



Khiri Travel Animal and Wildlife Policy

Updated on 3rd March 2023

Relevance

Animal attractions and experiences are a common part of holiday destinations and are very popular with holidaymakers in Asia. Travelers are becoming aware of their negative impact on wild or captive animals and want to be provided with more animal friendly options. As a Destination Management Company, we consider these issues and develop less intrusive ways to enjoy wildlife in Asia.

Our Commitment

Khiri Travel makes a conscious decision not to contribute to the extinction of wildlife. We do not promote any activities, which exploit or harm animals, both in the wild and in captivity. We are committed to gradually assess our services and activities providers; and only choose to work with those who ensure wildlife welfare. [This Wildlife Policy serves as the guiding principle for all Khiri Travel products.](#)

Key aspects of animal welfare are the Five Freedoms:

- I. Freedom from hunger and thirst
- II. Freedom from discomfort
- III. Freedom from pain, injury, or disease
- IV. Freedom to express normal behavior
- V. Freedom from fear and distress

Captive Animals

Types of captive animal facilities include urban zoo; rural safari park; crocodile and snake farms; elephant camps; dolphinarium; animal sanctuaries open to the public; rescue and rehabilitation centers open to the public; circuses; individual animals kept for display or performance purposes.

When working with captive animal suppliers, we adhere to the following minimum requirements:

- I. All animals have regular, daily access to adequate and clean drinking water;
- II. All animals are fed appropriate food via an appropriate feeding routine;
- III. Enclosures allow animals to move and exercise freely, and to maintain sufficient distance from each other in case of conflict;
- IV. Enclosures are clean, hygienic and well maintained;
- V. Animals are regularly checked by specialized veterinarians;
- VI. Animal performances should only involve natural behavior and be free from bad practice, such as "humanizing" (dressing up or riding bicycles);
- VII. Captive animal suppliers have legal license for the attraction or activities they offer;
- VIII. Captive animal suppliers must maintain up-to-date records of all animals;

- IX. Strong safety regulations are in place to protect both animals and visitors;
- X. Where customers are permitted to be photographed with animals, this should be free from evidence of bad practice.

Captive Elephants

Khiri Travel assure that our activities that involve captive elephants will strictly follow the above minimum requirements of Captive Animals.

Khiri Travel actively collaborates with independent organizations, who provide training and support towards a more responsible elephant camp management. The Elephant Camp Animal Welfare and Sustainability Standard and Assessment Initiatives and the Asia Captive Elephants Standards are up-to-date frameworks for the camps.

The standards consider:

- Fair working conditions for mahouts include health care, fair wages and annual leave.
- First aid training for mahouts and camp staff are mandatory.
- Conservation efforts should be coordinated with local communities.
- Elephants should not work or interact with tourists more than 4 hours a day. Rides should not interfere with their normal rest and feeding times.
- Elephants have sensitive skin, they should not walk on hot concrete, rocks, or gravel. Shade should be provided.
- Access to adequate food and clean water: Elephants eat 200 kg of food per day.
- Access to veterinarian care.
- Elephants are extremely social animals. They should always be able to stay in their herds and have time to roam freely.
- Daytime and nighttime enclosures must be adequately sized. Male elephants in heat are extremely dangerous to humans and other elephants, therefore they will need to have a separate enclosure. In certain circumstances it might be necessary to use chains. If chains are used, they should be at least 20m long.
- Use positive reinforcement techniques to get the animals accustomed to interacting with humans.
- Health & safety guidelines should be clearly defined for both animals and humans
- The facilities must be aware of their environmental impacts and have proper waste management systems for the elephant.

Khiri Travel, other DMCs and tour operators involved in this initiative will no longer work with elephant camps that refuse to be audited or assessed.

Working Animals (Horse/Buffalo/Donkey Riding)

We work closely with our local partners to ensure the above minimum requirements on Captive Animals and the below guidelines:

- Equipment should fit, not causing injury, and be removed during rest periods and when eating/drinking;
- No beating or physical force should be used to control or coerce the animal;
- Animals should train and work within their physical capabilities. Loads should be equivalent to the animal's size and ability (e.g. Horses carry only half of their body weight), work should not be in the hottest time. Animals should have regular rest each day of at least an hour between working periods;
- Under no circumstances riding sick/underweight animals (if eyes are cloudy, bones or ribs are showing, visible wounds or sores);
- Young, pregnant, nursing, injured, ill, distressed or elderly animals should not be ridden, or be required to carry/pull loads;
- Strong health & safety guidelines must be in place and enforced. Tourists must receive a formal instruction before interacting with animals.

Animals in the Wild

Khiri Travel apply strictly the below rules while seeing wild animals to ensure the best responsible practices within our business operation:

- I. Tour suppliers and providers of wildlife excursions make sure that wildlife:
 - is not lured and feed with human food
 - is not chased after
 - is not touched
 - is not hunted
 - is not scared by loud noises or flash lights
- II. National Park guidelines and rules are communicated and respected by all visitors and excursion providers.
- III. Wildlife and human-beings are not put into dangerous situations.

Marine Wildlife

Khiri Travel follows the requirements below to make sure we protect the marine life:

- When swimming, snorkeling, or diving, always keep adequate distance;
- If marine wildlife is approached, do so slowly and cautiously. Let animals decide how close they want to be;
- Visitors must not touch, pick up, chase or feed marine animals;
- Do not collect anything from the water: coral, shells, animals, plants;
- Do not litter, especially plastic waste;
- Avoid sunscreen with Oxybenzone as it can harm wildlife and coral reefs;

- Watch out for your fins - make sure not to touch anything or stand on any coral;
- Always stay close to the boat and follow your guides' instructions;
- Diving activities offered by operators should have a valid operating license issued by a recognized certification agency or relevant local authority.

We are also encouraging providers of wildlife activities to gradually adjust their activities to include less human interaction.

Marine Turtles

Most marine turtle species are endangered due to habitat loss and noise/water pollution. They are extremely fragile. Therefore, interaction must always be kept to a minimum.

- Never touch turtles, their eggs, or hatchling, unless supervised by an official research or conservation program;
- When releasing turtles, never touch them with your bare hands, wear gloves at all times. Diseases can easily be transmitted;
- Be extra careful around turtle nesting grounds, try to avoid entering the beach when you see them;
- Never interfere with the movement of turtles;
- Don't shine intrusive lights at them or on their nests. Flash photography is also prohibited;
- Do not make sudden movements or loud noises- turtles can easily be scared.

Fishing

Khiri Travel promotes and supports traditional lifestyles by offering community-based tourist activities wherever possible:

- Traditional fishing methods serve a purpose of preserving the local culture. We promote that the fishermen eat what they catch and sell them in the local markets;
- No catch and release fishing activities for the purpose of entertainment;
- Respect local fishing quotas and breeding seasons,
- Make sure not to fish in marine parks or protected areas,

We work with suppliers which uphold and respect the fishing ban of any protected species according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Animal Products/Souvenirs

Khiri Travel does not support the purchase of animal products or souvenirs, especially from endangered species, according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and CITES:

- Sea shells, corals, turtles, turtle shells, starfish, sea urchins, snails;
- Fur or skins;
- Rhino horn, ivory or pangolin scales;
- Traditional medicines containing parts or products of endangered species;
- Food products or medicinal products: shark fin soup, turtle soup, snake, tiger, pangolin whiskey, snake blood, bear bile, tiger bone wine, dog or cat meat.

The trade in endangered wildlife products is illegal in all Khiri's destinations; however, it may not be enforced sufficiently. Khiri Travel provides information and training to staff and tour guides to ensure that we do not promote or engage in trading of endangered species' products.

Khiri Travel is an active supporter of Too Rare To Wear, a campaign educating locals and tourists about the protection of sea turtles and increasing awareness about products made out of turtle shells.