



SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK

MARA RIVER MIGRATION CROSSINGS GUIDELINE



Welcome to Serengeti National Park and we hope you enjoy your stay with us!

The **Great Migration** is the defining characteristic of the Serengeti-Mara Ecosystem.

Both the Mara River and the Great Migration are **key conservation targets** of the Serengeti National Park management authority. Park management understands that all visitors to this area need to get the best wildlife experience, without compromising the integrity of the Ecosystem.

There has been, in recent years, unethical tourism practices at the crossing points used by the annual Migration along the Mara River, which has brought about this initiative.

Please help us Conserve this beautiful Park by observing the following RULES AND REGULATIONS when going for Mara River crossings of the Migration, to make your own visit, and those of others, enjoyable.

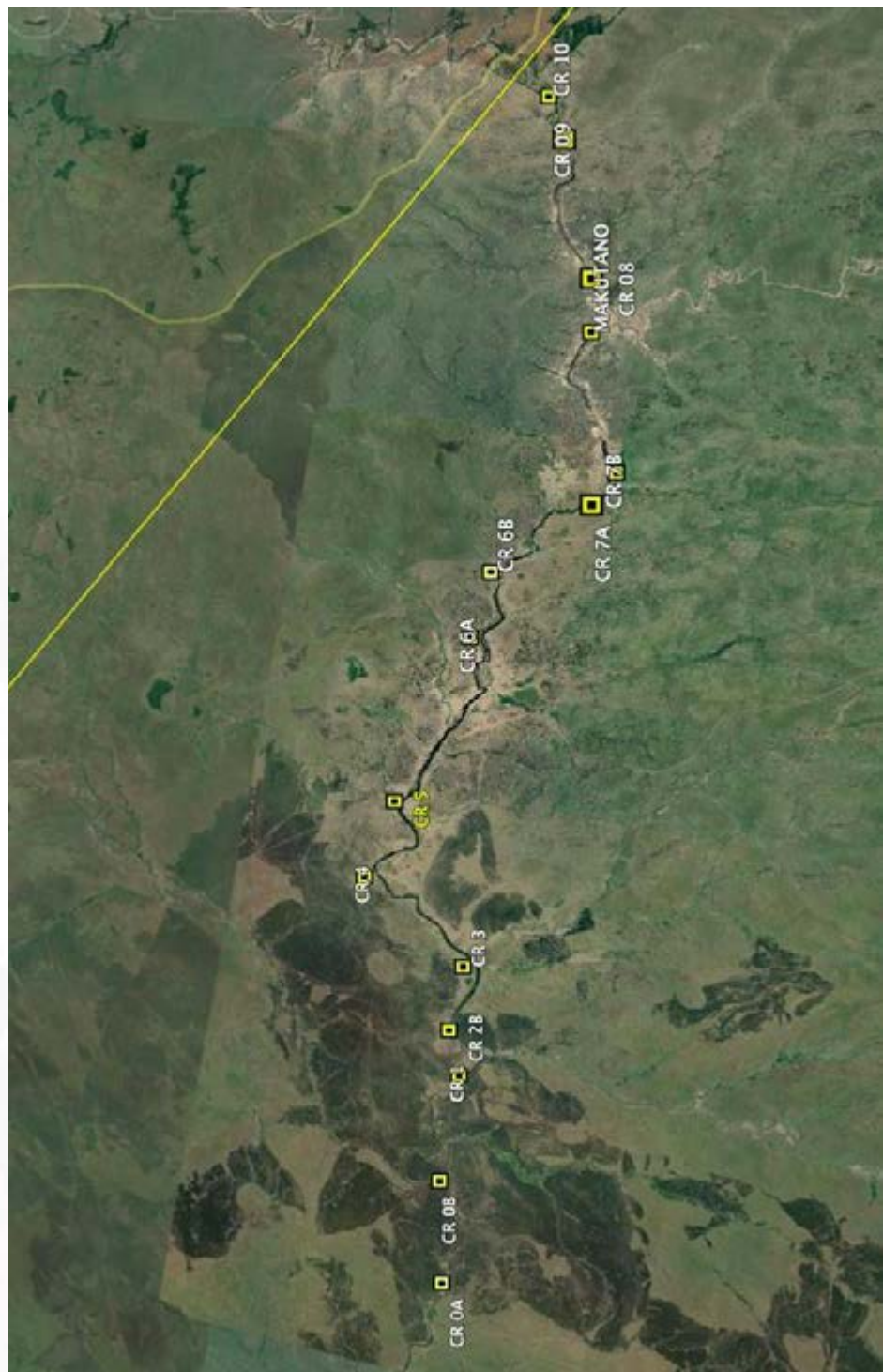
- *General rules and regulations of the Park found on the back of your permit apply.*
- *Do not set up a table or undertake any picnic activity on the banks along the Mara River.*
- *All vehicles going for river crossing will have to park in a particular designated crossing point with signages indicating the name of the crossing point, distance from the river bank and maximum number of vehicle per site. (See table and Map below)*
- *Vehicle should remain stationary in the designated area (with clear signage) for viewing animals crossing the river. i.e No approaching animals during crossing.*
- *When migrants are seen congregating for a crossing, all vehicles should remain stationary in the designated areas with clear signage.*

- *Animals must given sufficient space for them to pass freely (no animal blocking).*
- *Vehicles at the designated crossing points (please see map for locations) must be stationed on only one side of the Mara River as per the table below (to allow for unhindered views), and facing one direction (depending on the direction of light).*
- *When approaching the River during a crossing, make sure you do not go beyond the allowable distance from the river bank, as indicated in the table below for each crossing point.*
- *Vehicle should not exceed the maximum number in each crossing points as indicated from the table. The additional vehicles will have to be on the designated road or parking and remain stationary.*
- *Please remain in your vehicle at all times (unless in emergency situations), in the designated areas and within the designated distances, where you can watch and photograph the animals crossing unhindered.*

River Crossing Point Identifier (See identifier (see map)	Maximum number of vehicles per crossing point.	Vehicles Arrangements	Allowable distance from the river bank in meters	Permissible side of the Mara River (Runs East - West in the Park)
No. 10	30	15 by 15	40m	Southern side of the river except when the river is flooded
No. 9	30	20 by 10	40m	One side only
No. 8	60	flexible	60m	One side only
Makutano	60	flexible	60m	One side only
7B	40	20 by 20	60m	One side only
7A	40	20 by 20	40m	One side only
6B	50	30 by 20(northern by southern respectively)	30m	Both side of the river, depending on the flooding
6A	50	20 by 30(northern by southern respectively)	30m	Both side of the river, depending on the flooding
5	40	20 by 20	30	One side only
4	60	Flexible	30	The northern side of the River only
3	30	Flexible	30m	One side only
2B	20	Flexible	30m	One side onl
2A(NO2)	40	20 by 20	30m	One side only
1	30	15 by 15	40m	One side only
0B	60	30 by 30	80m	One side only
0A	70	Flexible	140m	One side only

IMPORTANT: Please be informed that Park Management may at any time designate areas within the Park off-limits to tourism activities for reasons such as:

- Preventing disturbance to breeding or calving of endangered species e.g. black rhino;
- Allowing for recovery of degraded vegetation from, for example, a heavily-used Migration crossing point;
- Extremely wet conditions which can cause extensive road damage.



If you have any concerns, or need to report an incident of any kind, please do not hesitate to speak to one of our tourism patrol vehicles, email us on

serengeti.tourism@tanzaniaparks.go.tz or phone our **hotline +255 689 062243**.

BY SERENGETI PARK MANAGEMENT

15th July, 2019 (provisional for 2019)

www.tanzaniaparks.go.tz

Instagram: [serengeti_national_park](#)

Facebook: Serengeti National Park

SOME 'GREAT MIGRATION' FACTS

The ± 1,35 million Western white-bearded wildebeest eat about 4,800 tons of grass per day. Over 250,000 calves are born each year, with four-fifths being born within a short calving period of just a few weeks on the short grass plains mid-February (8,000-12,000 births per day!). About 70,000 of these calves will die each year as a result of predation, drowning, separation from mother, etc. Overall about half will survive to adulthood.

The calves are mobile within 3-7 minutes, and are able to keep up with the herd soon thereafter. Around 300,000 female wildebeest become pregnant in less than a month during the rut, when bulls aggressively compete with each other and can be seen actively protecting temporary territories.

The short grass plains between Naabi gate and the Ngorongoro highlands, where wildebeest prefer to calve, are highly nutritious as a result of the volcanic ash which fell in the area thousands of years ago. The grasses take up calcium, sodium, nitrogen and phosphorus from the shallow soil, which is valuable for the pregnant, and later lactating cows.

The Serengeti-Mara-Ngorongoro Ecosystem relies on the annual migration of about 1.6 million animals (wildebeest and zebra) to sustain its integrity and keep it healthy. The wildebeest is what is known as a 'keystone species' as it shapes the environment in which it lives; with their consumption of over 1,7 million tons of grass each year, they open up large tracts of pasture for other species such as zebra, hartebeest and gazelle's, in other words they are an important 'cog' in the mechanism which makes the Serengeti's grassland's so diverse and productive. 3,500 tons of dung is deposited in the ecosystem each day by the migration alone (about 70 train carriage loads per day!), providing valuable nourishment for the vegetation, and food for about 100 different species of dung beetles.

The Mara River is the only source of water in the Serengeti which can sustain the Great Migration in the dry season, and if the River dries up as a result of dams and deforestation upstream, it will be a huge disaster (about 500,000 wildebeest would likely die in the first year). The status of the migration is currently healthy, however disease, drought, loss of habitat, human pressure (including fences blocking the traditional migratory routes in Kenya), illegal livestock incursions and the increasing demand for 'bushmeat' with the expanding human population, are all threats that can have huge detrimental effects on the animals, even though they are 1.35 million strong.

