



Jeff Jenkins

**Travel Expert/TV Host
Chubby Diaries
Austin, Texas**

Jeff Jenkins is an award-winning travel/food blogger, speaker, podcast host, and influencer based out of Austin, Texas. Jeff most recently is proud to add travel documentarian to his list of adventures as he stars in a show that explores diverse cultures and locations and overcoming fears, backed by National Geographic. He is a proud Floridian, born and raised in Orlando and graduating from the HBCU Florida A&M University. In the summer of 2002, Jeff got on his first plane and started his journey as a camp counselor on American Military bases around the world through Camp Adventure. He continued this work for six summers, exploring new places and cultures and creating a love for adventure. After college, Jeff guided young minds as an educator in Florida and Texas for a decade, nurturing lasting and meaningful relationships with his students. Upon moving away from life as a public school educator, he went with Africa New Life to build Keyhole Gardens in Kageyo, Rwanda. While on the trip, his group saw a water shortage in the town of Kageyo. They decided upon returning they would start a water well project, quickly learning how and returning to transition their idea to reality. It was in that opportunity that Jeff realized he wanted to travel the world, help people, and get paid to do it. Jeff knew he wanted to blog about traveling. It was then that he found, or rather didn't find, fat Black men represented. With that, Chubby Diaries was born. Since starting Chubby Diaries in 2017, Jeff has added a podcast, Chubby Diaries Annual Travel Awards, and most recently a campaign to give people in his community financial access to passports. He has been featured in Forbes, The New York Times, the Washington Post, Google, Travel Noire, Essence, Travel + Leisure, Lonely Planet, Texas Monthly, Outdoor Retailers, and The Points Guy. Jeff was named one of Travel + Leisure's 50 Notable People in Travel and was recently named on the Washington Post's Next 50 list. Jeff is currently working on multiple projects that promote joy and continuing his work and mission to "Redefine what it looks like to travel."