

DAVID SKILLAN'S WORLD OF TRAVEL . . .

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2012

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

Dear Fellow Traveller:

At last, the birds are singing, the daffs and tulips are out, the cherry blossoms are a feast for the eyes, and it's time to think of where you're going next! Even after a lifetime of travelling, I still can't look at a map without yearning to be off. If I don't go anywhere, after a while I feel like a fish out of water. According to several travel publications, more Canadians will be travelling abroad this year than ever. Shouldn't you be one of them?

UPCOMING TOURS—We offer a destination for everyone! For a glimpse of the wonderful places we visit, please enjoy my slide shows at www.skillansafaris.com/david-skillan-slide-show.html and my articles at www.skillansafaris.com/david-skillan-newsletter.html. My website is easy to navigate.

You may find less expensive tours than mine, but you can be certain they won't include as much, and you won't have as much fun as you will with us. To join one of our tours, you need a young heart, a sense of humour, and a spirit of adventure. That's all there is to it. Safari Studio, Collette Vacations, and I will take care of the rest. My tours have limited space, so it's best to book as soon as you decide on a trip.

When posting details about my September tour of **Turkey** on my website, I originally listed it as fifteen days, when it should have been thirteen. I apologize for this mistake. Regardless, it remains a worthwhile tour at a reasonable price. In fact, it's a real bargain. Although I've never been to Greece, people who've been both there and to Turkey say the latter has more for the international traveller to see (such as the temple in ancient Ephesus, pictured at right). I've been to Turkey twice, and love its extraordinary sights. Please call Collette Vacations right away for a brochure, as the early-bird discount of \$100 per person has been extended to April 30. We're watching the conflict in neighbouring Syria very carefully, and hope and expect it will be resolved before we leave for Turkey.



No other country in Africa compares with the famous safari destinations of **Kenya** and **Tanzania** when it comes to multitudes of animals. But some species are declining rapidly, mainly due to loss of habitat. Gone are the great herds of elephant and other animals that so impressed me as a young man. *60 Minutes* recently ran a story about Kenya's Mara River, which runs through the rolling hills of the world-renowned Maasai Mara National Reserve. According to conservationists, it's in danger of drying up due to destruction of the Mau Forest. If that happens—and it's possible within a few years—it will be the beginning of the end of the great migration of wildebeest and zebra. If you long to see Africa's magical Maasai Mara, Serengeti, and Ngorongoro Crater, go now, before it's too late! My October tour is filling up, so call for a brochure.

Namibia is one of the most exciting tourist destinations on Earth. Like neighbouring South Africa, it's often referred to as a land of contrasts, with expansive deserts as well as rivers and game-filled plains. Namibia appeals to photographers and journalists because there's so much to see and write about, including the San Bushmen (pictured at right), who are genetically closest to the world's first modern humans. A trip to Namibia is guaranteed to be one of the most thrilling chapters in your life. You'll know what I mean when you come with us in November. When you call for a brochure, be sure to ask about the six-day extension to **Madagascar**, another of the world's most intriguing places.



On my recent trip to **Costa Rica**, we went white-water rafting, ate lots of fresh melon, pineapple, and papaya, hiked in the jungle, and saw toucans, herons, hummingbirds, two-toes sloths, river otters, and white-faced caphuchin monkeys. In between, we relaxed on white sandy beaches. I enjoyed myself so much that I'm taking another tour there in early December. Although I love Christmas, as it's family time, I hate the commercial hype that leads up to it. If you're like me, plan to join this tour. We've negotiated a great deal, *and* there's an early-bird discount of \$100 if you book by June 8. We'll be back a full ten days before Christmas, leaving ample time to shop and prepare for the festivities. Imagine how much you'll enjoy the holidays when you've just been swimming in the warm waters of the Pacific!

*January is the green season
in southern Africa,
the summer rains a time of plenty.
For many species,
it's time to bring young into the world.*

On my last trip to **Botswana** we hit the jackpot, going from one extraordinary scene to another. We saw a female hyena playing with her pups, got very close to four handsome male lions and a lioness suckling her cubs, and enjoyed the sight of a leopard playing with her adolescent son. January is the green season in southern Africa, the summer rains a time of plenty. The mammals are fat and healthy, and for many species it's time to bring young into the world. The bush is an emerald green, dotted with flowers and migrant birds that arrive by the hundreds. I'm looking forward to my next trip there, in January. We've negotiated a special price of \$9,880, including all taxes (including departure taxes and fuel surcharges), so it's a great bargain. To qualify, you have to purchase the complete tour package—both air and land arrangements. Because we'll take Air Canada and South African Airways to Johannesburg via London, we'll qualify for frequent-flyer points, as both airlines are members of Star Alliance. Space on this tour is limited to 12 participants, and my last Botswana safari was fully booked six months before departure, so don't delay. And why not consider extending the trip in Cape Town or **Mozambique**? The latter is becoming increasingly popular for its sun-drenched coastline and uncrowded beaches.

A number of people have been urging me to lead a tour to **India**, and it's time to go back. The subcontinent has many famous landmarks besides the Taj Mahal—ancient forts, temples, and castles, tiger safaris, sacred cows, working donkeys, camels, and elephants, and the erotic sculptures of Khajuraho are just a few. If you book this tour by the end of June you'll get an early-bird discount of \$250. Be sure to ask for details about our three-night (two-day) pre-tour extension to **Dubai**, where you can sail an Arabian *dhow*, ride a camel into the desert, and shop as much as you like. The extension is just \$650 plus the airfare for the diversion.

Uganda is a popular safari destination, and for good reason. It has fine accommodations, large concentrations of game, the most birds in all of Africa, and an abundance of primates, including cheeky chimps and shy mountain gorillas. Of course, not everyone wants to see gorillas in their natural habitat (and pay a fee for the privilege, directly benefitting gorilla conservation), though most international visitors are glad to do so. You may be more interested in seeing the flocks of pelicans and cormorants that mingle unconcernedly with hippos along the watercourses. Travel author Phillip Briggs—a tour leader who, like me, has travelled extensively off Africa's beaten track—describes Uganda, with its magnificent green hills, as one of the most underrated countries in Africa. Melissa at Safari Studio is mad about the place. Call her for details and advice about our March tour.



I lived and worked in **New Zealand** (pictured at upper right) during my itinerant wanderings in the 1960s. I'd gladly have settled there, if I hadn't moved to beautiful BC. I've been back several times, leading tours, and I'm anxious to return in April of 2013. A world traveller who tries to describe New Zealand is apt to paint an extraordinary picture: it has the unspoiled wilderness of Canada, beaches that rival Hawaii's, fjords like Norway's, and mountains like Switzerland's. Its towns and villages will make you think of England, and its lush green meadows will remind you of Ireland. Enough said. Call for a brochure, and get your name on the list!



Europe is a place I miss when I haven't been for a while. I spent the first twelve years of my life in England and most of my teen years in Germany. I especially like the fact that each European country is so different from the others. Travelling there is a continual learning experience. I enjoyed last September's trip to the great cities of **central and eastern Europe** so much that I'm repeating it in May of 2013. We'll stay in comfortable, well-situated hotels and experience sights that will be etched into your memory forever, including the heartbreaking Auschwitz as well as masterpieces of western art and culture (such as the German sculptures at right).



Our June 2013 tour of **Ireland** will include some of the most beautiful scenery anywhere, as well as quaint villages, ancient castles, and traditional pubs. As a young soldier in Northern Ireland, I spent nearly 18 months in Ballykinler, a wind-swept peninsula overlooking Dundrum Bay and the Mourne Mountains. My duties as an adventure-training instructor involved hiking, canoeing, sailing, and kayaking. I spent as much of my spare time as possible enjoying the fresh air and scenery, exploring back roads, villages, lakes, and the sand dunes of Tyrella beach. I got to visit Belfast a lot, and Dublin once or twice. Ireland holds many happy memories for me, and I want to see it again. Why not join me?

*You'll experience sights that will be
etched into your memory forever,
including the heartbreaking Auschwitz
as well as masterpieces of western art and culture.*

FUTURE TOURS—I'm listing my proposed tours as far ahead as possible, to help you plan. Although they're subject to change, I expect them to operate as scheduled. Book early! I'm planning tours to China and Tibet in September of 2013, Kenya and Tanzania in October, and Morocco in November. In 2014, I plan to visit Botswana in January, South America in February, South Africa in March, Australia in April, and Croatia in May.

Tired of the daily grind? Bored with the same old routine? Time to take an extensive trip! My tours are neither cheap nor the most expensive; they're reasonably priced for what you get. And unlike others in the industry, I take the trip with you, to make sure everything goes smoothly. You can relax while I take care of the details. You'll have the time of your life and be well looked after. That's a promise.

I learned early that life is too short to waste. My mission is to motivate you to get the most out of life by travelling. Travel educates, stimulates, and inspires—and may even extend your life. I hope you'll join me soon on one of my carefree, fun-filled trips. And please be kind enough to share this newsletter with others who may be interested.

David (Around the World in Eighty Months) Skillan

Incurable romantic, roving correspondent, and nomad by nature . . . ➔

DAVID SKILLAN'S WORLD

An Overview of Upcoming Tours and Safaris Presented in Cooperation with Collette Vacations and Safari Studio



CLASSICAL TURKEY

Departs September 13, 2012 → 13 days → \$3,999 per person (sharing), plus taxes

See the intriguing land that straddles two continents! The Crossroads of Europe and Asia was the seat of the ancient Ottoman Empire, one of the largest and longest-lasting empires in history. Join us as we follow in the footsteps of the Romans, Greeks, Syrians, Genghis Khan, and Suleiman the Magnificent, visiting Istanbul, Ankara, Çanakkale, Selçuk, Bergama, Pamukkale, Hierapolis, Egirdir, Konya, Bolu, Perge, Gallipoli, the Dardanelles, and the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Troy. Stroll through the ancient ruins of Ephesus, once one of the grandest cities in the Roman Empire. Explore the strange underground homes of Cappadocia. Take a ferry across the Bosphorus. Gaze at the treasures of Topkapi Palace. Visit the Blue Mosque. Enjoy performances by whirling dervishes and belly dancers. Haggle for bargains on precious

carpets, jewellery, and leatherwear in the Grand Bazaar. Spend two relaxing days in Antalya on the Turkish Riviera, sometimes called the Turquoise Coast. And much more! ***Book in April for an early-bird discount of \$100!***

KENYA & TANZANIA SAFARI

Departs October 3, 2012 → 16 days → \$8,855 per person (sharing), plus taxes

Departs October 3, 2013 → 16 days → Price to be announced

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 Maasai Mara Game Reserve, Serengeti Plains, Ngorongoro Crater, Mounts Kenya and Kilimanjaro (the two highest mountains in Africa), Aberdares, Lakes Nakuru, Naivasha, and Manyara (home to extensive flamingo flocks), and the Olduvai Gorge (the Cradle of Mankind). Take a balloon ride over the East African plains. Visit a Maasai village. Tour Giraffe Manor, with its resident herd of the endangered Rothschild giraffe, and the elephant orphanage operated by the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust in Nairobi National Park. See the land where Hemingway hunted and Karen Blixen (Isak Dinesen) was inspired to write *Out of Africa*. If you yearn to see an unrivalled wildlife spectacle, this is the tour for you! 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! This tour can be extended to include the exotic island of Zanzibar and Kenya's magnificent Coral Coast. ***Space is limited, and this fabulous tour is filling up for 2012, so book now to avoid disappointment!***

NAMIBIA JOURNEY

Departs November 4, 2012 → 18 days → \$7,730 per person (sharing), plus taxes

Known for its haunting, pristine landscapes, Namibia—formerly South West Africa—is worth discovering. Explore the neatly laid-out capital of Windhoek, the old diamond city of Lüderitz (now half covered in sand), the seaside town of Swakopmund, and the legendary Namib and Kalahari Deserts, which stretch forever and make you think you're the last person on Earth. Visit Fish River Canyon—the biggest in Africa—and Etosha National Park ("etosha" means "mirages" in the click language of the San Bushmen), where huge herds of elephant, zebra, giraffe, antelope, big cats, and the endangered black rhino congregate. Visit Damaraland and Sossusvlei, where you'll see the world's highest sand dunes. Along the Skeleton Coast, you'll notice African penguins (also called black-footed penguins and jackass penguins), flamingos, and Cape fur seals by the thousands. Marvel at ancient rock paintings, visit a cheetah research farm, and stop at a Bushmen village, where you'll learn about the close-to-nature lifestyle of these indigenous people. Boat out to the seal and cormorant colonies. Stay in gorgeous lodges in remote spots, and enjoy game drives that feature animals unique to this region, including the wild horse, meerkat, gemsbok, oryx, springbok, black-faced impala, and damara dik-dik. You'll also see the Big Five, including the desert elephant, and hundreds of bird species. You can even add an optional six-day excursion to the island of Madagascar, famous for its one-of-a-kind flora and fauna, including chameleons, tree frogs and many species of lemur that are seen nowhere else on the planet. ***If you've been to East and South Africa and yearn to see more of this extraordinary continent, you must not miss this tour!***

ESCAPE TO COSTA RICA

Departs December 2, 2012 → 12 days → \$3,089 per person (sharing), plus taxes

Leave the Canadian winter behind for a tropical escape just before Christmas! Experience the warm beaches of the Pacific and Caribbean coasts, and explore the dense rainforests that lie in between, with their myriad bird and animal species and traces of pre-Columbian cultures. You'll see toucans, blue-footed boobies, scarlet macaws, frigatebirds, mangrove swallows, Amazon kingfishers, iguanas, caymans, howler monkeys, anteaters, sea turtles, two- and three-toed sloths, white-nosed coatis, river otters, sea turtles, bats, four species of monkey, and—if you're lucky—jaguars and giant anteaters. Besides extraordinary plant and insect life, there are more butterflies here than anywhere else on Earth! Costa Rica occupies just 0.25 percent of the planet's landmass, yet contains five percent of the world's biodiversity. With twenty-five percent of its area protected as parkland, it's one of the greenest countries on Earth. Enjoy jungle walks, white-water rafting, and a zipline ride high above the rainforest. Visit a pineapple plantation, a coffee plantation, and a dairy farm that produces organic cheese. When you're ready for a rest, you can swim and bask in the sun on a pristine beach. ***Treat yourself to a clean getaway with us in this gorgeous Central American country! Book by June 8 for an early-bird discount of \$100!***

BOTSWANA & ZAMBIA SAFARI

Departs January 6, 2013 → 14 days → \$9,880 per person (sharing), including all taxes

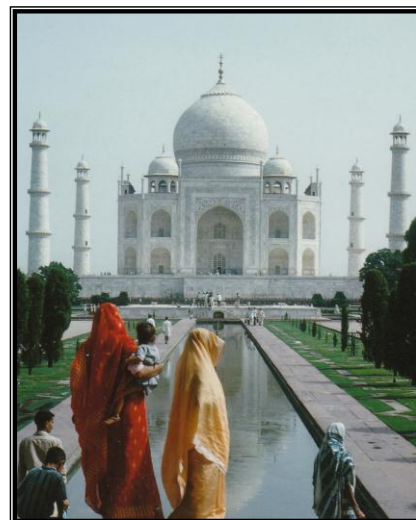
Adventure in style and comfort on this exclusive connoisseur's tour, which is limited to just twelve participants. Described by aficionados as "Africa's Gem," Botswana has become a favoured destination among seasoned travellers. Masses of wildlife roam the woodlands, savannahs, plains, and wetlands of this sparsely populated, landlocked country, including many species of antelope (nyala, waterbuck, kudu, sable, eland, tsessebe, lechwe, impala, and sitatunga), hyena, jackal, bat-eared fox, wild dog, giraffe, zebra, wildebeest, 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 vehicle. Visit the Moremi Game Reserve, Vumbura Plains, Linyanti, world-famous Okavango Delta, and breathtaking Victoria Falls. ***Our last Botswana tour sold out six months before departure, so book now, to be sure you're one of the lucky dozen this time!***



ENCHANTING INDIA

Departs February 6, 2013 → 16 days → \$5,999 per person (sharing), plus taxes

Experience the magic, majesty, and colourful past of the world's largest democracy! Visit New Delhi (home of two UNESCO World Heritage Sites—the Tomb of Humayun and the Qutub Complex), Udaipur (the City of Lakes), Jaipur (the Pink City), Ranthambore National Park (famous for its tigers), Bharatpur (site of a bird sanctuary at Keoladeo Ghana National Park, another World Heritage Site), Agra (home of the Taj Mahal), Fatehpur Sikri (the Mughal Empire's sixteenth-century City of Victory, yet another World Heritage Site), Varanasi (one of the world's oldest continually inhabited cities, considered holy by Hindus, Buddhists, and Jains alike), Jhansi (an historic walled city with a fort that rises out of the plain), and Orchha (a medieval city). Stay in a maharajah's palace, explore temples, visit one of Mother Teresa's charity homes, go on safari in search of tiger and boar, wander through the Taj Mahal, study the erotic statues of Khajuraho (one more UNESCO World Heritage Site), and enjoy a boat ride along the holy Ganges River. Then haggle over exotic souvenirs that will long remind you of this life-changing journey! Ask about our optional three-night (two-day) pre-tour extension in Dubai, where you can set sail in an Arabian dhow, join a camel or jeep safari into the desert, and shop, shop, shop! ***If you've always wanted to see India, seat of ancient civilizations and vast empires, this is the tour for you! Book by June 30 for a \$250 early-bird discount!***



UGANDA WILDLIFE SAFARI

Departs March 1, 2013 → 16 days → \$8,392 per person (sharing), plus taxes

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. The boat trips through the Kazinga Channel that links Lake Edward and Lake George and up the Victoria Nile River to Murchison Falls are among the most exhilarating in Africa! See the 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), several species of monkey, 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 (home to chimpanzees and mountain gorillas, respectively), and Ngamba Island (a sanctuary for chimpanzees). If you’ve always wanted to see mountain gorillas in their natural habitat, and find out why their champion, Dian Fossey, loved Uganda so much, this tour should be at the top of your bucket list! It’s limited to 14 participants. To learn more, go to <http://www.skillansafaris.com/newsletters/uganda.pdf>. **Plan now to take part in this life-enriching tour!**



Picton, Te Anau, Arrowtown, Christchurch, and Queenstown (a world-class adventure capital). Visit a botanical garden, a sheep farm, and a hot spring. Spend a night with a local family. Cruise the world-famous Bay of Islands. Enjoy a Maori dancing display. Take a ferry ride across Cook Strait. Sip fine local wines in the picturesque Marlborough region. See the majestic Southern Alps by trans-alpine train. Walk on a glacier. Explore Milford Sound’s remarkable fjords by launch. Take a nature walk to view Mount Cook, New Zealand’s highest mountain. And much more! You can even book a two-day extension to beautiful Fiji. **If you’d love to see New Zealand in its fall finery, join us on this South Pacific sojourn!**

FALL FOLIAGE IN NEW ZEALAND

Departs April 6, 2013 → 21 days → \$6,349 per person (sharing), plus taxes

Regarded by many as the most beautiful place on Earth, this small country has it all—beaches that rival Australia’s, fjords that compare with Norway’s, mountains that echo the Alps, and a countryside that evokes England. The extraordinary birdlife includes the flightless kiwi (New Zealand’s national bird), the Takahē (the largest species of rail in the world, once thought to be extinct), the Campbell albatross, and the kea (the world’s only alpine parrot). Visit the North and South Islands during New Zealand’s gorgeous autumn. Stop in Auckland (consistently voted one of the best places in the world to live), Wellington, Rotorua,



CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE

Departs May 4, 2013 → 15 days → Price to be announced

Join us on a leisurely tour through many of the European spots you’ve always wanted to see! This must-do tour includes Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland. Enjoy the major sights in the fascinating cities of Berlin, Potsdam, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Kraków, and Warsaw. Explore the music, art, culture, and cuisine of Europe, visiting 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, Kraków’s Wieliczka Salt Mine (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), and the notorious Auschwitz . . . plus much more! **Plan now to join us in the spring, before the summer crowds arrive!**

IRELAND—THE EMERALD ISLE

Departs June 3, 2013 ➔ 14 days ➔ Price to be announced

One of the most magical places on Earth, with a history that reaches back into the mists of time . . .

Ireland is a very pretty land, peopled with musicians, writers, poets, scholars, and smooth talkers. It was home to James Joyce, Oscar Wilde, Jonathan Swift, George Bernard Shaw, and Saint Patrick himself. Join us as we trace their footsteps in Dublin, Waterford, Killarney, Limerick, Galway, Tullamore, Derry, and Belfast. Visit castles and pubs, where you'll enjoy a shot of Jameson whiskey, a pint of Guinness, and a bowl of Irish stew. Travel the Ring of Kerry, one of the world's most beautiful coastal routes. Bend over backwards and kiss the Blarney

Stone. Meet an Irish family on a working dairy farm. Stand near (but not too near!) the edge of the dizzying Cliffs of Moher, and walk on the bizarre Giant's Causeway, where 60 million years ago molten basalt was extruded up through the chalk beds, forming a plateau of lava columns. Enjoy the wit and wisdom of the Irish, sharing the laughter of some of the most hospitable people in the world. This trip is guaranteed to enchant and delight! ***If you've never been to Ireland, this tour is a great way to see the Auld Sod! Plan now to join us!***



JOURNEY THROUGH CHINA & TIBET

Departs September 3, 2013 ➔ 16 days ➔ Price to be announced

Embark on a journey through history as we explore the mysterious Middle Kingdom! Spend three days cruising down the Yangtze River. Visit Beijing, where you can enjoy a rickshaw ride and explore the Forbidden City, home of Chinese emperors from the Ming Dynasty through the Qing Dynasty. Ride the Sky Train (the world's highest railway) to the roof of the world in Lhasa, Tibet, nearly 3.5 kilometres above sea level. Explore the iconic Potala Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and chief residence of the Dalai Lama until he fled during the 1959 Tibetan uprising. Tour the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding. Travel to a rural village outside Xi'an, the Eternal City, and view the Terracotta Army of life-sized warriors and horses that were set to guard the tomb of China's first emperor in the third century BC. Walk along the Great Wall and gaze out over the ancient Silk Road. And more! ***If you're fascinated by the world's oldest civilizations, you'll love this tour!***

MAGNIFICENT MOROCCO

Departs November 4, 2013 ➔ 15 days ➔ Price to be announced

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!***

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 240 tours abroad, including more than 120 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*

2012				
September 13	CLASSICAL TURKEY	13 days	\$3,999	Collette Vacations
October 3	KENYA & TANZANIA SAFARI	16 days	\$8,855	Safari Studio
November 4	NAMIBIA JOURNEY	18 days	\$7,730	Safari Studio
December 2	ESCAPE TO COSTA RICA	12 days	\$3,089	Collette Vacations
2013				
January 6	BOTSWANA & ZAMBIA SAFARI	14 days	\$9,880	Safari Studio
February 6	ENCHANTING INDIA	16 days	\$5,999	Collette Vacations
March 1	UGANDA WILDLIFE SAFARI	16 days	\$8,392	Safari Studio
April 6	FALL FOLIAGE IN NEW ZEALAND	21 days	\$6,349	Collette Vacations
May 4	CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE	15 days	TBA	Collette Vacations
June 3	IRELAND—THE EMERALD ISLE	14 days	TBA	Collette Vacations
September 4	JOURNEY THROUGH CHINA & TIBET	16 days	TBA	Collette Vacations
October 3	KENYA & TANZANIA SAFARI	16 days	TBA	Safari Studio
November 4	MAGNIFICENT MOROCCO	14 days	TBA	Safari Studio
<p><i>Tour prices are per person, in Canadian dollars. Taxes are extra, unless otherwise noted.</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>All dates, itineraries, and prices are subject to change.</i></p> <p><i>Most tours can be extended.</i></p>				

David Skillan's tours are marketed exclusively by Safari Studio and Collette Vacations. For full details, including the itinerary and booking information, please contact the tour operator indicated in the schedule above.

<p>Safari Studio</p> <p>#301 - 123 East 15th Street North Vancouver, BC V7L 2P7 800-565-6670 or 604-990-1511 chrisb@safaristudio.ca www.safaristudio.ca</p>	<p>Collette Vacations</p> <p>34 Pearl Street Mississauga, ON L5M 1X2 866-358-0333 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



"Thanks for a memorable trip to Costa Rica. Looking forward to going to Kenya and Tanzania with you this October and to India with you in February."

~Helen A. (Delta, BC)

"A neat video of the gorillas examining the tourist! Thousands would love to be touched by a gorilla in its natural habitat. In the Strait of Juan de Fuca there is one whale-watching boat for each whale!"

~Gordon W. (Vancouver, BC)

"Wish I had heaps of money, didn't have to work, and could go on every one of your Africa tours. The place just enthalls me! I've made three trips with you, and hope to do at least one or two more. Maybe to Botswana or Namibia."

~Robyn L. (North Vancouver, BC)

*We greatly enjoyed
watching the endless parade of animals
at the water hole.*

"We certainly enjoyed your company, and feel we learned so much from this tour. The highlight, among many, had to be the river rafting. It was a joyful time in Costa Rica. Quite a shock to the system to leave Central America at 33°C and arrive in BC at 4°C! Thanks again for a wonderful trip."

~Lyn M. and Don M. (Langley, BC)

"We went to Namibia with you some time ago, and loved it! We were fascinated by the sanctuary for cheetahs, where they were as tame as pussycats. And we greatly enjoyed Etosha National Park, watching the endless parade of animals at the water hole. Flying over the Namib Desert was amazing, and climbing the sand dunes was fun, but exhausting! Would love to go back and do it all over again."

~Eric W. and Marge W. (Vancouver, BC)

"Thanks for the follow-ups and the list of mammals and birds. This trip was our first with you, and proved to be the best of all our five trips to Africa. We'll long remember it for the people, itinerary, game viewing, etc."

~Dick W. and Gill W. (Tsawwassen, BC)

"It's so nice to get your newsletters and to travel vicariously through you. We have been doing lots of thinking—and, more important, number-crunching—and started saving our shekels for the 2013 Botswana trip. As you said on our Kenya and Tanzania trip, Africa gets into your soul, and we have been dreaming of taking another safari ever since returning home, eighteen months ago. Hope this summer you will get to visit us on the coast!"

~Sue B. and David B. (Sechelt, BC)

"Thank you for arranging for me to receive the Turkey tour brochure. It looks very good. If I can get my act together, I will be on the trip!"

~Brenda L. (Vancouver, BC)

"Many thanks for forwarding the YouTube video of the elephants enjoying a mud bath—a most enjoyable four minutes. We are way overdue for another Africa tour with you, and should do something this year. Keep the good things happening in 2012."

~Bill H. and Mervyne H. (Victoria, BC)

"What a pleasure to finally get to meet you. Thanks so much for your hospitality, and for showing us your treasures. The ebony warthog now occupies a prominent place in our living room. Every time we look at him, he makes us laugh!"

~Victoria N. and Michael N. (Belcarra, BC)

"Wanted to give you my new email address, as I still greatly enjoy your newsletters. I know you're still touring, and good for you. It's a very demanding job!"

~Vera B. (Calgary, AB) ➔

This newsletter comes to you with our compliments.

It's 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 . . . hopefully, on one of my tours!

Life is an adventure. Live it to the fullest! ➔



From Costa Rica, with love . . .

Points to Ponder . . .

“Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.”

~Benjamin Franklin

“Don’t be so humble—you’re not that great.”

~Golda Meir

“It is better to be a lion for a day than a sheep all your life.”

~Elizabeth Kenny

“It’s not the years in your life that count. It’s the life in your years.”

~Abraham Lincoln

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“Adventure is the champagne of life!”

~G. K. Chesterton