



FACTS ABOUT THE MIGRATION • THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH

December, January, February, March: *The Serengeti National Park / Ngorongoro Conservation Area is arguably the most impressive wildlife sanctuary in the world. During the months December through March the seemingly unending plains of the southern Serengeti and the Conservation Area are inhabited by enormous herds of wildebeest and zebra. The great herds graze on rain ripened grass. Some say this is the best time to visit the Serengeti. This is the area we will be in in Feb/March.*

April, May: During the months April and May the depleted plains are unable to sustain the endless herds. The migration, sweeping west and north, moves from the short grass plains of the southern Serengeti / Ngorongoro Conservation Area to the long grass plains and woodland of the Serengeti's western Corridor, almost to Lake Victoria. This period is during the long rains and is considered off season for wildlife viewing in east Africa as roads are often impassable. Ndotu Safari Lodge, Kusini Camp and the Serengeti Serena Lodge are fine for wildlife viewing during this time. So are campsites in the Ndotu/Naabi area.

June: By the end of May the wildebeest have exhausted the Western Corridor's best pastures and the herds must move further north. Entering the Lamai Wedge and the Mara Triangle breeding occurs May through June. This is a transitional period between the rains and the dry season. Faru Faru River Lodge, Sasakwa Hill Lodge, Sabora Plains Tented Camp, Grumeti River Camp, Migration Camp, and Kirawira Camp are good options for viewing the migration at this time. Seronera and Moru area campsites are best.

July, August, September, October: By July the countless herds have amassed along the swollen Mara River - a final barrier from the short sweet grasses of the Masai Mara. Sometimes the crossing place they have chosen is shallow allowing the majority of animals to pass safely. In other areas the waters boil with drowning wildebeest and slashing crocodiles. Please note that the vast majority of travelers do not witness the wildebeest crossing of the Mara as the timing and duration varies widely each year - in years of little rain very few wildebeest cross the Mara River into Kenya. Between July and October the wildebeest reside in the northern Serengeti and Masai Mara. As the Mara is terribly crowded I often recommend northern Serengeti properties such as Sayari, Bushtops, Migration Camp, or a mobile camp in the Kogatende area. These properties offer the chance to see the wildebeest crossing the Mara River in a pristine environment.

November: The arrival of the short rains call the migration southward. During the short rains of November the wildebeest migration is best viewed from Klein's Camp. Campsites in the Lobo area are best. As November ends the migration is making its way back to the southern Serengeti and early in the year they once again give birth. The circle of life is complete. *Note - the migration is a natural event and the timing varies month by month; year by year.

Reference: http://www.ultimateafrica.com/travel/Wildebeest_migration.html