

Experiences

dream explore discover

Predator & Animal Behaviour

Senses

personalities and characters

Every year, since time immemorial, the Masai Mara Game Reserve has braced itself for the annual invasion of millions of Wildebeest and animals from its bordering neighbour the Serengeti National Park in what is probably the greatest wildlife spectacle on earth. As winter approaches and the grass starts to dry out, the vast, family herds of Wildebeest, scattered over the sweeping grass plains of the Serengeti, join into bigger herds, all moving north towards the Mara, driven by the prospect of sweet, young grass from the impending rains there.

Other animals are also caught up in this huge mass of Wildebeest and, ultimately, this avalanche of wildlife includes almost one and a half million Blue Wildebeest, 18 000 Eland, 200 000 Zebras, and half a million Thompson's Gazelle.

This behaviour and that of many other animals is generally speaking, due to the three psychological zones around them. The size and shape of these zones is dependant on the species, sex and individual nature of the individual animal, with adjustments made as the mood changes.

Animals rely on their senses to warn them of intrusions into these zones, so conditions that inhibit these senses will also affect them. As a rule animals will be aware of a human presence and will move off long before the human is aware of them.

Understanding animal behaviour is an avenue to conservation, animal appreciation and understanding.

