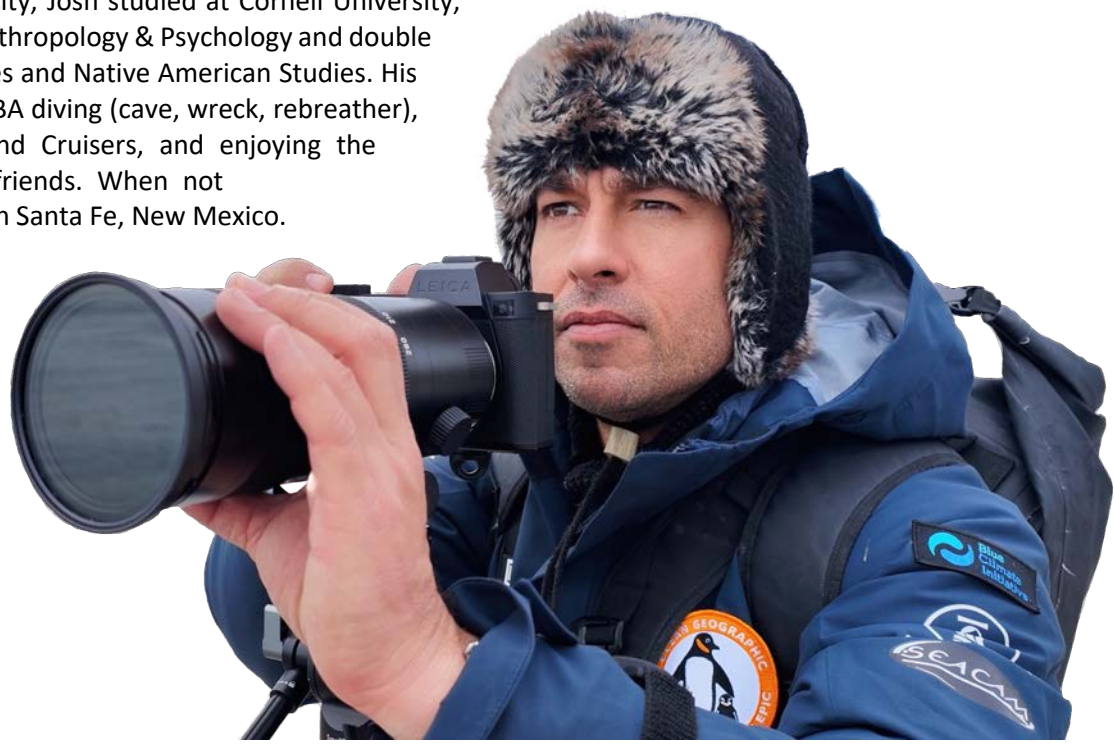
COUNTRIES & TERRITORIES VISITED

Antarctica, Antigua, Argentina, Armenia, Aruba, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bermuda, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cayman Islands, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Easter Island, Ecuador, Egypt, England, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Greece, Greenland, Guatemala, Guinea, Hong Kong, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Mali, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles, Norway, Palestinian Territories, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turks & Caicos, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United States, Vatican City, Virgin Islands, Wales, Yemen, Zimbabwe

PERSONAL

Born and raised in New York City, Josh studied at Cornell University, where he double majored in Anthropology & Psychology and double minored in Near Eastern Studies and Native American Studies. His passions include technical SCUBA diving (cave, wreck, rebreather), admiring/restoring vintage Land Cruisers, and enjoying the occasional Cuban cigar with friends. When not traveling for work, Josh lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

CONTACT



BIOS FOR INTRODUCTIONS

425 WORDS

Explorer, educator, and storyteller Josh Bernstein (FN '04, FRGS) has traveled more than 2,000,000 miles by train, plane, bus, bike, and camel to over 80 countries and all seven continents in the pursuit of knowledge and discovery. As the host of over 50 hours of prime-time, award-winning documentary content for History, Discovery, National Geographic, Smithsonian Institution, and NASA, Josh has traced the Ark of the Covenant from the caverns of Jerusalem to the mountains of Ethiopia, communed with tribal chiefs in the most remote jungles of the Amazon Rainforest, and hunted with alleged cannibals by moonlight in the forests of Papua New Guinea. He has ventured deep underground with NASA scientists to explore the origins of life on Earth and helped recover the Apollo F-1 engines off the floor of the Atlantic Ocean—all on a quest to shed light on some of the most fascinating mysteries on our planet.

Josh's latest series—set to begin production in Q2 2025—is called Explorer At Large. Produced by Josh's production company First Light Studios, the mission of Explorer At Large (XAL) is to build a sacred connection between people and our planet. This is done through multi-media content and programs that spotlight STEM solutions, celebrate indigenous wisdom, and inspire wonder. As the lead host of the series, Josh seeks to embody the adventurous curiosity of Indiana Jones, the pioneering passion of Jacques Cousteau, the visionary courage of Aldous Huxley, and the heartfelt empathy of Mr. Rogers to help entice and guide audiences on a journey of exploration and discovery. More at www.exploreralarge.com

Prior to his work in television, Josh spent 25 years as a wilderness guide with BOSS, the Boulder Outdoor Survival School, the oldest and largest survival school in the country. Josh first attended BOSS as a student and rose through the ranks from apprentice to instructor to marketing director to president & CEO, where he led the school for 17 years before selling the company to work in television (he remains a member of BOSS's board of directors).

Josh is a critically-acclaimed author, published photographer, and professional keynote speaker. Josh was born and raised in New York City and studied at Cornell University, where he double-majored in Anthropology & Psychology and double-minored in Near Eastern Studies and Native American Studies. His passions include technical SCUBA diving (cave, wreck, rebreather), admiring and restoring vintage Land Cruisers, and enjoying the occasional Cuban cigar with friends. When not traveling and filming for work, Josh lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico. More at www.joshbernstein.com

BIOS FOR INTRODUCTIONS

240 WORDS

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160 WORDS

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