



Wildlife Photography Code of Conduct

When photographing wildlife it is important to remember you are a guest in their environment. Therefore, always show respect and consideration for the environment, for the subjects of the photographs and other people. This code of conduct has been written to help you minimise any disturbance to the wildlife you may be photographing. The wellbeing of wildlife is always more important than the photograph.

- Always photograph animals from a safe and respectful distance.
- If an animal shows any sign of stress, move further back or leave altogether.
- Be patient and never try to force an animal to do something. Remember that the impact of many people is cumulative: you might be the 100th person that day to yell “Hey bird” while the poor creature is trying to feed or care for its young.
- Keep in mind that the animals are always unpredictable.
- Never encroach on nests or dens during the breeding season.
- Do not entice a wild animal with food (baiting) in order to get the photo. Allow the animal to be wild, and to move about of its own accord. Habituation due to handouts can result in disease or even death of that animal and injury to you.
- Treat the habitat with the same regard that you have for the animals themselves.
- Acquaint yourself with the fragility of the ecosystem--stay on paths that are intended to lessen impact.
- NEVER leave any litter behind! Consider bringing a plastic rubbish bag to collect a little along your way.
- Do not interfere, tamper, disturb, alter or otherwise manipulate the natural environment, landscape, or objects within the environment in such a way that could lead to temporary or permanent defacement or destruction.
- Check published recommendations, such as the excellent code produced by the [Royal Photographic Society](#).
- Finally, always be honest and truthful when captioning your photos.