



CHRIS BASHINELLI

“We need more people like Chris in the world,” says Dr. Jane Goodall.

Chris Bashinelli is a National Geographic Explorer, TV host, and globally recognized speaker who helps organizations lead through times of change by strengthening what matters most—true human connection. In an era defined by uncertainty, disruption, and rapid transformation, Bash equips leaders and teams with the tools to turn challenge into growth, rebuild trust, and create cultures where people feel safe, valued, and inspired to bring their best selves to work.

Drawing on immersive experiences in over 40 countries, Chris Bashinelli— known affectionately as “Bash”—has spent his life studying what enables individuals, teams, and cultures to thrive under pressure. His work bridges the worlds of leadership, performance, and humanity, helping organizations boost sales, reignite employee inspiration, and foster meaningful connection in moments when it matters most.

Born in Brooklyn, New York to Lebanese and Italian-American parents, Bash’s worldview was shaped early on by his childhood “stoop,” where friendships spanned more than 13 nationalities. After a decade-long acting career, including a role on HBO’s *The Sopranos*, Bash made a bold pivot—trading the red carpet for the road to explore how people across cultures navigate adversity, purpose, and belonging. This journey led to the creation of *Bridge the Gap*, a global travel series featured on PBS and National Geographic Channel.

Bash has lived with nomads in Mongolia, harvested tea in China, and stepped into the ring against the heaviest Japanese Sumo wrestler in recorded history. He doesn’t observe cultures from the outside—he embeds himself fully, learning firsthand from Ugandan mystics, Mongolian herdsmen, Lakota suicide prevention activists, and some of *TIME* Magazine’s 100 Most Influential People on the Planet. These experiences form the core of his work as a modern-day cultural anthropologist, revealing how resilience, trust, and leadership are forged through challenge.

A longtime advocate of mental wellness, Bash has studied mindfulness and meditation for nearly two decades. After losing his father to cancer at age 20, he began a lifelong exploration of the human condition—what sustains us through loss, change, and uncertainty. His service work includes bringing mindfulness and emotional resilience practices to inmates across federal and state prisons, as well as to military veterans from nearly every major conflict since World War II.

As a keynote speaker, Bash delivers high-energy, deeply human experiences that combine unforgettable stories, dynamic audience engagement, and exclusive footage from his global travels. His presentations are customized for each audience and designed not just to inspire, but to equip leaders with practical tools they can immediately apply when guiding teams through transition and change.

Bash has headlined events for organizations including AT&T, American Express, Coca-Cola, Deloitte, the Federal Reserve Bank, and the Million Dollar Round Table. He has shared the stage with luminaries such as Stevie Wonder and Michael Douglas, and at just 24 years old became the youngest person ever to moderate the United Nations International Day of Peace.

His work has been featured in *Delta Sky Magazine*, *Lonely Planet*, *Huffington Post*, and *The Daily News Zimbabwe*. Bash is also an Eagle Scout, guest host on the *Be Here Now* podcast network, and film director. His most recent



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films explore the power of resilience with the sole living survivor of the USS *Indianapolis*, as well as the power of friendship with actor Dominic Chianese (*The Sopranos*, *Uncle Junior*).

In a world hungry for leadership that is both courageous and compassionate, Chris Bashinelli delivers a rare experience—one that blends insight, humility, and human connection to help people rise, together, through times of change.