



## Timeless Journeys Off-the-Beaten-Path Adventures

March 2014

### Following in the Footsteps of the First Mountain Man

My grandmother, Cassie Colter, was part Indian, and the great-granddaughter of John Colter, "The First Mountain Man", known as a crack hunter with the Lewis and Clark Expedition in the early 1800's, and the first white man to discover the area including what is now Yellowstone National Park. The 1966 movie "The Naked Prey" was inspired by his life.



All of my life, I often stared out my office window in corporate America, dreaming of the great outdoors, but I was too afraid of leaving the known comforts behind, to do anything about it. Last Spring, after sticking my toe in the water for years, I took a leap of faith and I am now doing the work I was meant to do - following in my ancestor, John Colter's, footsteps.

While working in biotech in San Diego in the 1990's, scathed and beaten by a bitter divorce, some notorious Baja bush pilots adopted me and I spent all of my spare time exploring with them. I discovered remote places in that beautiful peninsula that I still return to. That gave me the courage to move to Botswana in southern Africa, where I lived and worked for several years, exploring the Kalahari Desert, Okavango Delta, and getting comfortable camping in the middle of nowhere, surrounded by lions and hyenas. I even went through initiation as a traditional healer in Swaziland, trying to cure what ailed me - not knowing that it was the outdoors calling me.

Now, in Santa Fe, I'm leading off-the-beaten-path adventures in the Southwest, introducing people to the great healing power of Nature, whether on short hikes, visiting ancient Pueblos, or explorations further afield. And, a couple times a year, I organize a small group of friends to experience the great delight of petting Grey Whales in a remote lagoon in Baja, the only place in the world where they seek human interaction in the wild, or to return with me to my favorite place in the world on a wilderness adventure - Botswana. The Baja adventure this year sold out quickly, and there are still a couple spaces available to join me in Botswana in August. I hope you will do so and experience an adventure of a lifetime!



I'll be writing a short newsletter every month or so about my adventures, and hope that you will join me on one or more of them! [www.timelessjourneys.net](http://www.timelessjourneys.net) ~Deborah