

Animal Sacrifice: Cruelty in God's name Never watch animal sacrifice and avoid temples where sacrifices take place.

In Nepal every year hundreds of thousands of animals are sacrificed. Goddess temples awash with blood on days deemed auspicious for sacrifice. During festivals even more animals are being sacrificed, at times hundreds of thousands in the span of 24 hours. Nepal's government subsidizes certain animal sacrifice rituals. Apart from sacrifice through throat slitting and beheading other extreme forms of blood sacrifices include the tearing apart of a live goat, burning of live snakes and other animals, live skinning of pigs, removal of hearts of live animals, as well as cruel sports such as bull fighting. Your presence in a temple or festival where sacrifices or cruel sports take place will be considered as an encouragement.

What Else You Can Do

- Encourage your friends and family to be animal-friendly tourists whenever they visit Nepal.
- Check your tour itinerary (even if the tour is labeled as an eco-tour) to make sure it does not involve cruelty to animals. If it does, tell your travel agent you do not wish to go to places involved in such cruelty. Ask your agent to propose cruelty-free alternatives.
- Ensure that your hotel does not display any wild animals. If you are at a hotel or resort that does, express your disapproval in writing to the management.
- Encourage your hotel to serve meat from humanely killed animals or vegetarian food.
- Do not waste water, plant trees and buy organic and local products.
- Contact AWNN to see if you can volunteer.

What can you do if you see an animal suffering?

If you see instances of animal cruelty, record what you have seen through photos or videotape but never pay to take such pictures. Make sure to record the date, time, location, type and number of animals involved.

Express your support for action to end these abusive practices. It is vital to lodge your protests locally in the first instance. Report the cruelty to:

- Event organizer/temple committee
- Nepal Tourism Board office
- Local police
- A local animal welfare society
- Your tour operator
- When you return home, inform the country's embassy, your local politicians, and/or international welfare organizations

Your voice and spending can help to improve the lives of animals in Nepal. Have a wonderful, animal friendly holiday in Nepal!



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Be A Responsible Tourist



ANIMAL FRIENDLY TOURISM

IN NEPAL

Welcome to Nepal! The Animal Welfare Network Nepal wishes you a wonderful holiday.

Nepal is the perfect destination for animal lovers. The country boasts some 160 mammal species of which 31 are endangered. Nepal is the land of the elusive snow leopard, the majestic Bengal tiger and the giant one-horned rhino. No less than 850 bird species have been recorded here!

A visit to one of the protected areas to enjoy the proximity of Nepal's wildlife is an unforgettable experience.

One of the things you might like to know is whether your holiday expenses support trades and events that profit from animal suffering. This brochure explains how you can enjoy the beauty of nature and rich cultural traditions of Nepal without taking part in activities that directly or indirectly harm animals.

Animal Acts: Cruelty Masquerading As Entertainment

Do not pay to watch an animal perform tricks or 'sports'.

In Nepal some soothsayers use parrots to predict the future. The birds are illegally trapped from the wild. Its wings and tail feathers are clipped. Many do not survive the trauma of capture, transport and training. Snake charmers force snakes to 'dance' to their tunes. After being trapped their teeth are yanked out without any painkillers, their mouths are often sewn shut (leaving a little gap to pour water or milk down), and their venom ducts are often pierced with a hot needle. None of the snakes lives very long, and death comes slowly and painfully. Elephant polo, foot ball, races or pageants may seem like fun but remember that elephants do not naturally play human sports or put make up on. In order to force them to perform these confusing and physically uncomfortable tricks, trainers traditionally use training methods that inflict pain and cause fear. Similarly, ask yourself if taking a bath with an elephant in Chitwan is as much fun for the jumbo as it is for you.

Animal Rides: Pleasure or pain?

Think before you participate in animal rides.

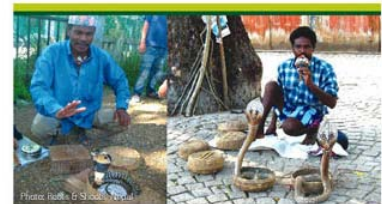
In Nepal at times you have no choice but to be taken for a ride by a horse, donkey, yak or even elephant. If you do so make sure the animal is not overloaded and receives the rest, medical treatment and nutrition it deserves. In the Terai so called tongas (taxis) are pulled by horses or donkeys who often literally work till they drop. When you are trekking your luggage could be carried by an overloaded and underfed yak or donkey.

In Chitwan and Bardia National Park captive elephants are used in safari tours. There are welfare, economic and environmental concerns associated with the breeding, taming, training and utilization of jumbos. In the absence of a welfare policy, no one monitors the way elephants are being kept. Most jumbos are shackled in their 'free time'. Overloading and overworking go unreported. Mahouts or handlers generally use a stick or sharp hook to prod sensitive points on the elephant's head. In order to become obedient creatures, elephant calves are separated forcefully from their mothers. Traditional taming methods tend to leave the elephant traumatized. Humane training is being introduced but it will take time before being fully accepted. Therefore riding on an elephant's back does not always represent the nature and mysteries of a majestic elephant spirit!

For a list of resorts and owners that take good care of their elephants visit

<http://animalnepal.org/bizdirectory.htm>

- We are against the breeding of wild animals for commercial purposes. We also campaign for improved conditions and human training methods for working animals including elephants.



Meat: Recipes for Torture

Select meat from humanely killed animals or be vegetarian.

In Nepal, in the absence of slaughterhouses, almost all animals are killed out in the open by hammers and knives. In order to meet the growing meat demands of Kathmandu residents, an average of 500 buffaloes are killed each day. The transport from other parts of the country to the capital is extremely long and cruel. The animals are tied from their noses to prevent them from moving, causing bleeding and excessive trauma, and are mostly not fed or watered. The fate of goats and chicken is hardly any better; it takes only one look at a local butcher shop to know their end too is hardly a humane one. A research showed that 90% of random meat samples in Kathmandu are contaminated with unwanted bacteria. Choosing vegetarian food will prevent animal cruelty and make sure you stay healthy. If you must eat meat ask for that of a company that kills animals more humanely (list available at

<http://animalnepal.org/bizdirectory.htm>).

Souvenirs: Murder For The Sake Of Trinkets Never buy souvenirs made from animals.

Under Nepalese law it is also a serious offence to import, export or possess an endangered species (including their parts, related products or derivatives) without a proper permit. When you buy souvenirs made from skins, shells, ivory, feathers, bone, fur or other animal products, the animals pay with their lives. Shatoosh shawls are made from the highly endangered Tibetan antelope. Buying endangered species products not only fuels demand and causes more suffering, it pushes the species further towards extinction.

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