



YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO BEING AN
Animal-Friendly Traveler



Enjoy seeing animals on vacation?

You're not alone. Sadly, wild animals are suffering just to entertain tourists, and domesticated animals are enduring cruel treatment just to cart us around.

Do's

- ♥ While traveling, make sure to enjoy wild animals in their natural habitat, rather than in captivity where possible, and only support genuine sanctuaries or conservation centers. If you are worried about an animal or institution – report it!
- ♥ Make sure that any domesticated animals, like mules or horses, that are ridden are in good physical condition, well cared for, and provided with water and shade.
- ♥ Finally, do think about what you are eating or buying. Avoid buying souvenirs or products made from animals – often endangered species – and don't support cruel food practices like the dog and cat meat trade.



Don'ts

- ✗ Remember, if you can hug, ride, touch or take a photo with a wild animal, it has likely suffered from some form of cruelty to make that possible.
- ✗ Avoid feeding wild animals or supporting the use of animals to solicit money from tourists e.g., animal shows and performances, selfie opportunities, or animals killed for consumption or souvenirs.
- ✗ Don't put yourself at risk! Big cats, elephants and other wild animal species are unpredictable and direct contact with such species poses a high risk to people.

Twelve tips to help protect animals while traveling

1. Photos

Photograph wildlife in the wild, while respecting their space. Don't support businesses charging for photos with animals.



2. Eco-tourism

Enjoy animals in the wild where they belong and support companies that offer eco-tourism trips or non-invasive photo safaris. Beware of places that offer trips that include trophy hunting, which is a cruel and unnecessary sport.





3. Look but don't touch

Wild animals aren't pets looking for belly scratches. Holding or petting wildlife is never kind to the animal, despite your best intentions. Close contact with wild animals could cause harm to their environment or to the animals themselves. And for your safety, this goes for stray or feral animals too.



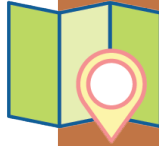
4. Feeding animals

Feeding wild animals harms their ability to find food naturally and teaches them to get dangerously close to humans.



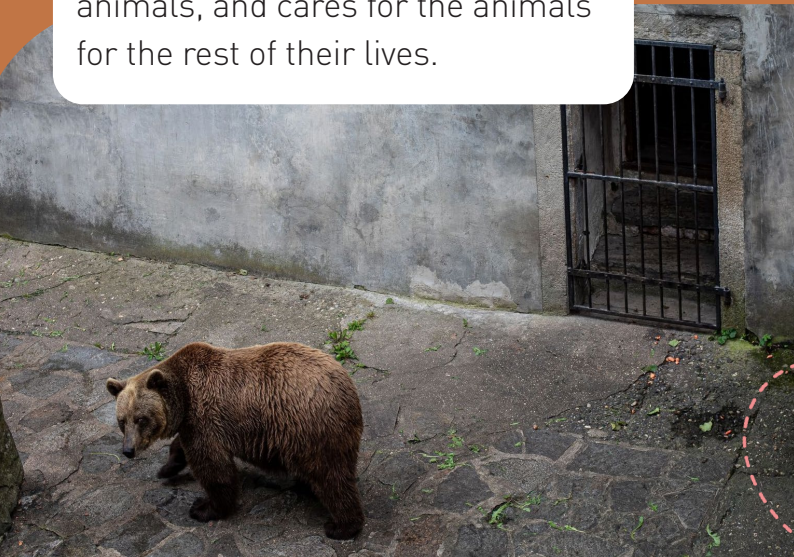
5. True Sanctuaries

Sometimes you'll see animals in "sanctuaries" or poor-quality zoos. If you are worried about the welfare of these animals, report it immediately to your tour operator or a local welfare organization. A true sanctuary does not breed animals or allow public contact with animals, and cares for the animals for the rest of their lives.



6. Riding elephants

Elephants are wild animals and can't be "tamed" without cruel treatment. Don't try to ride them or visit businesses that offer this activity.





7. Animal products or trinkets

Do not buy trinkets or souvenirs made from animal parts. The illegal trade in wildlife parts and products includes items made with exotic leathers and fur, ivory and ornamental objects, food items, and traditional medicines. Buying these products encourages animal exploitation and poaching of animals from the wild.



8. Animals in entertainment

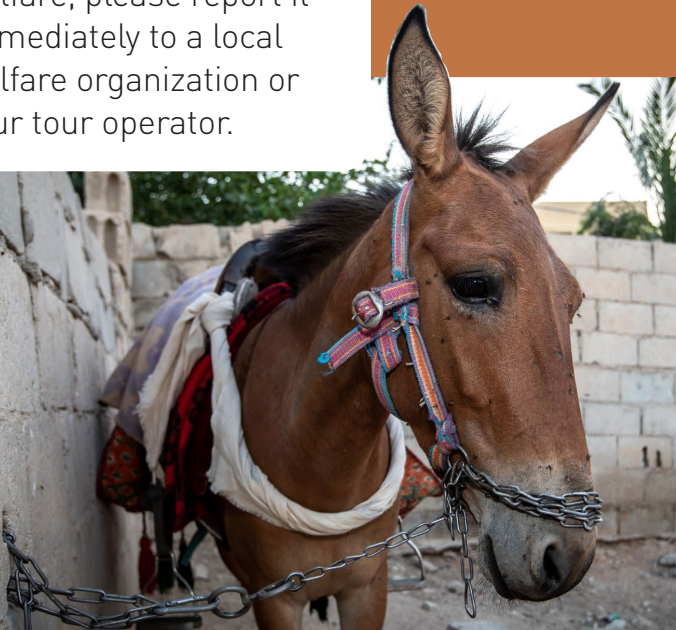
Please don't support cruel animal exhibits or shows like circuses, performances with marine mammals or any kind of show that involves wild animal performances. These animals are kept in inappropriate conditions and their performances are the result of dubious training methods based on domination or, at worst, violence. Please don't support this torture.





9. Working animals

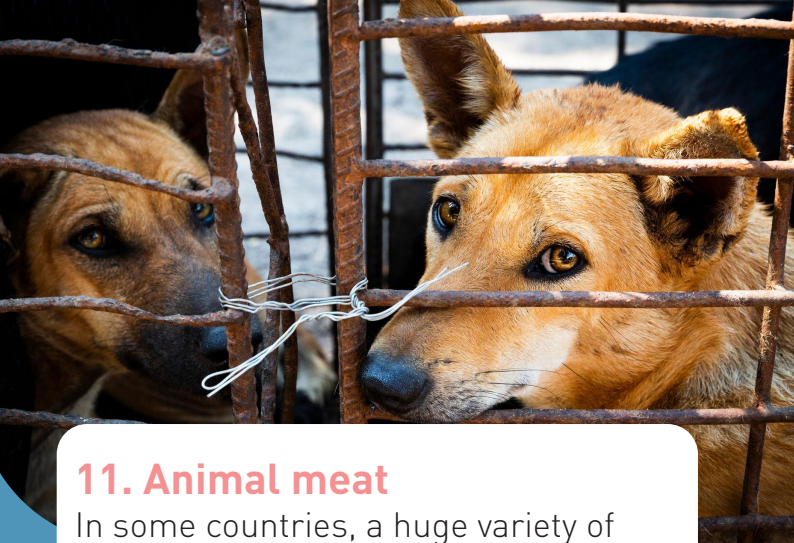
Working mules and horses are commonplace in some countries. If you encounter those that are bred for work and are worried about their welfare, please report it immediately to a local welfare organization or your tour operator.



10. Health and safety

It's important when you're abroad to be aware and take care in the presence of animals. Many strays and wild animals are fearful of humans and if approached, handled or attacked, can pose a real threat to you and your health. Rabies is a serious issue in some countries and can be transferred to humans. If bitten, wash the wound with soap and water, and seek medical attention immediately.





11. Animal meat

In some countries, a huge variety of animals can be found frequently on the menu. Avoid eating at places, including street vendors, that sell dog or cat meat, bush meat, and endangered species, such as shark fins, whale and turtle meat. Many animals endure cruel treatment to end up on a plate and there are also risks to your health with diseases, or even poison, being present in the meat, as a result of improper slaughter practices or hygiene.

12. Eating out

Many countries and cities worldwide are providing more and more options for vegetarian and vegan travelers, so do look out for specialized establishments or at least veggie-friendly items indicated on the menu. It helps to learn food words like “vegetarian” or “vegan” in the local language, and smartphone apps like HappyCow and Vegman, or sites like Yelp, have lots of recommendations too!





FOUR PAWS is the global animal welfare organization for animals under direct human influence, which reveals suffering, rescues animals in need and protects them.

For more than 30 years, **FOUR PAWS** has worked tirelessly to create sustainable solutions for animals in need by changing consumer behavior, driving legal change, and building effective partnerships to improve the ways in which animals are treated.

Animal welfare. Worldwide.

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