

RESPONSIBLE TOURISM POLICIES

Animal Welfare Policy



LUSSO



At Lusso, we are committed to helping ensure the *highest standards of animal welfare* in all animal-related activities we promote at destination. We adhere to ABTA's Five Domains of Animal Welfare framework (Nutrition, Environment, Physical and Mental Health and Behaviour) while aligning with the UK government's animal welfare legislation introduced in September 2023 to guide our interactions with animals and to create *enriching, responsible experiences* for our travellers.

Purpose Of The Policy



Our animal welfare policy is designed to support the physical and psychological wellbeing of animals involved in tours and experiences at destination, to promote responsible and respectful interactions with wildlife, to actively discourage any form of animal exploitation or unethical practices, and to prioritise the safety and wellbeing of our travellers.

We are dedicated to collaborating with destination suppliers to help ensure the ethical treatment and welfare of wildlife. We believe in fostering partnerships that align with our commitment to responsible tourism and the wellbeing of animals and travellers. Here are the steps we take to promote the ethical treatment and welfare of animals and the expectations we set for our suppliers to adhere to.

Supplier Vetting & Selection

We carefully vet our suppliers, local operators and their guides, ensuring they share our values of animal welfare. Suppliers will be evaluated based on their treatment of animals, adherence to ethical practice and compliance with local and international wildlife protection laws.

Education & Training

We provide optional training to our suppliers regarding ethical wildlife interactions. This training includes information on animal behaviour, stress indicators and best practices for ensuring the wellbeing of wildlife during tours and activities.



Guidelines & Codes Of Conduct

We establish clear guidelines and codes of conduct for our suppliers and travellers, outlining our expectations regarding the treatment of wildlife. These guidelines cover aspects such as respectful viewing distances, non-intrusive behaviour, the prohibition of feeding or harassing animals and the safeguarding of wildlife.

Regular Monitoring & Evaluation

We conduct regular evaluations of our suppliers to help ensure adherence to our established wildlife guidelines. Continuous monitoring allows us to address any concerns promptly and make necessary adjustments to maintain ethical standards.

Promotion Of Responsible Tourism

We actively promote responsible wildlife tourism among our suppliers and travellers. By encouraging sustainable practices and raising awareness about wildlife and biodiversity conservation, we aim to create a positive impact on both the local communities and the wildlife habitats.

Supporting Conservation Efforts

We are currently working to identify local conservation organisations and wildlife protection initiatives in our destinations. By contributing to these efforts financially and through advocacy, we aim to support the preservation of natural habitats and the welfare of wildlife species.



Feedback & Improvement

We encourage feedback from travellers regarding their wildlife experiences. This feedback helps us assess the performance of our suppliers and identify areas for improvement, ensuring that we continuously enhance our efforts to promote ethical wildlife tourism.

Safeguarding Wildlife

We expect all of our suppliers to follow these principles in respect of safeguarding wildlife:

Wildlife Protection

Wildlife species must not be harvested, consumed, displayed, sold, or traded, except as part of a regulated activity that supports sustainable use and complies with local, national and international law. Suppliers must not promote souvenirs or food containing threatened flora and fauna species, as indicated by the CITES treaty and the IUCN Red List (details below). Should any such illegal activity come to light, Lusso reserves the right to terminate the contract without notice.

Captive Animals

Any animals owned by the business or present on the premises must be acquired legally and in accordance with CITES regulations. Captive animals should only be kept by individuals or organisations authorised and suitably equipped to house and care for them humanely.

Animal Interactions

Excursions involving interactions with animals must align with relevant codes of conduct. Activities should not lead to adverse effects on the viability and behaviour of wild populations, considering the cumulative impacts of wildlife tourism. Disturbance to natural ecosystems should be minimised, rehabilitated and compensated by a contribution to conservation management.

Prohibited Purchases

The purchase of souvenirs containing threatened flora and fauna species, any illegally obtained historic or archaeological artefacts, drugs or illegal substances is strictly prohibited. Suppliers must comply with all local and international laws aimed at preventing such activities.

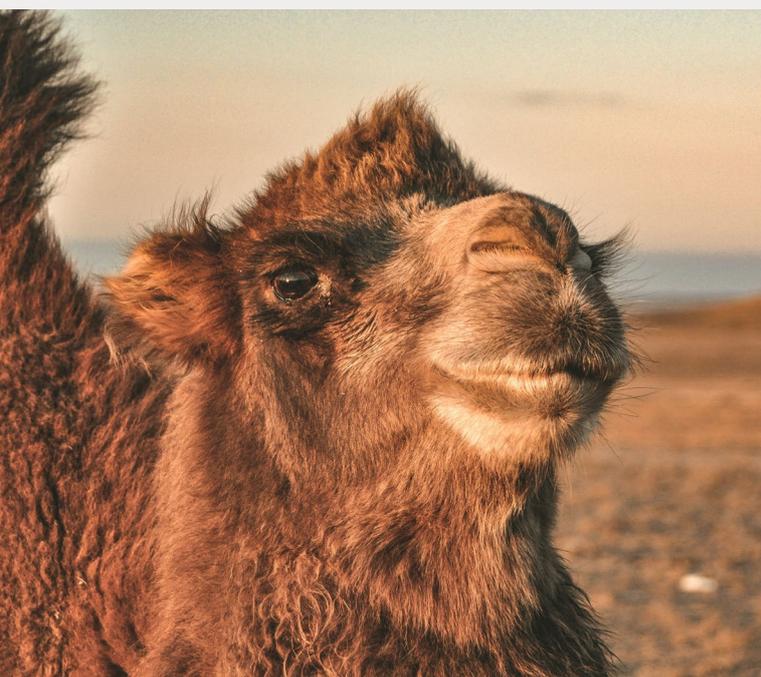
By actively engaging with our suppliers and empowering them with knowledge and resources, we are committed to fostering the ethical treatment and welfare of wildlife and working to ensure the safety of our travellers in destinations where we operate. Together with our partners, we strive to create meaningful and respectful wildlife experiences for our travellers, while contributing to the conservation of our planet's precious biodiversity.





ABTA's Five Animal Welfare Domains

In 2019, ABTA published its Five Domains framework, which drew on previous reports to establish basic requirements for animal welfare within the tourism industry. The four physical domains of Nutrition, Environment, Physical Health and Behaviour combine to underpin in the fifth domain, the animal's Mental Health.



Nutrition

All animals have unrestricted daily access to adequate and clean drinking water in line with their species-specific needs.

All animals are provided access to food that is adequate in quality, amount and variety for the species, the captive environment and the individual animals' needs. Feeding routines should be species-specific, mentally stimulating and encourage natural behaviours.

Environment

In captivity, enclosures are environmentally complex, including natural substrate, structures, shelter and environmental enrichment, in order to encourage a normal and diverse behavioural repertoire. All animals should be able to access shelter and a climatic environment suitable for their species-specific needs and be able to seek privacy from view.

In captivity, enclosures are clean, hygienic, free of excessive artificial noise such as visitor or speaker noise and well maintained (for example, devoid of excessive faeces, urine or rotting food, litter, not waterlogged, not infested with vermin).

Physical & Mental Health

The facility has access to a vet, either employed or externally contracted, who is knowledgeable and experienced in the health and welfare of the relevant animals.

There is a policy not to surgically modify the skin, tissues, teeth or bone structure of animals and not to sedate animals, unless it is for the purpose of genuine medical treatment or improved welfare and always under the guidance of an appropriately trained vet.

Complete, accurate animal stock lists, veterinary records and any appropriate licences or permits must be up-to-date and available for inspection. The required documentation should be in place for all animals.

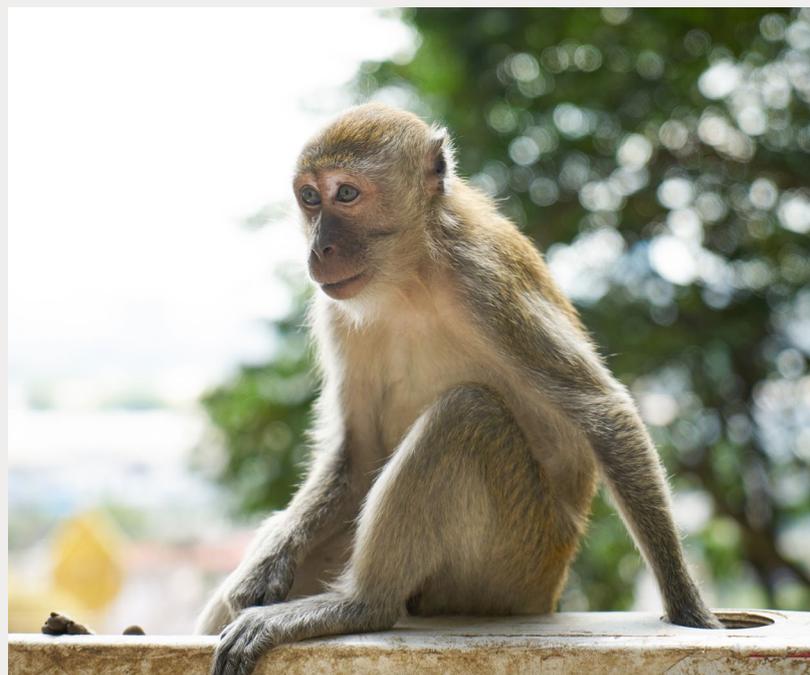


Behaviour

In captivity, enclosures (including pools) or methods used to contain the animals for temporary periods, allow all animals to move and exercise freely and to maintain sufficient distance from other animals in case of conflict.

Depending on their species-specific and seasonal needs, animals should have the opportunity to interact regularly with others of their species. Animals should not be prematurely separated from their young.

Any training of animals should never involve punishment or food deprivation.





Recommended Resources For Training & Development

ABTA ANIMAL WELFARE

Please note suppliers are required to register on ABTA.com as a registered user before they can access the files:
<https://www.abta.com/sustainability/animal-welfare>

CITES

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora:
<https://cites.org/eng>

GOV.UK LEGISLATION (September 2023)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/legislation-to-clamp-down-on-cruel-animal-experiences-abroad>

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/45#:~:text=2023%20CHAPTER%2045,standards%20of%20welfare%20for%20animals.>

IUCN – RED LIST

International Union for the Conservation of Nature:
<https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

WTTC & ANIMONDIAL NATURE POSITIVE TRAVEL & TOURISM

<https://wttc.org/Portals/0/Documents/Reports/2022/Nature-Positive-Travel-And-Tourism-Toolbox.pdf>

SUSTAINABILITY TRAINING

Please contact Zoe Savage-Morton, Responsible Tourism and Sustainability Manager, to enable access to animal welfare and sustainability training: responsibletourism@lussotravel.com



Giving Us Feedback

We welcome your views on the support and information we provide. This will help us to identify what we do well and what we can do better. We invite your feedback by emailing responsibletourism@lussotravel.com

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