ANIMAL INTERACTIONS
HOW CAN WE MITIGATE ANIMAL ABUSE IN THE TOURISM INDUSTRY?

GO NOW TO
https://educationaltravel.travel/animal-interactions

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

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.
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

**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.

**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).

**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 announces additions to industry-leading animal welfare policy

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

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

Opposes illegal and negative impacts to animals:
- Prohibit direct contact with wild animals (photos, feeding, touching)
- Don’t condone activities that are unnatural or that endanger animals e.g. elephant or ostrich riding, unlicensed zoos, snake charming, sanctuary that breeds animals for commercial trade

Goal: to protect animals against abuse within tourism and not interfere or adversely effect them in their natural habitats
- Independent audit required of suppliers
- Adherence to ABTA Welfare Guidelines in supplier contracts
- Inappropriate activities removed from supply: elephant rides and shows, swimming with dolphins or interactions with wildcats
- Prohibit direct contact with wild animals
- Independent audit of supplies against ABTA guidelines
- Promotes attractions that are responsible and safe i.e. observational and educational programmes
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

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 facility that holds Lions, Chacma Baboons, Wild Dogs, Hyenas and some species (non-native to South Africa) such as tigers and panthers.

- 6,000 captive lions
- 2,300 captive tigers

Conservation priorities include:
- Captive breeding
- Conserving wild habitats
- Sustaining viable populations
- Ensuring that the welfare of captive animals is maintained

Contact:
Donna van Sitteren
Endangered Wildlife Trust

We urge these facilities to adhere to the very best animal welfare standards.
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

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

3a. Do any of the animals end up in:
   - canned hunting
   - trade in body parts
   - illegal trade

3b. Is there breeding of lions and/or tigers?

4. Is there any indication of:
   - misleading advertising
   - deceptive behaviour
   - lack of transparency

5. Is there any indication of illegal operations?

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?

2019: Line in the sand

Avoid

Support
Do any of the following apply?

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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
Conserving wildlife by sharing its value and broadening its benefits.
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