



Protecting wild animals in tourism

Statement of intent by Expedition Providers Association

As a responsible travel business/tour operator with strong commitments on sustainability, we care not only for the welfare of people, but also for the welfare of animals.

Every year, across the world, hundreds of thousands of wild animals are held in captivity and subjected to abuse, both mentally and physically, to provide tourist entertainment. Whether taken from the wild or bred for commercial purposes, their welfare is severely compromised.

Sadly, many tourists who love animals are not aware of the hidden cruelties and unknowingly contribute to animal suffering, as they participate in wild animal entertainment such as elephant rides and shows, handling and taking photos with lions and tigers, or swimming with dolphins.

Therefore, as a first step, we have pledged to protect elephants by not selling, offering or promoting venues or activities where elephant rides and shows are made available.

Now we will continue the journey by taking steps to end the exploitation and suffering of all wild animals in our business and instead provide responsible, animal-friendly alternatives to our customers.

The Expedition Providers Association will therefore:

- Investigate our product offering to assess how our business is directly or indirectly linked to the use of wild animals in entertainment.
- Continue to take steps to protect wild animals used in tourism, including phasing out the sale, offer or promotion of venues where entertainment using wild animals take place, from our business.
- Adopt an animal welfare policy for our business.
- Promote responsible tourism among our customers to enable them to be animal-friendly travellers, for example by viewing wild animals responsibly, in their natural habitats.

Signed by:

Alistair Cole

Chair