

DAVID SKILLAN'S WORLD OF TRAVEL . . .

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2009–2010

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Dear Fellow Traveller:

Compliments of the season! I am now home for a few weeks after three memorable back-to-back tours. I'll be heading to Botswana in early January.

Between arriving home from East Africa and heading off to Egypt and Jordan, I had to fly to the UK to see my gravely ill brother, Tony. Sadly, as expected for some time, he passed away shortly after I saw him. I shall be forever grateful that I could stand by his bedside and exchange some final words with him. Larger than life and younger than me by four years, he was a successful communications consultant and a big man in every way. While battling the cancer that gradually spread for 12 years, he was unfailingly cheerful, positive, and optimistic, even when facing the most dire of circumstances, including several major operations. He never complained, and soldiered on the best way he knew how. Even when he had half his liver removed, five years ago, he took life in stride, defying all the odds. He will be greatly missed by many.

It is always an emotional time when we lose a close relative or dear friend, and it has completely taken the wind out of my sails—at least for the time being. The death of someone we love makes us look at our own mortality and question why we are here. It also makes us more determined to make the most of life. In the spring I shall plant a tree in Tony's memory, as I did for my mother, who passed away a few years ago at the age of 90. It would be nice if everyone planted a tree when they lost a family member or friend. It would be good for the environment, as well as honouring a loved one.

RECENT TOURS—As I hadn't been to **Uganda** for many years, I was eagerly looking forward to going back this fall. This lush, green land is a sensational safari destination, with friendly people, mostly fine tarred roads, extraordinary bird- and wildlife-viewing opportunities, and comfortable accommodation in the form of fine hotels, tented camps, and beautiful game lodges, many with breathtaking views. We saw everything you could wish for, including all of the Big Five (elephant, lion, rhino, buffalo, leopard) and great numbers of common game—giraffe, zebra, topi, kob (Uganda's most common antelope), waterbuck, hippo, and crocodile. We also saw many primates, including olive baboons and patas, blue, vervet, black-and-white colobus, and red colobus monkeys. We had fantastic close-up views of cheeky chimps and the shy, gentle mountain gorillas. To publicize the latter's plight, the United Nations has appropriately named 2009 the Year of the Gorilla. Hiking to see them proved to be a grueling exercise, a strenuous up-and-down climb through hilly, dense forest, bushwhacking as we went. Coming across a family of eight, including two infants and two silverbacks, was a magical experience. Seeing them so close was worth all the sweat and effort. Glad to say, too, that my titanium hip (fitted two and a half years ago) stood up pretty well.

The bird life was extraordinary. Among the many species we spotted were yellow-billed storks, carmine bee-eaters, pied, malachite, and pygmy kingfishers, spoonbills, pelicans, Egyptian geese, grey herons, darters, and spur-winged geese. We even had fabulous sightings of the rare shoebill stork, which slightly resembles the long-extinct dodo bird. As if that were not a great stroke of luck, as we stared mesmerized at the shoebill, a saddle-billed stork, a very tall bird with a colourful beak, walked up and stood right next to it! Real birders (those who talk birds at breakfast, lunch, and dinner) would have gone mad with delight over such a sight.

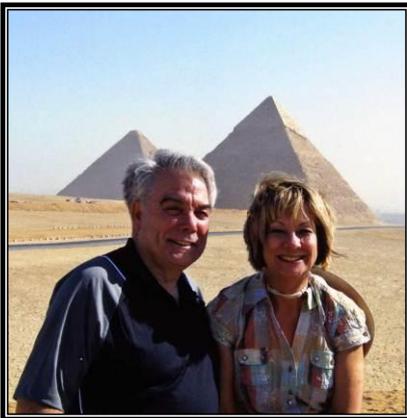


My next tour to Uganda is scheduled for February of 2011. Watch for an article about Uganda in my spring newsletter, including tips for gorilla tracking and news about the plight of these endangered creatures.

My tour to **Kenya and Tanzania** in October was one of the most productive I've ever led—and that's saying something! We always see a tremendous amount of wildlife, but this year was exceptional. We witnessed the great migration in both the Masai Mara and the Serengeti, and saw almost every bird and animal imaginable. You'll get an idea of what an amazing trip it was when you see some of the photos I took. I'll be adding them to my website in the next few weeks, and will send an email update letting you know when they're ready for your viewing pleasure.

My next Kenya and Tanzania tour, in October of 2010, will almost certainly be my last. Much as I enjoy this trip, I want to spend time visiting other African destinations. We already have nine or ten people signed up for 2010, so if you plan to join us, I'd suggest that you book soon.

*Most visitors gasp in astonishment
when they see
the ancient cities of Petra and Jerash.*



My recent **Egypt and Jordan** tour was another success, as you'll see when you read some of the comments from my clients on page 9 of this newsletter. Gerry and Pat, pictured at left, happily told me on the spot, "We wanted to join your Egypt tour, and here we are!" I had intended this to be my last tour to the region, but a number of people have asked me to do another, so I will, *insha'Allah* (God willing). The brochure should be out by late January.

The price has risen significantly since I started going back to Egypt several years ago, because the tour now includes Jordan, another must-see destination. Everyone tells me it's well worth the extra dollars. Just as many visitors gasp with pleasure and amazement when they go on safari, most gasp in astonishment when they see the ancient cities of Petra and Jerash for the first time. Though different, they're as impressive as Egypt's famous sights.

Besides Fouad, the popular local guide and Egyptologist who is my right hand in Egypt, we now have Amjad, a very personable fellow who is a knowledgeable

local guide in Jordan. Like Fouad (and me, of course, at 39!), Amjad is in his mid-thirties. And my female tour members love them both!

*I'm considering a tour of Iceland next May or June.
It will be reasonable—roughly \$2,500 for 10 days.*

UPCOMING TOURS—My **Botswana** (January) and **Japan** (April) tours have been sold out for some time, but there's still space on my **Peru** trip (September) and my final **Kenya and Tanzania** tour (October). Strangely, we've had no enquiries for my **South Africa** tour (March), so we've cancelled it. The next trip to South Africa, if there is sufficient interest, will be in March of 2012.



Peru is another place I'm greatly looking forward to going back to. September is a lovely time to be there. This scenically glorious country has so much to offer the traveller and explorer. I've added more photos of Peru to my website (www.skillansafaris.com/david-skillan-slide-show.html). For a colour brochure about this thrilling tour, please contact Lisa, reservations manager of Collette Vacations in Langley, at elliott@collettevacations.ca or 800-468-5955, extension 4098, or her assistant, Karly, at extension 4102.

I'm considering a tour of **Iceland** next May, if enough people are interested. It will be a tour of only nine days, at a very reasonable price—just \$2,999. Let me know right away if you're interested. We sometimes have wait lists for some of my tours; there's always a chance that someone will cancel.

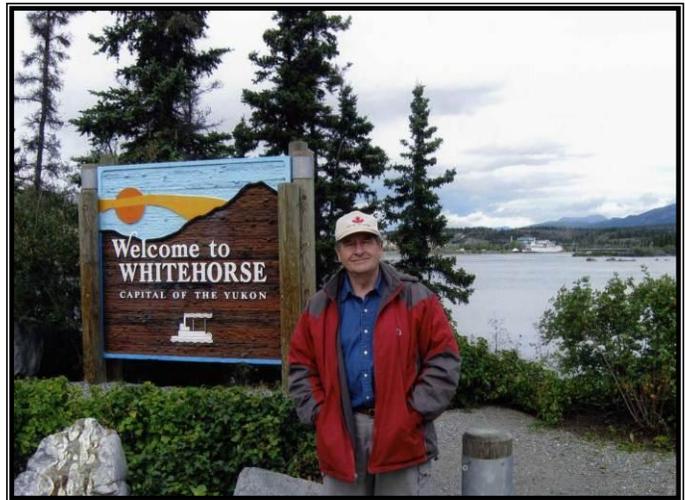
FUTURE TOURS—I'm still considering which tours I'd like to do in conjunction with Wild Africa Safaris and Collette Vacations before I ride off into the sunset. The list includes **Turkey, China, Cambodia and Vietnam, Thailand, Costa Rica, Japan, Croatia**, the capitals of **central and eastern Europe** (Budapest, Krakow, Prague, Warsaw, Berlin, Vienna), **Greece, Ireland, Italy, Ecuador** and the **Galapagos Islands, India, Australia and New Zealand, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia, South Africa, Botswana, Morocco, Uganda, and Zimbabwe**. I won't do them all—only those you tell me you're most interested in. If you've always wanted to see one or more of these destinations, let me know as soon as possible. The sooner you let me know where and when you'd like to go, the sooner I'll be able to fit those destinations into my list.

*The sooner you let me know
where and when you'd like to go,
the sooner I'll be able to fit
those destinations into my list.*

NORTH OF HERE—As mentioned in my last newsletter, I enjoyed a 10-day trip to the **Yukon** with friends last August. It was awesome—so silent, empty, and majestic, with vast forests and countless lakes that echoed to the haunting cry of the loon, one of my favourite birds. We rented an RV and headed to various places, including the unforgettable Dawson City. We visited a couple of very interesting museums and admired the dancing of some glamorous local girls in a can-can show, and peered into the original log cabins of writer Jack London and poet Robert Service. We also drove the Dempster Highway to a place called Tombstone (not Tombstone, Arizona, which I visited last spring), which is one of the most beautiful places on earth. There's no town, no store, no gas station—only an RV site off the main road—but it boasts the most spectacular scenery you're likely to see. (Shhh—don't tell anyone! Let's keep it to ourselves!) We didn't see much wildlife—only one black bear, four foxes, and a few caribou. The bird life was better.

Two people who were on my last Botswana safari, Garry and Carla, are longtime residents of Whitehorse. They run a resort and retreat centre called **Takhini Hot Springs** a few miles from the centre of Whitehorse, where we stayed for a few days. Like many retreats, it's rustic but comfortable, surrounded by woods. Carla, a gourmet cook, prepares the most delicious meals. If you'd like to learn more about their hot springs and retreat centre, visit www.takhinihotsprings.com, email hvr@takhini.com, or call 867-456-8010. If you intend to visit the Yukon in summer, better book your RV early, as hordes of German tourists arrive every week, and they like nothing more than renting RVs and heading into the wilds for a week or two.

Sooner or later I'm going to write an article about my trip to the Yukon, so watch my website for it. Meanwhile, if you're interested in the early gold-rush days, a wildly exciting time for the rough-tough pioneers who braved unbelievable hardship in their quest to strike it rich, you might like to read *I Married the Klondike* by Laura Beatrice Berton, Pierre Berton's mother. She and her young family lived in Dawson City for 25 years. Pierre, of course, wrote many fine books, including a number about his home in the Far North.



*When supplying her personal info,
she hadn't included her full name,
the way it read in her passport.
She might not have been allowed to fly.*

A COSTLY MISTAKE—Recently one of my tour members, about to head off to the airport to join one of my tours, called to say she'd suddenly realized there was an error in her ticket. When supplying her personal info to the travel office, she hadn't included her full name, the way it read in her passport. It cost her a lot of concern and \$150 to get the ticket reissued at the last minute. She was lucky—she might not have been allowed to fly. Moral of the story: always provide your correct information when travelling.

MISSING MANNERS—I see that potty-mouthed Gordon Ramsay of TV's *Hell's Kitchen* is in the news again, this time for getting behind on his bills. Never would I have thought swearing on camera would make someone a celebrity! What a ridiculous world we live in. Of course, he can get away with it, because he's good at his job. I'm good at mine, too, but I don't swear at work. (Well, hardly ever!) But he's a TV personality, and letting one's hair down is apparently viewed as entertainment in today's weird world.

Because I'm a diplomat, people seldom see *me* letting off steam! What they don't know about me is that, despite my rather mild manner, I can get very angry and—when necessary—swear with the best of them. Unlike Gordon Ramsay, who learned his salty language in the kitchen, I learned mine as a young infantryman in the British Army, where swearing more or less began. Believe me, nobody can swear like a British infantryman. Nobody!

*You can find me via Google
if you spell my name correctly.
It's David Skillan,
not Skillen, Skillings, or Skinner!*

WHAT'S IN A NAME—Sometimes a lot, sometimes nothing, as I said in my last newsletter. But here's a good reason to get it right. I recently had an email forwarded from someone in Ontario who was trying to get in touch with me. This person had heard wonderful things about my African safaris from someone she'd met on an airplane. She'd tried googling me, but without success. The reason? She'd spelled my name wrong. You can certainly find me via Google if you spell my name correctly. It's David *Skillan*, not *Skillen*, *Skillings*, or *Skinner*!

STAYING IN TOUCH—A reminder that we need your email address, so we can send you periodic tour updates and special announcements, in addition to the full-colour version of the newsletter. Email not only helps us share late-breaking news with you, it also helps the environment and reduces expenses. Remember, you can always print your own copy. If you're now on my email list, you already receive the newsletter electronically. Please let me know if I can send you just the email version. If I don't have your email address, kindly send it to me.

SAFARI GEAR—Every so often, I'm asked where I get my travel and safari gear. I carry army-style duffel bags, and have been wearing multipocketed vests and lightweight cargo pants since long before they became fashionable among photojournalists. One of my favourite stores is Three Vets on Yukon Street in Vancouver. Another is

Mountain Equipment Co-op on West Broadway (directly across the street from my old office), where one of my sons-in-law works. When not in MEC's executive office, he can be found on Mount Seymour, at Whistler, and on the beach at Tofino, testing the latest designs in skis, backpacks, wetsuits, and other outdoor gear.



OUR CHANGING WORLD—Next March will be 40 years since I joined the travel industry. I escorted my first tour from England via India and Sri Lanka to Expo '70 in Osaka, Japan. Actually, it's 60 years since I first started travelling. At the age of 10 I made my first trip abroad, from England to Germany—a big deal in those days, when travelling to the Continent was done only by people with money. Today countless people think nothing of travelling halfway around the world to visit relatives or to see famous sights with their own eyes. How fortunate we are!

No matter where my travels take me, I never fail to think of those who went before me. In particular, I think of the early pioneers and settlers who faced every conceivable hazard, while we, the lucky beneficiaries, now travel in air-conditioned coaches and stay in luxurious, first-class hotels.

I invite you to adventure in style and comfort with me somewhere soon! Please be kind enough to tell your friends and relatives about my thrilling one-of-a-kind tours, and forward this newsletter to anyone you think may be interested.

Wishing you and your loved ones much joy and happiness over the holiday season, and all the best in 2010. Go well, as they say in South Africa, and *safari njema* (Swahili for "travel safely")!

David

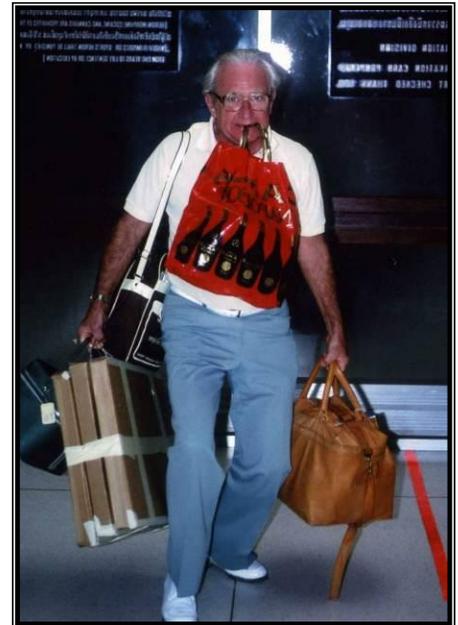
David (Around the World in Eighty Months) Skillan

Incurable romantic, roving correspondent, and your man here, there, and everywhere . . . ➔

David Skillan's Travel Tips

I've published these tips before, and they bear repeating. They're valid whether you're going on safari in Africa or just overnighting in the next town. Please share them with friends and family members who like to travel.

- Before travelling, ensure that your passport is valid for at least six months, and that you have all necessary visas.
- Travel insurance provides peace of mind (and vital coverage), so be sure to buy it!
- Always carry a photocopy of your passport details in a separate place, in case your passport is mislaid or stolen and must be replaced.
- Have a dental check-up and get any necessary vaccinations well before departure.
- Never wear expensive or flashy jewellery. You could be robbed!
- Don't buy expensive luggage. All luggage takes a beating and gets thrown around a lot.
- Pack as lightly as possible. Never wear new or best clothing when travelling. Wear casual, loosely fitting garments. Dress for comfort, not to impress.
- Keep valuables such as your passport, tickets, medication, spectacles, etc., in your carry-on flight bag. Do not lock them in your suitcase.
- Remember to carry an extra battery and memory card for your camera.
- Wear a money belt, small backpack, or waist pouch in which to store such valuables as your passport, airline tickets, and travellers' cheques. This will leave your hands free.
- Always carry a good book, to pass time when flying and hanging around airports and to help you nod off at night.
- Wear a small Canadian flag pin. It makes for easy identification and is often a conversation opener.
- Always wear sunglasses and a hat in the tropical sun! This will reduce your risk of heatstroke by 75 percent. Sunscreen is also a must!
- Carry a fold-up weekend bag in your suitcase. It's useful for short excursions and/or shopping.
- Never leave valuables exposed in a hotel room. Lock them up!



- Make a point of learning how to say "please" and "thank you" in the local language wherever you go. The locals appreciate it.
- When filling out immigration forms, answer "Tourism" to the question "Purpose of visit?"
- On long flights, a mild sleeping pill helps you relax, cope with jet lag, and adjust your sleeping pattern. There's no need to tough it out!
- And remember, we're all ambassadors when we're abroad!

Travel is seductive and intoxicating. It should always be enormous fun . . . and a great adventure! ➤

DAVID SKILLAN'S WORLD
An Overview of Upcoming Tours and Safaris
Presented in Cooperation with
Wild Africa Safaris and Collette Vacations

BOTSWANA & ZAMBIA SAFARI

Departs January 5, 2010 → 14 days → \$7,985 per person (sharing)

Departs January 4, 2011 → 14 days → Price TBA

Adventure in style and comfort on this exclusive connoisseur's tour, which is limited to just 12 participants. Described by aficionados as "Africa's Gem," Botswana has become a favoured destination among seasoned travellers. Masses of wildlife roam the woodlands, savannahs, plains, and wetlands of this sparsely populated country, including many species of antelope (nyala, waterbuck, kudu, sable, eland, tsessebe, lechwe, impala, and sitatunga), hyena, jackal, bat-eared fox, wild dog, wild cat, giraffe, zebra, hippo, and of course all of Africa's Big Five (lion, leopard, elephant, rhino, and buffalo). In this remote, peaceful region of Africa, we stay at the finest places, where food and service are second to none. Accommodations are in luxurious tented camps . . . travel is by specially chartered light aircraft . . . game viewing is by boat and open safari vehicles. Visit the Moremi Game Reserve, Vumbura Plains, Linyanti, world-famous Okavango Delta, and breathtaking Victoria Falls. To learn more about this superb tour, go to www.skillansafaris.com/newsletters/botswana-safari.pdf. **The 2010 tour is sold out. Please call early to reserve your space on the 2011 tour!**

HIDDEN TREASURES OF JAPAN

Departs April 17, 2010 → 14 days → \$5,828 per person (sharing)

This journey through rich history and traditional culture is like no other tour you've ever taken! Visit Japan's ancient first capital at Nara and the vibrant metropolis of Tokyo, as well as Hiroshima, Hakone, Nagano, Takayama, Kanazawa, Otsu, and Kyoto. Stroll along the Ginza, wander through stunning Japanese gardens, explore Meiji Shrine and Matsumoto Castle, and enjoy a cable car ride that provides spectacular views of Mount Fuji, Japan's highest mountain. Travel on the bullet train, relax in luxurious hot-spring baths, see traditional farmhouses with thatched roofs, learn the art of origami, and participate in both traditional and modern Japanese entertainment. This one-of-a-kind tour of the legendary Land of the Rising Sun takes place during the season of cherry blossoms. To learn more about the country, please read the article at www.skillansafaris.com/newsletters/japan.pdf. **This tour is now full. If there's sufficient interest, we'll offer it again in April of 2011.**

PERU—ANCIENT LAND OF MYSTERY

Departs August 31, 2010 → 17 days → \$7,130 per person (sharing)

Explore the mysteries of the Andes Mountains, the timeless cultures of this ancient South American country, and the flora and fauna of the Ballestos Islands and the Amazon rainforest! Take a breathtaking journey through the Andes aboard the Vistadome train to Machu Picchu, Lost City of the Incas. Paddle out to meet the Uros people who live on the floating islands of Lake Titicaca, the world's highest navigable lake. Visit a living museum to learn centuries-old Andean methods of spinning, dyeing, and weaving traditional textiles. And see colourful bird life while staying in a rustic yet luxurious jungle lodge. Highlights include the Museum of Gold in Lima (the City of Kings, a UNESCO World Heritage Site), Cuzco (heart of the Inca civilization), Ollantaytambo (an architectural treasure), Puno (birthplace of the Inca empire), Tambopata National Reserve, the Paracas National Reserve, and the remarkable Ballestas Islands (Peru's version of the Galapagos, home to sea lions, penguins, boobies, pelicans, and cormorants). All this and more! See some of our Peru pictures at www.skillansafaris.com/david-skillan-slide-show.html. **If you've dreamed of visiting one of the most mysterious places on Earth and walking in the footsteps of the Incas, sign up soon!**



KENYA & TANZANIA SAFARI

Departs October 3, 2010 → 16 days → \$8,280 per person (sharing)

The ultimate adventure . . . the two most famous safari destinations in Africa . . . a romantic journey that many dream about, but few experience. This tour includes the finest game lodges and tented camps, splendid game-rich wilderness, and the magical Serengeti Plains, Ngorongoro Crater, Mounts Kenya and Kilimanjaro, Masai Mara, Aberdares, Lakes Nakuru, Naivasha, and Manyara, and the Olduvai Gorge (the Cradle of Mankind). Take a balloon ride over the East African plains and visit a Masai village, the Karen Blixen Museum, and more. The perfect tour for those who yearn to see a wildlife spectacle unrivalled anywhere in the world. October coincides with the great migration of wildebeest and zebra—often called the greatest show on earth. Imagine warm, sunny days, spectacular scenery, and amazing experiences. They're all yours on this incomparable trip! Learn more about it by visiting www.skillansafaris.com/newsletters/african-safari.pdf. This tour can be extended to conclude with the island of Zanzibar or Kenya's Coral Coast. ***Don't miss out on this, our most popular tour!***

EGYPT & JORDAN TOUR

Departs November 4, 2010 → 16 days → Price TBA

Join us in the land of pharaohs, mystery, and enchantment! This exciting tour includes Cairo, Memphis, Aswan, Luxor, the Pyramids of Giza, the Valley of the Kings, a four-night Nile cruise, and the famous temples of Abu Simbel, Philae, Edfu, Kom-Ombo, and Karnak. Visit the renowned Egyptian Museum, ride a camel, watch a belly-dance display, haggle for souvenirs, take a horse and buggy ride, sail in a felucca, and descend into King Tut's Tomb. You'll be transfixed by the wildly beautiful country of Jordan, as we follow in the footsteps of Lawrence of Arabia, explore the World Heritage Site of Wadi Rum, see the ancient city of Jerash (the largest Roman ruins in the world, and reminiscent of Turkey's Ephesus), float in the Dead Sea, explore the Crusader castle at Kerak, and visit the extraordinary stone city of Petra, one of the newly named Seven Wonders of the World. Shop for exquisite jewellery, beautiful hand-woven carpets, and the latest styles in leather jackets. ***If you've always wanted to see one of the world's greatest ancient civilizations, this is the trip for you!***

UGANDA WILDLIFE SAFARI

Departs February 3, 2011 → 15 days → Price TBA

Often referred to as "the Pearl of Africa," Uganda is a lush, green, tropical land with some of Africa's friendliest people and a safari circuit that encompasses breathtaking landscapes. See Africa's Big Five (lion, leopard, elephant, rhino, and buffalo) and hundreds of other animals, including four different species of jackal, pygmy antelope, Nile crocodile, bush pig, giant forest hog, the Uganda cob (Uganda's national antelope), and of course the endangered mountain gorilla. Uganda is a birdwatchers' paradise, boasting the largest concentration of birds in all of Africa—more than 1,000 species. Our tour includes Lake Victoria (the largest lake in Africa), the Ruwenzoris (the Mountains of the Moon), and the acclaimed national parks of Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth, Kibale and Bwindi (the rainforests that are home to the mountain gorillas), and Ngamba Island (a sanctuary for chimpanzees). All this and much more! Limited to 14 participants. To learn more about this wildlife adventure, go to www.skillansafaris.com/newsletters/uganda.pdf. ***Plan now to participate in this exhilarating tour!***

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Departs May 3, 2011 → 15 days → Approximately \$4,500 per person (sharing)

Take a leisurely tour through many of the European spots you've always wanted to see! This tour includes all of the major sights in the fascinating cities of Berlin, Potsdam, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Krakow, and Warsaw. Visit the notorious concentration camp at Auschwitz. ***Plan now to join us year after next!***

Globetrotter David Skillan is a writer, photographer, and tour leader par excellence. He has travelled, lived, and worked all over the world, including Japan, Africa, and Australia. He's had a love affair with travel and adventure since childhood.

Since 1970, David has hosted more than 200 foreign tours, including more than 100 to Africa. He spends four to five months of each year travelling the world.

He has been publishing articles and newsletters about his life, travels, and tours since 1978. →

EXCLUSIVE

The David Skillan Travel Collection

A Special Series of the Finest Personally Escorted Tours and Safaris

2010				
January 5	BOTSWANA & ZAMBIA SAFARI	14 days	\$7,985	Wild Africa Safaris
April 17	HIDDEN TREASURES OF JAPAN	14 days	\$5,828	Collette Vacations
August 31	PERU—ANCIENT LAND OF MYSTERY	17 days	\$7,130	Collette Vacations
October 3	KENYA & TANZANIA SAFARI	16 days	\$8,280	Wild Africa Safaris
November 4	EGYPT & JORDAN TOUR	16 days	Price TBA	Wild Africa Safaris
2011				
January 4	BOTSWANA & ZAMBIA SAFARI	14 days	Price TBA	Wild Africa Safaris
February 3	UGANDA WILDLIFE SAFARI	15 days	Price TBA	Wild Africa Safaris
May 3	CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE	15 days	Price TBA	Collette Vacations
<p><i>Tour prices are per person, in Canadian dollars. Prices include all international and domestic flights (round-trip from Vancouver, Canada, though you can make your own flight arrangements and meet your tour), fine accommodations, most meals, and all sightseeing, as outlined in the respective itineraries. Taxes are extra. All dates, itineraries, and prices are subject to change. Most tours can be extended at the ends.</i></p>				

David Skillan's tours are promoted and marketed exclusively by Wild Africa Safaris of New Westminster, BC, and Collette Vacations of Langley, BC. For full details about a tour or safari, including the itinerary and booking information, please contact the tour operator indicated in the schedule above.

<p>Wild Africa Safaris</p> <p>Suite #301 123 East 15th Street North Vancouver, BC V7L 2P7 Canada</p> <p>800-991-6111 or 604-519-1610</p> <p>africa@wildafricasafari.com www.wildafricasafari.com</p>	<p>Collette Vacations</p> <p>Suite 6A 5761 Glover Road Langley, BC V3A 8M8 Canada</p> <p>800-468-5955 Extension 4098 or 4102</p> <p>elliott@collettevacations.ca www.collettevacations.ca</p>
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Call now for colour brochures and detailed itineraries! →

Excerpts from Recent Emails, Cards, and Letters



“Another excellent newsletter. Thanks to the wireless format, I can now spread the word to everyone I know. Sold-out tours during a recession—wow, very impressive! Keep those newsletters coming!”

~Bill K. (Surrey, BC)

“Thanks so much for another awesome trip! Egypt and Jordan were phenomenal. Every day was an adventure, well planned, and full of memorable experiences—one of your many talents!”

~Pat & Gerry R. (Coldstream, BC)

“Your latest newsletter is full of interesting news and views. As you probably know, I have signed up for your Japan tour and sent for the brochure of the Peru tour. Love travelling with your groups!”

~Helen A. (Delta, BC)

*“Sold-out tours during a recession—
wow, very impressive!”*

“Your tour of Egypt and Jordan was absolutely amazing, from start to finish. I have never been on a tour before, and didn’t really know what to expect. Every day was my favourite, and I’m sure the memories will last a lifetime. Fouad and Amjad made the history come alive, and I can’t imagine a nicer group of people to travel with. I certainly hope to go on another tour with you in the future.”

~Tricia C. (Burlington, ON)

(I often say, go on a good tour, and you’ll be hooked. Go on a lousy one, and you may never go on another! ~DS)

“Thanks again for putting together a terrific trip—Kenya and Tanzania—and taking us on a most amazing safari. It could not have been better, and we could not have seen more!”

~Mary Lou & Richard P. (Victoria, BC)

“Please take my mother off your mailing list. She still remembers fondly the wonderful tours she took with you, but is no longer able to travel. Instead, please add me to your email list. I will soon be in a position to travel more frequently, and am interested in what you’re doing and what’s available.”

~Angelika H. (Burnaby, BC)

“Your Egypt and Jordan trip was an absolutely wonderful tour, which I enjoyed so much. Must admit, I was somewhat dubious about taking a tour, but Pam convinced me to give a David Skillan tour a try, and I’m so glad she did, and I did! A David Skillan tour is the way to go! Thanks, too, for the photos. They help me remember people I enjoyed so much and places I’d dreamed of visiting.”

~Colleen T. (Victoria, BC)

“I think a lot about the Kenya and Tanzania tour. So many impressions swirling around in the brain! It will take months to sort them all out. A great way to pass time.”

~Dena V. (Moose Jaw, SK)

“Another great David Skillan trip! We are still bubbling over with stories of Uganda as we sort through our hundreds of pictures.”

~Judy & John A. (North Saanich, BC)

(Watch for more comments from Judy and John in my next newsletter, when we’ll talk more about Uganda. ~DS)

“Hope you remember us. We went to Kenya in 1995 with you, South America in 1997, and South Africa in 1999. Keep up the good work!”

~Flo & Roy P. (Coquitlam, BC)

“Thanks for transferring me over to your email list. I have friends in Toronto who are very interested in joining one of your tours and would appreciate seeing a copy of your latest newsletter.”

~Marg T. (Victoria, BC)

I always appreciate your comments and like to know you’ve enjoyed yourselves . . . ~DS

This newsletter comes to you with our compliments.

It is intended to create a greater awareness of the world we live in, to promote worldwide travel and tourism, and to motivate you to get up and go.

Time waits for no one. Be sure to spend it wisely! ➔



From Africa, with love . . .

Points to Ponder . . .

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

~Helen Keller

“Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.”

~Confucius

“Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood.”

~Marie Curie

“The difference you make today counts in all our tomorrows.”

~C. H. Pearce

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“Adventure is the champagne of life!”

~G. K. Chesterton