

DAVID SKILLAN'S WORLD OF TRAVEL . . .

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2013

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

Dear Fellow Traveller:

Spring is in the air! It's wonderful to see all the flowers—the daffodils, camellias, tulips, pansies, azaleas, rhododendrons, magnolias, and the cherry, apple, plum trees in bloom. Vancouver has some of the prettiest in the world. Sections of the street where I live are just as beautiful as Japan.

Speaking of Japan, now that it's fully recovered from the tsunami, I'm planning another tour there. It will be a spring or fall trip. Those are the best times to visit. Stay tuned.

Spring is a time for hope, renewal, and thinking about your next great adventure. To this day, I still get excited every time I set off on a trip. I never grow tired of visiting these amazing places with kindred spirits. "There is nothing greater than enthusiasm," said sculptor Henry Moore, and I totally agree. It's my enthusiasm for travelling that has kept me going for so long. I enjoy my tours nearly as much as my clients do.

I'm recently back from a whirlwind scouting trip to Morocco, a place I hadn't been to for some time. I needed to update myself, check out the hotels, make sure everything is just as we describe it, and ensure that everything will go smoothly on my tour next November. In my business, it's vitally important to maintain the highest of standards. People are depending on me!

I was in Morocco for only eight days, but I managed to visit Casablanca, Marrakesh, Fez, Meknes, and the capital city, Rabat, with its modern European and ancient Arabian architecture, busy *souks*, French-influenced broad streets, and orange-tree-lined avenues and boulevards. I didn't get into the desert or the Atlas Mountains, which are included in my upcoming tour, but I was impressed with what I did see. Morocco is very exotic. Its gracious people speak Arabic or Berber, depending on their origins, as well as French (it was nice to be called "monsieur," and to use my schoolboy French) and English. Morocco is similar to Egypt, yet has its own distinctive features, history, culture, and lifestyle. One of its most interesting sites is Volubilis, a little-known Roman city that was built in the third century BC, fell to local tribesmen around 285 AD, and was continuously occupied until the tenth century.

Whereas my safari destinations appeal first and foremost to nature lovers, Morocco and Egypt are utopias for culture vultures. Everywhere you look, there's something to photograph. Look at my Morocco and Egypt slide shows (www.skillansafaris.com/david-skillan-slide-show.html) and pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter to see the kinds of places we'll enjoy later this year, *insha'Allah* ("God willing," as the saying goes in Arabic).

You may have heard that I've ended my working relationship with Collette Vacations. Nothing bad happened between us, nor were there any major mishaps, but there were some things that neither my clients nor I were happy about. It was no longer a good fit. I much prefer dealing with a local company such as Safari Studio, with whom I've had a close working relationship for well over a dozen years. Being small allows Safari Studio to offer highly personalized service. Chris and company are good at creating original itineraries according to my exacting standards. For the time being, at least, I'm concentrating all my efforts on my beloved Africa.

Over the next few months, I'm making a point of not going far. My elder daughter, Julie, who lives in California, is expecting her second child in mid-June—on my birthday. As a doting dad and grandad, I want to be close by for the event. It also happens to be Daisy the pug's birthday (Daisy belongs to my other daughter, Jane), but she's somewhat younger than I am.



I'm seeing more and more mothers and adult daughters on my tours, as well as a few fathers with sons and grown-up grandkids. On one recent trip, there were three sets of sisters. People want to share these experiences with their loved ones while they can. It makes good sense—you can't take your money with you. Two separate couples who'd been on my mailing list for close to twenty years recently travelled with me for the first time. They said they wished they'd taken these trips sooner.

STAYING INFORMED—As you know, I put out two newsletters a year, and supplement them with one or two e-mail updates each month, with photographs from my personal collection and the latest details about upcoming tours. If you or someone you know would like to receive these updates, let me know. You can also visit my website (www.skillansafaris.com) at any time to view my slide shows and read my articles. I hope they'll motivate you to join me on a tour or safari.

*“Anyone can buy
a car, handbag, or shoes,
but travel requires
energy, bravery, curiosity,
and a degree of adventurousness.”*

UPCOMING TOURS—For all of my personally escorted safaris and tours, I promise never-to-be-forgotten experiences in fascinating places. I could write pages about our destinations, but that would be giving too much away. Much of the excitement of travelling is discovering these places for yourself. My job is to whet your appetite and then to keep a fatherly eye over the proceedings as we travel together. I'm glad to report that I continue to get many complimentary reviews about my tours, which proves that experience counts.



My annual October tour of **Kenya and Tanzania** is my most popular trip. It includes some of the most famous places in Africa, such as the fabled Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater, Olduvai Gorge, and Maasai Mara Game Reserve. Maasai Mara is the scene of the Great Migration of wildebeest and zebra, often called the greatest show on Earth. Kenya and Tanzania boast the greatest abundance of wildlife on the planet. Regardless of the diminishing numbers of some species, this is where we always see the most animals. My last tour to Kenya and Tanzania sold out quickly, so book early.

I see that *Condé Nast* magazine recently listed two of the places where we stay in Tanzania—which I discovered years ago—among the best places to stay in Africa. When I first came across it, Gibb's Farm, with its purple jacaranda trees and constant birdsong, was a working coffee farm with a dozen rustic cabins available for guests. Today it's greatly enlarged and the height of luxury, but still retains its personal charm. The Serengeti Serena Safari Lodge, with its stunning vistas and superb meals and service, is co-owned by the Aga Khan and part of the distinguished Serena Hotels chain.



In another recent copy of *Condé Nast*, renowned hotelier André Balazs shared some of his thoughts about the future. He said, “Travel takes more than money. It takes the most precious commodity—time. Anyone can buy a car, handbag, or shoes, but travel requires energy, bravery, curiosity, and a degree of adventurousness. In the future, the greatest indulgence will not be a Ferrari, it will be a week in Kathmandu.” Such comments don't surprise me in the least. I've always maintained that experience is more valuable than money. No amount of money could have bought some of my most memorable experiences!

My last 2013 tour is to **Morocco** in November. This trip will appeal to those who have been to Egypt. Over the last few years, Morocco has become popular with Europeans, who have a knack for discovering interesting places. It was the first African country I visited when I set out on my world travels in 1962, and I was smitten. I know you'll be bewitched, too, when you visit this exotic Arabian kingdom, with its European and African influences.

Or you can see wild Africa at its thrilling best on my next **Botswana** and **Zambia** safari, which departs in early January. We'll visit the remote Kalahari Desert, Okavango Delta, and Victoria Falls. Whereas we travel solely by road on other African safaris, in Botswana we fly from camp to camp in small bush planes. We see a huge amount of wildlife from open safari vehicles—up close and personal. We glimpse species seldom seen elsewhere, such as wild dogs and sable antelope. This tour is a real bargain, as the price includes all taxes, as well as international and domestic flights, sumptuous accommodations in tented camps, daily game drives, most meals, and even laundry and liquor. You can extend your stay in southern Africa with five days in Cape Town and Stellenbosch, home to South Africa's renowned wineries, for the special price of just \$1,575 per person. Ask Safari Studio for details. This tour is limited to just twelve participants, so book soon. To learn more about this tour, look at my slide shows at www.skillansafaris.com/david-skillan-slide-show.html and read "On Safari in Botswana" on page 5 of this newsletter and "Botswana—The 'In' Place for Safaris" at www.skillansafaris.com/newsletters/botswana-safari.pdf.

*We'll revel in some of the most
exhilarating boat rides
to be found in Africa.
One of them includes a trip
to Murchison Falls on the Victoria Nile.*

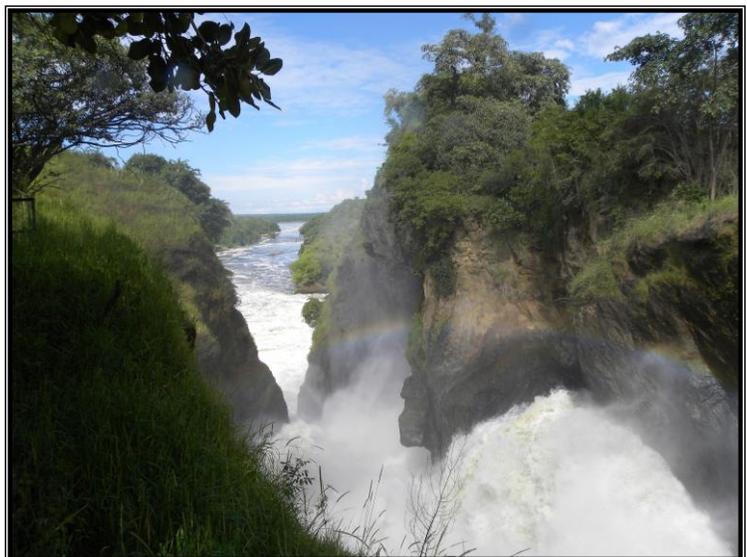
Egypt has been in and out of the news a great deal this past year. As one of the world's top tourist destinations, though, it seems that no matter what happens, people still want to visit. Such is its popularity that I'm doing another tour in February, my tenth there in recent years. I'm in close touch with my good friend Fouad Berto, who is my right-hand man in Egypt, a top-notch Egyptologist, and very popular with the ladies on my tours. He tells me things are slowly getting back to normal and the tourists are returning. He'll be accompanying my tour as we journey there in February. If sailing along the Nile in a luxury cruise ship and visiting the pyramids, King Tut's tomb, and ancient temples appeals to you, join us when it's cold and wet here, but hot and sunny there.

Be assured that if any of our destinations were deemed to be dangerous for visitors, we would cancel the tour and refund your money. There's no way my travel partners or I would jeopardize your comfort, safety, or well-being.

In March I'll revisit **South Africa**, a place I dearly love. This country is indescribably beautiful and full of variety. From cosmopolitan Cape Town to golden beaches, from game reserves and wineries to superb accommodation, there's much in South Africa to savour. At just \$6,965, this is one of our most affordable tours, and even includes a one-night stop in Amsterdam. Read "A Visit to Cape Town" at www.skillansafaris.com/newsletters/cape-town.pdf for an idea of what we'll see on this trip. If you'd like to experience the sun and warmth of the southern hemisphere in March, call Safari Studio now and get your name on the list.

If you yearn for blue skies and wildlife adventures, why not join my **Uganda** safari next April? This is another place I look forward to seeing again. A haven for animal lovers and birdwatchers alike, **Uganda** is home to an abundance of wildlife, including countless exotic birds and what many people consider the most intelligent and amusing of the animals species, the primates—gorillas, chimpanzees, olive baboons, black-and-white colobus monkeys, patas monkeys, and blue monkeys.

We'll revel in some of the most exhilarating boat rides to be found in Africa. One of them includes a trip to Murchison Falls on the Victoria Nile. Close to the thundering falls is a plaque showing where Ernest Hemingway's small plane crashed in 1954. He was stranded there overnight, with his wife Mary and the pilot, as elephants trumpeted and hippos snorted nearby. It must have been frightening indeed. They were rescued the next day by the *SS Murchison*, the boat later featured in the movie *The African Queen*. For an idea of what to expect on this tour, look at the slide show on my website (www.skillansafaris.com). Then call Melissa at Safari Studio for a brochure and more details. She loves everything about Uganda, particularly the warm-hearted people. In fact, she's hoping to live there someday.



To close my 2014 season, I intend to visit **Kenya** and **Tanzania** in October and **Ethiopia** in November. Ethiopia is the most extraordinary country in all of Africa. I once spent several happy weeks travelling and helping to build a school there. In recent years it's become more of a tourist destination, with far more comfortable accommodations than I experienced in the 1960s. The history there is deep and fascinating—this is where the Queen of Sheba lived, and where the Ark of the Covenant is said to lie within a sixteenth-century church.

If you're trying to decide which safari you'd most enjoy, please read the articles on my website, or call or email me.

*When you travel with me,
you'll enjoy a hassle-free, fun-filled,
superbly organized tour
that will leave you with
enough memories to last a lifetime.*

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?—What do you get when you join a David Skillan safari or tour? Clients call my trips “absolutely priceless,” “worth every penny,” and “far exceeding our expectations,” but what does that really mean?

It means my tours include:

- comprehensive, original itineraries
- breathtaking sights
- extraordinary experiences
- fine accommodations in first-class hotels, game lodges, and tented camps
- friendly, efficient service
- the company of one of the best tour leaders in the business
- unbeatable value.

In other words, when you travel with me, you'll enjoy a hassle-free, fun-filled, superbly organized tour that will leave you with enough memories to last a lifetime. I am committed to ensuring that you have the finest holiday.

And what do I expect from you? Only that you be young at heart, with a curious mind, a keen sense of humour, and a spirit of adventure. Oh, yes, and like all good travellers, expect the unexpected. My travel associates and I will take care of the rest.



I was the first to introduce escorted tours from Canada to Africa. Today there are many operators offering all kinds of tours and safaris, but none can compare with the excitement and the exceptional value you'll enjoy when you travel with me. Nobody has worked harder to promote Africa than I have, and nobody in Canada has led more tours to the African continent. Including my excursions to Egypt, Morocco, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, Botswana, Uganda, Zambia, and other destinations, I've led more than 125 tour groups to Africa.

So come with me to Africa. Sign up for one of my life-enriching tours, and discover for yourself why it's the world's most fascinating continent. I look forward to sharing some remarkable experiences with you.

Safari njema (“travel safely” in Swahili), wherever your wanderlust may take you.

David

David (Around the World in Eighty Months) Skillan

Incurable romantic, nomad by nature, and ambassador at large . . . ➔

ON SAFARI IN BOTSWANA

I stand on the deck of my spacious tent at Xigera, a beautifully appointed camp in the Moremi Game Reserve, which is in the world-famous Okavango Delta. It's about 8 am, the sky is an azure blue, and it's sunny and already hot.

Five black-faced vervet monkeys, one with a tiny baby, are playing on the wooden walkway that connects the various tents with the lounge and dining area. A mourning dove coos close by, and in a tree a few yards away a tiny malachite kingfisher stares intently into the clear water of the delta. Two shy bushbuck does peer at me through the undergrowth before leaping away. I turn around and spy a small herd of red lechwe, a species of beautiful swamp antelope, grazing beyond the tree line. It's quiet until a baboon barks from the top of a tree.

I am back in my beloved Africa, on safari in Botswana with a dozen other adventurers—my tour members. It's day six of our safari. Tomorrow we will take a 40-minute flight in two chartered light aircraft to another gorgeous camp.

*The water in the Okavango Delta is the purest in the world.
It comes from the highlands of Angola
to this remote area of savannah, woodland, and floodplain
before dissipating into the desert sands.*

As I survey the peaceful scene, a green pigeon flies to a sausage tree and a gecko runs up the wall of my tent. As always when in Africa—no matter which of the many countries I visit—I am content. Africa does that to just about everyone who is lucky enough to visit. Life on safari is good, especially for lovers of the outdoors and natural history.

We spent our first three days at Kalahari Plains Camp, a modern facility that runs on solar energy, with friendly, eager-to-please local staff. It's one of the few tourist camps in the Kalahari Desert. After the rains, the desert is lush and green. On our first day, we came across a magnificent pair of mating lions, and then a cheetah. Later we saw three cheetahs on the plain, within sight of the camp. We also saw a honey badger, several black-backed jackals, half a dozen ostriches, a few small herds of blue wildebeest, a couple of warthog families, countless springbok and oryx (also known as gemsbok), and numerous multicoloured birds. We took an escorted walk with a San Bushman to learn about plants, shrubs, and the lifestyle of the San people. The first modern humans are thought to have appeared in this part of the world; DNA testing suggests that everyone on Earth descends from them.

At this lovely camp deep in the heart of the Okavango Delta, we have seen a pride of eight lions, lots of southern giraffes, and a number of common zebras. We have even glimpsed the relatively rare Pels fishing owl, which sleeps in the tall fig trees near the camp. People come from far and wide to see this bird.

This afternoon we will ride in a morokoro through a channel flanked by dense papyrus reeds. Perhaps we'll see—or at least hear—a hippo or two. If we do, we'll give it a wide berth, for hippos are extremely dangerous and much feared. They attack people who get too close, and are known to kill more people in Africa than any other animal.

The water in the delta is probably the purest in the world. It comes from the highlands of Angola to this remote area of savannah, woodland, and floodplain dotted with islands, where it dissipates into the desert sands.

No matter how often I visit this wondrous place—and I visit every January—I always find it exciting and stimulating. Like most visitors to this part of the world, I feel privileged to be here. →



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 2, 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 and Kenya's sun-drenched Coral Coast. **Book soon, so you don't miss out!**



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 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 soon 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 bird 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 4, 2014 → 16 days → Price to be announced

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 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. **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. It contains Simien Mountains National Park, which is on UNESCO's List of World Heritage in Danger because of its endangered walia ibex and Ethiopian wolf populations, and the Danakil Depression—the hottest place on Earth—which features a lunar-like landscape of sulphur fumaroles 120 metres below sea level. (Don't worry, we don't go there.) Ethiopia includes both modern cities and archaeological sites yielding four-million-year-old hominid remains. Attractions include walled cities, coastal Arabian architecture, medieval castles, mosques, churches carved from solid rock, extensive natural cave complexes, lakes, volcanoes, grasslands, jungles, rivers with towering waterfalls, and more, including nine UNESCO World Heritage Sites. **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 4	UGANDA WILDLIFE SAFARI	16 days	TBA	Safari Studio
October 2	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



“Another fabulous trip! Africa just keeps getting better and better. The major standout for us was watching the lion family play just before sunset, while the big, black-maned male guarded the kill by wrapping a leg around it and going to sleep!”

~Doreen S. and Jack S. (Calgary, AB)

“Love looking at the photos on your website. They bring back many great memories. I often look at my safari photos. South Africa was one of the best trips ever. I hope to join you on at least one more trip before you finally quit!”

~Robyn L. (North Vancouver, BC)

“Although it was our first time meeting, I felt I had travelled with you through your many articles and newsletters, and so was very comfortable. I found the whole experience exciting, inspiring, educational, emotional, etc. I cannot find enough adjectives for it. It was absolutely great value for the money, as almost everything was included. All we had to do was sit back, relax, and soak it all up. I'm now a proud member of the Mad About Africa Club!”

~Ann C. (New Westminster, BC)

*I started reading Out of Africa on the way home.
Could easily imagine Karen Blixen after seeing her house,
where she met with the staff, the dining room for entertaining,
the Ngong Hills in the distance.*

“I still enjoy getting your newsletters. Reading the articles and comments from people brings back so many happy memories of the trips Kritz and I took with you. Wish I could go with you again, but am now limited to cruising.”

~Aileen K. (Victoria, BC)

“I've been on many holidays to many places, but the tour to Botswana and Zambia was by far the very best!”

~Marie M. (New Westminster, BC)

“It was a very good tour, with lots of memorable sights and experiences. I started reading *Out of Africa* on the way home. Could easily imagine Karen Blixen after seeing her house, where she met with the staff, the dining room for entertaining, the Ngong Hills in the distance. Made it all so real. Thanks for your fine leadership and organization.”

~Dawne T. (Kamloops, BC)

“Health issues have curtailed future travel plans, but thanks to you we have many precious memories. We remember so well the three trips we took with you, and talk about them often. Nobody knows what life has in store for us, so we have to do everything while we can. All the best on your future jaunts.”

~Bette H. and Blaine H. (Sidney, BC)

“After many years of getting your newsletters, we finally signed up! And what an amazing trip! We were very impressed with the accommodation in Kenya and Tanzania, the driver-guides, and everything else—especially the wildlife. Even with our point-and-shoot cameras, we got some spectacular pictures. After the Nairobi traffic, we'll never complain about traffic jams again!”

~Noreen D. and Jack D. (Belcarra, BC)

“Having heard that you're going to be hanging up your binoculars in the not-too-distant future, I'm anxious to do a trip with you. I know you are the person I would like to travel to Africa with. Can you please arrange to send details of your January Botswana and Zambia tour, and put me in touch with someone who would like to share a room?”

~Karin F. (South Delta, BC)

“Years ago, we took a safari to Kenya with you. It was the most wonderful trip of our lives!”

~Harvey P. and Shirley P. (Victoria, BC)

“Hayden and I so wish we could have joined you and our friends on your latest tour to Botswana, but we'll just have to live vicariously through them. I've read every one of Andrew McCall Smith's books, and long to go there. The photos on your website are very enticing. It's been 20 years since we went to Kenya with you, and we still look forward to hearing from you.”

~Judy K. (West Vancouver, BC) →

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 hope you'll join me on one of my exclusive, life-enriching tours. ➔



From Volubilis in Morocco, with love . . .

Points to Ponder . . .

“Know the true value of time; snatch, seize, and enjoy every moment of it. No idleness, no delay, no procrastination; never put off till tomorrow what you can do today.”

~Philip Dormer Stanhope

“The most effective way to do it is to do it.”

~Amelia Earhart

“The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.”

~Pablo Picasso

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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. ➔