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WWW.WSPA-INTERNATIONAL.ORG/ANIMALFRIENDLYTRAVEL



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'ANIMALS HAVE THE RIGHT TO LIVE THEIR LIVES FREE FROM SUFFERING' – WSPA POLICY



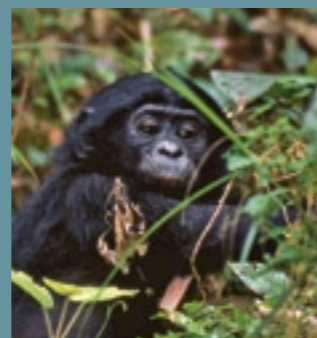
WSPA is recognised by the United Nations (UN) and works to raise the standards of animal welfare around the world.

WSPA acts as a federation of animal welfare societies, with over 480 member societies in 126 countries.

Thanks to our member society network, wherever animal welfare problems are identified, a society is often close at hand to provide a response.

Our vision is to ensure that the principles of animal welfare are universally understood and respected, and protected by effectively enforced legislation.

Through our campaigns and projects, we strive to improve the lives of animals globally, through lobbying, education and direct animal rescue programmes. Our principle campaigns include opposing cruel farming practices, whaling, bullfights, bear farming, and inhumane commercial exploitation of wildlife.



For more information, or to make a donation, please contact:

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GUIDE TO ANIMAL FRIENDLY TRAVEL



THE EXPLOITATION OF ANIMALS IS A COMMON BY-PRODUCT OF THE TOURISM INDUSTRY.

The reality for animals

Absorbed in the holiday spirit, many tourists think nothing of witnessing cruel scenes, which they would normally object to in their home surroundings. Some of us do not even realise that the activities that we are promoting through tourism are inhumane.

Seeing animals misused for the entertainment of tourists, or noticing animal welfare issues not so prominent at home (large stray dog populations or maltreated working animals, for example), can leave travellers feeling helpless and distressed. However, tourists are in a position to make a difference.

You can make a difference

Withdrawing support from attractions causing suffering to animals can make a huge difference in itself. If tourists choose to spend their money on cruelty-free attractions, this can result in rapid change.

We are all responsible for ensuring that our actions abroad do not contribute to animal suffering.

This leaflet guides you on steps to take to be a compassionate traveller, and offers advice on how to react to any ill treatment you may be confronted with.



ABOVE: A 'donkey taxi' in Spain
BELOW: An injured bull during a bullfight in Spain
RIGHT: A caged lion in a zoo in Thailand



WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING OUR ACTIONS ABROAD DO NOT CAUSE ANIMAL SUFFERING.

Here are some tips on how to be an animal-friendly traveller

- Gather photographic or video evidence of any cruelty you witness.
- Report the incident, including the date, time, location, type and number of animals involved to: the local police; the local tourist office; and your tour operator.



ABOVE: Young orangutans in a sanctuary in Indonesia
BELOW: A young chimpanzee posing for photographs with a tourist at a beach resort



- Be prepared and take note of any local animal organisations which could help any needy animals you come across.
- Details of WSPA member societies can be found on: www.wspa-international.org
- On your return, express your concerns to the country's embassy; tourist office; your MP or MEP, and send a copy of the letter to WSPA for our records. Please see www.towd.com to locate your nearest tourist office, and www.embassyworld.com for an international directory of embassies. Encourage others to make similar protests.

- If you want to help stray dogs and cats, make a donation to a local shelter rather than feeding the animals.
- Check if your tour operator has an animal welfare policy. If they don't, why not suggest they adopt WSPA's Animal-Friendly Responsible Travel Charter? Please see our website for details: www.wspa-international.org/animalfriendlytravel.

You can use the cards provided in this pamphlet to inform your tour operator of your preferences and feedback on the holiday.

- Don't attend events that exploit animals or cause suffering, such as circuses, animal shows or aquariums.
- Don't accept culture as a justification for cruelty; boycott bullfights and festivals using animals.
- Don't buy exotic meat such as bush meat or dog meat, and luxury food items, such as foie gras or frogs legs, as these are produced using inherently cruel practices.
- Don't pay to have your picture taken with a wild animal.
- Don't purchase wild animals or souvenirs made from animals.
- Don't be influenced by others; if travelling with a group, check your itinerary doesn't include activities that exploit animals.
- Don't partake in animal rides. Often the animals are poorly treated and beaten into submission.

I am an animal-friendly traveller and am concerned about the preservation of wild species and recognition of universal animal welfare principles.

As a customer, I support only those services who share this ethic and honour the following principles:

FOR YOUR TRAVEL AGENT/ORGANISER

I do not wish my tour operator to promote exploitative activities that cause animal suffering, such as circuses, bullfights, marine mammal programmes or other shows

I do not wish to stay anywhere that displays wildlife for public viewing, infringes natural habitat or nesting grounds, or serves food items produced by cruel practices, such as foie gras

I would like my hotelier to discourage local animal abuse and take a stance against activities such as photographers using animals performing to entertain tourists

I would like my hotelier to deal with situations involving stray nuisance animals in a humane manner

Guest Name: _____

Date of Patronage: _____

I am pleased with your company / hotel's efforts to be animal-friendly and would recommend you to others

I do not feel your company / hotel is animal-friendly and will not return until my concerns are addressed. These are outlined below:

FOR YOUR TRAVEL COMPANY / HOTEL

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