



**Bob
Brind-Surch**
Natures
Photos

Masai Mara Migration special 2014

**A photographic workshop to
experience the famous Wildebeest
migration in Kenya's Masai Mara.**



**Bob Brind-Surch in association with
Safari Consultants**



The Rolling Plains of Africa

The famous Masai Mara Wildebeest migration.



The Great Wildebeest Migration is often described as one of the “Seven Wonders of the Natural World” and has been the subject of many a stirring TV program or film. Join me Bob Brind-Surch to experience and, under my expert guidance, photograph this for yourself.

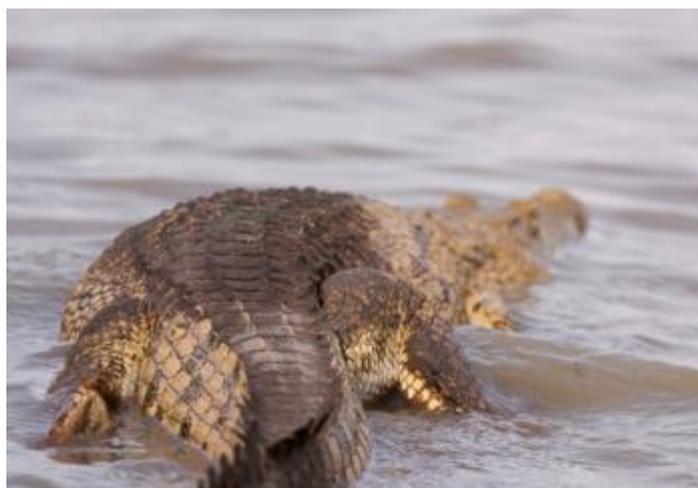
Nowhere else on land is there a movement of animals as immense as this, over two million migrate from the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania to the greener pastures of the Masai Mara National Reserve in Kenya during July through to October. This is an annual wildlife spectacular not to be missed! Each year 1.5 million Wildebeest and 300,000 Zebra with a

supporting cast of Antelope make their long trek from Tanzania’s Serengeti Plains north to Kenya’s famous Masai Mara National Reserve in a constant cycle following the rains and food. At one point the migration has to cross the mighty Mara River and its tributaries where crocodiles and other predators wait to feast on those unlucky enough to get caught. Those that manage to cross will then be hunted, stalked, and run down by the larger carnivores of which the area is famous. The Masai Mara has one of the largest densities of lion and other big cats in the world and is without doubt Africa’s most famous safari destination. The sheer numbers of prey species at this time of year bring out every kind of behavior in the predators and especially the cats and often some spectacular action can be seen.



Whilst the migration and the attendant predators will be primary focus on this trip the area is also home to an unbelievable concentration of wildlife and has become well known for having featured in many excellent TV programmes. These include the BBC’s long running “Big Cat Diaries” and “Big Cat Week” as well as the more recent Disney Nature’s “African Cats”. Migration crossings and the big cats will definitely be on our agenda but we will also have ample opportunities to photograph the wide variety of other wildlife this area supports.

With many years’ experience of East Africa and photographing its wildlife I have specifically designed this trip for the enthusiastic wildlife photographers interested in experiencing this natural spectacle, learning more about their camera and at the same time capturing some memorable images.



The trip will be limited to a maximum of 8 guests and maybe less. We’ll be staying at Kicheche Bush Camp a small, classic, intimate, luxury tented camp completely unfenced, amongst stunning whistling thorn acacias. The ultra low-impact spread of six guests tents in the trees and low escarpment beyond, provide the perfect hideaway in this outstanding wilderness. Kicheche Bush Camp is located in the Masai Mara within the Olare Motorogi Conservancy and bordering main the Reserve. I have chosen it for this trip precisely because it offers very high standards of accommodation, cuisine and



wildlife guiding. Further the Conservancy, through its strict limit on bed numbers, offers an incomparable game viewing experience without the crowds associated with some of the much larger camps within the main reserve. Located in a prime wildlife area and game viewing starts at your doorstep. The location is also ideal to enjoy the wildebeest migration being much nearer the "action" than many others. With just six tents you will experience a truly individual and tailored approach to our safari whilst enjoying the wilderness experience in extreme comfort. As one guest put it "the

camp managers, Darren and Emma, make you so welcome you think you are visiting their home". The custom designed tents are spacious, fully insect-proof and equipped with full size hand made Podocarpus wood beds, Egyptian cotton linen, bedside tables, luggage racks, Indian rugs and 24hour solar lighting. Bathrooms are en-suite and are equipped with a dresser, safari bucket shower, a flushing toilet and a washbasin with running water. There are very comfortable chairs on the veranda of each tent where you can watch the world go by. Informal dining is hosted in the mess tent or around the campfire. Delicious English Breakfasts, light Lunches and three course Dinners are served each evening. Whilst not out game viewing you can relax in the bar and mess tent, with comfortable sofas, a writing desk and library with wildlife picture and guide books.

Despite being in the middle of the African bush the camp has fully trained chefs who prepare excellent fresh food every day. All meals and drinks are inclusive in your stay and taken al-fresco, beneath the shade of the acacia trees or underneath the stars or in the main dining tent. The camp has a fully stocked bar with a range of wines and spirits. Drinks are included with the meals and picnic breakfasts and lunches are also available on game driving excursions. This really is camping in style and in an area that provides for unparalleled game viewing. Four of the 'Big Five' - Lion, Leopard, Elephant and Buffalo are all seen regularly around camp, and the valley never fails to provide many other superb game viewing opportunities. Most importantly for me and for our photography, the camp is far away from other large and busy lodges. Unrestricted by the National Park rules, we can, if we wish, enjoy full day game drives as well as evening drives (pre-dinner) in custom-built Land Cruisers. We will also enjoy fabulous bush breakfasts, picnics and the famous Kenyan sundowner. The area provides so much game viewing, that we do not have a set itinerary for each day and the camp is ideally situated to allow us to easily access the Mara river to 'target any' migration river crossings that are occurring. Our guides will be in radio contact with other guides at all the known crossing points and we are only a short drive away from most of them. Whilst the primary aim of this trip is to see a migration crossing these cannot be guaranteed although by spending longer than many other trips do in the area we will considerably increase the likelihood of seeing at least one and maybe more.

Throughout our stay we will have our own specially adapted 4WD safari vehicles with a highly experienced local driver/guide. These are completely open vehicles and I limit the number per vehicle to 4 so as to provide



excellent photographic opportunities and allow you to enjoy being out in this a true wilderness. I choose drivers and local guides for this trip who are well versed in the requirements of photographers. They know when and where to stop their vehicles, how to best position them for the available light and are prepared to wait in any location for as long as you require. They are also more than prepared to experiment with different vehicle positions so long as this doesn't stress the animals you are photographing. The animal's welfare comes first and stressed animals never make good photographs.

As well as being an experienced photographic guide and naturalist I am a qualified teacher and tutor able to support everyone from the novice photographer to those who are considerably more experienced. My aim is to help you capture this unique location and especially its wildlife. I know the area well and, working with the local guides, will be on hand at all times to help you master the field techniques required for competent safari photography. My goal is to make sure you have a rewarding time and help you to translate your experiences into great and memorable photographs. Working with you in the field and back at the camp, I will attempt to help you improve and refine your photographic skills and understand better digital photography techniques and how to achieve those special images.



During our stay we will also have an opportunity to learn more about the people and culture of the area and if required we can arrange an optional visits to a Masai village. It is also possible to take a nature walk with an experienced guide to learn more about the plant and insect life of the area. During the midday break in camp and after the evening meal I will ensure I am available for informal image viewing and critique on a laptop. If required and to supplement the guidance I am able to provide whilst out game viewing, I will provide ad-hoc tutorials on various aspects of photographic technique and equipment

The camp and route have been especially selected by me working with the UK based company and experts in the region, Safari Consultants. Choosing the right

company to arrange your African safari is vitally important and the complexity and remoteness of Africa means you need a company who have detailed knowledge and first-hand experience of the region. Safari Consultants are just such a company and provide me with an unrivalled service. Having specialised in safaris to East and Southern Africa since 1983 they are a company which wants to take the time to understand guests' requirements and desires and have the ability to create the perfect itinerary to match. This is exactly what I want for you and we have worked very well together for many years. The essence of this safari is that you can enjoy luxury combined with a real wilderness experience in both privacy and comfort whilst concentrating on game viewing and photography.

The trip will be limited to just 8 guests and the total cost will be **£4,499** per person (based on two people sharing). I strongly believe that the price I charge should include everything and unlike many other trips this **includes** all international flights on Kenya Air (economy). It also includes all ground and air transfers as specified, twin/double accommodation on full board basis, game-viewing activities, park/conservation fees as described, laundry on safari and UK and Kenyan airport departure taxes. For more information please refer to the itinerary details section below or contact me directly – contact details as follows.

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Before each trip I try to arrange a get together (guests locations permitting) and will issue you with full guidance on what you require regarding photographic equipment, pre-trip preparations e.g. clothing, weight limits, medications etc. any local requirements, how to prepare and what to expect whilst in Africa.

Bob Brind-Surch

Detailed Itinerary



Bob Brind-Surch

Kenya - a Bob Brind-Surch Natures Photos workshop to experience the famous wildebeest migration

Duration: 8 nights

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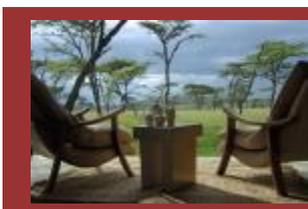
Sunday, 7 September 2014

Kenya Airways - London to Nairobi

1 night

Depart London Heathrow (Terminal 4) on the evening Kenya Airways flight, **KQ101 at 20h00**, to Nairobi, Kenya. Overnight in flight.

Monday, 8 September 2014



Kicheche Bush Camp, Masai Mara

7 nights - Full Board

Early morning arrival into Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, Nairobi (06h30). After clearing customs and immigration, you will be met and transferred across to the smaller Wilson Airport to check in for the scheduled mid-morning light aircraft flight to the famous rolling plains of the Masai Mara. On arrival, you will be met and transferred to Kicheche Bush Camp for seven nights' accommodation in twin/double tents.

Days are spent game-viewing and photographing in the Mara North Conservancy.

Kicheche Bush Camp is a 12 bed (6 tent) semi-permanent seasonal bush camp located in the Masai Mara within the [Olare Motorogi Conservancy](#) bordering the Reserve. The Conservancy, through its strict limit on bed numbers, offers an incomparable game viewing experience without crowds. Further information on the Conservancy is available [here](#). The camp is located in a prime wildlife area and game viewing starts at your doorstep. The location is also ideal to enjoy the wildebeest migration.

Guests are accommodated six spacious luxury tents, fully insect-proof, with en-suite bathrooms and a flushing toilet, running cold water and hot safari showers. Solar power is provided 24 hours to your tent and the comfortable verandah chairs are perfect to relax in and offer great views over the game-filled plains. One tent can be converted into a triple on request. There is a well furnished lounge and dining tent, although mealtimes are generally alfresco if weather permits. Activities include game drives by day in custom designed landrovers/land cruisers, bush breakfasts and sundowners. You will also have the opportunity to visit the local villages.

Conservation fees at Offbeat are paid to the Olare Motorogi Conservancy on whose land the camp is located. A separate reserve fee is required for every visit to the Mara reserve proper. Given we are targeting the migration 2 free park fees are included in the cost of this trip. Experience shows that this should prove adequate but if not further reserve fees will be due in camp. Whilst not targeting specific crossings we will enjoy excellent game viewing opportunities where due to the conservancies limit on vehicles better photographic opportunities exist than in the Mara reserve.

Monday , 15 September 2014

Kenya Airways - Nairobi to London

1 night

Morning at leisure for further game-viewing. After lunch, you will be transferred back to the airstrip where you connect with the scheduled mid-afternoon air transfer service, departing around 16h00, back to Wilson Airport, Nairobi. On arrival, you will be met and transferred to the Palacina's Moonflower Restaurant for an early 'farewell' dinner (own account).

Later, you will be transferred out to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport where you connect with your return Kenya Airways flight, **KQ102 at 23h45**, to London. Depart Nairobi, overnight in flight.

Tuesday, 16 September 2014

Kenya Airways - early arrival into London

Early morning arrival into London Heathrow (Terminal 4).

Costing Details and Notes:

This itinerary makes use of light aircraft air transfers which ordinarily have a strict baggage restriction of 15Kg per person. When organising these trips however I am aware of the particular needs of the photographers joining them and thus purchase an extra 'freight seat' allowing this additional resulting luggage allowance to be shared between all guests. This adds on average an extra of 9Kg per person making a total of 24Kg. This 'extra allowance' must not be exceeded but is a real benefit not offered on many trips. It does include hand luggage and all bags should be of the soft 'hold all' variety.

Included

International flights on Kenya Airways (economy); transfers in Nairobi; internal flights to the Masai Mara; twin/double/single accommodation as applicable on board basis mentioned; all game-viewing drives and nature walks; conservancy and park entrance fees; house drinks and laundry on safari; UK and Kenya airport departure taxes.

Not Included

Visa fees (currently US\$50.00 per person); gratuities and personal items; travel insurance; dinner in Nairobi (last evening).

Prices:

Per client: £4,499.00 per person based on two people sharing. If you are a single person booking this trip you do not have to pay single supplements providing you are happy to share. If you are travelling by yourself you will be paired with another single client of the same gender.

Deposit required to confirm arrangements

£ 600.00 per person.

The prices quoted for this itinerary are valid for outward travel on dates shown

All these holidays are fully bonded for your financial protection under the CAA ATOL scheme or through the AITO Trust. Remember, if you decide to book direct with companies in Africa, or through a non-bonded company here in the UK, your money is at risk. Please do not hesitate to ask us for further information.



All guests will be required to complete a Safari Consultants Booking Form which will be subject to acceptance of Safari Consultants Terms and Conditions.

This trip is subject to a minimum of 4 participants. Safari Consultants reserve the right to cancel the tour if the minimum number specified is not reached at by March 1st 2014. In this event and this event only you will receive your deposit back in full.

For Safari Consultants General Information and current terms and conditions please visit.

<http://www.safariconsultant.net/library/CurrentTerms.pdf>



This itinerary has been prepared for Natures Photos by Safari Consultants Ltd.
Specialists in travel to East & Southern Africa since 1983 **Telephone: 01787 888590**



We are waiting for you... © Bob Brind-Surch



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