

# DAVID SKILLAN'S WORLD OF TRAVEL . . .

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## NEWSLETTER

Winter 2010–2011

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

### Dear Fellow Traveller:

Compliments of the season!

No doubt you're thinking, "What's he up to now?" as you start reading this letter. Well, there's a lot going on in my life right now, as you'll see.

Anyone who has followed my career and read my newsletters for some time will know I've written about every conceivable subject, sometimes well before the media got around to it—from global warming to giving back, and from helping Third World countries to swapping cars for bicycles. Come to think of it, over the last 35 years I've written (and railed) about almost everything under the sun. And time and circumstances permitting, I'll continue to do so, *insh'allah* ("god willing" in Arabic).

It's always interesting when I start up my computer to see where people are checking out my website from. People from 86 countries have viewed my site! Recent entries include visitors from Ipoh in Malaysia, Bridgewater in the UK, Sofia in Bulgaria, Colombo in Sri Lanka, Sulawesi in Indonesia, Santiago in Chile, Porto in Portugal, Melbourne in Australia, Shymkent in Kazakhstan, Shanghai in China, Milan in Italy, Flagstaff in Arizona, Knoxville in Tennessee, Burlington in Ontario, and Bluffton in Alberta . . . and some places I've never even heard of.

I'm now home for a while after three memorable back-to-back trips full of pinch-me and *National Geographic* moments. While British Columbia was experiencing one of the wettest Septembers on record, some of us were exploring the Lost City of the Incas and other fascinating places in Peru. It reminded me of how fond I am of Latin America and its people. In October, our tour members witnessed the great migration of wildebeest and zebra, and sighted all Big Five—elephant, lion, rhino, leopard, and buffalo—while on safari in East Africa. In November, I was back in the fascinating lands of Egypt and Jordan, sailing down the Nile and visiting King Tut's tomb in the Valley of the Kings. Even though I've been to these amazing places numerous times, all three trips were so thrilling that I'd happily repeat them tomorrow.

As usual, I took far too many photographs. You'll be able to see some of them in this newsletter, and in due course on my website slide shows. You can also read what some of my clients thought about these trips in "Excerpts from Recent Emails, Cards, and Letters" on page 9 of this newsletter.





It was gratifying to hear David and Sue Brown of Sechelt frequently exclaiming, “It couldn’t be better!” and “We couldn’t have asked for anything more!” while on safari in Kenya and Tanzania. That’s David at left with a friendly colobus monkey. At the end of the tour, David took pains to tell me, “The trip was exactly as you described it in your last newsletter. It was stimulating and eventful and full of surprises!” Nice to know my descriptive prose is appreciated and not overdone. There’s a huge difference between promoting a place and hyping it up. The last thing I want is anyone travelling with me to be disappointed. I always strive to make my writing factual, honest, and accurate. Incidentally, it’s not only Africa that arouses one’s senses and puts them into overdrive. Many places do, for travel is seductive by its very nature!

**ON THE MOVE**—I’m not the only one in my family who travels. My daughter Julie and her husband George will soon be moving to sunny California. After spending the last 10 years helping to grow Mountain Equipment Co-operative (better known as MEC) into the most successful store of its kind in Canada, George has set his sights higher and is off to take a senior management position with Quiksilver, the world’s leading

outdoor sports lifestyle company, headquartered in Huntington Beach. It was George, outdoor enthusiast, skier, surfer, and self-declared beach bum, who set up my original website 10 years ago. His new venture is a classic case of following one’s passion and making it into a career . . . as I have done.

As for Julie, who for better or worse has inherited many of my traits, including a great love of travel, she has a variety of skills. She is a professional organizer as well as a qualified travel agent, graphic artist, and bookbinder. No doubt she’ll find something in the US to suit her.

Of course, we’ll miss them all terribly, especially our three-year-old granddaughter Natalie and Joffre the dachie, but nobody knows better than me that you have to take advantage of opportunities as they come along, and move on when necessary. Besides, it will give my family an excuse to head south to California a couple of times a year.

**MORE FAMILY NEWS**—My younger daughter Jane—the shy one—is expecting her second baby in early January. She, her Mountie husband John, and their toddler daughter Emily left Bowen Island last spring to live in Port Moody, from where John commutes a few miles to the Burnaby detachment. Jane is taking a year off from her busy government job to take care of their new arrival and look after the growing family.

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*It was the summer of 1968,  
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since the American Civil War.  
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on all the action.*

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**LIVING IN AMERICA**—Hearing about Julie’s imminent move to California got me thinking about when I lived and worked south of the parallel. It was the summer of 1968, a tumultuous year in the United States, later recognized as the most turbulent year since the American Civil War. I had a front-row seat on all the action.

A 29-year-old wanderer nearing the end of my world odyssey, I arrived in the US by train from South and Central America. I’d taught English in Bogotá and in Buenos Aires. After a few weeks in San Francisco, where I experienced the height of the hippie era and Beatlemania, I rode across the States in a red Volkswagen, camping out with Bob, a new American friend who’d heard me interviewed on the radio about my travels.

It was July of what was to become known as the Summer of Discontent. In early April, civil rights leader Martin Luther King had been assassinated, followed two months later by former US attorney general Robert Kennedy. Lyndon B. Johnson had announced that he would not run for re-election, and Richard Nixon was about to become the next president. The country was rampant with violent protests and rioting, mostly against the Vietnam war.

I lived in the Big Apple for six months before moving to Cambridge, near Boston, Massachusetts, for another three months. Unlike today, New York in 1968 was a fairly hazardous place to live. I remember always looking for the subway car with the police officer in it, to avoid being mugged. I was by then accustomed to doing almost anything to make a living, no matter how menial—cleaning bathrooms and scrubbing floors (I’ve never been afraid of getting

my hands dirty), painting apartments, and working as a carpenter's mate in the Bowery, the notorious, run-down, sleazy New York street that had been famous for shootouts between gangsters in the '30s and '40s. In 1968 it was full of drug-addicted and homeless people. It turned out to be a freezing winter, and I had to buy a decent jacket, because all I had was casual summer clothes. I worked for Everything for Everybody, a now-defunct staffing agency in Greenwich Village. In those days, like other youthful vagabonds, I never bothered to get work permits. I just looked for casual work whenever I needed money. I was prepared to do anything to get by. You can read about some of my jobs in "You Name It, I've Done It!" at <http://www.skillsafaris.com/newsletters/done-it-all.pdf>.

During my time in the United States I did a number of illustrated lectures about my travels. My most valuable possession was a large box of colour slides that I updated every so often and put to good use. My mission was simple: to share my experiences with others and perhaps inspire them to get up and explore our great big world. "Follow your passion and live your dreams" was my theme. "It might change your life, as it did mine," I told my audiences. My message obviously struck a chord with many people, for they left with broad smiles on their faces.

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*In place of a bed,  
they set up an old door  
with a mattress on a couple of chairs,  
and I slept well on it.*

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It was during that time that I was invited to live with a young couple in a loft on Canal Street, in a seedy district where artists and artisans—writers, photographers, poets, and potters—hung out. Today it's one of New York's most fashionable areas. My new friends' third-floor home was above a pizza parlour and Rosie's bar, where I did a brief stint as a barman. Bill was a fireman and a keen amateur photographer who was always talking about how he could make it if he could only get some of his pictures into *Life* magazine. Barbara was a receptionist at the *New York News*. I helped with the household chores and paid for my food, a convenient arrangement for all concerned. In place of a bed, they set up an old door with a mattress on a couple of chairs for me, and I slept well on it. By then I had learned to sleep just about anywhere, from railway-station platforms in India and Pakistan to roadsides in Australia and Africa.

I have always admired the American people for their generosity and friendliness, as well as for their efficiency and innovative ideas. But throughout my nine-month stay there, it was hard not to notice that no matter where I went, everyone was talking and nobody was listening—a peculiar characteristic of Americans that I still notice today. Everybody has an opinion and is determined to voice it. So much for freedom of speech! Other than that, I tremendously enjoyed living in the United States. New York was particularly exciting for an adventurous young person, and no doubt still is. Today my one and only connection with Manhattan is my nephew Paul, who is a bigwig with HSBC on Fifth Avenue.

Strangely, apart from a few days in Toronto visiting a friend, I never spent any time in Canada during my marathon world jaunt. I was to make up for that big time when I settled here with my family in the mid-1970s. I've now been here for 35 years! Hard to believe.

**KEEPING THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE**—I've been lucky to have experienced all kinds of weird and wonderful experiences all over the world. Despite the fact that many people think I lead a glamorous, sophisticated lifestyle, I'm actually a simple soul who enjoys life's basic pleasures. When I'm at home I live modestly—reading, writing, listening to music, spending time with my grandchildren and walking their dogs, hiking, and paddling canoes on picturesque lakes. I always have and always will.

But I never forget—indeed, thanks to my travels, I'm often reminded—that I'm where I am because of privilege and luck. I had no say in where and when I was born, yet those facts gave me a huge advantage, placing me among the world's wealthiest people. To be among the top ten percent of the world's richest people isn't difficult. To qualify, you have only to own your own home (be it a house or condo) and car, have a bank account, and enjoy a decent lifestyle. You don't have to be a millionaire . . . although to most people in the Third World, many of whom live in shacks and don't have access to clean water, it must seem that we all are.





**UPCOMING TOURS**—We still have space available on our March adventure to **Uganda**, a fabulous safari destination. This spectacular African country is famous not only for its large variety of primates, including cheeky chimps and the endangered mountain gorillas, but also as a bird-lovers' paradise, with more than 1,000 avian species. In addition to a huge variety of birdlife and wildlife, such as tree-climbing lions, it boasts magnificent scenery. Murchison Falls, although little known, is one of the world's most impressive waterfalls. And take it from me—the launch trip down the Nile is one of the most exciting experiences you'll have anywhere on the continent! If you've been to Kenya and Tanzania and want to see more of amazing East Africa, Uganda is the tour for you. It has something to delight everyone. Call Felicity of Wild Africa Safaris to sign up now! You can learn more about Uganda by reading "Uganda—The Pearl of Africa"

(<http://www.skillansafaris.com/newsletters/uganda.pdf>) and looking at some of my photos (<http://www.skillansafaris.com/david-skillan-slide-show.html>).

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*Fall is the perfect time to be in Europe,  
when the summer crowds have gone  
and the weather is mellow and settled.*

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After our successful tour of **Japan** last spring, we planned to repeat it next May. But other commitments have come up, so we're postponing it to May of 2012. I apologize for any inconvenience to anyone.

A few people have said they're interested in going to **Newfoundland and Labrador**, so we're considering a tour there in July. You won't find it on our list of tours yet, but kindly let us know as soon as possible if you're interested, and we'll add it to our website and provide details in the next newsletter.

Our tour of **Central and Eastern Europe** is creating a fair amount of interest, as indeed it should. We'll visit some of the most intriguing places in that part of the world. Vienna, Warsaw, Budapest, and Prague are all must-see cities, and Berlin is considered—by those in the know—not only the most exciting city in Europe, but also the greenest, with all its parks, lakes, and forests. I know Berlin well, having spent most of my teenage years there. (To find out how my lifelong love affair with travel started in Berlin, read "How My Travels Began" at <http://www.skillansafaris.com/newsletters/how-travels-began.pdf>.) Fall is the perfect time to be in Europe, when the summer crowds have gone and the weather is mellow and settled. Call Samantha at Collette Vacations for a colour brochure.

Also creating buzz is our **Magnificent Morocco** tour. Casablanca, Marrakesh, Fez, Meknes, Rabat . . . the exotic names of this Arabian Kingdom roll off the tongue. This will be a trip to remember! Morocco was the first African country I visited, and I've never forgotten it. It was stimulating and magical. If you like Egypt, you'll love Morocco. It has everything, including perpetual sunshine and blue skies. Marrakesh, like Berlin, is a hot destination among savvy travelers these days, and for good reason. Call Felicity at Wild Africa Safaris for an itinerary, and get your name on the list ASAP!



More people have told me they're interested in seeing Cambodia and Vietnam than Thailand and Laos, so we're going to **Cambodia and Vietnam** in November. We'll spend three days in Bangkok, then visit the world-famous Angkor Wat in Cambodia and some of Vietnam's most interesting places. This is your chance to see some of the fascinating Asian places you've read about! Mark November on your calendar and stay tuned for more information.

**FUTURE TOURS**—My five-year plan to retirement comes to an end in June of 2014, so I'd better get my skates on if I'm to do all the tours I hope to before then. After that I expect most of my travelling, apart from an annual trip to Africa, to be limited to North and South America, which have more than enough places for anyone to explore.

Meanwhile, in 2012 I'm planning tours to **Botswana** in January, **South Africa** in March, **Japan** in May, **Turkey** in September, and **Namibia** in November. Last October was supposed to be my final tour to **Kenya and Tanzania**, but I've been asked by several people to lead another tour there in October of 2012. If you're interested, you must let me know as soon as possible, so I can set it in motion. To be sure of getting airline, lodge, and hotel space, each tour has to be planned well in advance—it doesn't just happen!

After 2012 I intend to visit **Greece, Ireland, China, India, Australia and New Zealand, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands**. Please let me know which tours you're most interested in, so I can arrange them in order of preference.

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*No matter what may come up on a tour,  
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So, why should you travel with David Skillan? What makes me and my tours different?

I have a long, highly successful track record that few people can match. Sure, there are tour leaders who have led many more tours than me, and some who speak three or four languages. But few have my kind of travel expertise. No matter what may come up on a tour, I have the experience and the skills required to handle it. Don't be fooled by my somewhat quiet, mild manner—I'm actually as tough as nails. (I've had to be!) I don't nursemaid or babysit, but I'm always there when you need me, looking after all the details and making sure everything runs smoothly. I go to great lengths behind the scenes to make sure you enjoy yourself and don't miss anything. Whenever I escort a tour, I put my reputation on the line. My trips have to be good. I have to get it right. People are depending on me. And nobody has more fun than we do—nobody!



Yes, you can get tours that are less expensive than mine, as well as some that are a lot more expensive. But few offer such good value. Many people tell me they wouldn't see nearly as much on their own as they do when they travel with me. And while it may not always be obvious, I care deeply about the welfare, safety, and enjoyment of my clients—even the occasional difficult ones. No matter what, I have your best interests at heart and remain committed to providing you with the finest travel experience possible. You have my word on that.

According to the long-range weather forecast, this winter is going to be severe—very cold, with lots of snow. Think about enjoying some time in the sun. It's about time you treated yourself to a big trip. After all, you've earned it!

Wishing you and your loved ones much joy and happiness over the festive season, and all the best in the New Year.

Go well, as they say in South Africa, and *safari njema* ("travel safely" in Swahili).

**David (Around the World in Eighty Months) Skillan**  
*Incurable romantic, free spirit, and gypsy at heart . . . ➔*

## DAVID SKILLAN'S WORLD

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

#### **BOTSWANA & ZAMBIA SAFARI**

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

**Departs January 5, 2012 → 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](http://www.skillansafaris.com/newsletters/botswana-safari.pdf). ***Our next safari to Botswana and Zambia leaves in January of 2012. Be sure to reserve your place early!***



#### **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 kob (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, go to <http://www.skillansafaris.com/newsletters/uganda.pdf>. ***Don't miss out!***

#### **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!***

## MAGNIFICENT MOROCCO

Departs October 4, 2011 → 15 days → \$5,885 per person (sharing)

**Casablanca, Marrakesh, Fez, Erfoud, Ouarzazate, Essaouira, Meknes, Rabat . . . the exotic cities of this Arabian kingdom await you!** Morocco is a land of mystery and enchantment, featuring ancient casbahs, desert landscapes, high mountains, and sandy beaches. Visit mosques, museums, palaces, Roman ruins, a spice market, a handicraft centre, and a romantic desert oasis. Take a camel ride, climb giant sand dunes, stroll through ornate gardens, and enjoy sweeping panoramas of the mountains and the coastlines of the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. Watch in amazement as acrobats, jugglers, snake charmers, water vendors, and soothsayers go about their daily business. Listen to the muezzins calling from tall minarets, haggle for souvenirs in the colourful souks, and sip mint tea under sun-filled skies. If you like Egypt, you'll be bewitched by Morocco! **Plan now to join us on this magical journey!**



## CAMBODIA & VIETNAM TOUR

Departs November 4, 2011 → 17 days → \$5,949 per person (sharing)

**Two spectacular Asian countries, rich in diversity . . . a world of ancient traditions and remarkable cultures.** This memorable tour of the Orient showcases the history and artistic treasures of two extraordinary Far East destinations. Visit the great temple complex of Angkor Wat, the culturally rich Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City (formerly known as Saigon), the UNESCO World Heritage site of Ha Long Bay, the traditional Asian trading port of Hoi An (which flourished from the fifteenth through nineteenth centuries), and My Tho in the Mekong Delta. Spend three days in exotic Bangkok and enjoy an optional two-day excursion to Hong Kong at the end of the tour. Plus much more! **Put this trip on your calendar now!**

## HIDDEN TREASURES OF JAPAN

Departs May 3, 2012 → 14 days → Price TBA

**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 Hakone, Nagano, Takayama, Kanazawa, Otsu, and Kyoto. Stroll along the Ginza, wander through stunning Japanese gardens, explore Meiji Shrine and Matsumoto Castle, and enjoy cable car and boat rides that provide spectacular views of Mount Fuji. 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](http://www.skillansafaris.com/david-skillan-slide-show.html). **Plan ahead!**

## CLASSICAL TURKEY

Departs September 4, 2012 → 15 days → Price TBA

## JOURNEY THROUGH NAMIBIA

Departs November 6, 2012 → 15 days → Price TBA

*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 three to four 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*

<b>2011</b>				
January 6	<b>BOTSWANA &amp; ZAMBIA SAFARI</b>	14 days	\$9,195	Wild Africa Safaris
March 9	<b>UGANDA WILDLIFE SAFARI</b>	18 days	\$8,695	Wild Africa Safaris
September 3	<b>CENTRAL &amp; EASTERN EUROPE</b>	15 days	\$4,595	Collette Vacations
October 4	<b>MAGNIFICENT MOROCCO</b>	15 days	\$5885	Wild Africa Safaris
November 2	<b>CAMBODIA &amp; VIETNAM TOUR</b>	15 days	\$5,949	Collette Vacations
<b>2012</b>				
January 5	<b>BOTSWANA &amp; ZAMBIA SAFARI</b>	14 days	TBA	Wild Africa Safaris
March 3	<b>SPECTACULAR SOUTH AFRICA</b>	16 days	TBA	Wild Africa Safaris
May 3	<b>HIDDEN TREASURES OF JAPAN</b>	14 days	TBA	Collette Vacations
September 4	<b>CLASSICAL TURKEY</b>	15 days	TBA	Collette Vacations
November 6	<b>JOURNEY THROUGH NAMIBIA</b>	15 days	TBA	Wild Africa Safaris
<p><i>Tour prices are per person, in Canadian dollars.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>Taxes are extra.</i></p> <p><i>All dates, itineraries, and prices are subject to change.</i></p> <p><i>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><b>Wild Africa Safaris</b></p> <p>Suite #301 123 East 15<sup>th</sup> Street North Vancouver, BC V7L 2P7 Canada</p> <p>800-991-6111 or 604-519-1610</p> <p><a href="mailto:africa@wildafricasafari.com">africa@wildafricasafari.com</a> <a href="http://www.wildafricasafari.com">www.wildafricasafari.com</a></p>	<p><b>Collette Vacations</b></p> <p>#6A 5761 Glover Road Langley, BC V3A 8M8 Canada</p> <p>866-358-0333</p> <p><a href="mailto:slutchman@collettevacations.ca">slutchman@collettevacations.ca</a> <a href="http://www.collettevacations.ca">www.collettevacations.ca</a></p>
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**Call now for colour brochures and detailed itineraries! →**



## Excerpts from Recent Emails, Cards, and Letters



"I'm turning green with envy at the thought of your going back to Africa—I can hardly stand it—I'm imagining being back there. I live for the day when I can go back."

~Sally S. (Kelowna, BC)

*(Sally has taken four tours with me—Botswana, Kenya and Tanzania, Egypt and Jordan, and Iceland—and has plans for at least two more. ~DS)*

"Terrific pictures, David! I'm still planning on joining you in Botswana in early 2012. Hope it's a go!"

~Ann C. (North Vancouver, BC)

*(After January of 2011, my next trip to Botswana will be in January of 2012. ~DS)*

"Thanks for the pictures. Another great David Skillan trip! I just can't say enough about it. Such interesting countries, Egypt and Jordan. I never realized the pyramids were so big! So glad I got my camel ride. I still can't believe I was actually there. If I had anything negative to say, it would be that the trip should have been longer!"

~Robyn L. (North Vancouver, BC)

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*It would have been difficult  
to experience even a third as much  
on our own.*

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"One of the things I do periodically is visit seniors' groups to share some of our travels with them. Jim was a wonderful photographer, and his slides are much appreciated. I always enjoy doing the commentary for *A Kenya Safari with David Skillan*, which is a favourite. Keep on adventuring and sharing your experiences with others!"

~Trudie D. (Victoria, BC)

"We have been reflecting on our magical trip to Kenya and Tanzania, looking at all our souvenirs and downloading all our pictures and just soaking it up. Thank you for making this introduction to Africa such a treasure trove for us. The game lodges, parks, and daily surprises left us feeling high every day. It was so good that we are having a hard time trying to decide where to go next. It's hard to get back to normal living after a trip like that!"

~David and Sue B. (Sechelt, BC)

"Good to be home, but the trip to Egypt and Jordan was truly amazing and wonderful. I would call it a power-packed experience with a punch!"

~Denise S. (Surrey, BC)

"What an incredible journey [the Kenya and Tanzania safari was]—for our bodies, our senses, and our minds. It was truly unforgettable. We're having such a good time sharing it all with family and friends."

~Doreen and Merv H. (Halfmoon Bay, BC)

"It was great to hear from you and to know that you all survived the Peru adventure! We were so inspired by you and your clients that we have booked a trip to Egypt next February. A safari with you is also on our list. The next time we're in Vancouver, we'll look you up."

~Martha and Darwin C. (Swift Current, SK)

"Hope it's not too late to vote for the beard. Love it! I'm interested in your November tour of Morocco, so please keep me posted."

~Marg T. (Victoria, BC)

"We have enjoyed time spent going through the things we brought home, telling people about our trip, and sorting, cropping, and otherwise improving our excessively large collection of photos. We greatly enjoyed the tour of Peru. It would have been difficult to experience even a third as much on our own. It's such a diverse country in terms of culture, geographic regions, and climates. And so many places are unbelievable. Thanks for arranging for us to join this tour and for contributing so much to our enjoyment each and every day."

~Harold and Joan C. (Vancouver, BC)

*(Having read my newsletters for about 16 years before signing up for their first David Skillan adventure, Harold and Joan have now taken five tours with me! ~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.

***You only have one life to live, so make the most of it! →***



*With love from Peru's Ballestos Islands . . .*

**Points to Ponder . . .**

“I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

*~Maya Angelou*

“It pays to be nice to the people you meet on the way up, for they are the same people you meet on the way down.”

*~Walter Winchell*

“It’s choice—not chance—that determines your destiny.”

*~Jean Nidetch*

“The further backward you can look, the further forward you are likely to see.”

*~Winston Churchill*

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***“Adventure is the champagne of life!”***

*~G. K. Chesterton*