

Ethical code for photos and selfies cruelty free with wildlife.

Welcome to Costa Rica! We are a megadiverse country and a pioneer on the coservation of our biodiversity, housing more than 5% of the known species of the planet. Wild animals are part of the natural treasure of all Costa Ricans and we want to share their beauty with you.

We invite you to take as many photographs of our wildlife as you can and to follow our series of recommendations that avoid cruelty to animals and support Costa Rica's environmental conservation efforts:

1. **Reject practices** that allow you to take a selfie hugging or holding a wild animal, this promotes its exploitation, suffering and its mishandling.
2. Observe animals in a calm, respectful way and at a safe distance. Animals must be free in the wild, **never chase them**.
3. Respect wildlife's freedom, **never catch, manipulate or remove them from their habitat**. This is dangerous for you, compromises the life of animals and is a crime.
4. Respect their natural behavior and protect the health of wildlife, **never feed them, attract with food or sounds**.
5. If for any reason wild animals are in captivity, **do not enter their enclosures, do not touch, hug, feed or manipulate them**, this protects you from diseases or accidents such as attacks, bites or scratches.
6. **Help them get back in the wild**. Paying for experiences in rescue centers with animals in recovery, eliminates their chances of returning to nature and promotes an illegal activity.
7. **Book wildlife observation experiences** with a responsible travel operator.
8. **Share this ethical code** with family and friends or another tourist who wants to visit Costa Rica.

Remember that Costa Rican legislation protects wildlife:

Chasing or capturing wild animals, direct contact with them, and public access to rescue centers is prohibited. If you witness any illegal or cruel practices with wild animals, call **1192** to report the situation, your report will be managed confidentially.

Pledge to be a responsible tourist and protect the wild animals of Costa Rica.

www.stopanimalselfies.com

