



# **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR WILDLIFE INTERACTIONS**

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As a part of our commitment to responsible tourism, Balkan Pro Travel treat animal welfare with utmost priority. As more and more travellers express their concern for the well-being of animals they encounter on vacation, we feel the need to ensure that all experiences provided adhere to the global ethical standards of animal welfare.

Balkan Pro Travel pledges to respect the following rules for all interactions and to share it with suppliers and customers:

### General Rules:

- **Maintain distance:** Keep a respectful distance from all wildlife to avoid causing stress or altering their natural behavior.
- **Do not feed:** Never feed wild animals, as this can lead to dependency, poor health, and aggression.
- **Do not touch:** Avoid touching wildlife, as this can transmit diseases, cause injury to you or the animal, or disturb its natural behaviors.
- **Minimize noise:** Stay quiet and avoid loud noises, as this can scare, stress, or disturb the animals.
- **Do not litter:** Leave no trace behind. Pack out everything you bring in.
- **Be aware of your surroundings:** Watch for signs of distress, such as increased heart rate, fleeing, or aggressive behavior, and move away slowly if they occur.
- **Follow regulations:** Comply with all local, state, and federal laws and regulations regarding wildlife viewing and interactions.

### Specific guidelines

- **Marine wildlife:**
  - When on a boat, keep engines in neutral or off when animals are very close. Avoid approaching from the front or back; stay parallel to their path.

- Limit the time spent with marine animals to no more than 30 minutes.
- When diving or snorkeling, do not touch or damage corals or other marine life with your fins or hands.
- Do not chase or harass marine mammals, including dolphins and whales.
- **Land-based wildlife:**
  - If on a hike, keep dogs on a leash or under close control.
  - When observing nesting sites or colonies, keep a minimum distance of 100 meters to avoid disturbance.