



African Safari Newsletter

March 2009

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

~ Brian Jackman



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OUR
NEWSLETTER

It seems that every time I go on another African Photo Safari, it is always different and always exciting! February's African safari to Tanzania and Kenya was no exception! Because of the global economy crisis, the number of tourists in the lodges was down considerably, but the wildlife was there in full and living color! It was an extraordinary time to be on safari!



Hey Mom! Wanna play?

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

Copyright: Paul Renner 2009

We were on an African photo safari in the heart of the greatest wildlife spectacle on earth! The great migration of wildebeest and zebra was in the southern end of the Serengeti Plains with thousands of new born babies! Of course this brought out the predators! Along with millions of hoofed animals we saw lots of lions, cheetahs and even had eight leopard sightings. Six were in the Serengeti with two more at Lake Nakuru in Kenya. But it was these cheetah cubs who stole my heart!



Cheetah Bookends

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

Our group had been watching the cheetah family (a mother and four almost grown cubs) for quite some time when another vehicle pulled up. Before long, curiosity got the best of the cubs and they went over and jumped up on the hood of the vehicle. It was a thrill for the passenger in the vehicle and for us too. The hood was a higher vantage point from which the cheetahs got a good look at the wildebeest migration moving around them. As quickly and quietly as they had jumped up on the hood, they hopped down and were off to hunt a wildebeest.



Curious Cubs

Canon EOS 1D Mark III, 100-400mm f/5.6 IS
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One of the cheetahs selected a young calf. The chase was on! Like a bullet, he built up tremendous speed. He appeared to be closing in on the baby when, at the last possible moment, the mother wildebeest bravely cut between the cheetah and her calf saving the life of her baby and ruining the chance of an easy meal for the cheetahs!



Cheetah Chasing Wildebeest

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

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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.



Box Lake in Little Lakes Valley

Eastern Sierras

Canon 20D: Lens 17-40 mm

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.](#)

Now back on the African safari:

Toward the end of our first day during our safari in Ngorongoro Crater we came upon a group of old elephants near the edge of the Lerei Forest. The elephants are comfortable with safari vehicles so they will often come to within very close proximity to the vehicles. It is always a thrill when such a large creature shares his space with us without threat! I think we all came away with great photos !



Elephants Own the Right of Way
Canon EOS 1D Mark III, Lens 28-105mm
Copyright: Paul Renner 2009

Upcoming Safari Schedule

Tanzania and Kenya - 17 Days	July 15 - 31, 2009	Itinerary and Pricing
Kenya - 17 Days	September 6-22, 2009	Itinerary and Pricing
Tanzania and Kenya - 17 Days	February 5-21, 2010	Prices coming in April
Tanzania and Kenya - 17 Days	July 14-30, 2010	Prices coming in April
Kenya - 17 Days	Aug. 29- Sept. 14, 2010	Prices coming in April

There are a few spaces still available on the July and September 2009 safaris. For the September trip I have a very nice woman looking to share a room with another very nice person to save the price of a single supplement. Reserve your spaces early to avoid being left out.

Rather than just guessing high on next years prices we are waiting until the lodges and airlines quote us their prices. This way we can give you the best trips at the best prices. Thank you for your patience.

A herd of Reticulated giraffe cautiously made their way to the watering hole at Sweetwaters Private Reserve for some serious drinking. This led to exciting entertainment for the photographers and everyone else too!



Protecting the Vulnerable
Canon EOS 1D Mark III, 100-400mm f/5.6 IS
Copyright: Paul Renner 2009

After gulping some water, giraffe will often raise their head quickly, causing water to spill out. It is always fun trying to catch the action.



Giraffe Drinking

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

Copyright: Paul Renner 2009

As often happens with young men who have had too much to drink, these two young males seemingly put the gloves on and started battering each other. Fortunately, no one sustained serious injuries.



Giraffes Fighting

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

Copyright: Paul Renner 2009

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!)



- 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 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 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!

In days gone by Greater Kudu were often sought after and hunted by big game trophy hunters for their magnificent horns. These animals are very shy and elusive. These days they are seen only on rare occasions. We found this male in Samburu near the Uaso Nyiro River. I was thrilled when, just for a moment, he stepped out of a thicket into a clearing and posed for us before disappearing back into the brush!



Greater Kudu

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

Copyright: Paul Renner 2009

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. This appeared to be a tender moment between these two. They had just finished mating and then remained very affectionate for some time afterwards. The male is on the right.



Hippo Kiss

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

As usual, the birds were spectacular! I am always amazed at the variety of species and the many bold colors. The Roller has always been one of my favorites!



Female Lilac Breasted Roller

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

At Lake Nakuru we found that many of the flamingos had moved out to other soda lakes in the Rift Valley. The white pelicans and many other birds were there in good numbers and we were able to get good bird photos.



White Pelican
Canon EOS 1D Mark III 400mm f/5.6 IS
Copyright: Paul Renner 2009

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.



Flat Top Acacia at Sunset
Canon EOS 1D Mark III, 100-400mm f/5.6 IS
Copyright: Paul Renner 2009

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 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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