

ANIMAL INTERACTIONS

HOW CAN WE MITIGATE ANIMAL ABUSE IN THE TOURISM INDUSTRY?

GO NOW TO

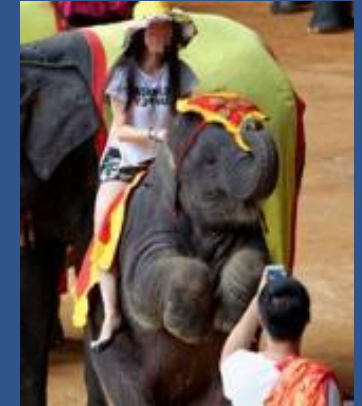
<https://educationaltravel.travel/animal-interactions>

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Wildlife Tourism: The 10 'Cruellest' Animal Attractions, Revealed By World Animal Protection

Kathryn Snowden
The Huffington Post UK

1. Riding Elephants
2. Tiger selfies
3. Walking with lions
4. Visiting bear parks
5. Holding sea turtles
6. Performing dolphins
7. Dancing monkeys
8. Touring civet coffee plantations
9. Charming snakes and kissing cobras
10. Farming crocodiles



Top questions about South Africa

- What to do/see in South Africa
- A guide to booking and staying in Kruger National Park
- ➔ • Animal Interactions and Ethical tourism.
- How to approach corrupt traffic officials
- Under what circumstances do I need to take Malaria Prophylaxis in Kruger area
- ➔ • The reality of lion cub petting
- -Responsible_Tourism





Africa leverages its appeal of wildlife in order to build a tourism industry because tourism is a major economic sector across countries that offers:

- ▶ a way out of poverty
- ▶ organic upskilling
- ▶ many other much-needed advantages to communities and economies
- ▶ viable economic growth
- ▶ broad access to benefits

The travel industry and tourists are seeking answers to the impact of their choices on animal welfare & conservation.

The manner in which Africa's wildlife tourism is harnessed will define countries' commitment to conservation and environmental justice and thereby the longevity of the industry OR it will tarnish its reputation beyond repair.

The African Narrative



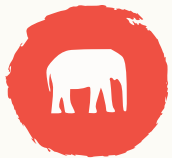
Wildlife tourism is the bedrock of Southern Africa's tourism industry

SATSA believes that places where visitors can still access and connect with a wilderness where nature and ecosystems can be appreciated and enjoyed in their original and natural state, will become increasingly attractive in contrast to a world where such nature and wilderness is getting scarcer.



Animals in captivity for human enjoyment contradicts this long-term USP of Africa

SATSA would like to see a growth in true conservation/preservation animal facilities and a decline in the bastardized version of this - captive and interactive animal attractions.



Many captive wild animals are cared for by rehabilitators or care-givers.

There are many animal facilities which could have had their origin in many well-intentioned forms but have morphed into tourist attractions (if not started as such to begin with).

The African Narrative



Competition for tourist spend and demand from tourists for “unique” and memorable
This has led to a constantly evolving range and extent of offerings – including retaining animals in captivity (instead of re-wilding them as possibly intended).



Industry strives to satisfy human interests over the interests of animals Our understanding of animal sentience brings about an increased understanding of how the misuse of animals for human enjoyment is detrimental to the welfare of the animals, but also to the respect humans have for these animals.

Proactive Step



AIMED AT

Assisting owners of captive wildlife experiences, visitors and buyers in making informed decisions based on sound ethics to support good practice only.



TripAdvisor bans ticket sales to attractions that allow contact with animals **October 2016**

Animal welfare groups laud step by travel giant but concerns remain that it is not going far enough to counter cruel practices and exploitation by tourism businesses



TripAdvisor Announces Additions To Industry-Leading Animal Welfare Policy

Animal shows and performances where animals are forced to perform demeaning tricks or unnatural behaviors to be banned from sale on TripAdvisor

NEEDHAM, Mass., 25 April 2018 – TripAdvisor, and its subsidiary Viator, has today announced a number of additions to its policy on selling tickets to animal attractions, effective immediately.

The changes are designed to better account for the varied ways in which tourist interactions can impact wild and endangered animals around the world, and add further clarify to the policy that was first introduced in October 2016.

As a result of these changes, TripAdvisor and its subsidiary Viator will no longer sell tickets to specific experiences where captive wild or endangered animals are forced to perform demeaning tricks or other unnatural behaviors in front of the general public, or where they are featured as part of a live circus or stage entertainment act in a demeaning manner.

There are also changes to the policy as it applies to animals in captive environments. Some physical interactions with wild animals will now be eligible for sale on TripAdvisor and Viator, subject to certain conditions. Most notably, any feeding or touching program that is conducted under the supervision of trained officials, where any physical contact between the animals and the guests is initiated by the animals themselves and the animals have the freedom to disengage from that contact at their own will. Similarly, invertebrate touch-and-feel experiences that are used for education purposes, such as spider encounters designed to help treat arachnophobia, will also be eligible for sale.



Instagram

Social Media | Social Movement

Taking a #koalaselfie or #dolphinkiss photo? Instagram has something to say about it.

Photos of sleepy sloths and curled-up koalas — especially when featured in a selfie — are often considered Instagram gold, guaranteed to attract “likes” and comments.

Instagram officials want to change that.

On Monday, the popular photo-sharing platform announced that anyone searching for those posts using hashtags will be shown a warning that these seemingly innocent photos are often associated with harmful behavior toward wildlife.

Searching or clicking on hashtags such as #koalaselfie, #elephantride or #dolphinkiss will reveal a pop-up message that reads, “Animal abuse and the sale of endangered animals or their parts is not allowed on Instagram. You are searching for a hashtag that may be associated with posts that encourage harmful behavior to animals or the environment.”

Protect Wildlife on Instagram

Animal abuse and the sale of endangered animals or their parts is not allowed on Instagram. You are searching for a hashtag that may be associated with posts that encourage harmful behavior to animals or the environment.

[Learn More](#)

[Show Posts](#)

[Cancel](#)

Response of Global Tourism Companies | Change in Purchase Attitude



- Removed >3 000 tours from supply list and changed itineraries approx. 10% of tours because of non adherence to ABTA Guidelines
- Guidelines developed for staff e.g. identifying suitable imagery

and dolphins in the oceans

From 2017 no longer add attractions that feature captive whales and dolphins in theatrical shows, “swim-with” programmes or other entertainment

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PROTECTING ANIMALS WHILE YOU TRAVEL



AVOID BUSINESSES THAT HAVE WILD ANIMALS AS PETS



DO NOT PAY FOR PHOTOS WITH ANIMALS MEANT FOR THE WILD



DON'T FEED OR TOUCH WILD ANIMALS

REMEMBER THE 5 FREEDOMS

- DO ANIMALS HAVE ENOUGH FOOD & WATER?
- DO ANIMALS HAVE SHADE OR SHELTER?
- DO ANIMALS LOOK HEALTHY & WELL CARED FOR?
- ARE THEY ABLE TO ROAM FREE & INTERACT WITH OTHER ANIMALS?
- DO THEY SEEM HAPPY?

SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT ELEPHANT WELFARE

G ADVENTURES DOES NOT INCLUDE OR ENCOURAGE ACTIVITIES THAT ALLOW ELEPHANTS TO COME INTO CONTACT WITH TOURISTS



MAINTAIN A SAFE DISTANCE FROM WILD ANIMALS



NEVER PICK AN ANIMAL UP - NO MATTER HOW SMALL

WORKING ANIMALS SHOULD NEVER CARRY MORE THAN 15-20% OF THEIR WEIGHT



SUPPORT AND PAY A VISIT TO SANCTUARIES WHERE ANIMALS ROAM FREE!



MAKE SURE YOUR SOUVENIRS ARE ETHICALLY SOURCED



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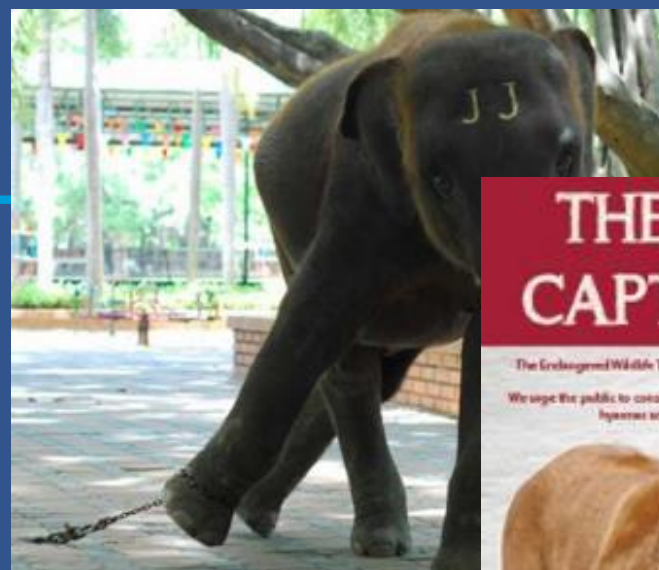


Compassionate Travel
A guide to animal-friendly holidays



Taken for a ride

The conditions for elephants used in tourism in Asia



Associated with cruelty

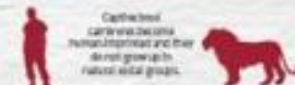
How travel trade associations are ignoring wild animal abuse

THE CONCERN WITH CAPTIVE CARNIVORES

The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) is concerned about the proliferation of captive facilities holding a range of carnivores in South Africa for the sole purpose of tourism and financial gain. We urge the public to consider some important facts when visiting any facilities that hold Lions, Cheetahs, Leopards, Wild Dogs, Hyenas and even more exotic (non-native to South Africa) species such as tigers and panthers.



6 000 captive lions
2 300 free ranging in reserves and parks



Captive bred carnivores are two core human imports and they do not grow up in natural social groups.

The so-called 'lion hunting' industry in South Africa has increased in recent years and the total estimated value generated from hunting captive lions amounted to about R90 million in 2006/2007.



A captive breeding facility will usually have to sell their offspring, their cubs, when they are sub-adults and they do not sell 'breed' animals.



Feeding and bottle feeding a cub is often, for a lion, the only way they learn to interact with their mothers.



Captive breeding is not a conservation recommendation for any carnivore species in South Africa.

Conservation priorities include:
1. Reducing human-wildlife conflict.
2. Securing suitable habitat.
3. Reducing illegal off-take and
4. Maintaining balanced, functioning ecosystems.

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ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST
www.ewt.org.za

We urge those visitors to captive carnivore facilities to ask at the very least these critical questions:

- Why is the plan for the long-term future of the animals in this facility?
- What are the cub's mother's?
- Why are cubs not being raised by their mothers?
- What happens to the cub's cub when they grow up?
- If they are released into larger wildlife areas, where are these and can the facility provide documentation to prove a viable, ethical and successful release process?
- If the facility is breeding, do they have a management plan that demonstrates responsible husbandry and management of all cubs?
- Do any of the cubs have the opportunity to live out their natural lives, or are they all sold or bred with again?
- What happens to the cub's cub when they grow up?
- Can the public inspect the record books of the facility and follow the life cycle of an individual animal?
- If these animals become part of another breeding group, for what purpose?



Typical view of rover traffic along the main road in Seronera Valley



Guests on walking safari in eastern Serengeti – community based nature refuge



Head conservator of the refuge Daniel Yamat, a Maasai, speaking with members of a local women's entrepreneurial group.



Medical dispensary where, funded via small group tourism at the refuge





A GUIDE and TOOL by SATSA
The Southern Africa Tourism Services Association

Evaluating Captive Wildlife Attractions & Activities

Helping you make good choices

SATSA ▶
The Voice of Inbound Tourism

A tool to help you make good choices

1

Does the facility practice ALL the criteria for a true sanctuary or rehabilitation centre?

- ▶ No breeding of animals
- ▶ No trading of animals
- ▶ No performing animals
- ▶ No animals in tactile interactions/walking with the public
- ▶ Animals are in captivity because they were sick, injured, orphaned, rescued, donated and/or abandoned
- ▶ The animals will have a home for life or will be used for in-situ repopulation by reintegration back to the wild or be relocated as part of a recognised conservation programme
- ▶ And the facility is compliant with all relevant legislation and is transparent in its operations and marketing collateral

NO

YES

CONSIDER ACTIVITIES / USE

2

Does the facility offer any one or more of:

- ▶ Performing animals
- ▶ Tactile interactions with all infant wild animals e.g. cub petting
- ▶ Tactile interactions with predators or cetaceans
- ▶ Walking with predators or elephants
- ▶ Riding of wild animals

YES

NO

CONSIDER DESTINATION

3a

Do any of the animals end up in:

- ▶ canned hunting
- ▶ trade in body parts
- ▶ Illegal trade

YES

3b

Is there breeding of lions and/or tigers?

NO OR NOT SURE

CONSIDER MARKETING

4

Is there any indication of:

- ▶ misleading advertising
- ▶ deceptive behaviour
- ▶ lack of transparency

YES

NO

CONSIDER COMPLIANCE

5

Is there any indication of illegal operations?

YES

NO

CONSIDER SOURCE AND REASON

6a

Are any of the animals wild captured, purchased, bred in captivity OR traded commercially (unless part of recognised conservation programme)?

6b

Is any animal's freedom of choice to participate in a tourist activity restricted in any way?

6c

Are any of the animals kept in captivity only for tourism/entertainment purposes?

YES TO ONE OR MORE

NO TO ALL

2019: Line in the sand

AVOID

SUPPORT

DISQUALIFYING CRITERIA

GRADING CRITERIA

Do any of the following apply?

- 6a** Are any of the animals wild captured, purchased, bred in captivity OR traded commercially (unless part of recognised conservation programme)?
- 6b** Is any animal's freedom of choice to participate in a tourist activity restricted in any way?
- 6c** Are any of the animals kept in captivity only for tourism/entertainment purposes?

**YES TO
ONE OR
MORE**

**NO
TO ALL**

**SUPPORT
WITH
CAUTION**

SUPPORT

A wide-angle photograph of a savanna landscape during sunset. The sky is filled with soft, orange and pink clouds. In the foreground, two rhinoceroses stand on a grassy plain. To their right, a single, leafless tree stands prominently. In the background, a range of mountains is visible under the twilight sky. On the far right, a safari vehicle with several people inside is parked, observing the scene.

Conserving wildlife by sharing its value and broadening its benefits.

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