



# ESCAPE THE INTERVIEW

*David Gower*

A household name to any cricket fan, former England captain **David Gower OBE** spoke to Other Shores Feature Writer Kumari Tilakawardane about his love of travel.



**Q** You recently hosted Spectate's cricket cruise to the Caribbean - how was that experience?

**A** It was lovely. I do enjoy the smaller islands of the Caribbean, which have a more sort of retro feel - little islands with nice beaches, a few palm trees and a couple of people. A particularly memorable moment was when one of the guests held a David Gower quiz, which was quite interesting - the big question was whether I would know the answers to my own life!

**Q** In your line of work you've been able to travel all over the world - if you had to pick just one of the cricketing destinations you've visited, which would be your favourite?

**A** I hate trying to pick one. For me, Australia normally offers some of the best times - great cities, great food, great climate, great wine, great company. Then, for scenery and travelling around, New Zealand is great. I'm desperate to get back to Sri Lanka, and then for a different culture India is fabulous... I love them all, basically, but you made me pick one!

**Q** Outside of cricket, where are your favourite places for holidays?

**A** My favourite holiday is a safari. Over the years, I've been lucky enough to have many visits to South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana. I haven't been to Namibia, yet. I've done tiger safaris in India. Animals are a passion, and conservation is one of my things - that stems from being brought up in East Africa when I was a kid.

**Q** What's on your travel bucket list?

**A** There's plenty of Africa that I haven't yet seen. The irony is that with all this travel around the cricketing world, I haven't been able to do much closer to home. For instance, there are a dozen major European cities I haven't seen - Rome, Barcelona, Madrid and Milan, to name just a few. I'd love to do a proper European tour; there's a whole stack of places closer to home I'd love to get to before it's too late.

**Q** What do you never travel without?

**A** A defibrillator! That's not true, I promise. I'm afraid that in common with 99% of people nowadays, my phone has



to come. But actually, if it's a safari, a proper camera is the most important thing.

**Q** What things do you look for in a holiday?

**A** A bit of everything. The great thing about being on safari is that you're able just to switch off from all those things that make you grumpy every other day of the year. You're removed from the daily grind, from the world at large, from all the news that's assaulting you from all sides.

**Q** What's the best thing about travel?

**A** Finding something fresh - new places, new people, new experiences. You'll never see the whole thing, of course, but there are so many weird and wonderful things out there. It's all about adding to one's life experience.

**Q** What's on your reading list?

**A** Over the years I've read a lot of Terry Pratchett. His sense of humour tallies entirely with mine. I'm halfway through Robert Peston's WTF, which is very different - I'd actually rather we were in an imaginary world at the moment!

**Q** If you could invite any three people for dinner, who would they be?

**A** The answer to this is always different each time I get asked! Terry Pratchett, of course. I'd quite like to meet Cate Blanchett, too. And David Attenborough - I'm sure he's on everyone's list, he has to do three a night!

**Q** What do you miss most when travelling?

**A** I do miss home, I do miss family, but I take the view that when one is away, there's always something to do and people to be with and that's part of the fun of it. Enjoy it!

**Q** What was your most memorable playing moment?

**A** That one's easy enough - my proudest moment really, going back to the Oval in 1985, was standing on the balcony with the Ashes - or what looked like The Ashes anyway - in my hand; it's never the real thing, just a very good replica. But The Ashes being what they are, the historical significance and all the rest of it, standing there as an Ashes-winning captain is what stands out.



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