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Escape



POKÉMON NO!

The trials of holidaying with an addict

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Going places?

Forget Serengeti wildebeests - it's all about spotting lesser-known wildlife critters. **Lizzie Pook** shares ten of the best unusual animal migrations

1. Fruit bats Zambia

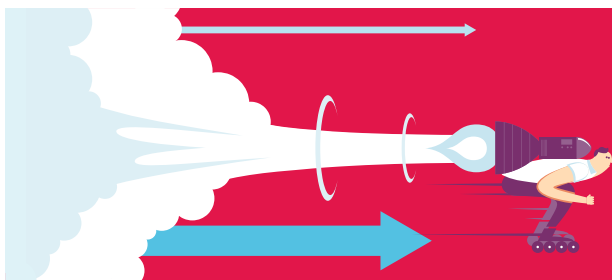
Every year, around ten million giant fruit bats migrate to a tiny patch of evergreen swamp in Zambia's Kasanka National Park from the Democratic Republic of Congo, marking the world's largest mammal migration. Spanning almost 3ft from wing to wing, the shrieking, chattering creatures fill the skies as they roost and gorge on mango and berries.

SEE IT: From October to December

STAY: Wasa Lodge, camping from £15 per night, kasankanationalpark.com

Returns from London to Lusaka from £680, ethiopianairlines.com

More animal magic: **Page 22** »



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2. Manta rays Maldives

The Maldives' central atolls come alive with manta rays in summer, when the gentle giants flock to feast on the area's nutrient-rich waters. They're often joined by the ocean's biggest fish (and fellow plankton-feeder), the whale shark. **SEE IT:** August and September **STAY:** On board the swanky Carpe Vita safari yacht. Seven-day trips from £2,495 include flights from the UK. diveworldwide.com

Returns from London to Malé from £451, srilankan.com/uk

3. Asian elephants Sri Lanka

'The gathering' is the accumulation of hundreds of Asian elephants that have trudged across Sri Lanka to bathe, breed and feed in Minneriya National Park. The migration occurs in the dry season when the waters of the park's reservoir recede to host the largest congregation of elephants on earth. **SEE IT:** Until late October **STAY:** Ulagalla, from £150 per night, ugaescapes.com/ulagalla

Returns from London to Bandaranaike from £400, virgin-atlantic.com

4. Black-necked cranes Bhutan

The Phobjikha Valley is the winter home to swarms of the graceful

The really wild show

black-necked crane, which roost and feed on a glut of dwarf bamboo before returning to their breeding grounds in the Tibetan Plateau. The endangered birds are so revered in Buddhist tradition that there's even a whole festival dedicated to their arrival. **SEE IT:** October to February **STAY:** Dewachen Hotel, from £37 per night, dewachenhotel.com

Returns from London to Delhi from £293, britishairways.com, and from Delhi to Paro from £380, drukair.com

5. Orcas Norway

From late summer, orcas stalk migrating herring shoals north through Norway's narrow fjords and into the Arctic. Keen-eyed wildlife enthusiasts might also spot other species, such as the colossal white-tailed eagle, trailing

the fish from overhead, and perhaps even the magnificent Aurora Borealis flickering in the skies above the coastline's bays. **SEE IT:** September to March **STAY:** On the S/V Noorderlicht, as part of Gane & Marshall's seven-night North Norway

Whale Safari cruise, £1,295, ganeandmarshall.com. **Returns from London to Bodo from £190, norwegian.com/uk**

6. Great monarch butterflies California

The endangered butterfly, with its orange wings and black markings, is one of the most distinctive insect species. But you don't need extensive safari plans to see them on the move as they overwinter in California. They can easily be seen in their thousands hanging in heavy clusters from eucalyptus

trees on the coastlines of Santa Cruz and San Diego. **SEE IT:** From October to February **STAY:** The Santa Cruz Dream Inn, from £300 per night, jdvhotels.com

Returns from London to LAX from £400, wotair.co.uk

7. Porcupine caribou Alaska

From August, herds of caribou - some 170,000-strong - migrate south across the Barren Lands for the aggressive rutting period. The animals journey more than 2,400km a year between their winter range and calving grounds at the Beaufort Sea, making their the longest migration route of any land mammal on earth. **SEE IT:** August and September **STAY:** Kavik River camp, from £266 per night, kavikrivercamp.com

Returns from London to Fairbanks from £694, unitedairlines.com

8. Red crabs Australia

As the wet season arrives, Christmas Island's red crabs begin their migration from forest to coast in order to breed. Roads are carpeted with red as females head to the sea to release their eggs, precisely at the turn of the high tide during the last lunar quarter. Spooky. **SEE IT:** October to December **STAY:** The Sunset hotel, from £125 per night, thesunset.cx

Returns from London to Perth from £532, emirates.com/uk



Get out of a rut: Spot caribou during the rutting period in Alaska

9. Salmon British Columbia

From summer's end to early winter, a massive pulse of life enters North America's west coast: the return of the salmon to spawn. Wolves and whales converge to feast on the millions of fat, silvery fish that leave the open Pacific and crowd rivers and creeks, returning to their birthplace to mate and die. **SEE IT:** August until October **STAY:** Nimmo Bay Resort, from £965 per night, nimmobay.com

Returns from London to Vancouver from £340, westjet.com

1. Flamingos Corfu

Each year, thousands of flamingos decorate the wetlands of Alikes Lefkimmis in Corfu. Seeking food during their migration from Europe to Africa, they arrive and perch in the shallow waters of the lagoon. **SEE IT:** September to December **STAY:** Marbella Corfu, from £200 per night, marbella.gr

Returns from London to Corfu from £120, ryanair.com



Get your sea legs: Stay on the S/V Noorderlicht and go on a Whale Safari



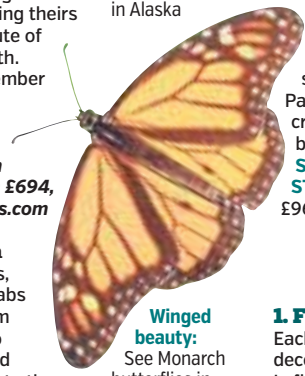
Killer instinct: Explore the sealife in Norway's dramatic waters



So elephant: See lots of Asian elephants in Sri Lanka



Luxe out: Ulagalla in Sri Lanka has a 150-year-old mansion surrounded by breathtaking landscape



Winged beauty: See Monarch butterflies in California