

Singita



WILDLIFE REPORT SINGITA GRUMETI TANZANIA For the month of June, Two Thousand and Twenty One

Temperature

Average minimum: 20°C (68°F)
Average maximum: 29°C (84.2°F)
Minimum recorded: 17°C (62.6°F)
Maximum recorded: 31°C (87.8°F)

Rainfall Recorded

Faru Faru 3 mm
Sabora 6 mm
Sasakwa 17 mm

Sunrise & Sunset

Sunrise 06:46
Sunset 18:45

June has been a month for the cats! With migratory wildebeest and zebra slowly trickling into the Singita Grumeti Reserve the leopard, lion and cheetah sightings have been nothing short of fabulous. With very little rain this month, the grasslands have begun to dry out considerably. The Grumeti River has dropped to a clear, steady flow providing some beautiful photographic opportunities with the wild apricot climber in full bloom on the riverine. The great migration moves ever closer as huge numbers threaten to break through the southern boundary and we wait with bated breath.

Here's a sightings snapshot for June:

Lions

- The lion prides are stable, healthy and doing incredibly well here on the reserve.

- Fantastic sightings of our central resident pride, the Butamtam. These animals have been waiting for what might seem like a lifetime to them for good numbers of prey species to come back through their territory.
- There have been some interesting sightings of two large lions that have moved down into the central areas from Ikorongo. We stumbled across them one day on Rhino Rocks after they had brought down a buffalo during the night.
- This month has also offered some lovely Nyasirori and West Pride sightings closer to Sabora Camp and Marula Explore. These lions have been hunting both wildebeest and zebra regularly and providing us with some awesome action.

Leopards

- There have been some great leopard sightings this June. We have been fortunate to witness two different mating pairs in the central areas.
- The Grumeti North female's daughter is doing exceptionally well. She is spending more and more time away from her mother now that she is almost two years old. We are very fortunate to continue to see her hunting and killing independently.
- We have had some great observations of the Ridge Hill female and her youngsters this month.
- Very good leopard sightings close to Faru Faru and downstream Grumeti River.

Cheetahs

- Some fantastic cheetah sightings this month.
- Two young brothers sighted on the Sasakwa plains were especially memorable. At this time of year, the colour contrasts of a spotted cat in the golden grasses and the hazy blue skies make for some incredible photography.
- The large Sasakwa male has been sighted roaming the grasslands just to the south of Koroya hill.
- A single female has been sighted hunting in the Sabora region, which has been fantastic.
- Another female was sighted on the Sand Road, 2 km west of German Bridge.

Elephants

- Elephant viewing this month has been steady with some lovely herds utilising the central areas.
- Again, as we saw in May, we have had some good elephant activity on Sasakwa Hill and in the adjacent valleys.
- Some very large bulls were seen this month in the western reaches of the reserve.
- Lovely elephant herds have been observed as they move in and around the Grumeti River, downstream of Faru Faru.

Hyenas

- Spotted hyena activity is on the increase in the central areas as we see more and more plains wildlife moving back into the reserve.
- There has been great activity on Sasakwa Hill and the evenings are often filled with eerie hyena howls.
- The Nyasirori high ground, south of Sabora, has seen some wicked interactions between hyenas and some of the lions in the area.

Buffalo

- Great herds of buffalo as usual here on the reserve.
- Large herds have been observed all over the reserve. Especially high numbers in the central and western areas.

Plains game

- With the return of the migratory animals we have also seen huge herds of topi in the western regions, good eland numbers and Thompson's gazelles in the central areas.

- The giraffe numbers this month have been amazing with some lovely aggregations at times. Herds of up to thirty animals walking out across the golden plains providing some exceptional guest experiences.

Rhinos

- All animals are in good health. Of interest is that Buhtle was recently seen with Ivan, possibly mating, however this is not confirmed. Ivan has also been seen together with Helleria and Otto. Possibly mating, not confirmed. Laikipia and Eric have been seen browsing together, both in good condition



Picture by guests Joey Rault and Courtney Plank.



One of the two young brothers casts an eye over the SSK plains.
Picture by George Tolchard.

A bush story follows, as well as the June Gallery of images.

A night to remember on the Grumeti River

By Gracious Jumbe

What an incredible experience we had, as a training exercise, sleeping wild on the Grumeti River!

We made our way slowly across the open plains until we began to wind our way down to the Grumeti. Such an abundance of wildlife, many birds calling on the river and stunning trees and flowers close to the water's edge. We admired the beautiful white flowers from the creeping wild apricot climber lining the riverine trees and shrubs. The fruits of this creeper are edible and we searched the banks of the river to try to find some that had been missed by the baboons...

After finding a great sandy beach to set up camp, we proceeded to get ready for the night. Such an amazing opportunity to be at one with Nature, sleeping out in the open and to hear the sounds of the night all around us. This truly was a magical experience for myself and the other trainee guides. We managed to make fire with our own bare hands and a couple of pieces of wood, can you believe! We felt proud and very privileged to be where we were that evening.

Imagine you decide to have a night just like this at the river bank, setting the tents, preparing the fire whilst the sun sets, walking barefoot in the sand. Sitting by the fire as darkness falls around you, listening to the sounds of the night.



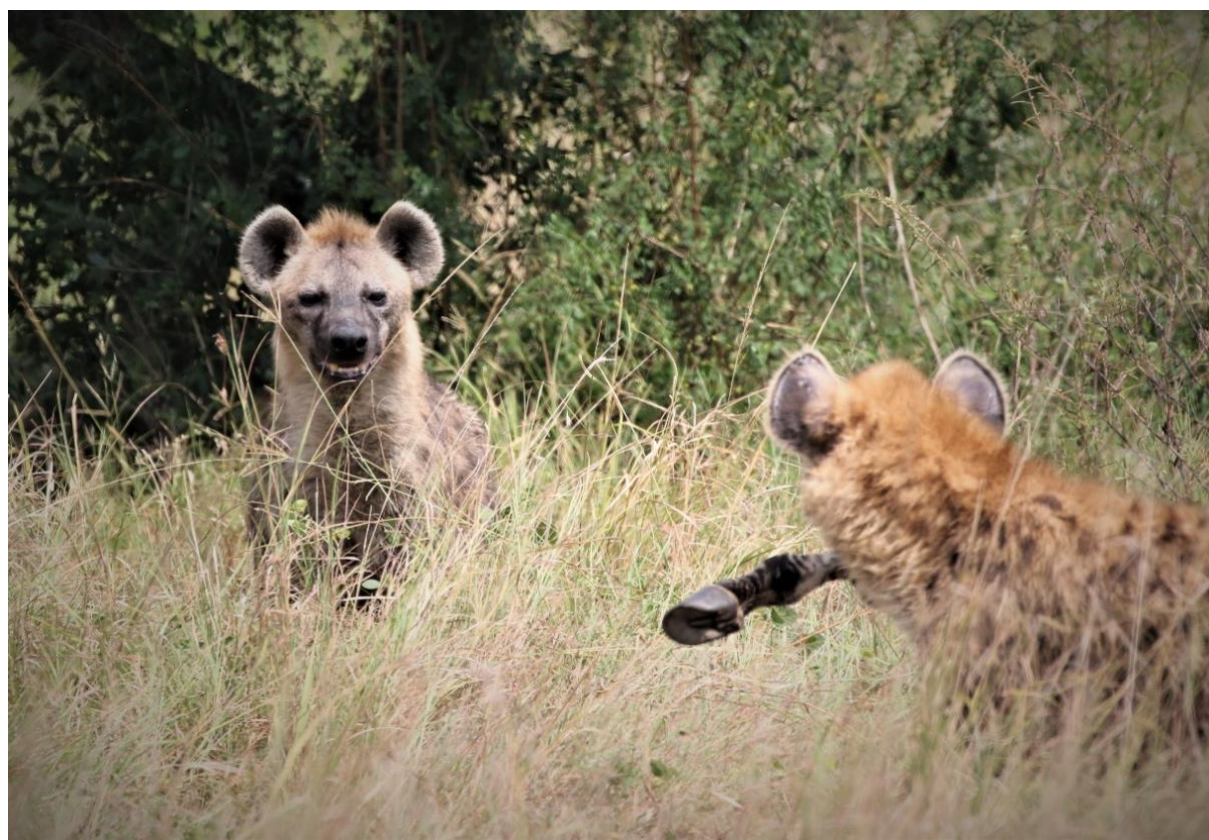
Guide training exercise involving a fly camp on the Grumeti River.

It really was an unforgettable experience as we encouraged the fire using sticks and elephant dung, prepared our food and told stories. Early in the morning there was no need for an alarm clock as the bird calls woke us right away and we began looking around for tracks of animals that might have visited during the night.

June Gallery



The beautiful pygmy kingfisher taken on the Grumeti River. Picture by George Tolchard



Hyenas on a zebra kill.

Picture by Emma Wilson



Lovely herds of topi out on the Kawanga plains to the west. Picture by George Tolchard



A spotted hyena on a buffalo calf kill on the Gambaranyera grasslands. Picture by George Tolchard



The Grumeti North females' daughter. Pictures by Godson Birdi





A lilac breasted roller gives a dark chanting goshawk a hard time. Picture by Calson Luka



Hooded vultures stay close to the Butamtam Pride. Picture by Calson Luka



Green-capped eremomela here on SSK hill. A new record for us! Picture by Paul Kivuyo



The West Pride boys.

Picture by Godson Birdi



Ballooning with elephants here on the Grumeti. Picture by Calson Luka



Thompson's gazelles and eland on the Nyasirori high ground, south of Sabora.



Great herds of wildebeest return to Singita Grumeti.

Picture by George Tolchard



Some lovely numbers on Rhino Rocks towards the end of the month.

Picture by George Tolchard



Out on foot, grounding yourself and reconnecting with nature. A lovely feeling.



Bathe in the crystal-clear waters of the Grumeti River. Stunning!

Compiled by George Tolchard