

SIGNATURE

The Diners Club International Magazine



THE GREATEST WILDLIFE
SHOW ON EARTH

*Tanzania's
Wildebeest Migration*

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INTERNATIONAL

THE GREATEST WILDLIFE SHOW ON EARTH

*The Great Migration in East Africa
is the World's Quintessential Wildlife Experience*

Award-winning responsible travel company Ker & Downey Africa share why the Great Migration in East Africa is the perfect post-COVID escape for 2022 and beyond.

One of the most significant surges in travel trends is the desire to seek out remote destinations and rediscover the magnificent beauty of our planet. And having someone by your side as you travel into this new world is priceless.

Widely known as “The Greatest Wildlife Show on Earth”, the Great Migration in East Africa is the world’s quintessential wildlife experience that sees millions of wildebeest, zebra, and other antelope species make the treacherous journey across Tanzania



and Kenya each year.

Moving through some of the most magnificent ecosystems on the planet, the endless migratory circuit sees the animals cross the rolling plains of Serengeti National Park in Tanzania to Kenya’s Masai Mara Game Reserve in search of better grazing and water.

Contrary to popular belief, the Great Migration is a year-round spectacle. The

calving season (late January to mid-March) sees the animals giving birth to future generations to continue the circle of life and keep the migration alive. Each month of the year offers a unique experience of this bucket list event.

Join the team as they take you on a migration adventure like no other, following the pitfalls, triumphs and sheer determination of the herds as they

contend with hair-raising obstacles and carnivorous predators at every turn.

NEW LIFE EMERGES - JANUARY TO MARCH

In January, the bulk of the herd of Great Migration has just completed an epic southward trek to the lush plains of the southern Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater Area in Tanzania.

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sees hordes of animals plunging
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The seasonal rains have sufficiently watered the fresh green grass, providing bountiful nutrients for the new members. It is the birthing season, and between late January and early March, almost half a million new calves will be born. The sheer abundance of the new, vulnerable members of the herd provides a perfect opportunity for lurking predators to pounce. Spend your days on game drives through the extinct volcano of the Ngorongoro Crater, which becomes the perfect hunting grounds for big cats, making for some dramatic wildlife action.

THE TREK COMMENCES - APRIL TO JUNE

In April, the once grassy plains in the south have now become exhausted from grazing, and movement is in full, albeit slow, swing. The surviving young of the herd start to gather strength, and mammoth columns of wildebeest, zebra and antelope stream through the Moru Kopjes in the central Serengeti towards the Western Corridor. Mating (or rutting) season is also well underway during this period.

Towards the end of May, the bulk of



the herd can be found congregating on the banks of the Grumeti River. This crossing, which takes place throughout June, is the first significant migration obstacle.

ONLY THE STRONGEST SURVIVE - JULY, AUGUST

With the Grumeti River in their wake, the surviving herd make their way towards the northern Serengeti – the allure of Kenya’s Masai Mara and fresh grasslands edging them along, despite the perilous dangers that lie ahead. They eventually find themselves at the great Mara River. This is where survival of the fittest is put to the ultimate test.

The notorious Mara River crossing sees hordes of animals plunging frantically into dangerous waters, resulting in a bloody spectacle that is not for the faint of heart. As ravenous Nile crocodiles snap mercilessly at the herds, vultures, marabou storks, hyenas, and other predators clog the riverbanks waiting to feast on corpses or injured survivors. This dramatic display of the cycle of life and death draws masses of crowds each year and is a once-in-a-lifetime bucket list experience for avid wildlife travellers across the globe.

BORDER CROSSING - SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER

After the gruelling events of the Mara River, the majority of survivors enjoy some respite in Kenya’s Masai Mara National Park. While some stragglers are still enduring the hazardous crossing, most can be found grazing on lush green grass, regaining their strength after the exhausting expedition. Both September and October enjoy mild weather and a slowing down of the migration, which means there is a good chance of seeing some big herds – and hungry predators hot on their heels.

THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER - NOVEMBER, DECEMBER

The search for green pastures continues, and as the smell of new rain from the southern Serengeti permeates the air again, the herds find themselves drawn back to where it all began. Moving at a quicker pace to reach the southern plains as the first grassroots start to shoot, columns of animals and thundering hooves permeate the landscape. By December, their efforts are rewarded by a blanket of fresh grass as they return to the plains of

their birth. Here, the cycle of life will begin once again.

The team at Ker & Downey Africa offer an exclusive set of Great Wildebeest Migration LuxVenture trips, tailored to ensure an unforgettable experience that places you at the very heart of the action of this truly wild event.

To find out more, please visit ker-downeyafrica.com, or follow @kerdowneyafrica on social media. Contact enquiries@ker-downeyafrica.com or call +27 21 201 2484. ⑩