

Sustainability Code of Good Practice

Wildlife Viewing on Drives / Walks

As part of our commitment to advancing sustainable tourism, we encourage our tourism partners to improve their sustainability performance by providing them with the guidance below.

- ✓ Ensure applicable legal **permits & permission** to access activity area are in place
- ✓ Ensure **insurance** is in place for participants and team
- ✓ Identify **health & safety** risks, implement management systems, and provide appropriate safety equipment
- ✓ Ensure enough team members are available to manage incident prevention and respond in case of **emergency**
- ✓ Monitor activity **area conditions** (including weather) in advance & during the activity
- ✓ Be familiar with activity area and ensure that **navigation and communication** tools are in good working order
- ✓ Maximise local **economic benefits** through employment and purchasing
- ✓ Avoid single use & disposable items, provide adequate **waste** collection facilities for safe disposal - especially cigarette butts during rest stops - (or pack out what you take in), and pick up rubbish found along the way
- ✓ Use **eco-friendly products**, e.g., for cleaning purposes
- ✓ Be **waterwise** and take pro-active measures to use water sparingly
- ✓ Minimise **energy** used in the activity as part of a climate action strategy
- ✓ Provide **information in advance** about your sustainability actions, activity accessibility, what to expect, and what to bring with
- ✓ **Screen participants** ahead of time to make sure that the activity is well suited to their fitness & level of ability
- ✓ Manage **group size** to minimise impacts on people & the planet, including suitable guide : participant ration (especially on walks) and maximum number of vehicles / groups on sightings
- ✓ Obtain written confirmation, e.g., via **indemnity**, that participants are aware of activity risks
- ✓ **Brief participants** before the activity starts about do's and don'ts, safety, what to expect, logistics, conduct (e.g., around dangerous animals, noise, not disturbing / removing flora and fauna), 'bush toilet' etiquette, flash photography (especially at night), and deactivating geotagging to protect endangered species
- ✓ **Share information** about local nature & culture, as well as social development / conservation projects that participants may want to support
- ✓ Show **respect** for the land, waterways, wildlife, and other activity area users
- ✓ Avoid disturbing **sensitive habitats**, especially during nesting, hatching / similar seasons
- ✓ Do **not lure wildlife (including birds)** with food / similar, and minimise playing of recorded calls
- ✓ Turn engines off and radio volume down on sightings to **minimise disturbance** to wildlife and others on the sighting
- ✓ View wildlife from a **distance** that does not disturb nor disrupt their behaviour; encourage use of binoculars when closer approach to wildlife is not possible



Sustainability Code of Good Practice

Wildlife Viewing on Drives / Walks (continued...)

- ✓ Do not **corner or chase wildlife**, nor interrupt their direction of movement
- ✓ Do not provoke wildlife to **display specific behaviours**, e.g., defensive or territorial displays
- ✓ Do not **handle (pick up) wildlife** unless with explicit approval from conservation authorities to do so
- ✓ Do not disturb **nocturnal species** on night viewing activities, e.g., only use lights that cause minimal disturbance and use them appropriately
- ✓ When multiple locations to view a species are possible, **rotate use** to minimise cumulative impacts
- ✓ Repair and compensate for any **damage** caused to the activity area
- ✓ Participate in conserving activity area **integrity**; notify authorities of concerns and participate in rehabilitation projects

