

Photo Safaris by Paul Renner



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"Everything in Africa bites, but the safari bug is worst of all."

~ Brian Jackman



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African Photo Safari August 2009 Newsletter

Jambo everyone!

We were thrilled many times over on another amazing African photo safari in Tanzania and Kenya during July. We had an incredible safari! The number of great photo opportunities was astounding! Why don't you consider joining us on a safari soon. It will be your trip of a lifetime!

Newsletter Highlights:

[Photos From Our July 2009 Safari to Tanzania and Kenya](#)

[New: 2010 African Photo Safari Itineraries and Prices](#)

[New: Join Us to Photograph Gorillas in Rwanda next February](#)

[New: U.S. Photo Safari Workshops](#)

At Lake Nakuru National Park , the Kenya Wildlife Service is doing a good job with regards to saving rhinos from extinction. In this park both black and white rhinos are reproducing well and are easily seen while on our safaris.



Black Rhino

Canon EOS 1D Mark III, 100-400mm f/5.6

Copyright: Paul Renner 2009



I Wonder What He Is Thinking!

Canon EOS 1D Mark III, 100-400mm f/5.6

Copyright: Paul Renner 2009

If you enjoy my photos and think you would like to learn photography from me, join me on one of my African safaris or photo workshops in the U.S.



Grazing in the Grass
Canon EOS 1D Mark III, 100-400mm f/5.6
Copyright: Paul Renner 2009

Upcoming African Photo Safaris

[New: 2010 African Photo Safari Itineraries and Prices](#)

Kenya - 17 Days	September 6 - 22, 2009	Itinerary and Pricing
Tanzania and Kenya - 17 Days	February 8 - 24, 2010	Itinerary and Pricing
Rwanda Gorilla Trek	February 24 - March 3, 2010	Itinerary and Pricing
Tanzania and Kenya - 17 Days	July 14 - 30, 2010	Itinerary and Pricing
Kenya - 17 Days	Aug. 29 - Sept. 14, 2010	Itinerary and Pricing

I use Somak Safaris to run my tours because of the outstanding level of service I have received over the years from them. This coming September I am happy to be celebrating our fifteenth safari together since September 2005. We make a good team and run great photographic safaris.



Lazy Lions

Canon EOS 1D Mark III, 100-400mm f/5.6

Copyright: Paul Renner 2009

One of the best things about our African photo safaris is that we have only three passengers per vehicle. This is great because it gives each of us plenty of room for all of our camera equipment. We are free to move about the vehicle to photograph from windows on both sides and also from the top of the vehicle. No one is crowded! On our safaris the three passengers in each vehicle have the opportunity to stay and watch the behavior of the wildlife for as long or as short of time as they choose.

Occasionally during the warm part of the day, even the largest of animals need a break.



I must admit that some animals make it almost impossible to get a pretty picture of them. I am thankful, though, for the warthogs, because they are a good source of food for lions and leopards when the larger animals are away on migration.



Warthog
Canon EOS 1D Mark III, 400mm f/5.6
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Photo safaris here in the United States!

For over twenty five years I have enjoyed the privilege of photographing some of our nation's most beautiful landscapes and wildlife. In 2009, in addition to my African safaris, I am expanding to lead photography workshops in spectacular places right here in the United States.



McWay Falls

Big Sur Coastline, Central California
Canon EOS 1D Mark III, Lens:EF28-105 f/3.5-4.5 USM
Copyright: Paul Renner 2009

On these workshops I will cover various photographic techniques (composition, lighting and equipment) together with Photoshop workflow and techniques. These tours are ideal for those who are switching to digital and for those who want to improve their photography skills in a beautiful settings. [Click here for details.](#)

Workshop schedule:

<u>Zion and Bryce</u>	October 31 - November 4, 2009
<u>Yellowstone in Winter</u>	January 9 -16, 2010
<u>California Central Coast</u>	April 12-16, 2010
<u>California Eastern Sierras</u>	July 5 - 9, 2010

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On our African photo safaris we take time to watch the animal behavior. This is when things really get interesting! Our group was parked at the edge of the Mara River watching as wildebeest and zebras gathered on the far bank building up their courage to cross. I was quite surprised at their apparent indifference to at least a dozen huge crocodiles in the river directly below them. The crocs were busy fighting over a wildebeest carcass that had been caught earlier. What a show they put on! Fighting, biting, twisting, turning and rolling to steal scraps of the wildebeest.



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Monster Crocs Fighting Over Wildebeest Carcass

Canon EOS 1D Mark III, 400mm f/5.6

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Not even fifty yards upstream, the crossing began with a few zebras who took the lead. They were quickly joined by the wildebeest. The crocs were in such a feeding frenzy that they didn't even notice the thousand or so animals crossing the river just a few yards above them. I am happy to report the whole herd crossed safely!



Crossing the Mara

Canon EOS 1D Mark III, 400mm f/5.6

Copyright: Paul Renner 2009

The next afternoon we saw a mom and her baby find a quiet place to cross the river together. It is a hard to understand why they often cross the river in the most

difficult places. These two came down a sheer cliff that was 15 or 20 feet high.



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Leap of Faith

Canon EOS 1D Mark III, 400mm f/5.6
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Usually found near water, the Waterbuck is one of the more elegant animals.



Male Waterbuck

Canon EOS 1D Mark III, Lens: 100-400mm f/5.6
Copyright: Paul Renner 2009

On our safaris we leave the lodges as early as we are allowed to because we often find and finish photographing animals before other people even get out of the lodges. One morning, in the Mara, it was still dark when one of our drivers spotted a male lion walking through the tall grass about a hundred yards away. We could just see the top of it's back. I am still amazed at how he spotted it in the dark! Suddenly three more lions appeared out of the grass. In total there were two males and two females. All of them found their way to the main road where we followed them for a distance until the males laid down in the road to rest. They were used to cars and let us pull up alongside of them. It was exciting to photograph lions from literally a few feet as the African sun rose over the horizon behind us! The light was gorgeous! It was the perfect beginning to another beautiful day in the Mara.



Lion on the Road

Canon EOS 1D Mark III, Lens: 100-400mm f/5.6
Copyright: Paul Renner 2009

Important African Photo Safari Information:

- **Prices for our safaris include airfare** from LAX - most other companies do not include airfare.
- We have **only three passengers per nine passenger safari vehicle.** You will enjoy plenty of space for you and your equipment! Beware of the guaranteed window seat gimmick advertised by many safari companies! Here is why! (Faces have been blurred to protect the crowded!)



- We stay in [luxury safari lodges](#).

• You do not have to be a photographer but you must enjoy watching the wildlife because

that is what we do!

- I will be there to photograph with you and available to answer your questions.
- Parks we visit on our African safaris.

I hope you will join me for an African Safari; your adventure of a lifetime! For more information, prices and itineraries [click here](#). To reserve your space on a safari, please call Paul Renner at (949) 295-3136, or email him at paulrenner3@cox.net or call Prem Sharma at Somak Safaris (800) 757-6625



On safari I am happy to share my photographic knowledge with my clients. You do not have to be a photographer to go on the trips, however you should enjoy watching wildlife because that is our main focus.



On our Safaris we stay in first class luxury lodges and camps.

For information and photos of the lodges and accommodations click here.

Important Safari Information:

Our African photo safaris are limited to 18 people, including the leaders. We have only 3 passengers per 9 passenger vehicle giving us plenty of space for our photo equipment. We can photograph through windows on BOTH sides of the vehicle and also from the top, which pops up to create shade so you are protected from the hot, equatorial sun. Compared to other tours that pack the vans with up to eight people, this is a huge deal!

As we leave the lodges, the vehicles separate and spread out. This allows us to have six guides out looking for wildlife. They each have radios to let each other know what they find. This way no one misses out on seeing the wildlife and with six great guides, you can hardly believe all of the wildlife they find. Our guides are amazing!

Drought in East Africa:

Kenya and Tanzania are in a serious drought. This year the heavy rains that normally fall in April and May did not. Even the light rains that usually occur in November and December were lighter than usual. As we drove through the countryside I saw many corn fields in which the corn had grown almost to maturity and then simply withered and died, yielding no crop. This is causing problems for the wildlife as well. In areas where new grass failed to grow the animals are having a tough time finding enough food to eat.

The Masai Mara luckily received enough localized rain for the grass to grow well this year! At the end of July the migration was just beginning to arrive. When I return in September, the migration should be there in mass. I can hardly wait to get back there!



Zebra

Canon EOS 1D Mark III, 100- 400mm f/5.6

Copyright: Paul Renner 2009

Africa is famous for spectacular sunrises and sunsets. Each day we begin our morning game drive before sunrise. On our afternoon game drives, we return to the lodge just after sunset. This gives us the best opportunities to photograph this incredible beauty.



Sunrise in Amboseli

Canon EOS 1DMark III, 100-400mm f/5.6 IS

Copyright: Paul Renner 2009

Our African photo safaris really are the trip of a lifetime! I can hardly believe how fortunate I was to have been born and grown up in East Africa. Now that I am able to take people with me and share what I know about photography along with my personal experiences of Africa, I am thrilled so many clients return and say to me "that was the best trip I have ever been on" or "thank you for the vacation of a lifetime! I want to go again in a year or two!"

I hope you will consider joining me on an African Photo Safari in the future. It will be your trip of a lifetime! Why not in sign up soon?

For more information, prices and itineraries [click here.](#)

**Enjoy each day.
Paul**

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