

Photo Safaris by Paul Renner

Links

- ↳ [Safaris](#)
- ↳ [Newsletters](#)
- ↳ [Gallery](#)
- ↳ [Workshops](#)
- ↳ [Exhibits](#)
- ↳ [Movie](#)
- ↳ [Shop](#)
- ↳ [Links](#)
- ↳ [About](#)
- ↳ [Contact](#)
- ↳ [Client Quotes](#)
- ↳ [Home](#)



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NEWSLETTER](#)

African Photo Safari

I've just returned from leading another African photo safari to Kenya and Tanzania followed by a visit to the mountain gorillas in Rwanda. We had outstanding photo opportunities with the big cats - leopards, lions and cheetahs as they were plentiful in the Masai Mara. There were many more good sightings of lions and cheetahs in the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater! The migration, as usual, was amazing!



Leopard in the Mara

Canon EOS 7D. Lens: Canon 100-400mm f/4.5-5.6L IS USM
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Newsletter Highlights:

Kenya and Tanzania Photos from February 2010 Safari
Gorilla Trekking in Rwanda - see the photos



Coming Clean

Canon EOS 1D Mark III, Lens: Canon 100-400mm f/4.5-5.6L IS USM

Copyright: Paul Renner 2010

"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 ~

On our safaris we have only three passengers per vehicle. This allows plenty of space for you and your equipment during game drives and also the advantage of being able to watch and photograph the animals until you are satisfied or, as in the next photo, until the leopard in Kenya's Masai Mara moves on.

"Begin doing what
you want to do now.
We are not living in
eternity. We have only
this moment, sparkling
like a star in our hand -
and melting like a
snowflake..."
~ Francis Bacon!~



Leopard Yawn

Canon EOS 1D Mark III, Lens: Canon 100-400mm f/4.5-5.6L IS USM
Copyright: Paul Renner 2010



Looking Back

If you enjoy my photos and would like to learn photography while having the ultimate safari experience, consider joining me on an African photo safari. In addition I offer exciting photography workshop in the U.S. I am also available for private lessons. Contact me at paulrenner3@cox.net

Life is not measured
by the number of
breaths we take, but
by the number of
moments that take our
breath away.
~anonymous



Baby Vervet Monkey

Canon EOS-1D Mark III, Lens: Canon 100-400mm f/4.5-5.6L IS USM
Copyright: Paul Renner 2010

We enjoyed watching this family of Masai giraffe, very much at home on the plains.

Links

- ⌘ [Safaris](#)
- ⌘ [Newsletters](#)
- ⌘ [Gallery](#)



Giraffe Family

Canon EOS 7D, Lens: Canon 18 -135mm
Copyright: Paul Renner 2010

In Ngorongoro Crater we were excitedly watching a newborn wildebeest calf, only about twenty minutes old. With legs still weak and trembling, it struggled to its feet and shortly began walking and then running around its mother. Suddenly, a lone hyena showed up hoping for an easy meal. Fortunately for the calf and its mother, a wildebeest bull came to the rescue and charged the hyena a few times causing it to retreat to the tall grass about 50 yards away. Soon the wildebeest (not known for their intelligence) forgot about the hyena and the bull went off with the rest of the herd leaving the mother and baby alone. Each time the hyena returned for the calf, the mother would lunge at it until she was obviously becoming tired. Just when it looked like the hyena would finally take the calf, it had a change of heart and wandered off in search of an easier meal. That was one lucky wildebeest calf. We moved on with a great sense of relief!



Links

Upcoming African Photo Safaris

2010 and 2011 African Photo Safaris

Tanzania and Kenya-17 Days Sold Out	February 8 - 24, 2010	Itinerary and Pricing
Rwanda Gorilla Trek Sold Out	February 24 - March 3, 2010	Itinerary and Pricing
Tanzania and Kenya -17 Days Sold Out	July 14 - 30, 2010	Itinerary and Pricing
Kenya - 17 Days	Aug. 29 - Sept. 14, 2010	Itinerary and Pricing
Tanzania and Kenya - 16 Days	Jan. 29 - Feb.13, 2011	Details
Botswana - Sold Out	May 27 - June 8, 2011	Details
Tanzania and Kenya - 17 Days	July 21- Aug.6, 2011	Details

This years safaris are selling well. February and July trips are sold out. To avoid disappointment, make your reservations today. To reserve your space on our photo safari, please call Paul Renner at (949) 295-3136, or email him at paulrenner3@cox.net.

You can also call Prem Sharma at Somak Safaris (800) 757- 6625.

Photo workshops 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 addition to my African safaris, I lead photography workshops in spectacular places right here in the United States.



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Wind and Water

Central California Coast

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 spectacular locations. [Click here for details.](#)

Workshop schedule:

California Central Coast	April 12-16, 2010
California Eastern Sierras	July 5 - 9, 2010
Death Valley	January 2011 Contact us for information

Paul Renner at (949) 295-3136

Email: paulrenner3@cox.net

We found this family of cheetahs hanging out on the hillsides just above the Mara River and below the Mara Serena Lodge. Members of our group were lucky to see them hunt three times (successfully twice) during our stay at the lodge.



Cheetah Family On Termite Mound

Canon EOS 7D, Lens: Canon 400mm -5.6L USM

Copyright: Paul Renner 2010

On one of the hunts, the gazelle spotted them coming and nervously made a break for it, jumping and leaping as they ran. The herd of bachelor impala in the background, stood their ground until they too, ran away in a more dignified manner.

"I had always wanted an adventurous life. It took a long time to realize that I was the only one who was going to make an adventurous life happen to me."

~Richard Bach~

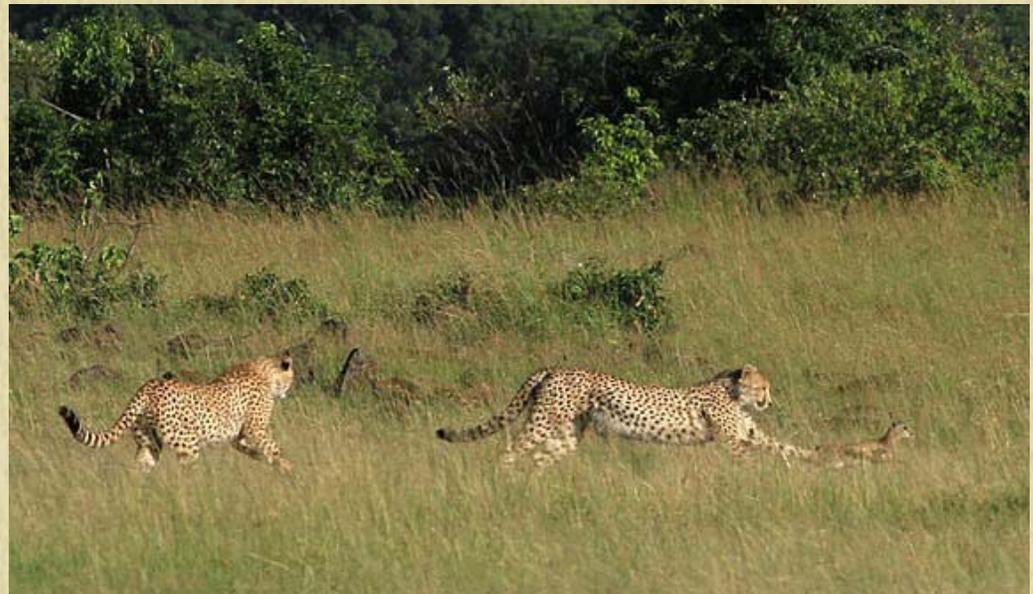


Gazelle Running From Cheetahs

Canon EOS 7D, Lens: Canon 400mm -5.6L USM

Copyright: Paul Renner 2010

But the cheetahs had already selected their prey, a young Thompson gazelle. It is always thrilling to see cheetahs reaching their top speed of between 60 and 70 MPH for a quarter of a mile . It almost doesn't seem fair until you remember that the gazelle can run up to 55 MPH. The gazelle also have the added advantage of being able to navigate sharp turns instantly and effortlessly.



Making for the Catch

Canon EOS 7D, Lens: Canon 400mm -5.6L USM

Copyright: Paul Renner 2010

We had seen this big male lion just after sunrise as it strolled down the hill and then disappeared into a thicket. The commotion of the cheetahs catching the small gazelle roused him out of its nap and he ran down toward cheetahs. It was no match! He easily chased them away and stole their meal. Luckily for the cheetahs, at least they were unharmed.



Making the catch, doesn't always mean you get to eat it!
Canon EOS-1D Mark III, Lens: Canon 100-400mm f/4.5-5.6L IS USM
Copyright: Paul Renner 2010

Important information about our African photo safaris:

- **Prices for our safaris to Kenya and Tanzania 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!
- 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 our Safaris we stay in first class luxury lodges and camps.
[For information and photos of the lodges and accommodations click here.](#)

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by the number of
moments that take our
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~anonymous

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 up to 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!

A Glimpse into the Mountain Gorillas of Rwanda



First Glimpse

Canon EOS-1D Mark III, Lens: Canon 100-400mm f/4.5-5.6L IS USM
Copyright: Paul Renner 2010

I have no doubt, that for as long as I live, I will always remember my first encounter with the wild and free mountain gorillas in the Virunga Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda.

We had been hiking through the dense rainforest with our guides hacking their way through the entangling vines and branches using razor-sharp machetes to cut a path for us. The guide signaled us to stop and said quietly "We are close to them now". He pointed toward the ground at what appeared to be a giant bird's nest. Then he raised his eyes, and looked upward into the stand of bamboo at another, then another giant nest. He told us that the gorillas make nests each night when they are ready to sleep. The silverback stays in the nest on the ground so he can protect the family from approaching danger as they sleep in the nests hung in the trees above.

He signaled for us to get our cameras out of our backpacks, which the porters had carried for us, and get ready to photograph the gorillas. We still had a short distance

This is your world.
Shape it or someone
else will. ~Gary Lew~

to hike, but as we made our way up the steep hill, I saw through the trees, the distinct shape of a large gorilla making its way along the ridge. My heart began to race! I was about to come face to face with a gorilla in the wild! It was something I had always dreamed of and it was about to come true! A few steps later, we came upon this baby looking a little curious and possibly wondering what we were so interested in.



Looking Coy

Canon EOS-1D Mark III, Lens: Canon 100-400mm f/4.5-5.6L IS USM
Copyright: Paul Renner 2010

Our first day with the mountain gorillas we were scheduled to visit the Kwitonda family, a group of nineteen gorillas, named after their dominant giant male silverback weighing in at over 400 pounds. To ensure that the gorillas are not overly stressed by human contact, after the trackers and guides get you into the gorillas presence, tourists are allowed to spend 60 minutes with them.



Mother and Baby

Canon EOS-1D Mark III, Lens: Canon 100-400mm f/4.5-5.6L IS USM
Copyright: Paul Renner 2010

I watched and photographed in awe, scarcely daring to breath and not speaking. I was mesmerized by these magnificent creatures that were peacefully sharing their now limited world with us. At one point, with my camera mounted on the tripod, I was photographing the family before me when I sensed a presence behind me. I slowly turned around and saw this female waiting patiently, not more than three feet behind me. I had my set up my tripod in a small clearing on the path. When she came out of the thick bamboo behind me, she waited while I lifted the tripod and moved out of her way, then walked within eighteen inches of me to rejoin the family group I was photographing.



Links

- ε [Safaris](#)
- ε [Newsletters](#)
- ε [Gallery](#)
- ε [Workshops](#)
- ε [Exhibits](#)
- ε [Movie](#)
- ε [Shop](#)
- ε [Links](#)
- ε [About](#)
- ε [Contact](#)
- ε [Client Quotes](#)
- ε [Home](#)

On each of our four visits, we witnessed very different behaviors. We got to see babies snuggling with their mothers and father, babies playing with babies, adolescents at play, babies playing with adults, breastfeeding. On our third day we witnessed a brawl between two groups as one silverback tried to move his family in on another's territory to steal his females. He picked the wrong family and after a long fifteen minutes of fighting with the other silverback he was forced to take his family and retreat back up the mountain from where he had come. During the fight between the silverbacks, each of the mothers had quickly gathered her baby into her arms and clung to it tightly keeping it safely out of danger. Even with all of the yelling and screaming between the families, we ourselves were never once threatened by any of the gorillas. To the contrary, our guides kept encouraging us to keep taking pictures. The actual fight took place in the almost totally dark undercover of thick bamboo where good photos were impossible to capture.



Snack Time

Canon EOS-1D Mark III, Lens: Canon 100-400mm f/4.5-5.6L IS USM
Copyright: Paul Renner 2010

Visiting the mountain gorillas had been on my "bucket list" for a long time, so it didn't take much coaxing when my friend, photographer and co-leader on this photo adventure, Doug Steakley, who had been there before, suggested we lead a gorilla trek together.

We trekked in to the gorillas on four different days, enabling us to spend an hour with each of four family groups. As we watched the families, there were usually gorillas foraging for food in the trees and bamboo completely surrounding us. I had never expected to be so welcomed into their family as they allowed us into their lives and forest home allowing us to visit among them with scarcely so much as an occasional glance. They showed no fear. It was as though they actually trusted us! Amazing! I was thrilled beyond words!



Smug and Secure

Canon EOS-1D Mark III, Lens: Canon 100-400mm f/4.5-5.6L IS USM
Copyright: Paul Renner 2010

I will be leading another gorilla trek in September of 2011. If you are seriously interested in joining me, please contact me ASAP for details. This last trek sold out in only a few days, so don't delay and be disappointed. Contact me by phone at (949) 295-3136 or by email at: paulrenner3@cox.net This will be an experience of a lifetime!

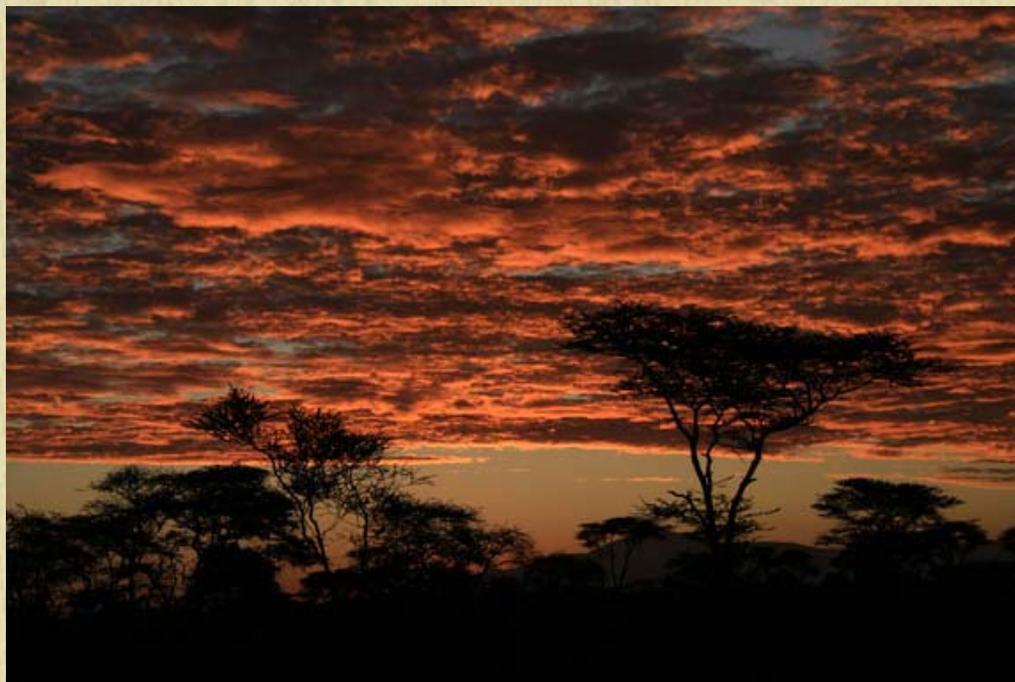


Giant Silverback Kwitonda

Canon EOS-1D Mark III, Lens: Canon 100-400mm f/4.5-5.6L IS USM
Copyright: Paul Renner 2010

Africa is well known 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.



Serengeti Sunrise

Canon EOS 7D, Lens: Canon 18 -135mm
Copyright: Paul Renner 2010

Our African photo safaris really are the trip of a lifetime! I am so thankful 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 soon!"

I hope you will consider joining me on an African photo safari in the soon. 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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[\(top\)](#)

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2010

[March 2010](#)

[January/February 2010](#)

2009

[December 2009](#)

[November 2009](#)

[September 2009](#)

[August 2009](#)

[July 2009](#)

[May 2009](#)

[March 2009](#)

[January-February 2009](#)

2008

[January 2008](#)

[April 2008](#)

[June 2008](#)

[July 2008](#)

[August 2008](#)

[October 2008](#)

[December 2008](#)

[Holiday Edition 2008](#)

2007

[January 2007](#)

[April 2007](#)

[May 2007](#)

[July 2007](#)

[August 2007](#)

[September 2007](#)

[October 2007](#)

[November 2007](#)

[December 2007](#)

2006

[October 2006](#)

[November 2006](#)

[December 2006](#)

[\(top\)](#)

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