Catch the Spectacle As the Great Wildebeest Migration Unfolds Once Again In Kenya

The wildebeest migration is one of the most stunning natural phenomena in the world, which draws thousands of tourists and wildlife enthusiasts each year. It is the world’s longest and largest overland migration where the herd travels a total of 500 miles (800km) or more, during each cycle.

They are additionally known as "swarm intelligence" because they work together to systematically explore and overcome obstacles regardless of appearing to be in a confused frenzy. The migration is a testament to the resilience and adaptability of wildlife to the ecosystem as they traverse from Serengeti in Tanzania northwards into the Masai Mara Reserve through the crocodile-infested Mara River.

Facts about the Wildebeest Migration

1. The best time to visit Masai Mara to see the wildebeest migration is from mid-July to late August. The animals move in a circular motion depending on the rainfall and availability of the lush green pastures. However, migration takes place throughout the year.

2. The migration doesn’t only consist of wildebeest, but also zebras, antelopes i.e., impalas, Thompson’s gazelles, and elands.

3. Crossing the Mara River is the most dramatic and challenging aspect of the wildebeests’ migration as the river is home to predators such as crocodiles and hippos that attack and drown the herd as they cross. However, these are not the only predators in waiting as lions, cheetahs, leopards, and hyenas, follow the herds and prey on the weak, injured, or young animals hence experiencing the migration makes an unforgettable game adventure.
4. The wildebeest and zebras are both grazers, the wildebeest feed on grass shoots (short grass) while the zebras have no preference. They consume the fresh tall grass, this factor enables them to thrive and coexist together during the migration. Read more facts about the wildebeest migration.

The wildebeest migration is a significant driver of tourism in Kenya, providing substantial revenue for the country. Tourists are encouraged to practice responsible tourism by;

- Choosing eco-friendly accommodations that prioritize sustainable practices, such as solar power, waste management, and water conservation.
- Respect wildlife and keep a safe distance to avoid approaching or disturbing animals. Do not feed them or attempt to interact with wildlife directly.
• Stick to designated trails and roads to minimize damage to the natural habitat and prevent disruption of the wildlife corridors.
• Reduce waste and dispose of trash responsibly in designated areas, and recycle where possible. Alternatively, tourists can use reusable water bottles and bags.
• Keeping noise levels low and avoiding the use of flash photography, as sudden bright lights and loud sounds distress wildlife.
• Select tour operators that follow ethical guidelines and practice responsible wildlife viewing, conservation, and community involvement.
• Support local communities by purchasing locally-made products and supporting community-based initiatives through volunteering, donation or sponsorship, etc.
• Traveling in smaller groups and carpooling (where possible) to reduce carbon footprint and impact on the environment and wildlife.

Beyond its sheer spectacle, the wildebeest migration plays a crucial role in the ecosystem, revitalizing the grasslands, supporting other herbivores, and sustaining predator populations. When we adopt these responsible and sustainable tourism practices, we contribute to preserving the incredible wildlife and habitats during the wildebeest migration, positively impacting the environment and promoting the local economies.