

# Photo Safaris by Paul Renner



## African Safari Newsletter

January - February 2009

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"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did.

So throw off the bow lines. Sail away from the harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails".

Explore, Dream

Discover!

~ Mark Twain

My excitement is building again as I am preparing to lead another African photo safari! We will all be meeting in Nairobi early on February 12 and flying to Tanzania to begin another exciting African safari into both Tanzania and Kenya. I can hardly wait!



**Lioness Surveying The Plains**

Canon 100-400mm f/5.6

Copyright: Paul Renner 2008

Life as a lion can be very harsh! If the migration of wildebeest and zebras is not in the area, some days the endless plains appear to be empty of game. There may be an occasional warthog or topi. But lions are patient and have an uncanny sense for knowing the best places to lay in wait for an unsuspecting animal. This often leads to a successful hunt, supplying the pride with a much needed meal. If the hunt is unsuccessful it can be days before more animals come their way.

Our African photo safaris are planned for us to visit the areas that coincide with movement of the migration on location at different times of year.



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## News Flash!

### 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. On these workshops I will cover various photographic techniques (composition, lighting and equipment) along 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 the details.](#)



#### **Impala Bucks Fighting**

Canon 100-400mm f/5.6

Copyright: Paul Renner 2008

Male impalas have a rough life! They are elegant animals, beautiful and graceful and almost always in a herd. That is where the problem starts! It seems as though the males are always fighting. If they are not the dominant male, then they practice fighting with other males so that one day they will be strong enough to win a herd of females away from the dominant male. He in turn must continuously defend his harem from all challengers. When we take time on our photo safaris to watch the herd behavior, it almost seems as though the male is so busy fighting off challengers that he barely even gets time to eat. I guess that is just the price to pay for taking care of between ten and fifty females! Like I said, it is a rough life!

### Upcoming Safari Schedule

Tanzania and Kenya - 18 Days	February 10 - 27, 2009	<a href="#">Itinerary and Pricing</a>
Tanzania and Kenya - 17 Days	July 15 - 31, 2009	<a href="#">Itinerary and Pricing</a>
Kenya - 17 Days	September 6-22, 2009	<a href="#">Itinerary and Pricing</a>

Go confidently in the direction of your dreams!  
Live the life you have imagined.

Tanzania and Kenya	February 2010	Prices coming soon
Tanzania and Kenya	July 2010	Prices coming soon
Kenya	September 2010	Prices coming soon

There are still spaces available on the 2009 safaris. Reserve your spaces early to avoid being left out.

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Watching the behavior of the animals can be the most exciting and rewarding part of an African photo safari! Sure the big cats are thrilling to watch, but at times the behavior of the other animals can be just a thrilling! That is what makes each day on safari in Africa so exciting!



### **Zebras Fighting**

Canon 100-400mm f/5.6

Copyright: Paul Renner 2008

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Just after sunrise, as we made our way down into Tanzania's Ngorongoro Crater, we happened upon three jackals out walking when suddenly a hare leaped up and started running and jumping, in fear for it's life! The race was on and they came our way! The hare quickly out ran two of the jackals but this one hung in for a much longer distance, only to be left in the dust as the hare, still hopping and dodging disappeared down a hole to safety.



**Black Backed Jackal**

Canon 100-400mm f/5.6

Copyright: Paul Renner 2008

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This warthog was not quite so lucky as the hare. But it was a good day for the leopard!



**Leopard with Warthog**

Canon 100-400mm f/5.6

Copyright: Paul Renner 2008

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Everyone loves watching elephants at a water hole. Before drinking in this one, the elephants would place their trunk in the water and shake it vigorously, scaring away any frogs that might be in the water. If an elephant sucks up a frog and it gets lodged in its trunk, it can annoy the elephant enough that it starts banging its trunk on trees or rocks in an effort to dislodge the frog. This can cause severe damage and even has been known to cause the death of the elephant.



### Someone Sprung a Leak!

Canon 100-400mm f/5.6

Copyright: Paul Renner 2008

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## Important 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!)



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- We **stay in luxury safari lodges**. [View 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 safaris. [View parks](#)

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](mailto: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.

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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 tours 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!

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Lions and leopards are mortal enemies. In the Serengeti we happened upon a leopard in the top of an Acacia tree. It had been treed by a lioness and knew better than to come down while she was still nearby. The standoff lasted for hours until the lion finally took a break and went to the river for a drink, at which time the leopard made its hasty escape. If you look closely, you can see the leopard in the top of the tree. Look 1/2 inch down from the top of the tree and 1 inch to the right of center. It appears as a tan spot in the tree. We have not often seen a leopard perched so precariously on the small outer branches of a tree. Don't worry! we didn't sit for hours and watch that leopard way up in the tree! We went to photograph a pride of lions and a herd of elephants that were nearby.



### Leopard Treed In an Acacia Tree

Canon 100-400mm f/5.6

Copyright: Paul Renner 2008

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There is a hippo pool on the Grumeti River in the Serengeti where it is fascinating to see so many huge animals lounging together in the water. Hippos are most active at night when they leave the security and comfort of the water in search of vegetation along the river banks. We have seen them up to two miles from the river. They can be very dangerous if you get between them and the water or their young. It is well known fact that hippos kill more humans each year in Africa than any other animal.



### Hippo Yawn

Canon 100-400mm f/5.6

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As you work your way through life each day, remember to take time to stop and smell the flowers. Remember, It is not the necessarily the destination but the journey that makes life worthwhile.



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### Kirk's Dikdik

Canon 100-400mm f/5.6

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Africa is famous for spectacular sunrises and sunsets. Each day our morning game drive begins 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.

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Wildebeest at Sunset





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Our African 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 too 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 now?

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

Enjoy each day.  
Paul

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