



Gerry Martin Conservation Specialist

Over the last two decades, I have been involved with herpetological research and conservation, documentary filmmaking, education and teacher training and eco-tourism. My professional career started in 1995 when I joined Rom Whitaker at the Centre for Herpetology near Chennai on the East coast of India. Soon, I started working on the king cobra breeding program that Rom had started along with his award winning film, King Cobra that airs on the National Geographic Channel.

This was my introduction to the world of wildlife filmmaking. Soon after, I worked with Paramount Pictures on their series, 'Wild Things', Fox TV on 'World Gone Wild', BBC's 'Land of the Tiger' and few others. Through these programs, I was on-camera talent, consultant and animal handler.

I also worked on National Geographic's 'Thunder Dragons' and 'Spunky Monkey' as on camera talent and animal handler. In 2000, I became India's first National Geographic Channel Adventurer, a brand ambassador for the channel in Asia. Between then and 2004 I worked on numerous programs focussed on wildlife and social issues in various capacities, ranging from field producer and on-camera expert to wildlife consultant and animal handler. These films include episodes on NGC's Snake Wrangler series, Crocodile Chronicles, Dangerous Encounters and Explorer.

From 2002 to 2005, I worked in the field of education, creating curriculum for schools, training educationists and facilitating experiential learning with India's premier educational organisation 'iDiscoveri Education'.

In 2006, I co-founded 'Strider Expeditions' which was dedicated to working with wildlife on various levels from taking people through substantial wildlife experiences and making documentaries to developing solutions for the restoration of degraded and sensitive forest areas.

In 2010, I started "The Gerry Martin Project" (TGMP), bringing all the conservation and education work that I do under one umbrella and focussed on building a team. Today, we continue this work, having set up base in Rathnapuri Village, in the Southwest of Karnataka. TGMP's focusses on human wildlife conflict mitigation (primarily human-snake conflict), rural education and exposure and finding solutions for conservation and socio-economic issues in the rural landscape that surrounds us.

My Skills:

My primary talent lies in my skill with animals, especially reptiles. I have also worked with primates, arachnids and birds.

I am an experienced rock climber and mountaineer, having indulged these hobbies in the Western Ghats and the Himalayas, as well as lead programs, expeditions and excursions to these mountain ranges.

I am also very good at communicating with and leading large groups of both children as well as adults.

I speak three Indian languages- Hindi, Kannada and Tamil. I can also read and write Hindi and Kannada.

Work Experience:

I've listed the milestones of my career in the table below. In addition to these, I have worked with the underprivileged, providing them with opportunities to experience nature and wildlife.

July 1995	Asst. Curator
Feb 1998	Madras Crocodile Bank/ Centre for Herpetology
June – Sept 1998	Field Supervisor Universities of Oxford and Aberdeen (Under Graduate Students) Population Dynamics of Frogs in the Western Ghats of India.
Sept 1995 – Feb 1998	Breeding Biology of King Cobras Centre for Herpetology, Madras
Feb 1996- Feb 1998	Animal Consultant and Curator National Geographic King Cobra, Spunky Monkey and Thunder Dragons
Aug-Oct 1997	Consultant and Reptile Handler BBC - Land of the Tiger
Feb 1996- Dec 1999	On-Camera Expert Paramount Pictures - Wild Things <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Crocodile Bank ▪ Snake Village ▪ Bite Me ▪ Snake Dentist ▪ Elephant Chasers ▪ King Cobra ▪ Monitor Lizards ▪ Coffee and Elephants
July 1999	On-Camera Expert Fox TV - World Gone Wild
Sept 1998	Partridge Films Indian Crocodiles and Big Snakes
2000-2003	On-Camera Talent National Geographic: Crocodile Chronicles- eight episodes. Snake Wranglers- Fangs to Fortunes Operation Viper Snakes of Oman
2001	On-Camera talent and advisor to National Geographic Television for ‘Supercroc’
2002	Field Producer: Taboo (three episodes) Snake Wranglers- one episode Animal handler and consultant to Tigress films for the Austin Stevens show in S. India
2003	Senior Associate, iDiscoveri Education. Developed curriculum, facilitated educationist training and conducted outbound experiential learning programs for children and adults.

2006	Founded Strider Expeditions. Conceptualised and Ran the first Herpetology Workshop in India. Began running herpetological expeditions On-camera Talent for NGC's Dangerous Encounters- Deadliest Snakes Episode.
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2010	Founded The Gerry Martin Project
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2011-Present	Focussing on Human Snake Conflict Mitigation Used tourism to facilitate my work for the first time. Ran venom sampling expeditions in numerous states.
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2018	Launched the first ever telemetry study on Russell's vipers
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Currently setting up the first captive collection of venomous snakes for venom production in India as well as working concertedly on snakebite mitigation and treatment.