

Travelopia Animal Welfare Policy

Wildlife viewing, use of working animals and animal attractions have the potential to offer customers memorable and authentic experiences on their holidays, and they can play a vital role in education and conservation, as well as providing job opportunities and supporting the economy. However, these attractions require careful management to ensure animal safeguarding and the physical and mental state of the animal is prioritised.

Travelopia believes that none of the trips offered across its portfolio of brands should negatively impact the welfare of animals. We are committed to continuously assessing any animal interactions which take place on our trips, to ensure that animal welfare is prioritised, and not exploited.

We have used ABTA's Animal Welfare Guidelines to draft Travelopia's Animal Welfare Policy. ABTA's Animal Welfare Guidelines documents can be referred to for further detail on the below stipulations.

Travelopia's brands commit to not offering any of the following activities on any of their trips:

- Performances involving wild animals which require them to elicit unnatural behaviours, or where the training involves punishment or food deprivation and causes animal fear, injury or distress
- Physical interaction with wild animals such as holding, petting or taking photos where the animal does not have the choice of moving away or where there is no care requirement for the animal
- This includes but is not limited to the following activities which we do not condone any participation in:
 - Elephant shows or rides for tourists
 - Tourist contact or feeding of wild cats, crocodiles, great apes or bears
 - 'Walking with' wild cats, such as lions, cheetahs, leopards, etc.
 - Ostrich riding
 - Animals being used for fighting, such as bull fighting, cockfighting, dog fighting, etc.
 - Drugging of animals to subdue them
 - Rodeo events that conduct calf-roping, team-roping, steer wrangling and other activities which are detrimental to the animals' wellbeing
 - Hunting of any kind

Travelopia's brands commit to only visiting establishments where animals are held in captivity, such as animal refuges and sanctuaries, when the following criteria are met:

- No commercial exploitation, including performances, shows or use of animals as photo props, is allowed and where the animal is not forced to be seen by visitors and can seek private space
- No physical contact is permitted between visitors and animals unless for care purposes, and visitor numbers are capped
- The facility's function is either for the protection of specific animals or of the species, or for conservation purposes, where it may be unsafe for the animals to be re-released, or where the animal is undergoing rehabilitation prior to re-release
- Animals are kept in clean, comfortable and species-appropriate surroundings
- All other animal welfare standards are met including provision of access to shade and shelter, privacy from visitors, sufficient space and access to veterinary care

Travelopia's brands commit to only using working animals when the following criteria are met:

- Animals should only train/ work within their physical capabilities (e.g. loads carried should be appropriate for the animal's weight and size)
- Tethering during non-working periods should be kept to a minimum and should allow for the animal to stand, lie, and access food, water and shade
- Animals which are young, elderly, injured, ill, distressed or pregnant should not be ridden or required to carry loads
- Any equipment used should fit comfortably and not cause distress or injury

When viewing animals in the wild, Travelopia's brands commit to the following:

- Groups viewing wildlife should always be accompanied by professional guides, rangers or other staff who can inform tourists on how to behave around the wildlife
- Groups viewing wildlife should be kept to a reasonable number of members
- Groups viewing wildlife should keep a reasonable distance from the wildlife
- Animals should never be charged, cornered or boxed in
- Wildlife should never be touched or fed by tourists
- The animal's welfare takes priority over the visitor's experience