

Geographic Travel Club

Animal welfare policy

Animal welfare is understood as the positive physical and mental state of an animal, linked to the satisfaction of its physiological and behavioral needs, as well as its expectations. This state may vary depending on how the animal perceives a given situation. It is therefore essential to take into account what the animal experiences, including negative perceptions such as pain or suffering, and to identify signs of positive emotions such as comfort, satisfaction, or pleasure (Anses, 2018).

Geographic Travel Club acknowledges that all animals are sentient beings and must be kept in conditions that respect the biological and behavioral requirements of their species.

We actively promote respect for the fundamental freedoms of animals:

- 🌱 Absence of hunger
- 🌱 Absence of thirst
- 🌱 Freedom from fear, physical stress, and thermal discomfort
- 🌱 Freedom from pain, injury, and disease
- 🌱 Freedom to express normal species-specific behavior within an appropriate environment

Geographic Travel Club expects a full and tangible commitment to animal welfare from both its excursion partners and its clients. This policy outlines how Geographic Travel Club ensures that animal welfare principles are respected throughout its operations and collaborations.

Our partners

Our suppliers commit to reducing their environmental impact and to ensuring that any animal-related activities are carried out in line with internationally recognized animal welfare standards. Where relevant, they guarantee access to qualified veterinary care and rely on professionals with proven expertise in the management and care of the species concerned.

Any captive animals owned by our partners and/or present on their premises must have been acquired legally and in accordance with applicable legislation and international conventions, including CITES. Captive animals shall only be kept by authorized operators who are suitably equipped to house and care for them humanely and in conditions appropriate to their species.

In addition, our suppliers strive to minimize their negative impact on local and global biodiversity. Wild species are neither harvested, consumed, displayed, sold, nor traded, except within strictly regulated activities that ensure sustainable use and full compliance with local, national, and international legislation.

Wildlife species are not harvested, consumed, displayed, sold, or traded, except as part of a regulated activity that ensures their use is sustainable and fully compliant with local, national, and international laws.

Legislation regulating souvenir purchases

We do not permit the purchase of souvenirs containing endangered flora or fauna, or illegally obtained historical or archaeological objects. We also do not permit the purchase of illegal drugs or substances, and we comply with applicable local and international laws to prevent this.

We therefore inform our customers and communicate with our partners about forbidden souvenirs, which are listed in the following table:

Souvenirs specifically banned in Armenia <small>(updated (updated on October 9, 2025. Source: https://www.visahq.com/fr/armenia/customs/#!export-regulations)</small>	
Cultural heritage items	Coins, paintings, jewelry, or armor that have cultural heritage significance, as well as any stolen art items
Plants and plant products	Fresh or dried plants, plant products, and seeds
Animal products	Items of animal origin, including meat products, animal fats, and dairy products
Taxidermy	Any form of taxidermy trophy

Limiting harmful impacts on the environment and society

We ensure that the trips we organize have as little adverse impact on the environment as possible, particularly for activities involving contact with animals.

Excursions that include interactions with animals comply with relevant codes of conduct and good practice guidelines. Taking into account the cumulative impacts of wildlife tourism, such activities shall not lead to adverse effects on the viability, health, or natural behavior of wild populations. Disturbance of natural ecosystems shall be minimized and, where unavoidable, rehabilitated and compensated through contributions to conservation management.

We therefore inform our customers and communicate with our partners about endangered animal species, which are listed in the following table:

Endangered species in Armenia (updated on October 2, 2025. source: https://www.earthsendangered.com/search-regions3.asp)	
Birds	Black-tailed Godwit, Black-winged Pratincole, Caucasian Black Grouse, Cinereous Vulture, Corncrake, Dalmatian Pelican, Egyptian Vulture, Eurasian Curlew, Eurasian Peregrine Falcon, European Roller, Furriginous Duck, Great Bustard, Houbara Bustard, Lesser Kestrel, Little Bustard, Marbled Teal, Pallid Harrier, Red Kite, Red-Footed Falcon, Saker Falcon, Semi-Collared Flycatcher, Sociable Lapwing, White-Headed Duck
Crustacean	Potamon Ibericum
Fish	Luciobarbus Capito, Luciobarbus Brachycephalus, Wild Common Carp
Insects	Apollo Butterfly, Cerambyx Longicorn, Onychogomphus Assimilis, Predatory Bush Cricket, Red Chaser, Rosalia Longicorn, Zerynthia Caucasia
Mammals	Armenian Birch Mouse, Armenian Myotis, Asia Minor Ground Squirrel, Bechstein's Bat, Brandt's Hamster, Common Bentwing Bat, Cyprian Wild Sheep, Dahl's Jird, Eurasian Otter, European Marbled Polecat, Leopard, Mediterranean Horseshoe Bat, Mehely's Horseshoe Bat, Pallas's Cat, Striped Hyena, Western Barbastelle, Wild Goat
Reptiles	Afghan Tortoise, Common Tortoise, Darevsky's Viper
Plants	Sambucus Tigranii

Geographic Travel Club thus promotes responsible tourism, in its sector as well as with all the stakeholders involved in our destinations and our activities.

Geographic Travel Club' sustainability policies

Our agency is therefore making a concrete and long-term commitment with and alongside all of its partners by jointly drafting and practically implementing the following:

- 🌱 An information sheet and good practices sent to our customers
- 🌱 A detailed sustainable development action plan, setting precise objectives and concrete solutions, evaluated and renewed every 2 years
- 🌱 A sustainable accommodation policy transmitted and signed by collaborators
- 🌱 A sustainable excursion policy transmitted and signed by collaborators
- 🌱 An internal responsible purchasing policy
- 🌱 A privacy policy
- 🌱 An animal welfare policy (this document)

All of these policies are accessible on the Geographic Travel Club website.