



African Safari Newsletter

December 2008

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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

Memories from recent safaris.



A Little Help

Canon 1D-Mark III: Canon EF 400 f/5.6 L USM

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This little elephant was crossing the river when suddenly it began floundering in the water. Mom was close behind and gave a gentle lift and push with her trunk, helping it to safely finish crossing the river.



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Elephants In The Serengeti

Canon 1D Mark III: Canon 100-400 IS
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Elephants and Acacia trees always make for interesting photo opportunities, especially with the beautiful, white puffy clouds over the Serengeti.

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

~ Brian Jackman

Upcoming 2009 Safari Schedule

Tanzania and Kenya - 18 Days	February 10 - 27, 2009	Itinerary and Pricing
Tanzania and Kenya - 17 Days	July 15 - 31, 2009	Itinerary and Pricing
Kenya - 17 Days	September 6-22, 2009	Itinerary and Pricing

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

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 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,
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.



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African Bull Elephant
Canon 1D Mark III: Canon 17-40mm USM
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As this bad boy came to the lodge he wandered right up to our cabins to graze on the lush vegetation growing between our rooms and the bank of the Uaso Nyiro River. I took this at 33mm. Fortunately for me, elephants can't jump. There was a short stone wall between us. I made certain that I stayed out of reach of his trunk. Seemingly, very comfortable with our cameras and not bothered by our curiosity, he grazed with in a few feet from us for a good half hour. For me, it was a spiritual experience to be so close to a wild African bull elephant as he shared his world with us. He grazed peacefully and showed us no aggression.

Samburu Village

We enjoy photographing people in the villages we visit. My groups are given special attention because of the fact that I am a white man on the tourist circuit that speaks fluent Swahili. On a recent visit to the Samburu village, I asked the gentleman showing us around if many of the other tour leaders spoke Swahili. He said "Not too many. There was a man here about a year ago that did." That was the time frame that I had last been to the village. I am not sure that it was me, but my clients find a higher level of comfort knowing that I was born and raised there and also speak the local language.



Samburu Photographer
Canon 1D Mark III: Canon 28-105 USM
Copyright 2007, Paul Renner

The native people have always been friendly and willing to let us take all of the photos we want. They are proud of their heritage and enjoy sharing their culture with us.



Samburu Woman and Her Baby
Canon 1D Mark III: Canon 28-105 USM
Copyright 2008, Paul Renner

They are eager to pose for our photographs.



Samburu Warrior
Canon 1D Mark III: Canon 100-400 IS
Copyright 2007, Paul Renner



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!

Our 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!"



Bringing Home The Flock

Canon 20D: Canon 28-105 USM

Copyright 2007, Paul Renner

Towards the end of each day the young men and children, who have been entrusted with caring for and protecting the livestock, bring them home and herd them into the "boma" for protection from predators. A boma is a corral made of thorn bushes piled up to create a wall or barrier which keeps the livestock safe from predators such as lion, leopards and hyenas.



Got Milk?

Canon 20D: Canon 28-105 USM
Copyright 2007, Paul Renner

Each day the owners milk the female animals to obtain milk needed for their families. In this harsh dry climate the animals yield small amounts of milk.



The Best Of Times

Canon 1D-Mark III: Canon 28-105 USM
Copyright 2008, Paul Renner

These children appeared to be enjoying time spent with each other. At least for me it is times like this when simple pleasures create the best of memories.



Camel Riders

Canon 1D-Mark III: Canon 28-105 USM
Copyright 2008, Paul Renner

These fellows brought their camel to the lodge for people to ride. They did get a few takers.



Am I Supposed To Drink This Stuff?
Canon 1D-Mark III: Canon EF 100-400 IS
Copyright 2008, Paul Renner

A thin layer of quickly growing green plants covered the pond making it difficult for the giraffe to get a needed drink of water. We passed by the pond later in the day and the wind had blown the plants to one side of the pond making it easier for the animals to drink.



Mother and Newborn Foal
Canon 1D-Mark III: Canon EF 400 f/5.6 L USM
Copyright 2008, Paul Renner

This baby appeared to have been born earlier in the day. Its fur was still damp and its umbilical chord was still there.



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Watchful Eye

Canon 1D-Mark III: Canon 100-400 IS
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The animals in the parks are used to the vehicles, therefore we often get close up photos without using super long lenses. This zebra stood just a few feet from the vehicle.



Topi

Canon 1D-Mark III: Canon 100-400 IS
Copyright 2008, Paul Renner

Topi are rather curious creatures. They have a beautiful brown coat with gun metal blue-grey markings on their thighs and shoulders. Their appearance is quite similar to that of the hartebeest.



Waterbuck and Crowned Plover
Canon 20D: Canon 100-400mm IS
Copyright 2007, Paul Renner

Occasionally we see the strangest of friends!



Say Ahhhh
Canon 1D-Mark III: Canon EF 400 f/5.6 L USM
Copyright 2008, Paul Renner

Art Show Season is still in full swing!

Click [here](#) to see if I will be at a show near you . I would love to have you stop by for a visit or come to see my latest work

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.



Acacia Tree at Sunset
Canon 1D Mark III: Canon EF 400 f/5.6 L USM
Copyright 2008, Paul Renner

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 2009?

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

Enjoy each day and have a wonderful holiday season,
Paul

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