



Dan overlooking Switzerland's gorgeous Lake Lungern ~ 2005

Dear Fellow Wanderers,

As I reflect on the approaching close of a 30+ year journey with Walking Adventures, I'm awestruck at the extraordinary opportunities this winding path has offered, by the grace of God. I find myself deeply grateful—for the places we've explored, the memories we've made, and for each of you who have joined us along the way.

Back in 1992, I left a short career in accounting to join my dad in what was then a small, two-man operation. That summer, I accompanied Dad for my first tour on the original *Walking Alpine Europe*. Though I had lived in Germany as a teenager, this was a different kind of experience—travel with purpose, connection, and community. It was new to me... and transformative.



Experiencing Maasai culture with Scott in Kenya ~ 2013

In those early days, I was simply helping to run a business. But as time passed—and as I had the joy of walking beside so many of you—it grew into something far more meaningful. Designing walks, sharing stories, learning history, and discovering new cultures with our travelers became a passion. It was through these shared experiences that I began to see what made this style of travel so unique.



Self-appointed Great Wall hiking assistants helping Dan set up a group photo ~ 2015

Together, we celebrated the festive atmosphere of European Volkssport events. We tasted bratwurst and homemade pastries in village squares, danced to oompah bands, and swapped stories on buses winding through unforgettable scenery. You've helped me see that travel is more than just checking sights off a list—it's about connection: to place, to the past, to people, and to each other.



Group shot at Angkor Wat on our inaugural tour of Cambodia ~ 2009

One pivotal moment came in 1997 during a tour through Spain. After a series of thoughtful conversations with a traveler named Fred, he helped articulate something I had only begun to feel. He coined the phrase that has guided our mission ever since:

“History, Culture, Scenery, and Walking... more than just a walking tour!”

And that’s exactly what this has been—*more than just a tour*.



Making friends in India ~ 2012

Thanks to you, Walking Adventures has explored over 80 countries on all 7 continents. Every destination has been meaningful, but what I cherish most are the shared moments: laughter on the trail, conversations over dinner, and friendships formed along the way.



Walk planning in England's epic Dartmoor National Park ~ 2015

As I prepare to step into retirement, my heart is full. Thank you for walking this path with me—for your trust, your enthusiasm, and the joy you've brought to this journey. I feel incredibly blessed to have shared these adventures with you.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Dan Friesen

Outgoing President, Walking Adventures International

P.S.

I'm especially looking forward to reconnecting with old friends and familiar faces at our upcoming [Tucson Rendezvous](#). This is the last tour I will have the joy of planning—and we're pulling out all the stops to make it a truly memorable experience. I hope you'll consider joining us for this special send off and transition. It would mean a lot to see you there!