

My First Friend Fern.

When I was nine months old, a young family with a little girl my age moved in three houses down. I already had a little girl who lived next door to me, Vicki, but she moved away by the time I was two. However, Fern and I became great friends for a lifetime. Well, her lifetime. Fern passed away last week and I can no longer say that I had a friend for my entire life. There's something so special about having a friend who knows everything about you and your family and still loves you! We had that. We'd be in and out of each other's houses all the time. Fernie (as her family called her) had better memories of my first dog and cat, our time on Bozo Circus and the gossip of the older kids on the block, then I did. She was a voracious reader and because she was two years older, I often read books that may not have been age appropriate (Think- Are You There God, It's Me Margaret at age 7). Many who know me may not believe that I was extremely shy as a kid. Fern was not. I did a lot of things I wasn't comfortable doing because I didn't want her to know I was scared. Fast forward to present day when I go rappelling or rock climbing even though I'm afraid of heights, I can thank Fern for being able to mask my fear so well! When I was ten, we started our own camp for the neighborhood kids. We even took them on field trips to the Fire station. I guess I can thank Fern that my very first venture was a camp- putting together activities for others. It led me to do what I continue love doing, putting experiences together for others.

The hole that I feel with the passing of Fern reminds me the importance of community and friends. When I see so many Steppin' Out people who are still friends with the people they met on trips we did back in the 90s, I feel content that I could give others a taste of what Fern and I had. I've been thinking about hosting another reunion just to keep those relationships strong. Maybe a day event in July or a weekend in Green Lakes in September. I'll let you know what I come up with soon, but having your community is so healing for the soul. Cherish the friends and community you have and make time for them. Not long after Fern was diagnosed she said she wanted to go to Greece. I wanted to put something really special together for her. However, complications prevented her from going. Maybe I'll put a a trip together to Greece for us in her memory.





I couldn't pronounce my two friends' names, so they were Icki and Fooey



Newsletter Topics:

Did you miss our last newsletter? Click here

- The People We Meet on Our Adventures *Tanzania*
- Going On Safari Packing Guide
- See the Gorillas We've Encountered in Rwanda
- Steppin' Out's New Strategy -Try Our Travel Matchmaker
- Important Travel Tip: Real ID Deadline

- **Get $200 OFF in March for the Peru Adventure**
- **New Group Trip Destination Teaser**
- **Save on IKON Passes**
- **Unforgettable May Book Club**

East African Wild Safaris and Rich Cultures



Click the image above to meet the people we meet our adventures ^ New Video *Tanzania Edition*

Tanzanian Safari and Wildebeest

What You Should Pack for

Migration

Aug. 21-31, 2025



What's it like being on Safari?

Magical, scary, thrilling, amazing, inspiring. It's really something special—seeing the wild animals roam freely across the plains. Lions, elephants, zebras, giraffes, rhinos, birds, hyenas… and we'll be right there in the thick of it. With our trusted, longtime guides—some of you might even recognize them from past trips—you'll have a front-row seat to one of the most incredible natural spectacles on Earth.

It's fun. It's unpredictable. It's a beautiful, enchanting memory that stays with you long after you leave.

So, what do you need to know before joining us on this epic safari adventure? Here are a few essentials you'll want to pack: ➡️

TANZANIA GROUP TRIP | August 21 - 31, 2025

AND REMEMBER:

YOU CAN STILL ASK FOR AN INSTALLMENT PLAN FOR SIX MONTHS OR LONGER

Going On Safari:

1. Lightweight, Neutral-Colored Clothing
It's hot during the day, so breathable natural fibers like cotton and linen are your best friend. Keep it neutral—khaki, olive, beige—*because bright colors can attract the bugs.* Plus, these colors help you blend into the landscape, keeping you unobtrusive while you observe the wildlife.

2. Comfortable, Sturdy Footwear
Hiking boots are perfect for the walking safaris we'll be doing, but don't worry—you'll also have a chance to hop in a jeep for the game drives. So, lightweight sneakers are a great option for those days spent cruising across the plains.

3. Sun Protection
This is Africa, folks—the sun is powerful. Pack a wide-brimmed hat, some UV-blocking sunglasses, and high-SPF sunscreen. You'll need all three to shield yourself from those strong rays.

4. Camera (and Extra Batteries)
You'll want to capture every breathtaking moment. A DSLR or mirror less camera with a zoom lens (200mm+) is ideal for getting up-close shots of animals. But don't forget extra batteries and memory cards—there's no such thing as too many when you're in the middle of a safari.

5. A good pair of binoculars (8x42 or 10x42 magnification) is a must for spotting distant wildlife—whether you're scanning the Serengeti plains or peering into specific wildebeests and crocodiles during the great wildlife migration. But don't worry, many animals will be so close you might find yourself stepping back in awe. Shop Monocular Compact Lens

6. **Cash for Tipping & Extras**

Face-to-Face with Gorillas in *Rwanda*



Enjoy a special treat with our new video showcasing close-up footage of the gorillas we've encountered on past adventures. Click the image above to watch!

Imagine trekking through Rwanda's mist-covered forests, your heart racing with anticipation as you step closer to a family of mountain gorillas. Just a few feet away, you see them—majestic, powerful, yet gentle. A mother nurturing her young, playful babies tumbling through the brush, and a silverback watching over his family with quiet strength. You could lose track of time just staring at them, mesmerized by their grace and depth. The connection is immediate. There's a magic to this experience that can't be found anywhere else.

This isn't just about seeing wildlife; it's about feeling it. Every glance from a gorilla carries weight, every gesture seems to say something, and you'll be captivated, as if transported to another world. Trekking to meet these incredible creatures, especially with expert guides like Francois—who worked alongside Dian Fossey—gives you a truly intimate connection that few ever experience. And the best part? Your visit helps ensure their

While most things are covered on your safari, it's a good idea to bring some cash. U.S. dollars are widely accepted, and having cash on hand lets you tip your guides if they've gone above and beyond! Shop secure hidden money belt.

A few more tips to make your safari experience that much better:

Power Bank or Solar Charger
Since camps and lodges may have limited electricity, a power bank or solar charger is a lifesaver. Keep your devices running so you can keep snapping those unforgettable shots. Shop Recommended **Power Bank**

Collapsible Walking Stick
For walking safaris in areas like Tarangire or the Serengeti, or really any hiking where the terrain can get uneven, this is your best friend. Light and portable but oh-so-helpful! Try this **ultra light one.**

Buff or Lightweight Scarf
Multipurpose! It keeps the dust at bay, keeps you warm in the cool mornings, and can even protect your neck from the sun during the hottest part of the day.

Earplugs & Sleep Mask
You'll be staying in tented camps surrounded by nature, which is amazing—until you hear lions roaring or hyenas howling in the middle of the night. Earplugs help, and a sleep mask is perfect for those early morning sunrises.

Local SIM Card or Portable WiFi Device
Want to stay connected while you're away from home? Grab a local SIM card (Airtel or Vodacom) for cheaper rates than roaming, or bring a portable WiFi device to stay connected between lodges.

There's no question—this safari will be one for the books. Whether it's your first time seeing the African plains or your tenth, the magic of Tanzania never gets old.

Ready to join us this year? Pack your bags and let's go!

protection, as the money you spend goes to pay local scouts (formerly poachers) who monitor and safeguard the gorillas.

But the experience doesn't stop with the gorillas. Rwanda's welcoming villagers will immerse you in their culture, from drumming sessions to cooking alongside the locals. The genuine warmth of the people, the music, and the traditions will leave you with a deeper connection to the land and its people. We will even participate in a regional festival,. Whether you're trekking the misty mountains or sharing stories with the community, Rwanda offers a rare, life-changing adventure that brings you closer to nature in a way you've never imagined.

Don't just visit Rwanda, live it. Book your spot today and embark on a journey that will stay with you forever.

RWANDA GROUP TRIP | August 31 - Sep 5, 2025

TANZANIA SAFARI GROUP TRIP

CUSTOM TRIP





Match with the Trip of Your Dreams



A New Way of Organizing Steppin' Out Trips
Introducing: Robin the Trip Matchmaker! 🌎✨

No, she’s not setting you up on a romantic date (though, hey, we’ve seen many of those connections happen on our trips!)

At Steppin’ Out, we’re all about community and bringing like-minded travelers together for unforgettable experiences. But we get it — sometimes it’s tough to find the right trip. Maybe you’re wondering if a trip will match your activity level, age group, budget, or travel dates. And it's also hard for us to get a good number of people together. So we may be moving from a random offering to group trips to offering a trip when we have a critical mass wanting certain destinations.

Tell us where you want to go — whether it’s chasing the Northern Lights in Iceland, unwinding at an all-inclusive beach resort, setting sail on a cruise, or even planning a family getaway to Disney without the stress. Robin’s here to connect you with fellow travelers who are looking for the same kind of experience.

It’s free and it's easy:

1) Fill out the form and let us know what you’re looking for.

2) Robin works her magic to find your perfect travel crew.

3) You get ready for a trip you’ll never forget.

Let’s make your travel dreams happen! ✈️

👉 Find Your Next Travel Adventure Here

Travel Tip ⭐:
Important ID Update for US Domestic Travel

Starting **May 7, 2025**, standard driver's licenses will no longer be accepted for domestic flights. Travelers will need a REAL ID-compliant license or another acceptable ID, such as a passport. For travel through May 6, 2025, a photo ID like a driver's license is fine. Make sure you clients check if their ID meets REAL ID standards and upgrade if needed. Visit the Department of Homeland Security or TSA websites for more details.

Traveling the Colorful World of *Peru*

Last Chance! Save $200 on Your Peru Adventure. Sign up by the end of March for our immersive Peru trip (Nov 9-22, 2025) and get $200 off! 🌎 Explore Machu Picchu, vibrant markets in Cuzco, stunning Rainbow Mountain, and the desert landscapes right outside Lima. Don't miss out—check out the full itinerary and details on our website!

PERU | November 9-22, 2025



Ski More, Spend Less With Steppin' Out Adventures



Get exclusive **discounts on Ikon Passes for the 2025/26 season** when you sign up through Steppin' Out Adventures! Whether you're an experienced skier or a snowboarding newbie, there's a pass for you.

What's an Ikon Pass?
The Ikon Pass gives you access to 50+ amazing ski destinations across North America and beyond. Think breathtaking mountains, powder-perfect slopes, and memories that will last a lifetime. And our group is going to either Steamboat or Snowmass in 2026- both Ikon pass resorts. But remember, you don't have to go on our trip to get an Ikon Pass or promo code. AND.. there's no obligation if you request a code and don't use it. Feel free to pass to friends.

Now is the lowest price the pass will be for 2026!

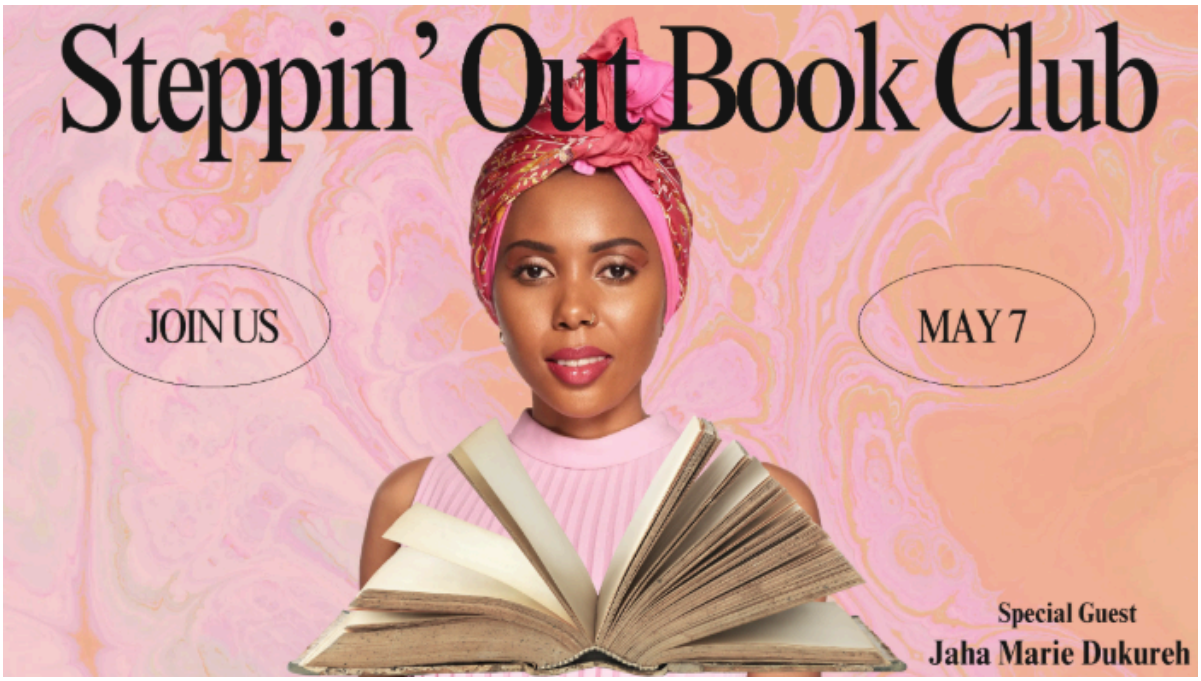
There are a few options

- Ikon Pass: Unlimited access to 14 destinations + up to 7 days at 39 other resorts.
- Ikon Base Pass: Great for regional skiers with fewer blackout dates.
- Ikon Session 4-Day Pass: Perfect for a quick getaway with 4 days at select destinations.

How to Join the Fun:
• **Email us** for your exclusive group promo code along with your DOB and the email you want to use with your pass.

Hit the slopes and make the next winter unforgettable!

Join Us for an Unforgettable Read



We're excited to host an unforgettable discussion with **Jaha Marie Dukureh** during our Book Club Meeting May 7th, the incredible activist and author of ***I Will Scream to the World: My Story. My Fight. My Hope for Girls Everywhere*** (Shop Book) This memoir is not just a story—it's a call to action, a testament to resilience, and a journey of courage that will inspire you long after the last page.

Jaha's fight against FGM and child marriage has sparked change on a global scale, including a historic victory in Gambia. Now, she's sharing her journey with us in a special book club meeting you won't want to miss!

Why you should be there:

- Hear directly from Jaha as she shares personal insights about her book, her activism, and the girls she's fighting for.
- Be part of an open discussion about the ongoing fight for women's rights worldwide.
- Connect with others passionate about meaningful change and global impact.

🗓️ When: **Wednesday, May 7th. (7:30pm CT) (8:30pm ET) (5:30 PT)**

📍 Where: Zoom

🔗 **Register Here**

Let's come together to learn, connect, dive deep into Jaha's extraordinary journey, and be part of something bigger. Don't miss this chance to learn from Jaha and stand united for the movement of change!

You Asked for it-

You Got it! Iceland!

Exciting News! 🌍 We're gearing up for an unforgettable adventure in **Iceland** this **October 2025**! Get ready to explore stunning landscapes, witness the magic of the Northern Lights, and dive into the heart of Icelandic culture. *More details coming soon—stay tuned!*





Special Savings with One of Our Travel Partners

We're happy to share some of our travel partner's deals now that we are working with a consortium of travel companies. Nothing good lasts forever, and neither does this sale! **Save 15% + an EXTRA 3% on your G Adventures when booking through Steppin' Out Adventures.**

We'll help you find the perfect trip with them— whether it's a small group, big adventure, laid-back sightseeing, or something in between.

But hurry! You have until March 31 to save on select adventures worldwide, with travel available through October 31, 2025.
If Steppin' Out's schedule of curated adventures don't work for you, we're happy to guide you to others. G-Adventures offers a huge number of options. Think Indonesia, Thailand, Morocco, Costa Rica, and even Caribbean escapes. And that's just the start. The list goes on, and on, and on — you get the idea. **Email** or **call** us to get started!

Bonus: Share this newsletter with a friend, and if they book, we'll give you an even bigger discount! Just send us a message!

Upcoming Steppin' Out Adventures Group Trips



Bulgaria | June 26 - July 3, 2025

Step into a land of stunning mountains, secret lakes, and ancient ruins. Hike the Seven Rila Lakes, discover hidden villages with timeless traditions, and immerse yourself in Bulgaria's rich culture with traditional cooking, folklore dances, and visits to charming mountain villages.

Discover More ››



Romania | July 3 - July 8, 2025

Explore medieval castles, charming cities, and dramatic mountain landscapes. Wandering through Bucharest's grandeur, uncover the legends behind Peleș and Bran Castles, and lose yourself in the picturesque streets of Transylvania. From hiking the Carpathian peaks to tasting local delicacies. Romania offers a blend of experiences.

Discover More ››



Tanzania | August 21 - 31, 2025

Venture into the thrill of Tanzania's wild heart, from witnessing the world's largest animal migration to immersing yourself in the Hadzabe tribe's ancient dances, songs, and food-making traditions, all set against a backdrop of East Africa. With or without Rwanda.

Discover More ››



Rwanda | August 31 - September 5, 2025

Get up close to Rwanda's majestic gorillas on an unforgettable trek and golden monkeys, engage with the local community through vibrant traditions and stories at a cultural festival, all while discovering the country's passion for conservation and its inspiring journey of renewal. (Option to add on this event, for those who only to go to Rwanda.

Discover More ››



Morocco | October 10 - 19, 2025

Although we're not hosting a trip to Morocco, a trusted partner (DC Internationals) is offering an beautiful cultural adventure with camel rides into the desert, stays with local families, cooking classes, and guided tours through vibrant cities like Marrakesh and Fes, all while immersing in the rich history and traditions of this magical country.

More Info ››



Peru | November 9 - 22, 2025

Explore Peru's breathtaking contrasts—from misty mountaintop ruins to the vibrant traditions of the Sacred Valley. Hike, raft, and cook with locals while immersing yourself in the deep spiritual connection to the land. More than a trip, it's an experience.

Discover More ››



Custom Trips

There's no better time than now. Create your dream adventure — tailored to your group's unique interests and style.

And don't forget that booking travel with other groups through us, will save you money. We're splitting our commission with you.

More Info ››

We Sell Travel Insurance

Travel Insurance: The best you can do to prepare for the unexpected. Whether you're signing up for our trips or others, or just traveling on your own, be protected

Travelex INSURANCE SERVICES The ultimate in travel insurance GET A QUOTE

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WE USE PROCEEDS FROM AMAZON, OUR SPONSORS AND OTHER FUNDRAISERS TO GIVE BACK TO THE PEOPLE IN THE PLACES WE VISIT. So please start your amazon shopping here.



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