

DAVID SKILLAN'S WORLD OF TRAVEL . . .

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2013

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

Dear Fellow Traveller:

Already there's a chill in the air and the nights are getting longer. It's time to trade my shorts and summer shirts for my jeans and leather jacket and start preparing for another full-steam-ahead travel schedule. And for you to think about your next great adventure!

Apart from a week in California to meet my eldest daughter's new baby—my fourth grandchild and first grandson—I stayed home for the first summer in years. And what a wonderful summer it was! It was something of a record, similar to the weather we usually experience in Africa, with blue skies, high temperatures, and weeks of sunshine.

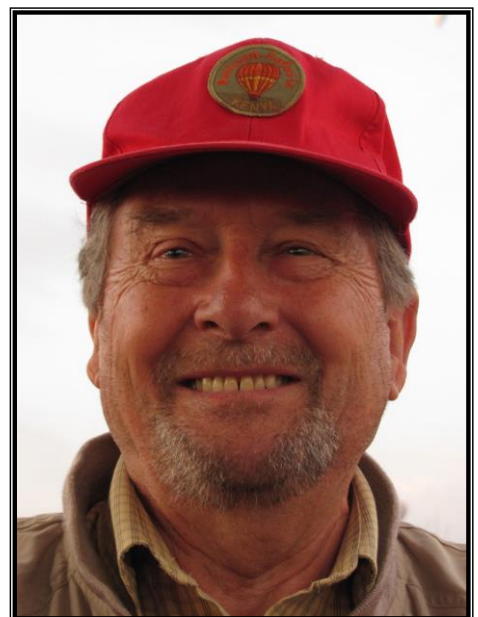
I enjoy lovely days as much as anyone, for a couple of weeks, at least—the average length of my tours and safaris—but not for too long. I like the variety of the seasons, though I'm not so fond of the cold of winter, with its long, gloomy days and incessant rain. That's why I arrange my great escapes for the cold months, when the weather is usually at its finest in our southern hemisphere destinations.

Every autumn, I reflect on one of the greatest experiences of my life. In September of 1962, a year or so before the Beatles appeared on the scene, I set off from England to achieve my boyhood ambition of seeing the world. I had no idea it would take me eighty months. With no financial backing, I had to work in various countries to earn enough money to pay for the next leg of my journey. Along the way I fell in love with countless places where I lingered and worked, including Kenya, South Africa, Thailand, Japan, Colombia, and New Zealand. My worldwide odyssey changed my life. I've been in the international travel business ever since.

I don't believe anyone has worked harder or longer to promote travel and to put Africa on the map for Canadian travellers than I have. I've done tours and safaris, newsletters, articles, a website, email updates, lectures, slide shows, videos, radio commercials, newspaper and magazine ads, and tour reunions. These activities have accounted, in part, for my business longevity. It has given me great satisfaction to know I've helped so many people see and enjoy different parts of the world, and perhaps changed their perspectives. I've been in the industry for so long that many of my ideas—such as travel newsletters and fully escorted tours to Africa—have been widely copied by the competition. I must be doing something right!

Even after a lifetime of travelling, I still can't study a map or a guidebook without feeling the urge to set off on my next adventure. I'm a restless soul who will go almost anywhere at the drop of a hat. I never grow tired of visiting the amazing places I'm lucky enough to enjoy with kindred spirits. I always return from a trip with a feeling of accomplishment, which I know my tour members share. I enjoy my tours as much as my clients do.

A MOVING TARGET—Next year, my five-year retirement plan comes to an end. I won't be completely retiring for a while, although you'll notice that some of my upcoming tours will be my last ones to those places. There's no retirement age for tour leaders who are healthy in both body and mind. Like many people these days, I feel a good ten years younger than I am. I still have my boyish enthusiasm for travel and adventure, as well as my sense of humour, thank goodness. The raging restlessness that was a part of me for so long isn't as extreme as it once was, but I still find it hard to sit still. So, like an orchestra conductor, I hereby declare, for the foreseeable future, at least, "On with the show!"



FINDING A TRAVEL COMPANION—I know many people would love to join my tours, but don't have anyone to go with. My travel partners and I can help. If you'd like to share a room, let us know, and we'll do our best to match you up with someone. (Sorry ladies, we don't accept applications for "tall, dark, and handsome"!) Right now we're seeking a woman to share with another on my October Kenya and Tanzania safari, so if you're interested, please let us know. Companionship is just one of the many advantages of travelling with a fully escorted group. Don't let your lack of a travel companion stop you from enjoying the trip of a lifetime!

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I'm constantly amazed to hear of people who book tours (which are substantial financial investments) without knowing who the tour leaders are. Talk about taking chances! Then they wonder why they're sometimes disappointed. As I often point out, a tour leader can make or break a tour. He or she must be an indispensable help to tour members. In-the-know travellers will confirm that a good tour leader is worth his or her weight in gold. While I don't personally like the idea of being interviewed by would-be clients before they sign up, I strongly believe a traveller should know as much as possible about who's leading the tour, including his or her experience and qualifications. That's why I always spell out my hard-won experience. You don't want to trust someone who's never



been to your destination! If you're going to the other side of the world, you want a leader who knows what he or she is doing.

As someone who's been in the travel business for a long time, I can tell you that good tour leaders don't have to be brilliant, but they do have to be competent and care for those under their wings. Watch for my upcoming article about the differences between a tour leader (also called a tour director or tour manager) and a tour guide.

It pleases me greatly when people who sign up for my tours tell me how excited they are. For many, a big trip such as a safari is a lifelong ambition. I always share their excitement, for I know how it feels to finally be doing something you've looked forward to for a long time. I always urge people to go as soon as they can, because you never know what might happen between now and next year.

KEEPING YOU INFORMED—As you probably know, I mail and email my newsletters two or three times a year, and email tour updates about once a month. It's my way of keeping you in the loop. Of course, you're not obliged to respond unless you wish to. I'd very much appreciate it if you'd forward my newsletters and email updates to others who may be interested in what I have to offer.

If you're not yet on my email list, please send me your email address. In the meantime, you can visit www.skillansafaris.com at any time to read past newsletters and articles and to view slide shows of many of the countries we visit.

NEW PASSPORTS—New Canadian passports were introduced in July, with electronic chips that make them more resistant to tampering. Adult passports are now \$120 for five years and \$160 for ten years. Children's passports have also gone up, and all passports now cost more when you apply from outside Canada. The current wait times for a new passport are about ten days if you apply in person and twenty-one days if you submit your application by mail. As always, you can pick up a passport application from a regional passport office or a Canada Post outlet.

THE TRUTH ABOUT TRAVEL—At last, we have a no-holds-barred book about the travel industry. It's the largest industry in the world, employing one in twelve people. *Overbooked: The Exploding Business of Travel and Tourism* is by Elizabeth Becker, an award-winning American author and a former correspondent for *The New York Times*. She spent five years travelling the world to research this book, and she knows her stuff. It will give you a lot to think about.

It's loaded with well researched facts—good and bad—about the travel and hospitality industry. She accuses the media of regarding the travel industry as frivolous and irrelevant. This does a disservice to both travel professionals and our clients. Taking a well-earned holiday to an exotic place not only recharges your batteries, it's essential for your mental and physical well-being. It's certainly relevant to me and my clients, and to the millions who travel for business and pleasure. I'll be writing more about this subject soon, so watch for my article in your email inbox.

*We get closer to the animals
in Botswana than anywhere else,
thanks to the strictly enforced rule
that only three vehicles at a time
are allowed to view big game.*

UPCOMING TOURS—Africa has given me some of the best times of my life, and in return I've loved it, written about it, and promoted it. It's my beat, and nobody does it better. On all of my personally escorted safaris and tours, I promise unforgettable experiences in remarkable places.

With roughly five weeks to go before my **Kenya and Tanzania** tour, you just have time to update your shots and pack your bags (if we can get the airline seats). My October 2014 tour will be my last one to Kenya and Tanzania. If you're interested, I suggest you get your name on the list, look at my article "On Safari in East Africa" (www.skillansafaris.com/newsletters/african-safari.pdf), and view my slide shows (www.skillansafaris.com/david-skillan-slide-show.html). We expect the price to be roughly the same as this year's.

November is a lovely time to visit exotic **Morocco**, which in many ways is similar to Egypt. This was the first African country I visited, and I've never forgotten it. I was enthralled by the sights and sounds, both then and last March, when I went back to update myself. It's a camera-carrier's mecca, with something to photograph around every bend. Morocco may not have the great River Nile, the pyramids, or the monumental temples of Egypt, but it has other charms. Come and explore Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman's Casablanca, the pink city of Marrakesh, Rabat, Fez, and Meknes. En route, we'll roam around Roman ruins, ancient casbahs, sandy beaches, and the high Atlas Mountains.

Unlike Tunisia, Libya, and Egypt, Morocco hasn't been affected by political unrest and rioting. It's well worth an extensive visit. There's still space on this special tour, so please join me in this ancient North African kingdom. Check out my slide show (www.skillansafaris.com/david-skillan-slide-show.html), to get an idea of what we'll see. Then call Chris, Clive, or Melissa at Safari Studio to get a brochure and sign up.



My January trip to **Botswana and Zambia** is another tremendous value. We'll experience one thrill after another as we visit the world-famous Kalahari Desert, Okavango Delta, and Victoria Falls. This unbeatably priced tour includes just about everything, including international and domestic flights, taxes, luxurious tented camps, daily game drives, liquor, and laundry service. You'll think you've died and gone to heaven!

What are the differences between the Kenya and Tanzania tour and my Botswana and Zambia safari?

Although we see abundant herds in both countries, in **Botswana** we get closer to the animals, thanks to the strictly enforced rule that only three vehicles at a time are allowed to view big game. In Botswana we tend to have leopard, lion, and elephant families to ourselves, which makes for incredible photographs. And in Botswana we fly in light aircraft, while in Kenya and Zambia we travel by road, which isn't quite as comfortable.

We visit Botswana and Zambia in January, one of Canada's coldest months. Departing early in the New Year gives us a triple celebration—Christmas, New Year, and an African safari. You can't beat that!

To learn more about both of these thrilling destinations, please read "On Safari in East Africa" and "Botswana—The 'In' Place for Safaris" (www.skillansafaris.com/david-skillan-newsletter.html). And watch my YouTube video of our 2009 Botswana tour (www.youtube.com/watch?v=MATNHKMTZaI).

Owing to limited accommodation in Botswana's lovely tented camps, this tour is limited to twelve participants. Sign up now to make sure you're one of them! You can add a five-day extension in beautiful Cape Town and Stellenbosch for only \$1,675 per person. Ask for details when you book your tour.

It's shocking and heartbreaking to see what's happening in **Egypt**. I was sure it would get worse before it got better, and it certainly has. I feel desperately sorry for the Egyptian people, especially those who've lost loved ones and the thousands in the tourist industry who are now out of work.

The one positive is that such terrible events tend to focus a great deal of attention on a place, increasing people's interest in it. Over the years, I've seen this happen to umpteen destinations after natural or man-made disasters. Places once thought unsafe become more popular to visit. Once the troubles are over, whether it's three months or three years from now, foreign tourists will be lining up to enter Egypt. Such is the enormous interest in this exotic destination, which normally draws close to 12 million tourists a year.

I further predict that once things settle down, prices will drop. I'm keeping Egypt on my list of tours for February, in the hope that things will be back to normal by then. I've been in touch with my right-hand man, the Cairo-based Egyptologist Fouad Berto. He sends his best wishes to all who may remember him, and tells me that despite the violence, thankfully, all is well with him and his family. I know he speaks for many of his countrymen when he says the Egyptian people don't want another Mubarak or Muslim Brotherhood (and he is a Muslim himself).



There can be no doubt that my tours and safaris represent great value, but at just \$6,965 per person, my March **South Africa** tour is a particularly good deal. South Africa has everything you could wish to experience in an African country—cities, beaches, wildlife reserves, friendly people, and exceptionally high standards for food, service, and hotel and game lodge accommodations.

Like President Obama did on his recent visit, I have stood in the lonely prison cell of the infamous jail on Robben Island where Nelson Mandela spent eighteen long years. Gripping the bars, I stared out into the prison compound where inmates convicted of lesser crimes played basketball once or twice a week. I found it so interesting and humbling that I went twice. It's just one of the many fascinating things to see around the breathtaking city of Cape Town.

Our comprehensive itinerary includes many highlights besides Cape Town, Durban, and game drives in open vehicles in Kruger National Park. We'll visit game reserves with the oh-so-African names of Mthethomusha and Hluhluwe, where we'll almost certainly see all Big Five—elephant, lion, leopard, buffalo, and rhino. We'll travel along the stunning Panorama and Garden routes, two of the most famous highways in South Africa. We'll see just about everything this beautiful country has to offer. If you like variety, this is the tour for you. Don't miss out! Call Safari Studio now for a brochure and a detailed itinerary.

*The gorilla-viewing excursion
can take one to six hours.
There's no age limit,
but you must be reasonably fit.*

My third and final **Uganda** wildlife safari takes place next April. It's one of my most exhilarating tours. We'll see chimps and gorillas up close and personal in their natural habitats, as well as a huge variety of colourful birds. Like most of my tours, this East African primate quest will appeal to both nature lovers and fun seekers. This hilly, green country is home to hundreds of species, including zebra, giraffe, elephant, Uganda cob, bush pig, Nile crocodile, hippo, and even the tree-climbing lion. For bird lovers, there's a huge variety, including the African fish eagle, hammerkop, spur-winged goose, lilac-breasted roller, several species of kingfisher, swamp boubou, ground hornbill, little bee-eater, and the endangered shoebill stork.

If you've always wanted to see gorillas in their natural surroundings, this tour is a must. Wait no longer! Call today for a brochure and detailed itinerary. There's a \$500-per-person surcharge for the gorilla-viewing excursion, which is worth every penny and goes directly toward gorilla conservation. It can take anywhere from one to six hours. As with all my tours, there's no age limit, but participants intent on gorilla viewing must be reasonably fit and prepared to do some fairly arduous bush-whacking through sweltering heat and sometimes rain, up and down steep hillsides.

Last in my 2014 lineup is extraordinary **Ethiopia**, a land of contrasts. It's difficult to avoid adjectives when promoting Africa, but there's no better word for Ethiopia than "extraordinary." It's the most remarkable country in all of Africa. Its amazing scenery rivals Canada's most spectacular places. Its history dates back to Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. And its indigenous people are colourful indeed, much like the Maasai people of Kenya (below). This trip to Ethiopia is a cultural tour you won't want to miss.

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its history dates back to Solomon and the Queen of Sheba,
and its indigenous people are colourful indeed.*

I'm sometimes asked whether I do "people tours." My reply is usually no, because most people visit Africa primarily to view the flora and fauna. But Ethiopia's most interesting natural resource is its handsome people.

As those who come with me in November 2014 will see, Ethiopia is different from other places. Almost everything about it impresses western eyes. Like its new neighbours, the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan, Ethiopia is still primitive in places, which adds to its allure.

My one visit there was unforgettable, and for many years I've longed to return. I didn't go back because the tourist accommodations were substandard, to say the least. But that's changed in recent years. I'm told by a reliable source that nowadays Ethiopia is perfectly acceptable to the international traveller, with good food and clean, comfortable hotel rooms and beds. There's even a Hilton in the capital city, Addis Ababa.



The brochure for my Ethiopian tour should be ready in a month or so. The price should be around \$6,000 per person. Please check www.skillansafaris.com/david-skillan-tours.html for periodic updates.

There seems to be substantial interest in my next tour to **Japan**. I haven't yet set the date. It will likely be in the autumn of 2014, with spectacular turning leaves, or the spring of 2015, with gorgeous cherry blossoms. Or perhaps both, depending on demand. Stay tuned for details. In the meantime, please read "Interesting Times in Japan" and "Getting Around Japan" at www.skillansafaris.com/david-skillan-newsletter.html and view my slide show at www.skillansafaris.com/david-skillan-slide-show.html.

THE BENEFITS OF TRAVEL—People often ask where I get my energy and stamina. My answer is always the same: I inherited some of it from my parents, who both lived long lives; I carried a backpack for many years in my twenties, which helped; and I get the rest from the stimulation of exploring new places with like-minded souls. When you visit such varied places as I do, you can't help but be rejuvenated. I find that the road is where I'm most relaxed and I get my best ideas.

I've built my reputation over many years by providing life-enriching tours that are both relaxing and stimulating. I don't profess to know all the answers, but as a long-time professional tour leader, I know what people want. When you sign up for one of my safaris or tours, you can rest assured that I'll have your best interests at heart and keep a watchful eye over the proceedings. I guarantee that you'll be well looked after.

So come with me to my beloved Africa! See for yourself why it's the world's most fascinating continent. I look forward to sharing some wonderful travel experiences as you don the mantle of traveller, explorer, adventurer, and create memories you'll cherish for the rest of your life. Remember, fortune favours the bold!

Go well, as they say in South Africa, wherever your wanderlust may take you.

David (Around the World in Eighty Months) Skillan

Incurable romantic, free spirit, and roving correspondent . . . ➔

DAVID SKILLAN'S AFRICA

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

KENYA & TANZANIA SAFARI

Departs October 3, 2013 → 16 days → \$8,970 per person (sharing), plus taxes

Departs October 3, 2014 → 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. This tour can be extended to include the exotic island of Zanzibar or Kenya's sun-drenched Coral Coast. ***Don't be left behind—start planning now for 2014!***

MAGNIFICENT MOROCCO

Departs November 2, 2013 → 16 days → \$6,695 per person (sharing), plus taxes

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 star-filled skies. If you like Egypt, you'll be bewitched by Morocco! ***Plan now to join us on this magical journey!***

BOTSWANA & ZAMBIA SAFARI

Departs January 6, 2014 → 14 days → \$9,965 per person (sharing), including 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, wild cat, 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, Kalahari Desert, Linyanti, the world-famous Okavango Delta, and the breathtaking Victoria Falls. Ask about the five-day extension to lovely Cape Town and the wineries of Stellenbosch. ***The 2013 tour sold out early, so book now for 2014!***



WONDERS OF EGYPT

Departs February 12, 2014 → 12 days → \$5,230 per person (sharing), plus taxes

Join us in the land of pharaohs, mystery, and enchantment! This exciting tour with Lufthansa (a member of Star Alliance, so if you're a member you can collect points) 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. Shop for exquisite jewellery, beautiful hand-woven carpets, and the latest styles in leather jackets and handbags. **If you've always wanted to see one of the world's greatest ancient civilizations, this is the trip for you!**

SPECTACULAR SOUTH AFRICA

Departs March 6, 2014 → 16 days → \$6,965 per person (sharing), plus taxes

Described as "a world in one country," the breathtakingly beautiful South Africa is one of the most diverse countries on earth. South Africa has everything! Our tour includes both city and safari—Cape Town, Durban, Port Elizabeth, the Cape of Good Hope, Blyde River Canyon, Zululand, Swaziland, Mpumalanga, Kruger National Park, and Hluhluwe Game Reserve. Enjoy day and night game drives in open safari vehicles. Take in the scenic Panorama route. Visit a penguin colony, rhino sanctuary, and the famous Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden at the foot of Table Mountain. Sip fine wines, enjoy gourmet meals, and experience close encounters with extraordinary birds and wildlife. You can extend your holiday with an optional foray into Zambia to visit Livingstone, the adventure capital, during a two-day excursion to Victoria Falls. You'll also enjoy a sunset cruise on the mighty Zambezi River and an optional helicopter, ultralight, or elephant-back ride. Don't miss this wonderful tour. **Join us next March for the best of both city and safari!**



UGANDA WILDLIFE SAFARI

Departs April 5, 2014 → 13 days → \$8,322 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 to 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 kob (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, this tour should be at the top of your bucket list. **Call soon to take part in this life-enriching tour!**

EXTRAORDINARY ETHIOPIA

Departs November 3, 2014 → 15 days → Price to be announced

Ethiopia, land of the ancient Abyssinians, is a country of contrasts. Here you'll find both bustling cities and archaeological sites yielding four-million-year-old hominid remains. Attractions include walled cities, coastal Arabian architecture, medieval castles, mosques, Coptic churches, extensive natural cave complexes, lakes, volcanoes, grasslands, jungles, the River Nile, towering waterfalls, and nine UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Our cultural tour takes us to Addis Ababa (the capital city), Axum, Bahir Dar, Lalibela (where you'll see churches carved from solid rock), the market towns of Turmi and Jinka, Awasa, and Gondar. This ever-changing land is where Christianity and Islam intersect. **If you love history and people, don't miss this trip to one of the world's most intriguing places! →**

EXCLUSIVE

The David Skillan Travel Collection

A Special Series of the Finest Personally Escorted Tours and Safaris

2013				
October 3	KENYA & TANZANIA SAFARI	16 days	\$8,970	Safari Studio
November 2	MAGNIFICENT MOROCCO	16 days	\$6,695	Safari Studio
2014				
January 6	BOTSWANA & ZAMBIA SAFARI	14 days	\$9,965	Safari Studio
February 12	WONDERS OF EGYPT	12 days	\$5,230	Safari Studio
March 6	SPECTACULAR SOUTH AFRICA	16 days	\$6,965	Safari Studio
April 5	UGANDA WILDLIFE SAFARI	13 days	\$8,322	Safari Studio
October 3	KENYA & TANZANIA SAFARI	16 days	TBA	Safari Studio
November 3	EXTRAORDINARY ETHIOPIA	15 days	TBA	Safari Studio
<p><i>Tour prices are per person, in Canadian dollars. Taxes are extra, unless otherwise noted. 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. All dates, itineraries, and prices are subject to change. Most tours can be extended.</i></p>				

David Skillan's tours and safaris are marketed exclusively by Safari Studio. For full details, including the itinerary and booking information, please contact Safari Studio directly.

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www.safaristudio.ca

Call now for colour brochures and detailed itineraries! →

Excerpts from Recent Emails, Cards, and Letters



“Nancy and I are booked on your October Kenya and Tanzania tour. It’s been my dream to go on an African safari for years. We’re both so excited about this trip, and can’t wait to get going!”

~Gladys S. (Langley, BC)

“I’ll never forget my trips with you to Kenya, South Africa, and Egypt, and hope to book another one in 2014. As you say, good health is just about everything, so I’m doing my travelling while I can.”

~Julie C. (North Vancouver, BC)

“I credit you and your tour of Botswana and Zambia for initiating what is promising to be the best year of my life. I’m still grinning from ear to ear!”

~Marie M. (New Westminster, BC)

*There’s something very special
about sharing the events of the day
around a campfire in Africa
with new-found friends.*

“Two and a half years ago, we celebrated my fifty-third birthday in Uganda. What amazing memories we have of that adventure! There’s something very special about sharing the events of the day around a campfire in Africa with new-found friends. We’ve now been on four of your tours to Africa, and all have been outstanding. We travel a lot, both independently and on tours, and all our best travel experiences have been with you!”

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

“Greetings from all of us here in the Yukon. It’s time for us to consider taking another David Skillan safari. Enjoy your travels, and keep those newsletters and updates coming.”

~Marjorie C. and Tony D. (Whitehorse, YT)

“You are a good man, David Skillan, and we are happy to share that fact with others. We have been reading lots of books on Africa. It makes us appreciate more how carefully you plan your tours.”

~Sandy G. and Garry G. (Winnipeg, MB)

“It was eight years ago this October that my sister and I and our dad Allan headed to Nairobi to begin our once-in-a-lifetime adventure with you. Wonderful memories!”

~Loa V. (White Rock, BC)

“What an amazing journey to Botswana and Zambia it was! You truly have a gift for sharing. I feel blessed to have made the trip there with you. And also the one to Kenya and Tanzania two years ago.”

~Shirley S. (Victoria, BC)

“Your newsletters make my day, and always give me something to think about. Being on your mailing list and getting the monthly updates is like being member of an exclusive club. Hope to join one of your tours before you finally give it all up!”

~Joan M. (Burnaby, BC)

“Your Kenya and Tanzania safari is a trip I’ve dreamed of for years, and I’ve decided to stop dreaming and do something about it. In the five years since my husband passed away, I’ve become a little more adventurous in my holiday planning. I now feel ready to brave the wilds of Africa on my own—with a group!”

~Lyn M. (Victoria, BC)

“The lovely photos attached to your last email had us thinking about our last safari with you, which came and went so quickly. We spent so much time getting ready, and were as excited as children before Christmas, anticipating what we were going to see. And we saw just about everything!”

~Doreen A. and Bob A. (Victoria, BC)

(Bob and Doreen have made several trips to different parts of Africa with me over the years. They’re loyal members of the Mad About Africa Club. ~DS) ↗

This newsletter comes to you with my compliments.

In return, I ask that you kindly pass it on. It's intended to create a greater awareness of the world we live in, promote worldwide travel and tourism, and foster understanding and goodwill between people.

My mission is to encourage, motivate, and inspire you to get the most out of life. Get up and go! I invite you to join me on one of my life-enriching tours. ➔



From the spray of Victoria Falls in Zambia, with love . . .

Points to Ponder . . .

“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”

~John F. Kennedy, (mis)quoting Edmund Burke

“The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any.”

~Alice Walker

“The best way to predict the future is to invent it.”

~Alan Kay

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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 (albeit discreetly) with others.

David has been publishing articles and newsletters about his life, travels, and tours since 1978. ➔