WAYFARER

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EDITOR'S DISPATCH

There is a particular kind of silence in a safari vehicle when a herd is about to cross a river and nobody knows if it will. It is a good silence. It is also a reminder that wildlife is not a performance, and that those of us who watch have a duty to behave like guests.

This month's issue is built around that idea. We have written about the best-known spectacle in Africa, the migration of wildebeest between the Serengeti and the Mara, and we have tried to say plainly what is uncertain about it: the herd size, the dates, the weather. We have also written about places that close in August, because the best advice some months is to wait.

- Gitanjali Gautam

LEAD STORY



The Great Migration: following the herds without crowding them

Every year, over a million wildebeest and zebra circle between Tanzania's Serengeti and Kenya's Maasai Mara. August is when many reach the Mara River.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Assam in the wet: a closed park, and the stork villages that stay open
August is monsoon, and Kaziranga is closed to visitors. Here is what to do with Assam's wildlife country instead of waiting.

India's tiger forests, and why they close in the rains
Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Pench and their neighbours shut their core zones in monsoon. How to plan an honest tiger trip.

Sabah, Borneo: orangutans at the plantation edge
Sepilok for a first look, the Kinabatangan river for the real picture of how orangutans live now.

Alaska: Brooks Falls and the bears that eat the river
In July and September, brown bears gather at a waterfall in Katmai National Park to catch jumping salmon. The rules for watching them are strict, and for good reason.

The Safari Packing and Health Checklist
A one-page list for dust, dawn drives and the long road to a camp.

COMING UP (DATES APPROXIMATE - VERIFY)

Onam (Thiruvonam)
Kerala · 26 August 2026

Prices, timings, permits and visa notes are approximate - please verify before booking.

Janmashtami
Across India · 4 September 2026

Ganesh Chaturthi
Mumbai, Pune and across India · 14 September 2026 (about ten days)

Ziro Festival of Music
Ziro Valley, Arunachal Pradesh · 24–27 September 2026

ONE PRACTICAL TIP

Ask your safari operator how many vehicles share a sighting. The answer tells you how they treat the animals.

YOUR TURN

What is the best wildlife encounter you have had, and what did it teach you? Reply and tell us.

Read the full issue: travaah.com/magazine/2026-08/

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