



**NATURE
ENCOUNTERS**
TOURS & TRAVEL LTD.

An East Africa Family Safari

August 2005

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"Here comes another train" someone noticed as we were heading back to the lodge for brunch. We had said that so many times that morning as we spent over four hours driving up and back the banks of the Mara River waiting for enough wildebeest to congregate there in order to cross. The "train", our driver and guide, David was referring to, were the long lines of wildebeest and zebras that had been descending the hill on the far side, single-file towards the river.

The Hockley family, the Lee family and myself had traveled to Kenya specifically to watch the "great migration" and despite our hunger, the continued waiting for a crossing and in my case, the desperate need for a bathroom, we decided to wait just a few more minutes to see if this might amount to something. Previously, there had only been wildebeest congregating on the far banks, bleating and honking in a half cow, half goose like sound; you could almost hear the arguments erupting from their conversations as they jostled and debated over where to cross. David went on to explain that there was always a much better chance of a crossing if there were zebras amongst the bunch as they seemed to be a bit more decisive and courageous when it came time to brave the croc infested river. This time, to our delight, there were zebras coming down in the "train" towards the river. As we found our vantage point and pulled up and stopped our vehicle, we heard a wildebeest cow bleating away on our side of the river and we could see some young calves on the far side - one of which probably belonged to that frantic, worried mum. After several descents on the rocky banks on the far side, one of these desperate calves jumped or may have



been pushed by one of his young cohorts, into the water and then it began! We sat in awe and astonishment as we watched tens after tens of gnus and zebras jump into the river, swim across and run up the bank just feet away from our steadily snapping shutters and absolute delight! Kenya wildlife safari at it's best!