

DAVID SKILLAN'S WORLD OF TRAVEL . . .

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2014

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

Dear Fellow Traveller:

A few weeks ago I purchased a new computer. I had to—my old one packed it in. For someone who came to computers very late, it's been challenging to learn everything about the new one. The opposite of a techie, I use a computer only because it's necessary for my work. However, I am enjoying my new Windows 8 machine, which came with just a mouse, keyboard, and touch-screen monitor—no noisy tower taking up valuable space or cables to get tangled in. To make matters more complicated, a friend gave me an iPhone a few months ago, when he upgraded. Now that I have it, I find it so useful that I can't do without it! For someone who swore never to be a slave to technology, I'm glad to catch up. But I still don't do Facebook or Twitter.

STAYING IN TOUCH—I enjoy staying in touch with people, including three old army buddies I first met when we were all 19-year-olds serving in Northern Ireland. Rob recently wrote to me in neat longhand (how rare is that these days!) from his home in the English countryside near Canterbury, reminding me of our long friendship and thanking me for organizing what he called “all those Skillan Skirmishes into the Unknown.” As a junior NCO adventure-training instructor, I often arranged canoeing, rock-climbing, and hiking trips in Northern Ireland's Mountains of Mourne and on Scotland's Isle of Skye. On one occasion, as we camped in County Down, Rob met Kathleen. They're still married.

If you'd like to receive my monthly email updates and learn what's coming up on the David Skillan tour-and-safari agenda, send me your email address. There's no charge, and don't worry, I won't hassle you. That's not my style. You can also visit www.skillansfaris.com for regular updates.

I've written a lot about Africa, my primary destination over the years. Africa has given me some of the happiest, most exciting days of my life. It's seductive and intoxicating. As Ernest Hemingway wrote, rather plaintively, “I never knew of a morning in Africa that I woke and was not happy.”

Many people who've been there have noticed that photos can't do the safari experience justice. You have to be in Africa yourself to really witness its majesty and savage beauty.

UPCOMING TOURS—I try to plan my tours to coincide with the best times to visit our destinations. Escaping a Canadian winter is an extra benefit.

My next **Best of East Africa** tour is my final trip to include both **Kenya** and **Tanzania**. We depart in early October, in time to catch the Great Migration of zebra and wildebeest—one of the great natural wonders of the world. As this will be something of a celebratory trip, I've chosen some special places to stay, including the beautifully appointed Lake Elementaita Serena Camp in Kenya and the superb Exploreans Ngorongoro Lodge in Tanzania. As always, there will be plenty of pleasant surprises. You may have noticed that the price has gone up slightly, because I originally costed it out before the loonie took a nosedive, but it's still tremendous value and worth every penny. With only six places left, space is strictly limited, so reserve now, or you may miss out!



Based on popular request, I'm replacing my Best of East Africa tour with a **Tanzania** safari in March and a **Kenya** tour the following October. Each tour operates with KLM via Amsterdam, and includes an overnight stop on the outbound trip, to allow you to rest between flights and see something of Amsterdam. Each tour also includes a beach stay—on the exotic island of Zanzibar for Tanzania, and on the fabulous Indian Ocean coast for Kenya. Though these tours aren't exactly cheap—nothing worthwhile is—the prices are excellent (see pages 6 to 8), and should stay in effect until departure, unless the loonie takes another serious tumble. They include round-trip airfare and local flights, accommodations, meals, and daily game drives. And of course I travel with you, to make sure everything goes as it should. We don't compromise on anything—my standards are always high.

*January is a lovely time
to be in southern Africa,
when it's green and lush
and there are lots of baby animals.*

In November we visit **Ethiopia**, one of the most spectacular and intriguing countries in Africa. If you love people and history (and if you've already been just about everywhere), you'll love this tour. Ethiopia is a land of staggering beauty. Jagged mountain peaks, deep valleys, and more than 70 tribal groups fill this exotic land. November is the ideal time to visit. On my first trip there, in the 1960s, I hitchhiked to the Blue Nile Falls from Addis Ababa, where I was doing some volunteer work at an orphanage. Though not as awe-inspiring as Zambia's Victoria Falls, the Blue Nile Falls are worth seeing. Being young and footloose, I sang loudly as I walked. I stopped to eat a can of beans, some roasted maize, and a banana, then found a spot to unroll my sleeping bag and fell asleep to the roar of the falls. Next morning I awoke drenched in spray, which dampened my spirits for a bit, but everything soon dried in the hot sun. The accommodation on my November tour will be far superior and the food infinitely more appetizing! Look at the tour overview on page 5 and the slide show at www.skillansafaris.com/david-skillan-slide-show.html, then call **Melissa at Safari Studio** for a detailed itinerary and to sign up.

Coming up in January is my annual safari in **Botswana** and **Zambia**. For the last 10 years I've chosen to go in January because it means getting away during one of our coldest months, and it's such a lovely time to be in southern Africa, when it's green and lush and there are lots of baby animals. Despite the drop in the loonie, we've managed to keep the price the same as it was last year, by changing some of the camps while maintaining our high standards. No mean feat! As you can see on pages 6 and 8, it's an excellent deal.



If you wonder why this tour costs more than most safaris, it's because, unlike East Africa, Botswana has few main roads, and we have to fly from camp to camp. This is considerably more expensive than driving, but it gives us a wonderful bird's-eye perspective of the country. The camps are small and intimate, which also makes this trip more exclusive than my others. For these reasons, we can take only 12 people.

This is where we see the biggest animals up close, including wild dogs and at least one or two leopards. The Botswana government has officially announced that, to preserve its natural heritage, it wants high-end tourism, not budget tourism. In return, travellers get unmatched experiences. My clients tell me they enjoy Botswana's remoteness and tranquility and the feeling that they're the only people there.

Reserve your place right away, and be one of the fortunate few to enjoy this exclusive safari. Also consider the five-day extension to beautiful Cape Town and the wine country of Stellenbosch at the end of the trip. At just \$1,675 extra, it's a tremendous deal.

In February, we plan to return to **Egypt**. Right now we're adopting a wait-and see approach, crossing our fingers that Egypt will finally get it right and settle down politically. The recent presidential election results suggest that many Egyptians prefer security over democracy. **Fouad Berto**, my right-hand man on the ground, is eagerly waiting to escort my next group around his homeland. You needn't worry about any unrest—if any destination is ever deemed unsafe, my travel partners and I will cancel the tour and give you a full refund.

Some American friends of mine were in Egypt recently, and had most of the famous sites to themselves. They enjoyed it immensely, and considered the lack of crowds a huge bonus. At no time did they feel unsafe. If you, too, long to sail along the River Nile, photograph the pyramids, and peer into King Tut's tomb, call Safari Studio today.

As you know, I intend to host a tour to **Japan** next April. I'm waiting for a few details before finalizing everything, and I want to get a rough idea of how many people would like to go. If you're interested in joining me and Yuriko in Japan during the 2015 cherry-blossom season, please call or email me right away. Once I've confirmed the arrangements, I'll post the details on my website and send out an email.

Many people thought Japan would never recover from that terrible triple-whammy in 2011—the earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear-reactor explosion. Naturally, tourism dried up. But just two years later, thanks to a successful marketing campaign, Japan saw record numbers of international tourists. It just goes to show you how, with the right publicity, people can bounce back from terrible things. It also proves that sometimes it takes a disaster to make the world focus on a destination. I've seen this happen in many places over the years.

I often watch NHK, Japan's national television channel. Despite my limited knowledge of the Japanese language, I particularly enjoy the travel documentaries, sumo wrestling, and the program *Cool Japan*, in which several foreigners are invited each week to share their views and impressions about new things in Japan.

In November of 2015 I plan to lead another tour to **Morocco**. Everybody had such a good time last November that I decided the trip was worth repeating. With sunshine every day, fine accommodations, and fascinating sightseeing, the trip got rave reviews. Morocco is another paradise for shutterbugs, with photo ops here, there, and everywhere.

Moroccan cuisine is making a name for itself internationally. It's not just couscous and tapioca. The country has been subject to many influences, and the food includes mouthwatering, imaginative dishes and fresh fruits and veggies. Who can resist freshly picked figs, dates, oranges, and prickly pears on a hot day?

Morocco was the first African country I visited during my early travels, and when I went back last year it was just like being there for the first time. The sights, sounds, and smells were as exotic and enticing as ever. Riding camels in the Sahara Desert, driving across the snow-capped Atlas Mountains, and soaking up the sun on Atlantic beaches are just some of what we'll enjoy in this north African kingdom. If Morocco isn't on your bucket list, it should be! Do yourself a favour and start planning early to spend two weeks next year in this mysterious Arabian kingdom.



*I understand what people need
when they travel to strange places,
and I do my best to make everyone comfortable.
When you travel with me, you can be confident
that you're in the best of hands.*

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?—To join one of my first-class tours, you need only be young at heart, with a spirit of adventure and a sense of humor. If there's one thing my tours members and I always enjoy together, it's a good laugh. Booking a fun-filled, rewarding trip will give you something to look forward to—and we all need that!

As a mature traveller who's had people of all ages and occupations on my tours, I understand what people need when they travel to strange places, and I do my best to make everyone comfortable. I'm not a hale-and-hearty, slap-you-on-the-back kind of host, nor am I a scintillating conversationalist. I like to keep a low profile on tour, while paying close attention to everything that's going on. When you travel with me, you can be confident that you're in the best of hands. I've been doing this job for more than 40 years, and I'm very good at it.

No matter which life-enriching tour you choose, you'll have a wonderful time and memories to last a lifetime. Why not travel in style and comfort on one of my tailor-made, personally escorted tours in the next year? I look forward to sharing some amazing experiences with you!

Have a great summer, *safari njema* ("travel safely" in Swahili), and enjoy your next journey.

David (Around the World in Eighty Months) Skillan

Incurable romantic, restless vagabond, and ambassador-at-large . . . ➔

Reflections on an African Safari

*Once in a while I get a letter that's too good not to publish in full.
Below is one such letter,
from Gail Coté and Phil Coté of Tsawwassen, British Columbia.*

Now that we've been home for a while, we've had time to reflect on our fabulous trip to Botswana and Zambia. And what a trip it was! We have wonderful memories to last a lifetime. We were fortunate to have a group that got along very well and are now all sharing photos.

It was fascinating to see so many different species in their natural habitats, as well as so many varieties of birds. Just think, we were only a few yards away from those magnificent lions at the water hole! We loved being on the river when the herd of elephants crossed the channel right in front of us. It was amazing to see so many giraffes up close, too, and all those hippos, both on land and in the water. And the pack of wild dogs hunting in the early morning. We've been telling our friends that we also saw oryxes, impalas, kudus, wildebeests, zebras, warthogs, baboons, vervet monkeys, cheetahs, Cape buffalo, and crocodiles. Riding an elephant was a highlight we will long remember—and we have the pictures to prove it!

*When we arrived at the camps,
the staff greeted us with a song and a dance,
and they welcomed us back from game drives
with happy faces
and cold face cloths scented with lemongrass.*

The guides were very friendly and knowledgeable. They worked hard to track as many animals and birds as possible. Accommodation at all the camps was outstanding. The food was delicious, and the staff couldn't do enough for us, greeting us with a song and a dance when we arrived and welcoming us back from game drives with happy faces and cold face cloths scented with lemongrass. Boy, did that feel good after being out in the sunshine and fresh air!

We enjoyed flying from camp to camp in the 12-seater Cessnas, which gave us the opportunity to view the changing landscape. Our visit to Victoria Falls will also remain a fond memory. The young people had the right idea, wearing bathing suits through the spray.

All of this was possible only because you were there for us at all times. Thank you again. We have told many people about our amazing trip, and at least three parties have indicated an interest. Hopefully they, too, will be able to experience one of your unforgettable trips! ➔



*Gail Coté and Phil Coté of Tsawwassen enjoyed riding in a mokoro
and atop an elephant on their recent safari in Botswana and Zambia.*

DAVID SKILLAN'S WORLD

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

"I speak of Africa and golden joys."

~William Shakespeare, *The Second Part of King Henry IV*, Act V, Scene III

"Africa grabs hold of a piece of your heart and never quite lets go."

~Robert Ruark, author of *Uhuru*, *The Honey Badger*, and *Poor No More*

"Africa . . . [evokes] in travellers a deep recognition . . . [It] will always attract those who can still dream."

~Kuki Gallmann, author of *African Nights* and *Night of the Lions*

THE BEST OF EAST AFRICA

Departs October 2, 2014 → 16 days → \$10,175 per person (sharing), plus taxes

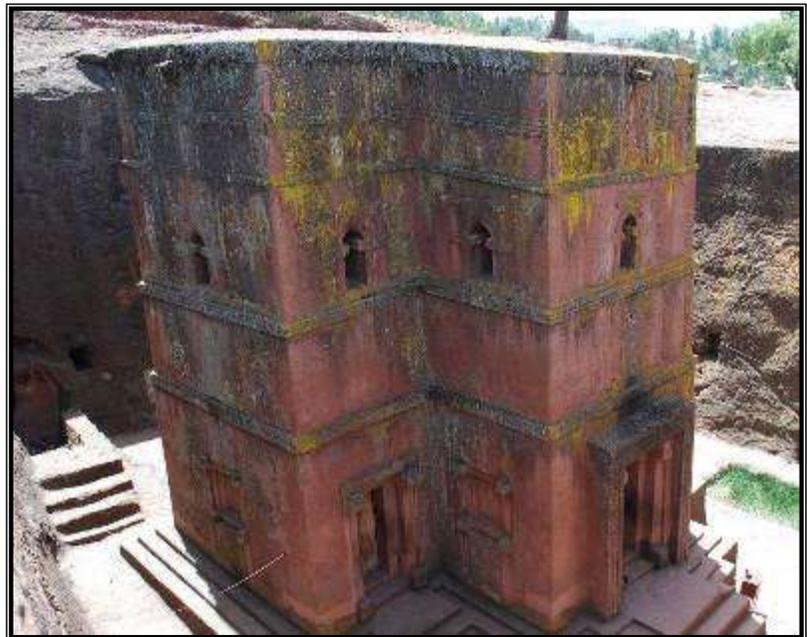
The ultimate adventure . . . the two most famous safari destinations in Africa . . . a romantic journey that many dream about, but few experience. This tour includes the finest game lodges and tented camps, splendid game-rich wilderness, and the magical Maasai Mara Game Reserve, Serengeti Plains, Ngorongoro 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 (one of the world's most important paleoanthropological sites, where Mary Leakey and Louis Leakey discovered fossils showing that humans had evolved in Africa). 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 and rhino 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. ***This will be our last safari to include both Kenya and Tanzania, so sign up now!***

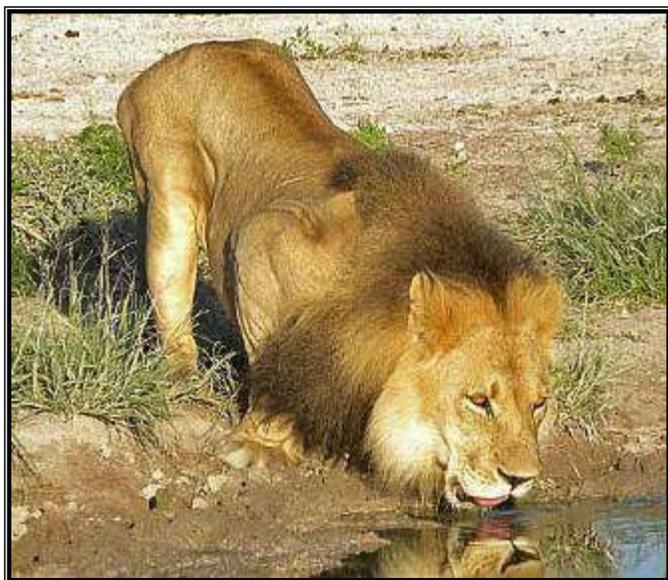
EXTRAORDINARY ETHIOPIA

**Departs November 1, 2014 →
18 days → \$7,736 per person
(sharing), plus taxes**

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, as shown at right), and the colourful market towns of Turmi and Jinka, Awasa, and Gonda. 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!***





BOTSWANA & ZAMBIA SAFARI

Departs January 11, 2015 → 14 days → \$9,795 per person (sharing), including taxes

Adventure in style and comfort on this exclusive connoisseur's tour, which is limited to just 12 participants. Described by aficionados as "Africa's Gem," Botswana has become a favoured destination among seasoned travellers. Masses of wildlife roam the woodlands, savannahs, plains, and wetlands of this sparsely populated, 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, the Kalahari Desert, Linyanti, the fertile paradise of 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 price is unbeatable at just \$1,675. **Only a few places are available on this exclusive safari, so don't miss out—book soon!**

WONDERS OF EGYPT

Departs February 10, 2015 → 13 days → \$5,416 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!**

TANZANIA WILDLIFE ADVENTURE

Departs March 1, 2015 → 15 days → \$6,555 per person (sharing), plus taxes

Formerly known as Tanganyika, Tanzania is a paradise of natural wonders. It's home to as many strange and wonderful animals as Kenya, and every bit as popular for safaris. One of Africa's most famous wildlife destinations, Tanzania is where you're virtually guaranteed to see all of Africa's Big Five (lion, leopard, elephant, rhino, and buffalo) and many other animals and birds. More than 1,130 bird species have been recorded here, making Tanzania the second-most-popular birding destination after Uganda. This thrilling tour includes a Maasai village and Tanzania's most famous national parks and game reserves, including the Serengeti Plains, Tarangire (famous for its elephant herds and baobab trees), Lake Manyara, and Ngorongoro Crater, plus Mount Kilimanjaro (the world's highest free-standing mountain), Olduvai Gorge (one of the world's most important paleoanthropological sites, where Mary Leakey and Louis Leakey discovered fossils showing that humans had evolved in Africa), the town of Arusha, and the exotic island of Zanzibar. **This life-enriching tour is expected to fill early, so sign up now!**



JAPANESE JOURNEY

**Departs April 4, 2015 → 15 days →
Price to be announced**

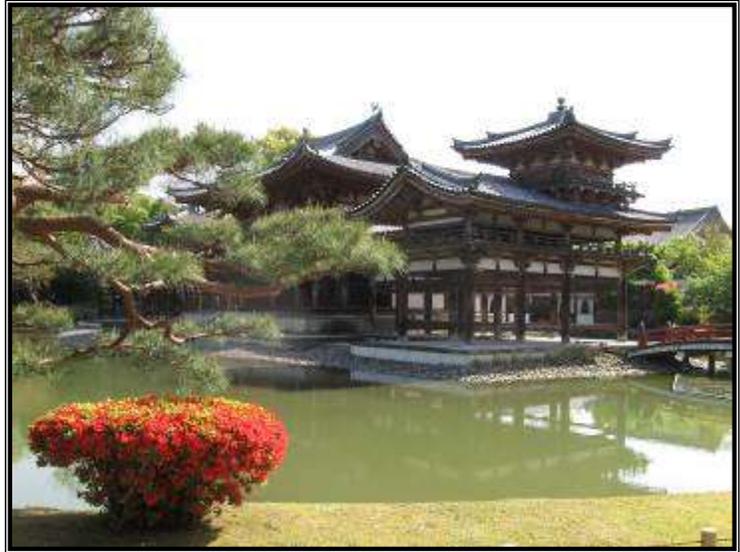
This journey through rich history and traditional culture is like no other tour you've ever taken!

Visit Japan's ancient first capital at Nara and the vibrant metropolis of Tokyo, as well as Hiroshima, Hakone, Nagano, Takayama, Kanazawa, Otsu, and Kyoto. Stroll along the Ginza, wander through stunning Japanese gardens, explore Meiji Shrine and Matsumoto Castle, and enjoy a boat ride that provides spectacular views of Mount Fuji, Japan's highest mountain. Travel on the bullet train, relax in hot-spring baths, see traditional farmhouses with thatched roofs, learn the art of origami, and participate in both traditional and modern Japanese entertainment. This one-of-a-kind tour

of the legendary Land of the Rising Sun takes place during the season of spring blossoms. See

www.skillansafaris.com/david-skillan-slide-show.html for pictures of my last tour to Japan.

Consider joining us on this exclusive cultural tour in April 2015!



KENYA WILDLIFE ADVENTURE

Departs October 2, 2015 → 16 Days → \$6,495 per person (sharing), plus taxes

Kenya, one of the most beautiful countries in all of Africa, is the land of the original safari. Its near-perfect climate, magnificent scenery, and abundance of wildlife have long attracted sun seekers, wildlife enthusiasts, and natural-history buffs. Expect to see the Big Five (elephant, lion, leopard, buffalo, and rhino), countless other animals, and a huge variety of exotic birds. We'll visit Nairobi, Mombasa, a Maasai village, and the world-renowned game reserves and national parks at Maasai Mara, the Aberdare Mountains, and Samburu, as well as Lakes Naivasha and Nakuru in the Great Rift Valley. Our tour will conclude with two days of fun and sun at the gorgeous Coral Coast on the Indian Ocean, known for its crystal-clear water, white sands, and swaying palms. ***If you've always wanted to go on safari in Africa, this is the tour for you!***

MAGNIFICENT MOROCCO

**Departs November 2, 2015 →
16 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 star-filled skies. If you like Egypt, you'll be bewitched by Morocco! ***Plan now to join us on this magical journey! →***



EXCLUSIVE

The David Skillan Travel Collection

A Special Series of the Finest Personally Escorted Tours and Safaris

2014				
October 2	THE BEST OF EAST AFRICA	16 days	\$10,175	Safari Studio
November 1	EXTRAORDINARY ETHIOPIA	18 days	\$7,736	Safari Studio
2015				
January 11	BOTSWANA & ZAMBIA SAFARI	14 days	\$9,795	Safari Studio
February 10	WONDERS OF EGYPT	13 days	\$5,416	Safari Studio
March 1	TANZANIA WILDLIFE ADVENTURE	15 days	\$6,555	Safari Studio
April 4	JAPANESE JOURNEY	15 days	TBA	Goway Travel
October 2	KENYA WILDLIFE ADVENTURE	16 days	\$6,495	Safari Studio
November 2	MAGNIFICENT MOROCCO	16 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>				

Except for the April 2015 tour to Japan, 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.

<p>Safari Studio 64 East 10th Avenue New Westminster, BC V3L 4R5 800-565-6670 or 604-990-1511 chrisb@safaristudio.ca www.safaristudio.ca</p>	<p>Goway Travel #1050 - 1200 West 73rd Avenue Vancouver, BC V6P 6G5 800-387-8850 or 604-264-8088, extension 6204 (for either number) frank@goway.com www.goway.com</p>
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Call now for colour brochures and detailed itineraries! ➔

Excerpts from Recent Emails, Cards, and Letters



“Thanks again for the amazing trip to Botswana. Both my grandson Ted and I had a wonderful time. It was the trip of a lifetime! All my expectations were met. We so appreciated having you smooth the way.”

~Barbara R. (New Westminster, BC)

“I left my soul in Africa! Took us a while to get back into the real world. Our three weeks in Kenya, Tanzania, and Zanzibar were absolutely amazing, and the accommodation was the best we’ve ever stayed in. Thank you so much for helping me fulfill my boyhood dream. It was even better than I thought it would be!”

~Jim S. North (Vancouver, BC)

“Another wonderful trip, as always with you. Thank you for encouraging me to bring my daughter Margo along—she really enjoyed it. It’s still as much a thrill for me to see the animals in the wild as it was three years ago, when my husband and I took our first safari with you. The memories will be etched in my mind forever.”

~Sue B. (Sechelt, BC)

*Thank you for helping me
fulfill my boyhood dream.
It was even better
than I thought it would be!*

“I read through the October 2015 Kenya Wildlife Adventure itinerary just once, then I printed and filled out the booking form. It’s in the mail. I’ve been wanting to do this kind of thing for years. This is too good to pass up!”

~Carol L. (Saskatoon, SK)

“I often relive my lioness-and-cub encounter on the Kalahari Plains, as well as many other remarkable moments. I was telling my friend Wendy that I might have to take the Botswana tour again! We are both looking forward with anticipation to your November 2015 Magnificent Morocco tour. Keep on travelling!”

~Vicki H. (Sechelt, BC)

“Your last newsletter was full of interesting observations and insights. They always get us fired up. Lovely photos, and so many happy memories of our tours with you to Kenya, Tanzania, Botswana, Zambia, Uganda, and Egypt.”

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

“It’s been over a year since I went to Botswana with you, and I’m still enjoying the memories and soaking up your newsletters and updates. Now that I’ve had the ultimate safari experience, I’m enjoying armchair travelling.”

~Ann C. (New Westminster, BC)

“Although you haven’t heard from us for a while, we are always talking about our unforgettable trips with you. We hope to travel to Africa at least once more before you retire. Would love to do Botswana again. We’re glad to hear your retirement plans are elastic—wish our funds were!”

~Lois B. and Norm B. (New Westminster, BC)

“I can’t thank you enough for giving me the holiday of my life! After all that dreaming about going, I have to pinch myself and tell myself I really was there.”

~Lyn M. (Mill Bay, BC)

“Thank you for our wonderful trip to East Africa. I am reliving many of the things we did and saw. Sweetwaters Camp was very high on my list. The tented camps were like the camps I experienced on my trips with you to Kenya, Botswana, and Zambia. Very luxurious! I have a clear memory of a lion by the side of the road, at the crater’s edge amid the low cloud. Another superbly orchestrated tour by David Skillan! It’s number nine for me.”

~Helen A. (South Delta, BC)

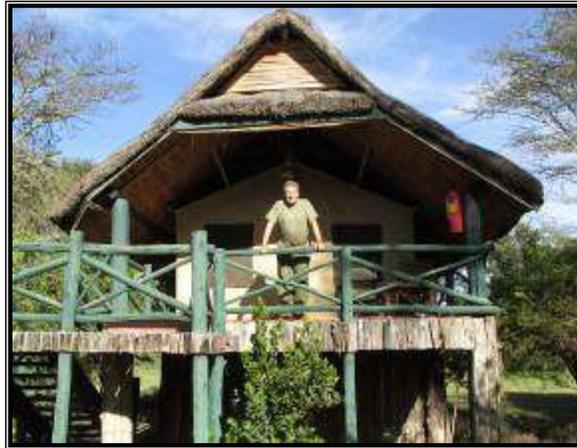
“I still think of my trip to Kenya and Tanzania almost every day. So glad I met you in Turkey! Please keep sending me your email updates. You know I’m a certified travel agent, but just never got into the industry. It’s still my passion. Enjoy your next adventure!”

~Nancy M. (Mississauga, ON) ✈

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 soon on one of my life-enriching tours. ➔



From Sweetwaters Camp in Kenya, with love . . .

Points to Ponder . . .

“The only victory that counts is the one over yourself.”

~Jesse Owens

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

~Alice Walker

“Adventure is the champagne of life.”

~G. K. Chesterton

“Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year.”

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

David Skillan's Travel Enterprises

#123 – 2083 West 33rd Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6M 4M6

604-261-4656

davidskillan@skillansafaris.com

www.skillansafaris.com

Globetrotter David Skillan is a 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. Having seen the world 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. ➔