

Vrolijk Kerstdagen en een gelukkig nieuwe jaar van Hugh and Becky

That is Dutch for Merry Christmas and a happy New Year from Hugh and Becky. You may be getting your card, picture, and letter late because Becky came for a visit to the USA in early January and mailed them here to save postage.

We are still happily living in the Netherlands. Hugh's work, our health, our families are pretty much the same as last year. Knowing the losses and struggles some of you have faced, we are grateful for the status quo. Hugh is making improvements day by day in the operations at the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. Becky did a bit of consulting for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization this year. She has kept involved with the American Women's Club and was proud to support a charity event that raised over €50,000 for autism related groups.

We hoped that living in Holland would offer good travel opportunities and boy, is that true.

New Years Day 2011 we were jetting off to Singapore. Hugh had business there and we tacked on a week of vacation in the Malaysian part of Borneo. With the really cold winter we had been experiencing it was great to go somewhere warm. In our one year update we put in some pictures and descriptions of that trip, and other activities. See <http://updates.fg-tours.com> and look at the July 2011 update. We really enjoyed the wildlife viewing, especially the orangutans, monkeys, and pygmy elephants.

Becky spent time in Switzerland with Sue Mathews and then they joined Hugh and Bruce in Lisbon, Portugal. We had a great time. Our last couple nights in Portugal were at a castle in Obidos, north of Lisbon. So cool. Sue and Bruce spent a bit of time with us in the Netherlands and we all enjoyed Easter Sunday with the beautiful flowers of the Keukenhof gardens. More on this trip in the July 2011 update.

Becky tagged along with Hugh on his second business trip to Beijing. Part of the purpose of Hugh's trip was as an invited speaker at a conference which was part of the 60th anniversary of the Academy of Military Medical Science. Boy, were we treated like royalty. Sightseeing included The Great Wall, Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, The Summer Palace, as well as a few days in and around Shanghai.

The high point of the year was our safari in Kenya and Tanzania. What a fabulous experience. Hugh got so many marvelous pictures we decided to create the entire photo collage from some of the best. Yes, we saw the big five, the little five and lots in between. We created lists of the types animals we saw each day and often it was over 50 types. So exciting to see the animals in their habitat. The migratory movement of the wildebeests and zebras was marvelous to see. We'd love to do another safari, probably exploring a different part of Africa. If you can manage this type of trip – GO!

Among the shorter trips, sometimes just Hugh, sometimes just Becky, sometimes together, we visited lots of places in The Netherlands; Brugge, Belgium; Umea, Sweden; Valencia, Spain; Tallinn, Estonia; Helsinki Finland; Paris, France; Trier, Germany (on that weekend we were in 5 countries, Netherlands, Belgium Germany, Luxembourg, and France). By the time you read this we will have spent Christmas holidays in Florence and Rome, Italy. Hugh has been in the USA for business. Becky is excited to have her first time back in the USA right now!

We have really enjoyed our visitors who came throughout the year. It is fun to see our adopted country through fresh eyes. We've become pretty good tour guides. And we welcome you to stay with us and let us show you around. Best wishes to you all,

Becky Failor and Hugh Gregg

e-mails: failor@fg-tours.com and gregg@fg-tours.com

US mailing address: 2885 Sanford Ave SW #14159; Grandville, MI 49418

Netherlands mailing address: Dokter van der Knaaplaan 9; 2283 CW Rijswijk ZH; The Netherlands