

## **YHA Australia's Wildlife Guidelines**

*The following guidelines apply specifically to wild or captive wild animals, and do not encompass domesticated animals unless otherwise stated.*

### **Wildlife experiences that we promote**

The following wildlife venues or activities are examples of those that YHA Australia generally promotes to our travellers:

- Wildlife sanctuaries, rehabilitation facilities and rescue centres, such as those certified by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS)\*, which have a genuine non-tourism function, and:
  - o Ensure the ethical acquisition of their animals
  - o Maintain the highest levels of animal care
  - o Carefully manage standards regarding visitors and tours
  - o Do not engage in breeding for commercial purposes
- Responsible wildlife watching, where travellers observe animals in their natural environment from a safe and respectful distance, without:
  - o Luring or baiting
  - o Encroaching on animals' space
  - o In any other way interrupting animals' natural behaviours
- Zoos and aquariums who are members of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA)\*, and whose primary offerings do not include activities in the list set out below.

*\*YHA acknowledges that these accreditations alone cannot be relied on as a measure of good welfare.*

### **Wildlife experiences that we do not support**

YHA Australia does not generally sell or promote venues or activities that offer travellers the following experiences:

- Close interaction with (such as touching, feeding or approaching) wild animals, especially where it impacts their normal behaviour (e.g. close-quarters quokka selfies, approaching wild kangaroos).
- Close interaction with (such as patting, holding or riding), captive wild animals, unless it genuinely constitutes part of their essential care (e.g. swimming with dolphins, holding koalas).
- Up-close photo opportunities with wild or captive wild animals (e.g. staged dolphin photos, tiger selfies, close-quarters quokka selfies).



- Experiences to see wild animals which utilise luring or baiting to attract the wildlife (e.g. lured crocodile cruises).
- Captive wild animal performances (e.g. seal and dolphin shows, crocodile shows, bird shows).
- Visiting venues where captive wild animals are bred and kept for commercial products (e.g. crocodile farms).
- Visiting venues where captive wild animals are bred and kept primarily for entertainment purposes. This includes many zoos and wildlife parks, but excludes WAZA-certified zoos and aquariums that are overwhelmingly dedicated to conservation.
- Buying souvenirs made from the remains of wild or captive wild animals (e.g. crocodile/snakeskin bags or shoes, jewellery made from coral, ivory, tortoise shells).

In addition, there are activities or experiences which YHA Australia does not sell or promote regardless of if they feature domesticated or wild animals.

- Watching animals of any kind fight or race, or being used in other sports or events that cause animals to suffer (e.g. crocodile wrestling, dog and horse racing, rodeos).
- Consuming food that has caused extreme suffering to animals of any kind and/or threatens the survival of species in the wild (e.g. bush meat, foie gras, shark fin, snake blood, whale meat).
- Engaging in any form of hunting or recreational (as opposed to subsistence) fishing (e.g. canned hunting, sport fishing).

*Note: Exceptions to some of the above exist in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural practices.*

If you see something at YHA Australia that doesn't align with these wildlife guidelines - please let us know by emailing us at [info@yha.com.au](mailto:info@yha.com.au).