



Tips for being a Compassionate Traveler

- Visit nature reserves and national parks.
- Support local animal sanctuaries and wildlife rehabilitation centers.
- Skip the marine park; take a whale or dolphin watching cruise instead.
- Avoid roadside zoos, dolphin encounters and animal circuses.
- Boycott bullfights and festivals that use animals.
- Support the local humane society to help stray pets.
- Never pay to have your photo taken with a wild animal.
- Avoid animal rides and animal taxis.
- Buy souvenirs that do not use wildlife or harm the environment.
- Leave the environment as you found it; avoid areas where tourism disturbs wildlife habitats.
- Educate others about how to be a Compassionate Traveler using tips from this brochure and from others in WSPA's Compassionate Travel Guide series.

Don't let culture be a justification for cruelty. When you travel, take your humane values with you and share your compassion with those you encounter.

The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) is campaigning to end cruelty to animals worldwide. Travelers can help animals by avoiding tourist attractions and events involving animal suffering and by reporting incidents of cruelty to local and national authorities.

WSPA'S COMPASSIONATE TRAVEL GUIDE

Tips for Tourists

WSPA's Compassionate Travel Guide Series

- Tips for Tourists
- Tourism and Wildlife Trade
- Dolphin Encounters

For more information about WSPA's Compassionate Travel Program or to order copies of our Compassionate Travel Guide series, please visit: www.compassionatetravel.org or call 1-800-883-WSPA.



World Society for the Protection of Animals

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World Society for the Protection of Animals

Seeing animals mistreated for the entertainment of tourists or witnessing animal cruelty on a large scale can leave travelers feeling distressed and helpless. When armed with knowledge and conviction, tourists can be powerful agents of change for the countless animals that suffer worldwide.

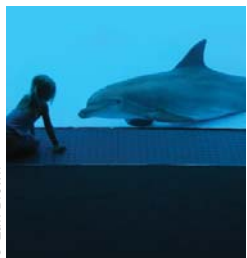
Top Animal Welfare Concerns for Tourists



Stray dogs and cats

Horribly malnourished and diseased dogs and cats are a common sight for tourists, particularly in warm climates. To make lasting improvements for these animals, contribute to a local animal shelter that has sterilization and vaccination programs in place.

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Zoos and Aquaria

Meeting the complex needs of wild animals is nearly impossible in captive situations. Marine parks in particular have a difficult time accommodating the basic needs of large marine mammals such as dolphins and whales. Most roadside zoos are unregulated and fail to meet even the most fundamental standards for animal welfare.



Animal Performances

Animal performances, especially by captive wildlife like dolphins, bears, or chimpanzees, place enormous stress on the animals. Behind the scenes, animals are often trained using food deprivation or violent force. Don't pay to witness cruelty.



Animal Rides

Donkey, horse, camel, and elephant rides may contribute significantly to animal suffering. The animal you pay to ride may have been working for hours, with no access to shelter, food or water.

Animals who are forced to draw carriages are often overloaded and beaten to ensure they remain submissive. Animal-drawn vehicles and taxis pose a public safety risk and can cause serious traffic accidents when on busy urban roads.



Wildlife Souvenirs

Souvenirs made from wildlife products often involve the brutal death of an animal, or the endangerment of an entire species. Ivory and tortoiseshell are some examples. Some souvenirs sold to tourists are actually illegal to import or export.



Tourist Photos with Animals

Paying to have your photo taken with a young chimp, lion cub or bear may seem like an exciting souvenir. Sadly, inhumane capture methods, poor nutrition, and inadequate welfare conditions often lead to a premature death for these animals.



Bullfighting

Bullfighting is a cruel reality across Southern Europe and Latin America. This industry is responsible for the deaths and maiming of thousands of bulls and hundreds of horses each year.

How to Report Cruelty to Animals

- Record the time, date and location of the incident.
- Note how many and what type of animals were involved.
- If possible, take photos or video as evidence.

Protest to:

- Those inflicting the cruelty
- Your tour operator and hotel manager
- Local tourism office
- The country's ambassador to the United States

Report the incident to:

- Local police
- Local animal welfare society



Meeting the complex needs of animals is virtually impossible in captive situations. Don't pay to witness cruelty.