

enchanted
TRAVELS

Animal Welfare Guidelines



Animal Welfare Guidelines

by Enchanting Travels

Enchanting Travels is committed to animal welfare and believes that all animals should be protected and treated with respect and care.

Enchanting Travels has established guidelines for ensuring the careful selection and regular auditing of animal experiences, to ensure that they comply.

These guidelines cover wild animals that are living in the wild or in captivity, as well as domesticated animals.

Responsible Animal Experiences

Enchanting Travels offers responsible experiences that allow guests to appreciate and support the natural world. We believe that when executed well, experiences that involve animals can provide substantial education to people of all ages. Research has proven time and again that responsible wildlife and nature tourism provides sustenance and support to national parks and wildlife conservancies, as well as the local communities who live there.

Enchanting Travels encourages responsible experiences that promote the rescue, rehabilitation and responsible breeding of endangered species, whether they live on land, in the ocean, or in the sky. Most responsible wildlife experiences do not offer guests physical contact with the animals, but are more about contributing to vulnerable or endangered species by learning about them at a respectable distance while supporting their natural habitat.



1. Wildlife Safaris

Enchanting Travels believes that when executed well, wildlife safaris can provide substantial education about the natural world and wildlife for every generation.

Enchanting Travels will always remind guests that animals are wild and have the freedom to act any way they please – everything is on their terms and encounters cannot be guaranteed.

Enchanting Travels actively supports partners that are engaged in anti-poaching initiatives. Poverty alleviation through tourism employment allows communities to become guardians of the land, rather than victims in criminal activities such as poaching.

Marine Wildlife

Some marine wildlife actively flourishes around human company and so Enchanting Travels does offer certain activities, such as swimming or snorkeling with wild dolphins, and kayaking with penguins in their natural habitat.

For such activities, Enchanting Travels partners with conservation projects and/or responsible companies that have marine biologists overseeing activities.

Enchanting Travels works with whale watching operators that also act as vital research boats, hosting marine biologists responsible for monitoring these incredible creatures.

Enchanting Travels offers opportunities to witness turtles hatching in their natural habitats under the supervision of responsible organizations and marine biologists from a respectful, non-invasive distance.

2. Animals in Captivity

Animal Welfare Principles

Enchanting Travels supports the guiding principles of animal welfare, the Five Freedoms which have been adopted by leading global organizations, including the World Organisation for Animal Health, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

1. **Freedom from hunger or thirst** by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour
2. **Freedom from discomfort** by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area
3. **Freedom from pain, injury or disease** by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment
4. **Freedom to express (most) normal behaviour** by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of their own kind
5. **Freedom from fear and distress** by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering

Some rescued wild animals have been domesticated as a means to aid their rehabilitation, and therefore also engage with guests as a means to financially support their care.

However, Enchanting Travels does not endorse any wildlife organizations that are profiteering from the unnatural domestication of wild animals, such as promoting animals to perform for the camera, or be cuddled by guests.

Zoos and Aquariums

Enchanting Travels does not find issue with wildlife that is being well cared for in the most natural environment possible.

When done well, zoos, wildlife parks or aquariums that have animals in captivity can be positive environments that create awareness and interest in a variety of wildlife species, especially among younger generations, and can protect endangered species through international breeding programmes. Enchanting Travels allow such experiences in guest itineraries through responsible establishments.

Rescue and Sanctuaries

Enchanting Travels believes that wild animals should stay wild, while acknowledging exceptions such as when wild animals have been abandoned, injured or critically endangered and need human care and support.

Enchanting Travels supports organizations that take care of orphaned and injured animals that cannot be released back into the wild, and that focus on engaging and educating visitors as a means to protect against poaching and habitat loss.

Enchanting Travels feels that when executed with care, rescue animals and sanctuaries can educate guests about these crucial issues.

Enchanting Travels only supports wild animals being bred in captivity if they are under officially-recognised breeding programmes where animals can be safely and responsibly released back into the wild.

Domesticated and Farm Animals

Enchanting Travels acknowledges the cultural traditions of domesticated and working animals, such as horses, camels and donkeys.

All Enchanting Travels' animal experiences that feature domesticated and farm animals should be guided by the Five Freedoms principle.

Enchanting Travels will not support partners that overwork or overload creatures. Animals that are being ridden should never carry more than 20% of their own body weight.

All animals undergoing training should be trained using positive reinforcement and reward-based methods. Drugging, chaining, starving or any abuse used for training purposes is deemed wholly unacceptable.

Animal Performances and Shows

Enchanting Travels prohibits animal experiences that involve wild animals performing or being used disrespectfully for the purpose of entertainment. These include animal amusement parks and wild animals in captivity within human-centric areas, such as in restaurants and at tourist attractions.

Elephant Interactions

Enchanting Travels seeks to promote ethical elephant experiences that commit to a high standard of elephant welfare and conservation.

Enchanting Travels supports carefully-selected elephant sanctuaries and orphanages that use funds from guests' visits to take care of rescued elephant orphans, or elephants too old or sick to live in the wild.

While these experiences might include guests bathing and feeding elephants, Enchanting Travels does not offer any experiences where guests ride elephants.

Big Cats and Bear Interactions

Enchanting Travels does not condone experiences that involve direct interactions with big cats or bears in captivity - be it big cat walking or cub petting.

Fishing

Enchanting Travels allows responsible fishing experiences through carefully-selected partners in appropriate environments where there are no concerns for overfishing. Catch-and-release fishing experience is generally preferred.

Horse and Camel Riding

Enchanting Travels allows horse and camel riding experiences through carefully-selected partners in appropriate environments.

Animal Sports

Enchanting Travels does not support or condone animal sports in which animals are harmed or treated unfairly. These include trophy hunting, bullfighting, cock fighting, elephant polo and bear-baiting.

Guest Animal Welfare Code of Conduct

Enchanting Travels believes that animal welfare is a shared responsibility with guests and that guest conduct during animal experiences with Enchanting Travels is equally important.

Guests are requested to

- Follow the Five Freedoms animal welfare principles (see above)
- Keep a non-invasive, respectable and safe distance from all wild animals
- Avoid taking photos and selfies at the expense of restrained animals
- Respect the natural environment, avoid littering and keep noise to a minimum
- Avoid purchasing souvenirs derived from endangered wild animals, including tortoiseshells, horn, scales, ivory and skins
- Avoid consuming products derived from endangered wild animals, including shark fin soup, turtle soup, bushmeat and whale meat

