

DAVID SKILLAN'S WORLD OF TRAVEL . . .

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2010

Travelling the World Since 1951 → Leading Tours Since 1970 → Publishing Newsletters Since 1978

Dear Fellow Traveller:

If you're receiving this newsletter for the first time, you'll find it a mixture of musings, observations, and current events as seen through the eyes of a global citizen and world traveller, together with tour updates, some insights, and personal memories. Hope you enjoy it.

I recently learned that every year on June 16, which happens to be my birthday, the city of Dublin celebrates all things James Joyce, commemorating the work and life of the famous poet and novelist. It so happens that I'm partly Irish, as my dad's father hailed from Newry in County Down. And of course the name Skillan is Irish, though in no way connected to Ulster's market town of Enniskillen. I have enough Irish in me, and admiration for Joyce, to celebrate the famous wordsmith along with my big day. For years I never bothered about my own birthday, but Father's Day occurs around the same time, so now I get a double celebration. Cheers.

Last month I had surgery on my right hand, to fix an old injury from a motorcycle accident many years ago. Must admit, it's very awkward doing essential stuff with your left hand when you're a right-hander! It's an excuse to grow a beard! It also got me thinking about my hip surgery. Can't believe it's been more than three years since I had that done. It's certainly given me a new lease on life. You can read about it in my article "Keeping Up Appearances," at www.skillansafaris.com/newsletters/hip-replacement.pdf.

I'm glad to report that I had a very good trip to **Iceland** in May, but with nary sight nor sound from the volcano with the unpronounceable name. Even the Icelanders have difficulty saying *Eyjafjallajökull*. Though the volcano had brought airline traffic in and out of Europe to a standstill just a few weeks before, it was all over by the time we got there. Too bad! Iceland is certainly impressive. Next time, I'll rent a car with friends and spend a week driving around the entire country. With an excellent infrastructure, fine roads, and plenty of decent accommodation, from hotels to guest houses and farm stays, it's relatively easy to explore.



UPCOMING TOURS—In keeping with my love for the world's out-of-the-way places, I'm really looking forward to my September tour to **Peru**. I like everywhere I go, and the wilder and more remote the destination, the more I enjoy it. If you've always wanted to see the extraordinary country of the Incas, including their Lost City and other mind-boggling sights, this is the tour for you. Like journeys aboard the Orient Express, the Trans-Siberian Railway, the Pride of Africa, and the Rocky Mountaineer, the rail trip from Cuzco to Machu Picchu is one of the most spectacular in the world. There's so much to see!

Did you know Peru has the greatest biodiversity in the world, thanks to the presence of the Andes, the Amazon, and the Pacific? We'll see much of it. We'll visit remote villages, colourful markets, ancient ruins, and off-the-beaten-track places where few visitors get to go. We'll see llamas, alpacas, and vicuñas, and perhaps catch glimpses of the rare South American condor. In the jungle we'll see iguanas, monkeys, and crocodiles, and maybe the elusive jaguar. At the coast, we should get great photos of sea lions, penguins, boobies, and all kinds of seabirds.



Have I been there before? You bet. Several times. I liked it so much that I'm going one last time. Why not come with me, and see this remarkably interesting and beautiful country—from the misty, mysterious Andes Mountains and Lake Titicaca (the highest navigable lake in the world) to the jungles of the Amazon and the amazing Ballestos Islands (Peru's Galápagos)—with your own eyes? Whet your appetite by looking at the pictures at www.skillansafaris.com/david-skillan-slide-show.html.

This is the last call for my October safari to **Kenya and Tanzania**. It's the last time I'll combine the two countries in one tour, so if it's on your bucket list, wait no longer. If you've always longed to go on a safari and see the greatest amount of wildlife, this

is the one you should do. If you've wanted to visit the most famous game reserves in east Africa—the Serengeti plains, Ngorongoro Crater, and the Maasai Mara Game Reserve—in one trip, this is your chance. There are still a few places left, but you must book now. Go to www.skillansafaris.com/david-skillan-slide-show.html and look at my Kenya and Tanzania slide shows, to get an idea of the kinds of sights we'll see.

It's time for my last tour to **Egypt and Jordan**, as well. As you've no doubt read in my regular "Excerpts from Recent Emails, Cards, and Letters" column (page 9), many people have greatly enjoyed exploring these incomparable destinations with me. If you're interested in seeing these world-renowned places for yourself, I urge you to join me and Fouad and Amjad, my two expert guides, later this year. You'll be in the best of hands. November is an ideal time to escape the Canadian winter and enjoy the remarkable sights, blue skies, and perpetual sunshine of the North African desert. If you've dreamed of walking in the footsteps of the pharaohs and sailing down the Nile, this is the journey for you! You'll be spellbound at your first sight of the Egyptian pyramids and of Jordan's ancient city of Petra . . . guaranteed! Go to www.skillansafaris.com/david-skillan-slide-show.html to see what I mean.

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to escape the Canadian winter
and enjoy the remarkable sights, blue skies,
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I've been to **Botswana and Zambia** several times in January, when it's always green and lush, and not as hot as you might think. It's one of the best times to be there. Here's an excerpt from my safari diary last January:

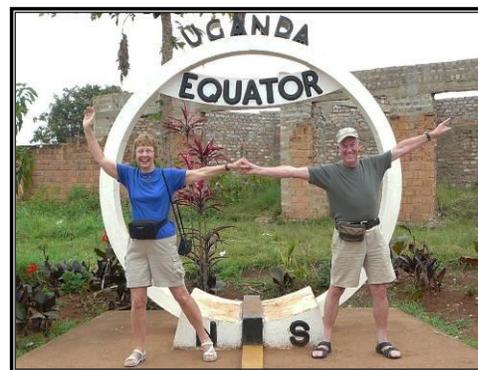
We have just returned from an exciting game drive following a pack of wild dogs—beautiful lithe creatures with large, expressive eyes—and I am sitting on the wooden deck of my spacious tent under the shade of a tall sausage tree, at Little Vurumba camp in the Okavango Delta. As I sit with my binoculars ready to catch the slightest unusual movement in a distant thicket, I watch a small herd of zebra and three female waterbuck grazing quietly in a nearby clearing. A pair of grey louries (otherwise known as go-away birds, because of the sound they make when calling one another) sit on an overhead bough. I also hear a woodpecker at work in a nearby fig tree, but can't see him. At the same time a lilac-breasted roller, its gorgeous, light blue plumage clearly visible in flight, flits from tree to tree. It's so peaceful.

An hour ago there was a thunderstorm, common in southern Africa at this time of the year. The sky grew dark, then lit up with sheet lightning and great claps of thunder, followed by a torrential downpour of rain for about ten minutes. As quickly as it started, the rain suddenly stopped, then the thunder gradually receded, the black clouds disappeared, and the sun came out. And the animals went from standing still, with heads bowed, looking thoroughly dejected, to frolicking and racing around in circles. Within minutes everything was as dry as a bone. It smells fresh and new.

This is Africa at its most sublime. It's magical and inspiring. Please consider joining me there this January. Meanwhile, read about Botswana at www.skillansafaris.com/newsletters/botswana-safari.pdf and visit www.skillansafaris.com/david-skillan-slide-show.html to see some of my latest pictures.

You may have noticed in my list of tours (pages 6 to 8) that a day has been added to our wildlife adventure in **Uganda** and the price has increased slightly. This allows us to take the most direct route, travelling with KLM via Amsterdam and thence directly to Entebbe.

This will be my second tour to Uganda in 18 months. What a sensational destination! As I said in a previous newsletter, the half-day hike to see the gorillas last time was extremely tough, but it was more than worth all the sweat and effort. Seeing those shy, gentle creatures up close was a huge privilege. Of course, not everyone undergoes such an arduous trek—it's a matter of luck. On the day we visited, we were split into two groups, each heading in a different direction, with trackers to lead the way and porters to carry our daypacks. My group took slightly more than three hours to come face to face with the gorillas, while the other group took just fifteen minutes!



While Uganda is famous for its variety of primates, it has so much more for nature lovers. Boasting the most bird species in Africa, it's a bird-spotter's paradise. Here's what Judy Anderson of Vancouver Island wrote to me after our trip there last September:

I wasn't sure how to condense such a marvelous trip into a couple of sentences, so I've decided to copy a portion of a letter I wrote to friends when we returned:

"Back from another wonderful trip to Africa, this time to Uganda. It was very different from Kenya, the Africa we always envisioned, but now we have an all-new perspective on the diversity of the two very different countries. Much of the time we felt as though we had dropped into BC, with the lush forests and so much green landscape for as far as the eye could see. We enjoyed Lake Victoria, had a cabin overlooking the Nile, hiked to Murchison Falls, and spent much time in rural areas, seeing how local families live. (Boy, do we have a lot to learn from them!) We visited a medicine man, learned how to make banana gin, walked through tea and coffee plantations, visited a high school, and went on numerous exciting game drives and boat rides. So many highlights! Each day was filled with something new and different."

To get an idea of what we'll see next March, look at www.skillansafaris.com/david-skillan-slide-show.html and read my article about Uganda at <http://www.skillansafaris.com/newsletters/uganda.pdf>.

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Our recent trip to **Japan** was so successful that we're repeating it. Our timing was perfect for the renowned spring blossoms, and though we had a couple of showery days, most of the time it was fine and sunny. From temples and castles to museums, gardens, markets, and shrines, and from the Pacific Ocean to the Sea of Japan, we did it all in two memorable weeks! We rode the bullet train, walked in the Peace Park at Hiroshima, saw Mount Fuji in all its pristine beauty, visited a shogun's palace, took a boat ride on Lake Ashi, fed the deer at Nara, and laughed at the antics of the mischievous monkeys of Jigokudani. You'll experience all this and more when you join my wife Yuriko and me on our next tour of Japan. I took so many photos this year that I plan to replace my current slide show with another one soon. Look at the photos I have up now at www.skillansafaris.com/david-skillan-slide-show.html.



To request information and brochures about my African tours, contact **Wild Africa Safaris** at 604-519-1610, 800-991-6111, or africa@wildafricasafari.com. For most other destinations, contact **Samantha Lutchman** of **Collette Vacations** at 866-358-0333 or slutchman@collettevacations.ca. **Lisa Elliott** of Collette has been promoted, but will still deal with inquiries and bookings for my Peru tour; she's at 800-468-5955, local 4098, or lelliott@collettevacations.ca.

FUTURE TOURS—With the exception of **Japan** and certain **African** destinations, most of my future tours will operate only once, unless demand dictates otherwise. So now comes your chance to join me in a series of trips that,

regrettably but realistically, I will do for the last time. It seems I've been a little too ambitious with my five-year plan. With now only four years to go, I doubt I can fit in all the tours I'd like to do. I had intended to travel to **central and eastern Europe** next May, but as I expect a busy summer next year, I'm moving this tour to September. (The best time to visit Europe is spring and fall, avoiding the summer crowds.) Other than Africa, I hope to travel over the next four years to **Turkey, China, India, Greece, Vietnam and Cambodia, Croatia, Ireland, Ecuador, Australia, and New Zealand.**

For now, I'm postponing my **Newfoundland and Labrador** tour from July of 2011 to the summer of 2012. I've been trying to see more of **North America** over the last few years. Besides cruising up the **Inside Passage** to **Alaska**, I've been to the **Yukon, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island**, and the canyons of **Utah and Arizona**. Sooner or later I'd like to cross Canada by train and see the polar bears of **Churchill, Manitoba**. Please let me know if you'd like to join me.



OMINOUS DEVELOPMENTS—I see in the latest edition of *Condé Nast Traveler* magazine that indiscriminate poaching is again rearing its ugly head in Africa. The main species targeted is the elephant, its tusks sent mostly to China to be carved into artifacts and dagger handles. It's ironic that today's cellular and satellite phones, Blackberries, and GPS devices, which do so much good simplifying lives and bringing people together, also make it easier to track and slaughter elephants, rhinos, and other species and to sell ivory, skins, and trophies. One can only hope this alarming article will reach the appropriate authorities and they'll do something about it.

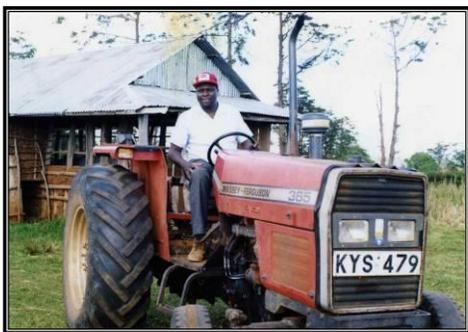
Meanwhile, the catastrophic oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is a massive wake-up call to speed up our efforts to find a cleaner, cheaper substitute and reduce our dependence on oil. There's no time to lose. If we don't, our dear planet will suffer the most dire consequences.

*I shall always remember
celebrating our arrival on Canadian soil
with blueberry pie à la mode.*

A HAPPIER NOTE—Once in a while I reflect on my 1975 arrival in Canada with my wife Yuriko and sixteen-month-old daughter Julie. As there were no direct flights from the UK to Vancouver in those days, we flew from Heathrow to Toronto's Pearson Airport, where a blizzard grounded us. The airline put up all Vancouver-bound passengers at a hotel and gave us dinner vouchers. Yuriko settled for soup and left early to put Julie to bed, but I stayed in the hotel restaurant, where I shall always remember celebrating our arrival on Canadian soil with blueberry pie *à la mode*. It was the first time I'd tasted blueberries, and it was delicious. I've loved them ever since.

Like most immigrants, we arrived in Canada excited and full of hope, with several hundred dollars and a couple of suitcases. (The couple of thousand dollars we'd invested in a small house in England would catch up with us later.) The rest of our belongings were en route with a company called the Seven Seas Shipping Line, which inconveniently went bankrupt while the freighter was crossing the ocean. It was some months later, and after several meetings with the agents of the shipping line, that our few worldly possessions, packed in a couple of tea chests and two or three large suitcases, were finally released by the port authorities and we were allowed to claim them.

Unlike some immigrants, who for whatever reasons don't bother to apply for citizenship right away, if at all, I couldn't wait to get mine. I did so within three years of my arrival. I've been a proud Canadian ever since. I have dual citizenship—Canadian and British—and two passports. I sometimes travel to the UK, and having a British passport makes entry easier. If I could have only one, however, it would be Canadian. After all, I've lived here longer than anywhere else. And my wife and two daughters and their families reside here. But it doesn't stop me from loving many other places, such as Africa, Europe, and Australasia. I also feel very strongly that if a country grants you citizenship, it's a privilege and an honour, and not something that should be abused. The rules and laws of the host country must be respected, and not flouted by newcomers, as ours are by some.



GIVING BACK—Here's a subject close to my heart. I've always been something of a Boy Scout type. As a seven- or eight-year-old, I used to rise at the crack of dawn and race to school to help the milkman deliver milk to the classrooms with his horse and cart. And in my early twenties, I volunteered my time by doing gardening and other odd jobs at Dr. Barnado's Homes, well-known British orphanages.

There's no doubt that giving is better than receiving. I give what I can afford to, in different ways. It's been more than ten years since my clients and I raised enough money to buy Big David Kiprotich, my senior Kenyan driver at the time, a secondhand Massey Ferguson tractor. It's also been a

few years since I began fostering a young girl in Bolivia and a small boy in Tanzania. In cooperation with clients, I'm now helping put one of my African drivers' daughters through medical school. Once qualified, she'll be of enormous help to her family and many others. And every time I go to Africa, I take an extra suitcase of good secondhand clothing to give to people who need it. Just little things, but they add up, help others, and make me feel good.

I also encourage my clients to be good Samaritans and tip generously. Let's face it, we in the western world have so much, and those in developing countries have so little. The least we can do is share some of the wealth. I know only too well that the world isn't fair, but as my mother often drummed into me, it's up to all of us to make it fairer. I try to live up to the ideals of a modern traveller and global citizen, which includes taking only photos when travelling and leaving behind nothing but footprints and goodwill.

*I try to be a good global citizen,
taking only photos
and leaving behind nothing
but footprints and goodwill.*

Like everyone else, I donate regularly to a number of causes, including the Vancouver Island Marmot Recovery Foundation. Those little whistling rascals were on the verge of extinction until someone noticed, and are now on the increase, thanks to people who care. I'm a firm believer that no matter how small the donation, every little bit counts. So I was very pleased recently to see that both Bill Gates and Warren Buffet, two of the world's richest men, are encouraging other billionaires to give at least half of their fortunes to charities, saying this can have a huge effect on the health and welfare of others. That's wonderful news.

MISCHIEVOUS MITES—A number of you have asked to see pictures of my granddaughters, Emily (left) and Natalie (right). The sweetest little girls you could imagine, they'll be three this August and October. When they were born, I was so excited that I wanted to spend all my time with them. Alas, it doesn't work like that. They need their parents first and foremost. It will be some time yet before I'll be playing basketball with them. Seeing them playing, I'm reminded that some of the happiest times of my life were when my own children were small. In an upcoming newsletter I'll share a picture of their pets, who I often get to look after—Joffe the miniature dachshund and Daisy the pug.



Please join me and other kindred spirits on an exciting journey of discovery soon. You'll get great value for money and be well looked after . . . and you won't miss anything! And please share this newsletter with friends and family. Enjoy the summer, and *tsamaya sentle* (travel well), as they say in Botswana.

Yours in everlasting travel,

David (Around the World in Eighty Months) Skillan
Incurable romantic, free spirit, and roving correspondent . . . ✈

DAVID SKILLAN'S WORLD

An Overview of Some Upcoming Tours and Safaris Presented in Cooperation with Wild Africa Safaris and Collette Vacations

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 birdlife 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 Galápagos, home to sea lions, penguins, boobies, pelicans, and cormorants). All this and more! See some of my 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 now!*

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, Maasai 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 Maasai 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 fabulous trip!*

EGYPT & JORDAN TOUR

Departs November 4, 2010 → 16 days → \$6,821 per person (sharing)

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. See pictures from previous tours at www.skillansafaris.com/david-skillan-slide-show.html *If you've always wanted to see one of the world's greatest ancient civilizations, this is the trip for you!*

BOTSWANA & ZAMBIA SAFARI

Departs January 6, 2011 → 14 days → \$9,195 per person (sharing)

Departs January 18, 2011 → 14 days → \$9,195 per person (sharing)

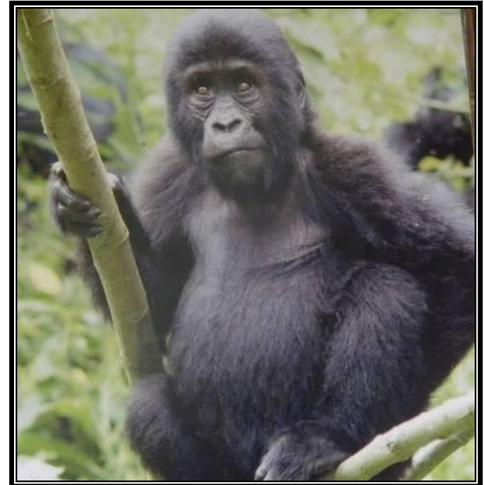
Adventure in style and comfort on this exclusive connoisseur's tour, which is limited to just 12 participants. Described by aficionados as "Africa's Gem," Botswana has become a favoured destination among seasoned travellers. Masses of wildlife roam the woodlands, savannahs, plains, and wetlands of this 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. **Call now to reserve your place!**

UGANDA WILDLIFE SAFARI

**Departs March 9, 2011 → 18 days →
\$8,695 per person (sharing)**

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 <http://www.skillansafaris.com/newsletters/uganda.pdf>. **Plan early to participate!**



HIDDEN TREASURES OF JAPAN

Departs May 12, 2011 → 14 days → \$6,750 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 boat ride that provides spectacular views of Mount Fuji, Japan’s highest mountain. Travel on the bullet train, relax in 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 spring blossoms. See the pictures from our 2010 tour at www.skillansafaris.com/david-skillan-slide-show.html. **Consider joining us next May!**

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Departs September 3, 2011 → 15 days → \$4,595 per person (sharing)

Join us on a leisurely tour through many of the European spots you’ve always wanted to see! This must-do tour includes all the major sights in the fascinating cities of Berlin, Potsdam, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Kraków, and Warsaw. Visit Berlin’s Charlottenburg Palace, Brandenburg Gate, and Checkpoint Charlie, Prague’s old Jewish Quarter and Hradčany Castle, Vienna’s Schönbrunn Palace, Budapest’s Heroes’ Square, Częstochowa’s medieval Jasna Góra Monastery (home of the revered Black Madonna painting), Kraków’s Wieliczka Salt Mine (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), and the notorious concentration camp at Auschwitz . . . plus much more! **Plan now to join us next September, when the summer crowds have gone!**

Globetrotter David Skillan is a writer, photographer, and tour leader par excellence. He has travelled, lived, and worked all over the world, including the Far East, Australasia, Africa, and Latin America. He’s had a love affair with travel and adventure since childhood.

Since 1970, David has hosted more than 200 tours abroad, including more than 100 to Africa. He spends four to five months of each year travelling the world. Having seen it both the easy way and the hard way, he loves sharing his hard-earned international experience with others.

David 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				
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	\$6,821	Wild Africa Safaris
2011				
January 6	BOTSWANA & ZAMBIA SAFARI	14 days	\$9,195	Wild Africa Safaris
January 18	BOTSWANA & ZAMBIA SAFARI	14 days	\$9,195	Wild Africa Safaris
March 9	UGANDA WILDLIFE SAFARI	18 days	\$8,695	Wild Africa Safaris
May 12	HIDDEN TREASURES OF JAPAN	14 days	\$6,750	Collette Vacations
September 3	CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE	15 days	\$4,595	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 marketed exclusively by Wild Africa Safaris and Collette Vacations. For full details, including the itinerary and booking information, please contact the tour operator indicated in the schedule above.

<p>Wild Africa Safaris Suite #301 123 East 15th Street North Vancouver, BC V7L 2P7 Canada 800-991-6111 or 604-519-1610 africa@wildafricasafari.com www.wildafricasafari.com</p>	<p>Collette Vacations #6A 5761 Glover Road Langley, BC V3A 8M8 Canada 800-468-5955, local 4098 (for Peru), or 866-358-0333 (for other destinations) slutchman@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



“Just want to thank you for your newsletters and let you know we appreciate and enjoy all your news. Your trip to Egypt and Jordan sure sounds tempting.”

~Roy and Flo P. (Coquitlam, BC)

“Thanks very much for the photo, which arrived today. We’ll be honoured to be included in your slide show! The Japan tour was fascinating. The name ‘Hidden Treasures’ proved to be appropriate. We look forward to touring Peru with you in September.”

~Harold & Joan C. (Vancouver, BC)

(This was Harold and Joan’s fourth tour with me, and each time they’ve brought four friends. They were on my mailing list for 16 years before booking their first tour with me! ~DS)

“I greatly enjoyed the Iceland adventure and the camaraderie of our group. I feel blessed to have experienced a taste of Iceland. Such an extraordinary country! The geography is fascinating and the scenery spectacular. Definitely a fun-filled learning experience!”

~Susan W. (Langley, BC)

*“Next time we’ll leave our camera at home
and show your pictures to friends and family!”*

“My niece Anastasia told me your last trip to Botswana was fantastic, and I look forward to hearing all about it when I see her. It’s my safari of choice. Even though I was unable to be with you last January, due to my husband’s illness, I travelled with you vicariously, day by day. You’re right—the Botswana safari is great value, and it’s my intention to get there as soon as possible. I can practically taste it!”

~Ann C. (New Westminster, BC)

“Great to hear about your upcoming trips, all of which sound marvelous. I have terrific memories of Egypt and Jordan. Had such a super time. My email address has changed. Please amend your list so I don’t miss anything!”

~Diana M. (Vancouver, BC)

“The tour of Japan was fantastic—especially having Yuriko along. Love the slide show! Next time we’ll leave our camera at home and show *your* pictures to friends and family. Easier for us! Regarding future David Skillan tours, we’d like to go to Ireland, and Croatia would be of interest.”

~Harry & Diane K. (Nanose Bay, BC)

“Thanks for another great adventure—our third with you. Botswana was everything we hoped for, and more—the lovely camps, the super-friendly staff, expert driver-guides, and of course amazing wildlife!”

~Sheena and Chris C. (North Vancouver, BC)

“Thanks so much for the latest newsletter. It’s great to have it emailed and to be in the loop. My friend Tricia and I have signed up for Egypt and Jordan, and are so excited! Can’t wait to take a camel ride!”

~Robyn L. (North Vancouver, BC)

“I’ve taken the liberty of adding you to my trip email list. I’ve had various friends ask for information about your tours, hence the inclusion of the link to your website in my emails. My fee for advertising? One Tusker beer on our next safari! Looking again at the Uganda pictures brought back some fabulous memories.”

~John A. (North Saanich, BC)

“It’s been nearly four years since we were on safari in Kenya and Tanzania with you, and we still remember it all vividly. It was without doubt the very best trip of our lives. Now we are seriously considering Botswana!”

~Margot and Robyn K. (West Vancouver, BC)

“Thanks for the lovely tribute you gave Dad in your last newsletter! Reading Mary Lou’s letter about Kenya and Tanzania brought back fabulous memories of our trip there with you. More or less the same huge number of animals, and the same number of mosquitoes—just one! Congratulations on your 40 years in the travel business!”

~Loa V. (White Rock, BC)

(Loa is the younger daughter of Allan Schutz, whom I profiled in my spring newsletter. He treated her and her sister Maureen to our Kenya and Tanzania safari in October of 2007. ~DS) →

This newsletter comes to you with our compliments.

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

Never put off until tomorrow what you can do today! →



From Egypt, with love . . .

Food for Thought . . .

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’”

~Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Let other pens dwell on guilt and misery.”

~Jane Austen

“Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier.”

~Mother Teresa

“A wise man should consider that health is the greatest of human blessings.”

~Hippocrates

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“Adventure is the champagne of life!”

~G. K. Chesterton