

RAISE the RED FLAG



ADVICE

We can all take steps to ensure our holidays or activities do not impact on captive wild animal welfare or promote exploitation.



BEFORE YOU GO

- Please research your destination country, excursion or activity
- Book through a responsible travel company or tour operator that has an animal welfare policy
- Try to ensure your itinerary does not contain activities or attractions that might involve animal cruelty or exploitation
- Check the **Raise the Red Flag** map to see if we have received any public reports about specific attractions or locations.

While you are travelling, taking part in an excursion, or visiting an attraction or captive facility, look out for animal exploitation, suffering or neglect.

Remember, welfare concerns or problems may not be immediately obvious.



ZOOS & OTHER CAPTIVE FACILITIES

Wild animals in zoos, safari parks, aquariums, dolphinariums, elephant camps or turtle hatcheries suffer from being kept in restrictive, unnatural and artificial environments. While some captive facilities adhere to basic standards of care, some animals are kept in terrible conditions with no thought given to the needs of the species or individual animals.

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

- Do enclosures or cages meet the animals basic needs?
- Is there adequate space for the animals to move, climb, bathe, swim or fly?
- Do they have shade or shelter and water to drink?
- Is the enclosure clean and well-maintained or does it contain litter, a build-up of faeces or rotting food?
- Do any animals appear injured or in poor physical condition, such as missing feathers, fur or scales, or do they have obvious wounds?
- Some seemingly free-roaming birds or those kept in open-topped enclosures may have had their wings mutilated to prevent them flying away. When they flap or spread their wings, do they appear to be missing part of one wing?
- Do animals appear to be thin or obese?
- Are animals displaying strange, unnatural behaviours, such as constant pacing and circling, bobbing of heads, neck-twisting and swaying?
- Can people touch or torment animals, such as in walk-through enclosures, through the cage or over a fence?
- Are animals actively used for visitor encounter sessions or in shows?



SANCTUARIES & RESCUE CENTRES

Some captive facilities call themselves sanctuaries or rehabilitation centres, terms usually associated with non-commercially driven projects which rescue animals from lives of suffering. However, many places are not what they seem. If you are thinking of visiting or volunteering at a sanctuary, please research the facility's stated aims and information about their animals. If the facility does not provide any information about where their animals came from and why the facility exists, this should raise some questions.

While a true sanctuary might be expected to, for example, prevent animals from breeding – preferring instead to allocate available resources to animals already in need – many places do not limit breeding. This increases the captive population of animals with little chance of release back or to the wild. This can also undermine the welfare standards the facilities are able to provide. The origin of many animals at so-called sanctuaries is sometimes questionable. Wild animals may have been removed directly from their natural habitat, bought from suppliers who obtained animals from the wild, or bought from breeding centres, zoos or private individuals.

Many facilities also offer physical contact with their animals, encouraging them to become more accustomed to humans. This is usually not in their best interest (unless for the administration of veterinary or neonatal care). Direct contact with wild animals also poses a significant risk to human health and safety through potential disease transmission or injury.



CIRCUSES & PERFORMING ANIMALS

Hundreds of thousands of wild animals are used in circuses or shows worldwide. While it is easy to recognise the exploitation of animals forced to stand on their heads, walk on stilts or jump through flaming hoops, problems with other activities such as elephants painting pictures, dolphins whistling a tune, eagles flying between podiums, or sea lions clapping their flippers may not be so obvious. Any activity where an animal is forced to perform an action or behaviour on demand has to be trained. In wild animals, this can be stressful and, in many cases, abusive.

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

- Does your hotel have entertainment that involves captive wild animals, such as parrots riding bicycles or magic shows?
- Have you encountered a travelling circus or a zoo using animals to perform tricks?
- Watch carefully how the animals are being treated during a show and how the animals respond or behave – are they cowering or flinching with every move of the trainer or handler?
- Does the handler use any goad, whip or tool to make the animals perform?
- Are the animals being roughly-handled or beaten if they are not co-operating?
- Can you see how the animals are kept when they are not performing – are they held in small cages or are they tethered or chained?



ANIMAL INTERACTIONS & PHOTO PROPS



There are lots of opportunities to get up close to wild animals in captivity including elephant riding, lion petting or walking with an animal, holding a snake or monkey, flying birds of prey, swimming with dolphins and sea lions, or posing with an animal for souvenir photos. But these activities can have serious animal welfare implications and pose real risks to both animal and public health and safety. Born Free strongly advises people not to participate in these activities.

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

- Are the animals chained or tethered to the spot, so that people can sit or stand with them for photos or petting?
- It may be hard to see, but some animals may have had their claws or teeth removed or filed down, so that they are safer to handle.
- Have any animals, particularly reptiles, had their mouths taped or bound shut to avoid bite injuries?
- Are the animals being roughly-handled or beaten if they are not co-operating?
- Are the animals involved trying to hide, run or fly away?
- Animals used for rides can suffer terribly, particularly elephants or camels. Do they have poorly-fitting harnesses or saddles? Are they made to carry people on their backs in large, metal seats? Can you see any injuries or wounds?
- Are there any hand-washing facilities?

OTHER CAPTIVE ANIMALS

You can still encounter captive wild animals, even if you're not actively visiting an attraction or location.

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

- Chained elephants in temples
- Caged animals at hotels or restaurants
- Wild animals used for street begging
- Live animals for sale in markets or shops.

If you are able to, please take photos and/or video of the animals involved and report it to Raise the Red Flag.



FIND OUT MORE

For more information on our campaign please visit the following links:

ZOOS & AQUARIA

www.bornfree.org.uk/zoos-aquaria

DOLPHINARIA

www.bornfree.org.uk/dolphinaria

CIRCUSES

www.bornfree.org.uk/circuses

ANIMAL SHOWS

www.bornfree.org.uk/animal-shows

ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS & INTERACTION

www.bornfree.org.uk/animal-encounters

STEREOTYPIC BEHAVIOUR

www.bornfree.org.uk/zoochosis

VOLUNTEERING

www.bornfree.org.uk/volunteer



Keep Wildlife in the Wild