

ANNUAL CYCLE OF THE GREAT MIGRATION

RIVER CROSSING

After months of dry weather, the herds are lean, having stripped the northern plains of food sources. Dramatic crossings through the Mara River occur in the months when the herds' hunger outstrips their fear of the dangerous, croc-infested waters.

RIVER CROSSING

If you cross once, you have to cross again! The herds make another go of the perilous river crossing back towards the southern plains. Sometimes the herds cross several times!

ON THE MOVE

As the grasses get drier and the food and water supply diminishes, the group heads north. River crossings can begin as early as July, when the first of the herds approach the Grumeti River.

THE RUT

After the bounty of the green season, wildebeest are healthy... and attractive. That's when the annual rut takes place, a mass breeding event on the Serengeti's southern plains.

HEAVY RAINS

"April showers" take on a much different meaning in the Serengeti. Heavy rains occur all month long, causing the herds – and their calves – to migrate up north.

CALVING

During the height of the green season, nearly half a million animals will give birth to wobbly calves. Within hours these babies are able to follow the herds on their own, but they're still vulnerable to predators.

DRY SEASON ENDS

Finally, the group gets some relief from the 6-month long drought. Short rains and greener grasses lure the herds back to the southern Serengeti.

SOUTH BOUND

The plentiful food and water supply is much appreciated, especially among the females, who are in the late stages of pregnancy in these months. They make their way to the southern-most point of their journey to give birth.

