

DAVID SKILLAN'S WORLD OF TRAVEL . . .

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2009

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

Dear Fellow Traveller:

What a fabulous summer it turned out to be, at least in BC. But it came with a price: a record season for raging forest fires. Won't be long, though, before the cool winds of September and October blow, reminding us of the coming winter. Better start thinking more about that trip you've long been considering. Better still, seize the moment and book now!

You may be interested to know that this newsletter first started in the late 1970s as a way for me to stay in touch with my BCIT tourism students, many of whom wanted field experiences. Apart from classes, the best way of communicating with them was via a newsletter. Before I knew it, I was organizing weekend trips that included white-water rafting, dude ranching, canoeing, and hiking the West Coast Trail and Cathedral Lakes Provincial Park. I continued writing newsletters when I established the Vancouver Adventure and Travel Club, which I ran for a couple of years (and which folded shortly after I left to concentrate on my own tour and safari business). *David Skillan's World of Travel* is Canada's longest-running travel newsletter, and I believe it was also the first. It remains an ongoing series of one man's impressions (I hope entertaining, informative, and interesting) as he gallivants—ahem, travels—around the globe.

*Imagine travelling on your own, as I did in those early years,
with only yourself and your initiative to rely on.
It was extraordinarily challenging, but it did me a lot of good
and shaped me into the person I am today.*

Such a shame that Michael Jackson and Farah Fawcett were struck down in the prime of life. Even being rich and famous could not protect them. I would like to be rich and famous for just one reason: to have the power, like Bill Gates, to do great good. Famous people certainly get publicity. Sometimes their wealth and power get the better of them, though. Look at newspaper baron Conrad Black. It struck me as a real coincidence that he was sentenced to six and a half years in prison—the same amount of time I spent travelling the world in the 1960s. I'm sure he'd prefer to have my six and half years of freedom and adventure, with all the weird and wonderful experiences that came with it—not to mention the many that came later. I'm certain my life has been just as full and "rich" as his!

Some famous people have come to the travel business much later in life than I did, and enjoyed huge exposure and success in the field. Michael Palin, the actor, comedian, television personality, and newly elected president of the Royal Geographical Society, though a year or two younger than me, never got into travelling until 1985. He has since starred in the BBC TV production *Around the World in 80 Days* and several other travel documentaries, including *Pole to Pole*, *Full Circle*, and *Sahara*. And young and cheeky Ian Wright of *Lonely Planet*, *Globe Trekker*, and *Pilot Guides* fame is positively new to the world of travel. I was hitching rides on the top of sugarcane trucks and eating every kind of food under the sun in India and Egypt years before either of them started travelling.

Imagine travelling on your own, as I did in those early years, with only yourself and your initiative to rely on. It was extraordinarily challenging, but it did me a lot of good and shaped me into the person I am today. I lived and worked with Africans, Asians, Latinos, and Australasians, in their respective countries. This gave me first-hand knowledge of what life is really like in various parts of the world, and how different groups of people live and think.

I saw and did so much in those years, and came away from my adventures happy to be alive! I like to think this is where I learned how to get along with people of all backgrounds, whether they're subsistence farmers in isolated

villages or heads of international companies. My ongoing world travel has made me a true cosmopolitan, with a wide international perspective. No wonder I have so many opinions! (But don't worry—I don't force them on my clients while we're travelling!)

I once asked a well-off client which he would prefer, his wealth or my experience. Without hesitation he replied, "Your experience!" I'm not rich financially. I have not made a lot of money during my long career in the travel industry. I don't have many material possessions, and when at home I live modestly. But I've had a rich life, and I'm very grateful. I've known for years that I'm a millionaire in my own right. Come to think of it, I'm actually a multimillionaire!

*For a couple of days of solitude and total relaxation
on a tropical island,
you can fly to Mozambique at the end of the tour.*

UPCOMING TOURS—This October I'll take my second-to-last tour to **Kenya and Tanzania**. In 2011 I intend to replace it with a trip to Tanzania and the island of Zanzibar. Many people who have been to Kenya with me wish to see more of amazing East Africa, including Tanzania and/or Uganda. You can view the itinerary for this year's tour at http://www.wildafricasafari.com/skillan_EAfrica_09.htm.

It's last call for my unforgettable tour in November to **Egypt and Jordan**, two of the most fascinating countries on Earth. Egypt intrigues almost everyone, and without doubt this tour, especially with the addition of Jordan, will thrill and enthrall you, too. There are just a couple of places left on this popular tour, so if you're interested you must book now. I had intended this trip to be my last to Egypt and Jordan, but have had a few inquiries for 2010, so we'll see. Go to http://www.wildafricasafari.com/skillan_egypt_09.html to see the itinerary.

Botswana and Zambia is wild Africa at its finest. We'll stay in luxurious tented camps, explore pristine waterways by dugout canoe, and go on thrilling game drives in open safari vehicles. If you've been on an African safari and, like many people, yearn to return to the fabled continent, this is the tour for you. We now have space for just one woman, needed as a roommate for another woman. You can read what some people thought of their Botswana tours with me on page 9 of this newsletter, and peruse the itinerary at http://www.wildafricasafari.com/skillan_botswana_2010.htm.



My next tour to breathtaking **South Africa and Zambia** departs in March of 2010—a big year for South Africa, which will host the FIFA World Cup. After that my next tour to this region won't be until 2012. As well as living in this achingly beautiful land for a little over 12 months, I have led more than 25 tours here, and still enjoy it as much as ever. It has absolutely everything, including Nelson Mandela, a great man if ever there was one. On this memorable tour you can take a helicopter or ultralight flight, ride an elephant, walk with lions, and even frolic with cheetahs. At more than one gorgeous hotel, you'll see vervet monkeys, giraffes, and zebras wandering around the grounds. Go to my slide show at www.skillansafaris.com/david-skillan-slide-show.html and look at the second picture of Victoria Falls from the air, and you'll see the lovely hotel where we'll stay—the Zambezi Sun. It's just a stone's throw from the Falls. If

this excites your imagination and you wish you were there, book soon! And for a couple of days of solitude and total relaxation on a tropical island before heading home, you can fly to Mozambique at the end of the tour.

We've had a lot of interest in our cultural tour of **Japan** next April, during cherry blossom season. There are three good reasons for booking this trip: few tour companies offer it, the price is reasonable, and my Japanese-speaking wife Yuriko is co-hosting the tour. If you're still mulling it over, you might like to refer to my article at www.skillansafaris.com/newsletters/japan.pdf or visit my slide show at www.skillansafaris.com/david-skillan-slide-show.html. If you don't like Japanese food, don't worry—there will be plenty of western meals and dishes to choose from. Joining this tour will be my great friend Allan Schutz, who has been on eleven of my tours and accompanied me on numerous other trips. He holds the record for participating in the most David Skillan tours. If all the people who have requested information about this tour sign up, it will be overbooked! So if you're interested,

please submit your deposit now. Go to <http://www.skillansafaris.com/newsletters/japan-2010-itinerary.pdf> to view the itinerary. To obtain a colour brochure, kindly contact Lisa Elliott, the reservations manager of **Collette Vacations** in Langley. You can reach her at lelliott@collettevacations.ca or 800-468-5955, extension 4098, or her assistant, Karly, at extension 4102.

I'm delighted to be going back to South America next September to introduce travellers to the pleasures of **Peru**, including Machu Picchu (pictured at right). It's another part of the world I love. To learn more about this exciting tour, which I'll lead in conjunction with **Collette Vacations**, kindly refer to the overview on page 7. You can see some of the pictures I took on my last trip there at www.skillansafaris.com/david-skillan-slide-show.html. September is a lovely time to be in South America. For details, kindly call 800-468-5955 and ask for Lisa (extension 4098) or Karly (extension 4102). The sooner you get your brochure, the better!



FUTURE TOURS—As I mentioned in my summer newsletter, after more than 100 tours to Africa, I'll soon be reducing my trips to the fabled continent to make way for other exciting destinations. Next year will be the last year I lead so many African tours. After that I'll do just two or three per year, alternating them from year to year and leaving room for other fascinating places.

The African destinations I'd like to visit one last time after 2010 are **South Africa, Namibia, Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Morocco**. And **Zimbabwe**, as soon as it returns to normal, as it surely will. Other places I hope to visit over the next few years, in cooperation with Collette Vacations, include **China, Iceland, Greece, Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, Croatia, India, Ireland, and eastern Europe (Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Krakow, and Warsaw)**. I would also like to make one last trip to the South Pacific to see the wonderful countries of **Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji**. That should keep me out of mischief for a while! I've visited many of these places before, and lived in some of them.

Please let me know which of these places you're most interested in, as it helps both you and me plan. We all need something to look forward to! If quite a few of you are interested in the same destinations, I'll make them priorities and arrange to do them sooner, rather than later. As usual, bookings for all my tours will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

*Our tour to Botswana is now full
except for one woman
needed to share a room with another.*

SHARING A ROOM—If you don't have a travel partner and would like a roommate, we will do our best to arrange shared accommodation. If this isn't possible, however, the single supplement will apply. We can also arrange triple rooms for a small discount. Kindly note that our January tour to Botswana is now full except for one woman needed to share with another.

WILD AFRICA SAFARIS—Chris and Felicity Bradshaw, owners of Wild Africa Safaris in New Westminster, recently took a two-week working holiday in Tanzania with their 21-year-old son Mark and 17-year-old daughter Alexandra. As well as a fun-filled vacation, it was an opportunity to check out new game lodges and hotels and see the amazing scenery and wildlife in Tanzania, including the exotic island of Zanzibar. The slide show on my website includes a picture of Chris and Felicity with their driver-guide Mosses enjoying a few moments' respite in Tanzania's famed Serengeti. You can call Chris or Felicity for brochures about all of my Africa tours, Melissa for details about my Egypt tours, and Michelle, who grew up in South Africa, for information about my South Africa tours. Call 604-519-1610 (or 800-991-6111 outside the Lower Mainland) or e-mail africa@wildafricasafari.com.

THE DAVID SKILLAN SLIDE COLLECTION—I finally got around to sorting through my vast collection of colour slides, a really time-consuming task because I have so many. Wish I'd done it earlier. But I must admit I've enjoyed it so far, because each slide reminds me of somewhere or something. I am by no means finished filing and editing them all. That will take many more weeks. I'll save that for a winter project, when lousy weather limits getting out and about.

Once again, I have revamped my website slide show (www.skillansafaris.com/david-skillan-slide-show.html), and the photos are now in tour-date sequence, including Japan and Peru. Look closely (not just at the slide show, but elsewhere on my website), and you might see a picture of yourself on safari or riding a camel or elephant somewhere! Some photos may remind you of a tour you took with me, while others may get your feet tapping and motivate you to join one.

YOUTUBE AND DVDs—You may be aware that I now have a brief video on YouTube, shot on last January's safari to Botswana. It's at www.youtube.com/watch?v=MATNHKMTZaI. It's not my best work, by any means, but it gives you an idea of what to expect on a David Skillan safari. In due course I'll upload video clips of my other African destinations.

If you'd like to view one of more of my 90-minute tour DVDs, I have a limited supply available for loan. All you have to do is email or call me with your postal address, and I'll drop one in the mail. Titles available are ***Egypt, South Africa, Botswana, and Kenya & Tanzania.***

A HEART-WARMING STORY—I love nice stories, and those that end happily, especially when they're true.

*One day, the gentleman turned up at her barber shop
and handed her a confirmed reservation for two on an African safari.
Everything was provided, even spending money!*

Once upon a time, in Langley, British Columbia, there was a woman who worked as a barber. She was popular with her clientele. One day, as she was cutting the hair of one of her regulars, a local businessman, he casually asked her where she would most like to go if she had the money. Without hesitation, she replied, "To Africa. On a safari."

She thought nothing more of it, and time went by.

One day, the gentleman turned up at her barber shop and handed her a confirmed reservation for two on an African safari. Tickets for both her and her husband. Everything was provided, even spending money! The woman and her husband would not have to dig into their modest pockets for anything.

They were both elated as they spent the next months preparing for their trip of a lifetime.

I know all about this because the woman, whose name is Anita, and her husband, Larry, were part of my Kenya and Tanzania safari last October. And boy, did they have a blast! Seeing their faces light up with each new adventure was a great pleasure to me. There was no doubt that they enjoyed just about every minute of their dream journey.



Of course, there was more to the story than space permits me to tell. Larry was in on it more or less from the beginning, and did his best to keep the secret from Anita as long as possible.

Now home and returned to Earth from Cloud Nine, Anita continues to run her small business in Langley, cutting men's hair. Numerous photos from her African journey are on display in the barber shop. Needless to say, we are now all good friends.

And her benefactor? He wishes to remain anonymous. He wanted to thank Anita for being so considerate and hardworking, and got a lot of satisfaction from making Anita's dream come true.

Sometimes dreams really do come true!

Larry (left), Anita, and their Kenyan driver-guide Jackson on safari in East Africa, October 2008.

COUNT YOUR CHANGE—A week or two ago, I saw a fellow at my local supermarket short-changed five dollars by the cashier. Luckily, he noticed it in time. The next day, the same thing happened to me—this time involving ten dollars—at a camera store, and I also caught it. This kind of thing, deliberate or by accident, does not just happen at home. It can and does happen abroad, too, especially when you're dealing with an unfamiliar currency. That's why I always advise tour members to count their change, whether they're changing traveller's cheques or making simple purchases. Otherwise they may be in for a rude awakening!

WHAT'S IN A NAME?—Sometimes a lot, sometimes nothing. I've been called all manner of things over the years. And like everybody else, I like my name spelled correctly. It's David *Skillan*, not *Skillen*, not *Skinner*, and definitely not *Skillings*. Just like my friend Allan likes his last name to be spelled *Schutz*, not *Schultz*. And my editor likes to be addressed as *Anne*, not *Ann*. Do let me know if I've spelled your name incorrectly on your address label!

STAYING IN THE LOOP—As you know, I stay in touch with clients through regular newsletters, emails, and tour updates. It's good public relations and makes excellent business sense. Some of my clients have been on my mailing list for more than twenty years. One couple from Vancouver saw me for the first time at one of the weekly slide shows I used to present at Robson Square Media Centre. I duly added them to my mailing list, and sixteen years later—yes, that's sixteen!—they booked their first tour with me, to South Africa. They have since travelled with me to Kenya, Tanzania and Egypt, each time bringing friends, and are considering some of my other tours. So staying in touch eventually did pay off—for all of us!

I appreciate the many emails, letters, and cards I get from satisfied clients. I also encourage people not merely to take my word for how good my tours are, but to read what my clients have to say about them. (See page 9.)

Quite a few people have said they wish to receive my newsletter electronically, while others prefer hard copies delivered to their homes. Some people like both. I hope you will switch to the electronic version, both to help the environment and to reduce expenses. You'll get to view it in glorious colour, instead of black and white. You can always print your own copy. You'll also receive periodic tour updates and special announcements electronically, before anyone else! If you're now on my email list, you already receive the newsletter electronically. Please let me know if you'd like to receive just the email version. If I don't have your email address, kindly send it to me.

And please remember to share my newsletters with family and friends who may be interested. My continued success depends in large part on your referrals. Besides, you may be helping someone who'd like to go to Africa, Japan, or Peru but may be unsure who to go with, or who doesn't know how to contact me.

Even after all these years of travelling,
I still can't watch a train pulling out of a station,
a yacht setting sail, or a plane taking off
without wanting to be on it.

FOREVER ON THE MOVE—Even after all these years of travelling, I still can't watch a train pulling out of a station, a yacht setting sail, or a plane taking off without wanting to be on it. I can't leaf through an atlas or browse through a travel brochure without getting itchy feet.

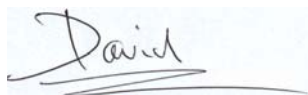
Although I'm not the life and soul of the party, when I lead a tour, I do it my way, as Frank Sinatra used to sing. I run a tight ship that people seem to like. Thanks to my military training and experience, my tours have a reputation for running like clockwork. And unlike some tour leaders, I don't boss people around, mollycoddle, nursemaid, or babysit. I maintain a fairly low profile, but I do keep a careful, fatherly eye on the proceedings. I'm always there when you need me.

And nobody has more fun than we do—nobody! While certainly not the cheapest or the most expensive, my tours do provide great value. They're hugely rewarding experiences that will inspire and delight you. My travels have enriched my life enormously, and I'd like to help yours do the same for you. A good tour should be full of stimulating experiences, as well as a few small adventures. It should give you a sense of achievement and, like a good book, something to think about. My tours do all those things.

So put on the mantle of adventurer and explorer, and come travel in style and comfort with me! I look forward to travelling with you sometime soon.

Just back from the Yukon. It was quite wonderful—so vast, unspoiled, and majestic. I'm now about to leave for Uganda. Will tell you all about both trips in the next newsletter.

Meanwhile, mind how you go, and *safari njema* (travel safely)!



David (Around the World in Eighty Months) Skillan
Incurable romantic, ambassador at large, and dreaming realist . . . ↗

DAVID SKILLAN'S WORLD
An Overview of Upcoming Tours and Safaris
Presented by Wild Africa Safaris and Collette Vacations

KENYA & TANZANIA SAFARI

Departs October 2, 2009 → 17 days → \$8,415 per person (sharing)

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 Serengeti Plains, Ngorongoro Crater, Mounts Kenya and Kilimanjaro, Masai Mara, Aberdares, Lakes Nakuru, Naivasha, and Manyara, and the Olduvai Gorge (the Cradle of Mankind). Take a balloon ride over the East African plains and visit a Masai village, the Karen Blixen Museum, and more. The perfect tour for those who yearn to see a wildlife spectacle unrivalled anywhere in the world. October coincides with the great migration of wildebeest and zebra—often called the greatest show on earth. Imagine warm, sunny days, spectacular scenery, and amazing experiences. They're all yours on this incomparable trip! Learn more about it by visiting www.skillansafaris.com/newsletters/african-safari.pdf. This tour can be extended to conclude with the island of Zanzibar or Kenya's Coral Coast. ***Don't miss out on this, our most popular tour!***

"It truly was the trip of a lifetime. And when I saw those great herds of zebra and wildebeest and my first lion and cheetah so close, it was worth MORE THAN every penny to me!"

~Julie C. (North Vancouver, BC)

EGYPT & JORDAN TOUR

Departs November 4, 2009 → 16 days → \$6,975 per person (sharing)

Join us in the land of pharaohs, mystery, and enchantment! This exciting tour 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 peer into King Tut's Tomb. You'll also be transfixed by the wildly beautiful country of Jordan, as we follow in the footsteps of Lawrence of Arabia, explore the World Heritage Site of Wadi Rum, see the Roman ruins at Jerash (reminiscent of Turkey's Ephesus), dip your toes into the Dead Sea, and visit the extraordinary forgotten stone city of Petra, one of the newly named Seven Wonders of the World. ***If you've always wanted to see one of the world's greatest ancient civilizations, this is the trip for you! There are only a few seats left, so book now!***

"Egypt and Jordan was the best trip I've taken with you so far. Petra was simply magnificent!"

~Margaret G. (Victoria, BC)

BOTSWANA & ZAMBIA SAFARI

Departs January 6, 2010 → 14 days → \$7,985 per person (sharing)

You'll adventure in style and comfort on this exclusive connoisseur's tour, which is limited to just 12 participants. Described by aficionados as "Africa's Gem," Botswana has become a favoured destination among seasoned travellers. Masses of wildlife roam the woodlands, savannahs, plains, and wetlands of this sparsely populated country, including many species of antelope (nyala, waterbuck, kudu, sable, eland, tsessebe, lechwe, impala, and sitatunga), hyena, jackal, bat-eared fox, wild dog, wild cat, giraffe, zebra, hippo, and of course all of Africa's Big Five (lion, leopard, elephant, rhino, and buffalo). In this remote, peaceful region of Africa, we stay at the finest places, where food and service are second to none. Accommodations are in luxurious tented camps . . . travel is by specially chartered light aircraft . . . game viewing is by boat and open safari vehicles. We'll visit the Moremi Game Reserve, Vumbura Plains, Linyanti, world-famous Okavango Delta, and breathtaking Victoria Falls. To learn more about this superb tour, go to www.skillansafaris.com/newsletters/botswana-safari.pdf. ***Only a couple of places are left, so send your deposit today!***

"I've been on five of your trips [Kenya twice, Tanzania, Namibia, and Botswana] and enjoyed them all immensely. Even though the wildlife was remarkable everywhere, I enjoyed Botswana most of all."

~Hans J. (Vancouver, BC)

SOUTH AFRICA & ZAMBIA TOUR

Departs March 6, 2010 → 19 days → \$8,275 per person (sharing)

Described as "a world in one country," the breathtakingly beautiful South Africa is one of the

most diverse countries on earth. Our incomparable tour, which includes both city and safari, goes to Cape Town (one of the world's loveliest cities), Durban, and Pretoria, as well as to world-renowned wineries, Cape of Good Hope, Blyde River Canyon, Zululand, Swaziland, sensational Sun City, Mpumalanga, Kruger National Park, and Hluehluwe Game Reserve. Enjoy day and night game drives in open safari vehicles. Take in the scenic Panorama route, and visit a penguin colony and rhino sanctuary, as well as the magnificent Drakensburg Mountains. In Zambia, we visit Livingstone, the adventure capital, during a two-day excursion to the awe-inspiring Victoria Falls, a sunset cruise on the mighty Zambezi River, and a thrilling optional helicopter, ultralight, or elephant-back ride. We'll sip fine wines, enjoy gourmet meals, and experience close encounters with extraordinary birds and other wildlife. You can extend the tour with an extra three days at an exotic beach resort in Mozambique's famed Bazaruto Archipelago. To learn more, visit www.skillansafaris.com/newsletters/cape-town.pdf. **Plan ahead—book soon!**

"Our expectations were high, and this trip far exceeded them. There were several times we thought we'd died and gone to heaven as we ate those gourmet meals, revelled in those gorgeous hotels, and enjoyed so many unforgettable experiences. We've never enjoyed ourselves more!"

~Betty & Blaine H. (Sidney, BC)

HIDDEN TREASURES OF JAPAN

Departs April 14, 2010 → 14 days → \$5,828 per person (sharing)

This journey through rich history and traditional culture is like no other tour you've ever taken! You'll visit Japan's first ancient 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 cable car ride that provides spectacular views of Mount Fuji, Japan's highest mountain. Travel on the bullet train, relax in luxurious 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 cherry blossoms. To learn more about the country, please read the article at www.skillansafaris.com/newsletters/japan.pdf. **Don't miss out—reserve your place now!**

"Our tour to Japan was everything we hoped it would be. Loved the people, history, and food, and were very impressed with the amazing transportation system. Sure beats ours!"

~Ben and Elizabeth P. (Victoria, BC)

PERU—ANCIENT LAND OF MYSTERY

Departs August 31, 2010 → 17 days → \$7,130 per person (sharing)

Explore the mysteries of the Andes Mountains, the timeless cultures of this ancient South American country, and the flora and fauna of the Ballestos Islands and the Amazon rainforest! Take a breathtaking journey through the Andes aboard the Vistadome train to Machu Picchu, Lost City of the Incas. Paddle out to meet the Uros people who live on the floating islands of Lake Titicaca, the world's highest navigable lake. Visit a living museum to learn centuries-old Andean methods of spinning, dyeing, and weaving traditional textiles. And see colourful bird life while staying in a rustic yet luxurious jungle lodge. Highlights include the Museum of Gold in Lima (the City of Kings, a UNESCO World Heritage Site), Cuzco (heart of the Inca civilization), Ollantaytambo (an architectural treasure), Puno (birthplace of the Inca empire), Tambopata National Reserve, the Paracas National Reserve, and the remarkable Ballestas Islands (Peru's version of the Galapagos, home to sea lions, penguins, boobies, pelicans, and cormorants). All this and more! ***If you've dreamed of visiting one of the most mysterious places on Earth and walking in the footsteps of the Incas, sign up soon!***

"What a fantastic trip! Machu Picchu has to be the most extraordinary place on Earth! We enjoyed every aspect of this tour, and would like to go back to Peru with you one day."

~Brian and Barb L. (Vancouver, BC)

David Skillan is a writer, photographer, and tour leader par excellence. He has travelled, lived, and worked all over the world, including Japan, Kenya, Tanzania, and South Africa. He's had a love affair with Africa since 1962, when he first set foot there.

Since 1970, David has hosted more than 200 foreign tours, including more than 100 to Africa. He spends four to five months of each year travelling the world.

He has been publishing articles and newsletters about his life, travels, and tours since 1978. →

EXCLUSIVE

The David Skillan Travel Collection

A Special Series of the Finest Personally Escorted Tours and Safaris

2009				
October 2	KENYA & TANZANIA SAFARI	17 days	\$8,415	Wild Africa Safaris
November 4	EGYPT & JORDAN TOUR	16 days	\$6,975	Wild Africa Safaris
2010				
January 6	BOTSWANA & ZAMBIA SAFARI	14 days	\$7,985	Wild Africa Safaris
March 6	SOUTH AFRICA & ZAMBIA TOUR	19 days	\$8,275	Wild Africa Safaris
April 14	HIDDEN TREASURES OF JAPAN	14 days	\$5,828	Collette Vacations
August 31	PERU—ANCIENT LAND OF MYSTERY	17 days	\$7,130	Collette Vacations
October 3	KENYA & TANZANIA SAFARI	17 days	Price TBA	Wild Africa Safaris
<p><i>Tour prices are per person, in Canadian dollars. 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. Taxes are extra. All dates, itineraries, and prices are subject to change. Most tours can be extended at the ends.</i></p>				

David Skillan's tours are promoted and marketed exclusively by Wild Africa Safaris of New Westminster, BC, and Collette Vacations of Langley, BC. For full details about a tour or safari, including the itinerary and booking information, please contact the tour operator indicated in the schedule above.

<p>Wild Africa Safaris Suite 104 713 Columbia Street New Westminster, BC V3M 1B2 Canada 800-991-6111 or 604-519-1610 africa@wildafricasafari.com www.wildafricasafari.com</p>	<p>Collette Vacations Suite 6A 5761 Glover Road Langley, BC V3A 8M8 Canada 800-468-5955 Extension 4098 or 4102 l Elliott@collettevacations.ca www.collettevacations.ca</p>
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Call now for colour brochures and detailed itineraries! →

Excerpts from Recent Emails, Cards, and Letters



"I went on one of your Zimbabwe tours many years ago, and am delighted that you're still going strong. Your newsletters are a pleasure to read, but I no longer need the printed version. Please add me to your email list."

~Jill B. (Gibsons, BC)

"Last night I enjoyed my favourite Africa movie: *King Solomon's Mines*. It always reminds me of the wonderful tours I did with you—South Africa, Thailand, and Kenya!"

~Julie C. (North Vancouver, BC)

(Some of my own favourites include The Snows of Kilimanjaro, Hatari!, The African Queen, Out of Africa, The Gods Must Be Crazy, The Flame Trees of Thika, and Gorillas in the Mist. ~DS)

"I so enjoy your wonderful newsletters, and have very fond memories of being on a Kenya safari and an Australian trip with you. In recent years I've mostly been going to Abu Dhabi, where one of my daughters is teaching at a university. However, I still have Iceland and Vietnam and Cambodia on my to-do list! Please drop my snail-mail address and add me to your email list."

~Anne M. (Victoria, BC)

"The best trips I have taken—Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands, Kenya, South Africa, and South America—have all been with you. You are the best of the best!"

~Howard P. (Victoria, BC)

(Howard is a former university president who has told me more than once that I'm ahead of my time! ~DS)

*"The best trips I have taken have all been with you.
You are the best of the best!"*

"We loved Egypt and also South Africa and Zambia with you. We'd have jumped at the chance to go to Japan with you, too, but have already been there. Would love to see a picture of your grandchildren sometime."

~Mary & Jim N. (Allentown, PA)

"I read your last newsletter three times the day it arrived. I must be hooked! I always take it to work and pin it on the notice board so other nurses and doctors can see it. Chris and I are really looking forward to Botswana in January. It will be our third trip with you!"

~Sheena C. (North Vancouver, BC)

"I want to thank you for your kind words and thoughts when I lost Reg. I have many wonderful memories of our travels with you [Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa]. You made them all so enjoyable and special."

~Esther H. (Pitt Meadows, BC)

"I am extremely jealous that you are going again to Botswana, and I am not! Botswana will stand out in my memory as the best trip ever, for a variety of reasons, not least because I love flying in small planes. Wanna be there!"

~Hilary M. (Victoria, BC)

"We are recently back from a visit by ferry, train, and bus to Alaska and Denali National Park. The weather was not too good—lots of mist and rain. The wide-open spaces reminded us of East Africa. Did not see much game, only the rear end of a moose. No comparison to what we saw in Tanzania with you!"

~Jim & Cory M. (Coquitlam, BC)

"Ever since we went to Kenya with you, a number of years ago, we have been following your travels with interest and are very envious! Hopefully we can join you for another adventure before you hang up your travelling shoes."

~John & Pat A. (Victoria, BC)

"Skillful Skillan does it again! Enjoyed reading your latest entertaining and informative newsletter. It's always a good read and the highlight of my day. Michelle and I can't wait to do an African safari with you soon."

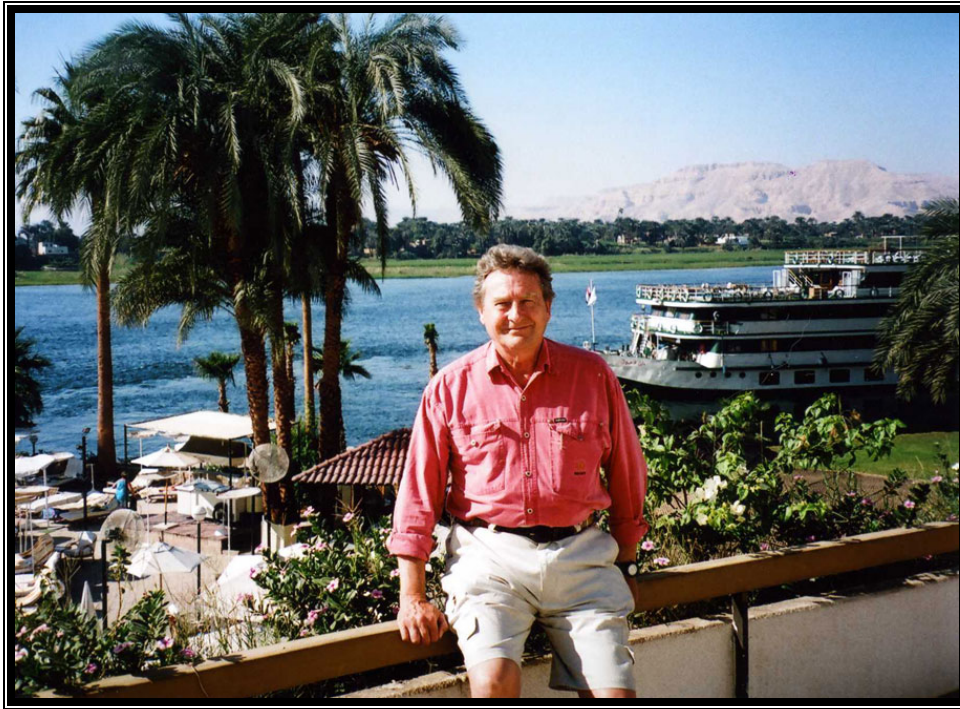
~Tom M. (Ladner, BC)

My tours attract people of all ages and every imaginable occupation! ~DS ➔

This newsletter comes to you with our compliments.

It is intended to create a greater awareness of the world we live in, to promote worldwide travel and tourism, and to motivate you to get up and go.

Don't let life pass you by. Make the most of it! ➔



From Egypt with love . . .

Food for Thought . . .

“In everyone’s life, at some time, our inner fire sometimes goes out. It is then burst into flame by an encounter with another human being. We should all be thankful for those people who rekindle the human spirit.”
~Albert Schweitzer

“Life’s not about waiting for the storms to pass. It’s about learning to dance in the rain.”
~Vivian Green

“The proper function of man is to live, not to exist. I shall not waste my days in trying to prolong them. I shall use my time.”
~Jack London

“Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle.”
~Plato

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“Adventure is the champagne of life!”
~G. K. Chesterton