

Innttravel



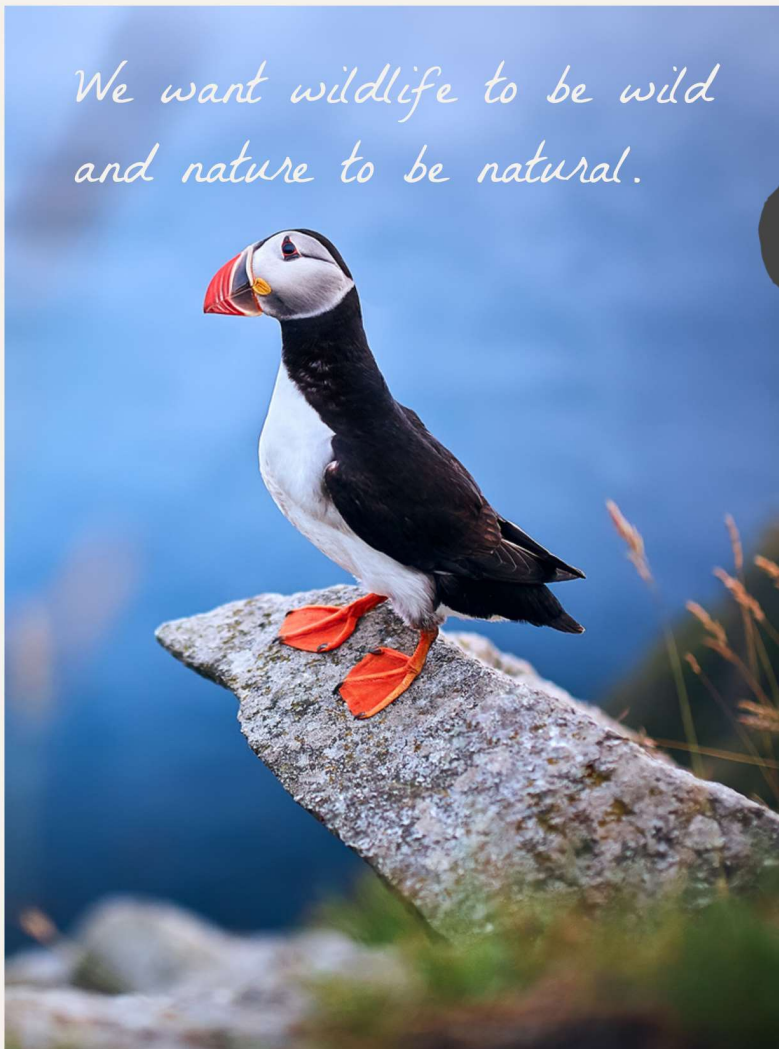
Animal Protection

Policy

Our stance on animal protection

Intravel will never knowingly compromise the welfare of any animal for the purpose of our holidays, experiences and excursions. We want to protect animals and their natural environments, or otherwise contribute towards the best possible welfare standards for animals kept in captive environments.

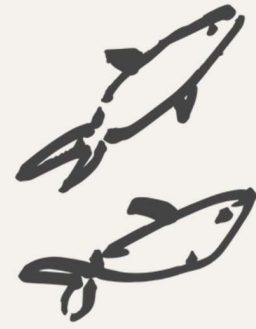
*We want wildlife to be wild
and nature to be natural.*



Intravel wants to offer authentic, enriching experiences, which benefit our customers, local and indigenous communities, the natural environment and its wildlife. Animal interactions sit at the heart of some of our holidays, therefore it is our responsibility to have an animal protection policy that is robust, clear and well communicated to ensure that all experiences are ethical and responsible and involves zero exploitation of animals or local communities.

Our Animal Protection Policy is based on our parent company, Hotelplan UK's Animal Protection Policy:
www.hotelplan.co.uk/sustainability

Animal Welfare and Protection



Animal welfare refers to the physical and mental state of the animal. Together with our suppliers, we are responsible for an animal if we use, interact, supply, own or are in charge of it. Inntravel follows the internationally recognised Five Domains model (see 'Definitions' section below) for good animal welfare.

Inntravel understands that the welfare of an animal is paramount, whether that be in a natural or captive environment, and that human activity may also have a negative impact on the natural environment too. For that reason, we have an Animal Protection Policy that seeks to protect both the welfare of animals and their natural environment as a whole.



Protection procedures

- We actively encourage our customers and staff to report any instance where animal welfare or protection may have been compromised. You can report any instances by emailing sustainability@inntravel.co.uk
- We will investigate the complaint immediately, both internally with our supply chain and seeking advice from animal protection experts where necessary.
- We will work with our suppliers to make any necessary changes, educating and learning from each other about what has happened and how we can make improvements. If there is not significant improvement, or if improvement isn't possible, we will change suppliers for that interaction or remove it altogether. Everyone must be given a chance to improve so that collectively, across the industry, we can improve welfare, protection and understanding.
- We will continually review our product selection criteria as and when new evidence comes to light and every two years we aim to independently audit all our animal interactions. Effective animal and nature protection is a journey, and we will always endeavour to act quickly and make balanced decisions.

Definitions



Animal

Intravel will use “animal” to refer to any living creature; vertebrate or invertebrate, land or sea dwelling. The only exception to this is humans.

Animal experience

Refers to any planned activity or observation, where the animal was the sole purpose of the visit. It does not imply physical contact with an animal, and does not differentiate between wild or domestic animals.

Bushmeat

Refers to meat from any wild animal not kept in a captive environment. We do not classify fish or livestock as bushmeat.

Community animals

Feral/stray and companion animals (or pets). Many countries don't have pets confined in homes or gardens and they are free to roam.

Husky

A generic term for a dog trained to pull a sled. We recognise they are an ever changing cross of different dog breeds known for their cold-weather tolerance, overall hardiness and racing potential.

Domestic animals

Animals that have been selectively bred and genetically adapted over generations to live alongside humans. They are genetically distinct from their wild ancestors or cousins. Animal domestication falls into three main groupings: domestication for companionship (dogs and cats), animals farmed for food (livestock such as sheep, cows, pigs etc.), and working or draft animals (equids, such as horses and donkeys and camelids).

Farmer's markets

This has been separated from wildlife market and refers to markets where there might be livestock trading (farmers markets), fish markets, vegetable markets or produce markets.

Culture

The way of life, especially the general customs and beliefs, of a particular group of people at a particular time.

Five Domains model

A concept which considers nutrition, environment, physical health and behaviour which together uphold the mental health of the animal. Examples include access to clean water, appropriate nutritious food, opportunities to carry out natural behaviours in a natural environment, and where an animal is under human care, to provide veterinary care. All animals have these needs, regardless of their living environment.

Livestock

A category of domestic animals which are farmed for food. Examples include cows, goats, sheep, pigs and buffalo.

Living environment

This term encompasses where the animal lives. It may refer to a captive environment where the animal is reliant on humans, or a wild environment where the animal is free.

Wildlife markets

Refers to markets that sell wild animals, their parts or products. This includes for food and their sale as pets. The markets themselves may be legal but may sometimes illegally offer threatened species alongside other species.

Natural environment

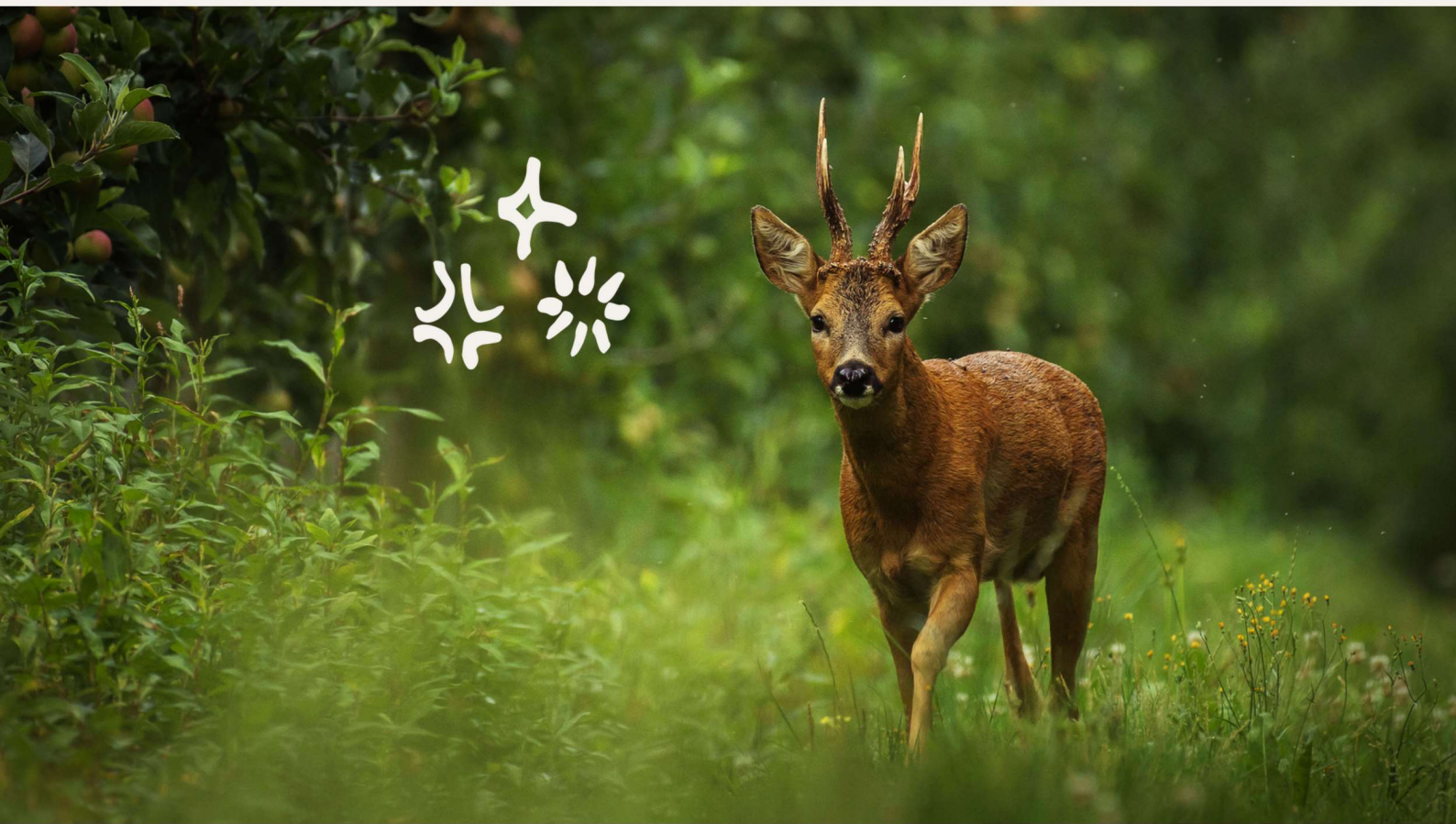
We use the term natural environment to refer to nature or natural landscapes, specifically including all of its non-human characteristics and processes. It is used as a broad term to talk about the interrelationships between different animal and plant species (their habitats and ecosystems) and our want to cause as little disruption as possible to these natural systems.

Wild

Refers to an animal or plant, not domesticated or cultivated. It may be in a natural environment or a captive environment.

Wildlife

Refers to all animal and plant species that naturally live in the wild.



Domestic Animals Policy

Domesticated animals can often be handled by humans more easily than wild or working animals, although their welfare and protection is of equal importance. Any domesticated animal on our holidays which you may choose to hold, have a photo taken with, ride, or simply stroke must be under constant supervision of their owner or keeper.



Wild Animals and Wildlife Policy



We believe the experiences on our holidays should be natural and authentic, allowing wildlife to be wild, and nature to be natural. We want to protect the world around us by not jeopardising the wellbeing of living things by interrupting their natural processes, behaviours and surroundings. We do not condone picking flowers, removing seeds, collecting shells or touching coral.

Sometimes the impacts we have are not visible, and we know that human interactions with wildlife, be that in a natural or captive environment, can cause distress or reduce survivability incrementally. We understand that wild animals may initiate contact on occasion, and this is acceptable provided the animal(s) is not encouraged to do so by enticing them with food or objects. Animals should have the freedom of choice and the ability to move away.

Intravel does not promote visits to wildlife markets, nor does it condone performances or shows involving wild animals and unnatural behaviours on any of our holidays.

Working Animals Policy

Intravel recognises that various animals can be used as working animals, however we will only refer to domesticated equine (horses, donkeys, mules), camelids (camels, llamas, alpacas and vicuna), huskies and reindeer as those acceptable to be used within tourism. In support of the local indigenous people and culture in Lapland, reindeer are the only genetically wild animal we recognise as being acceptable to use in a working capacity.



We believe working animals should have a decent life, where their welfare during work and when at rest is properly cared for and considered. Please see the “ABTA Animal Welfare Guidelines for Working Animals” for more details. Any concerns raised by staff, guests or through our auditing process will always be investigated and improvements continually sought before changing suppliers.

On our holidays, guests only have the opportunity to interact with the following animals in a working capacity:

Riding animals: We will only offer horses for riding as part of our included or optional excursions. It will never be acceptable to ride wild animals on any of our holidays.

Draft animals: We do use draft animals on some holidays; animals which use a harness attached to a cart or sled. The animals we can use include horses, donkeys/mules, huskies and reindeer.

Pack animals: These are defined as animals which carry weight on their back, excluding humans. Examples include the transportation of luggage or equipment to support treks. The animals we can use include horses, donkeys/mules and camels.

We never condone the use of pregnant, nursing, injured animals, or animals younger than 3 years old (equids) and 4 years old (camelids), in a working capacity within tourism.

Intravel does not encourage guests to be in direct contact (for example, touching or feeding) with any draft or pack working animals. We acknowledge that any handling of working animals should be conducted by a trained professional. This extends to reindeer and huskies. We recognise that the working animals on our excursions are primarily bred and trained to work and their behaviour around humans may be unpredictable.

Policy on Commercialisation of Animals



Intravel seeks to ensure that the use, harvesting and trade in animals and their parts is sustainable, safe and legal, preventing overexploitation, and minimising impacts on natural environment and local and indigenous people.



We therefore do not promote or otherwise encourage the sale of wild animals, their parts or products for souvenirs, unless the item or product is naturally shed, at no harm or use to the animal, or is a by-product from the humane slaughter of an animal for meat. For example, reindeer antler that is annually, naturally shed and collected, or from pelts (skins) as a by-product. We ask our customers to only purchase souvenirs that are sustainable and naturally sourced.

Intravel believe endangered and vulnerable species should be protected and we do not offer or promote the consumption of these animals, regardless of local laws and customs; nor the trade in these species, in line with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).

We do not offer any animal hunting experiences on any of our holidays, this includes fishing. We recognise that you may encounter taxidermy in our accommodations and on excursions, especially in Alpine regions, however this is not something that we directly encourage.

Policy on Indigenous Communities

Indigenous peoples have a unique relationship with their land, knowing innately how to protect it and work with it in harmony. The land that indigenous people inhabit is home to over 80% of our planet's biodiversity and natural resources and is intertwined with their identity and cultures ([Amnesty International 2023](#)).

In line with UNESCO, Inntravel recognises the importance of traditional knowledge as a source of intangible and material wealth, positively contributing to sustainable development and a distinct need for protection and promotion ([UNESCO 2005](#)). We have developed an Indigenous People Policy, which is based on Hotelplan UK's Policy and can be found here: www.hotelplan.co.uk/sustainability

Implementation and Procedures

The responsibility for the implementation of this policy is with the Managing Director who may delegate to a member of their General Management Team.

Animal Interaction Database

All animal interactions, both those taking place in a wild and captive environment, on Inntravel holidays will be included in a database and reviewed every two years by our animal protection experts with guidance from Wild Welfare (<https://wildwelfare.org>). We can refer to this database for both future product development and understanding past decisions. We will arrange audits of suppliers in person wherever any risks or concerns are raised.



Inntravel Traffic Light System

| | Conditions Attached? | Conditions | Examples |
|--------------------------|----------------------|--|---|
| Green Animal Interaction | No | Provided we adhere to strict guidelines* surrounding proximity to animals, length of stay and the means by which to access them, we will presume they are an appropriate interaction. *ABTA Wildlife Viewing Guidelines 2019 | Animal viewing by vehicle, boat, on foot or snorkelling/scuba whereby the animals are not enclosed or limited in their behaviour. National Parks Reserves or Conservancies Natural Wilderness |
| Amber Animal Interaction | Yes | Independent audit of all captive and working animal interactions every two years. If standards are not met the suppliers will be asked to improve through training and collaboration. If we are not satisfied changes have been sufficient, we will change suppliers or remove the interaction | Captive wild animal facilities Working animals; riding, draft and pack Animal markets; farmers markets, fish markets (NB: not wildlife markets) Controlled reindeer feeding by indigenous suppliers Direct contact with wild animals; not self-initiated Bird of Prey demonstrations |
| Red Animal Interaction | No | Inntravel does not support any activity we feel could endanger, disrespect or in any way harm animals, biodiversity or nature | Do not feed, hold, ride or hunt any wild animal in a wild or captive environment Do not visit wildlife performances or shows, wildlife markets. or buy bushmeat Fishing |

Questions or Concerns



We want our customers, staff and our supply chain to contact us if they have any concerns about a supplier we use or an included activity.

Concerns can be reported by emailing: sustainability@inntravel.co.uk

Our Animal Protection Policy was created in 2024 and is based on our parent company, Hotelplan UK's policy (www.hotelplan.co.uk/sustainability), agreed by our UK Board of Directors.



Resources

- ABTA Animal Welfare Guidelines: www.abta.com/sustainability/animal-welfare
- Wild Welfare website: <https://wildwelfare.org>

Please contact us directly for any more information or resources:
sustainability@inntravel.co.uk