

Protect Wildlife – Be a Responsible Traveler

At BWH Hotels, we are committed to sustainable tourism and the protection of Australasia's unique wildlife. We invite you to safeguard this extraordinary region by making informed, ethical travel choices that do not contribute to illegal wildlife trade or habitat degradation.

Avoid Buying Illegal Wildlife Products

Australasia is home to irreplaceable species found nowhere else on Earth. Unfortunately, many souvenirs and traditional products can harm wildlife or break international laws. Please avoid purchasing:

-  Coral and shell jewelry (especially from the Great Barrier Reef)
-  Stuffed birds, reptiles, or marsupials
-  Kangaroo skin, crocodile leather, or cassowary feathers
-  Traditional medicines or remedies made from endangered native species
-  Exotic pets like parrots, reptiles, or amphibians from the wild

If in doubt, **don't buy!** Items from protected species may be confiscated at borders and could result in hefty fines.

Choose Responsible Dining

Australasia's diverse seafood and bush tucker are best enjoyed ethically:

-  Choose sustainably sourced seafood – look for MSC-certified or local eco-labels
-  Avoid dishes that use turtle meat, dugong, or shark fin
-  Explore Indigenous foods respectfully, ensuring ingredients are sourced sustainably
-  Embrace plant-based or locally grown produce to reduce your ecological footprint

Ethical Wildlife Experiences Only

Australasia's wildlife is best admired in the wild or in accredited sanctuaries:

-  Avoid wildlife attractions that involve handling, feeding, or petting wild animals (e.g., koalas, dolphins, crocodiles)
-  Support genuine sanctuaries and conservation parks – they focus on rehabilitation, education, and habitat protection
-  Never disturb nesting birds, marine turtles, or seal colonies during excursions

🔊 Report on Suspicious Activity

If you encounter wildlife being sold or exploited illegally, please report it to:

- 📍 Local Authorities (e.g., Parks Australia, Department of Conservation NZ)
- 📍 Conservation Hotlines or NGOs (TRAFFIC, WWF-Australia/NZ, Sea Shepherd)

⚠️ What You Can Do as a Traveler

- ✓ Say NO to wildlife souvenirs or animal performances
- ✓ Choose eco-certified tours and nature guides
- ✓ Support local Indigenous communities offering sustainable tourism experiences
- ✓ Report any suspicious wildlife trade or animal cruelty

⚠️ ⚡ Wildlife Species Affected by Over-Harvesting (IUCN-Listed) ⚡ ⚡

1. Marine Life Under Threat 🌊

- Great White & Hammerhead Sharks – Targeted for fins and sport fishing
- Sea Turtles (Loggerhead, Green) – Collected for eggs, shells, or meat
- Corals & Giant Clams – Harvested for souvenirs and aquariums

2. Iconic Mammals & Birds in Danger 🐾 🐦

- Koalas & Kangaroos – Threatened by habitat loss and exploitation
- Echidnas & Platypus – Impacted by habitat disruption and illegal collection
- Cassowaries & Kākāpō (NZ) – Victims of habitat loss and pet trade

3. Reptiles & Amphibians Exploited 🦎 🦒

- Crocodiles & Monitor Lizards – Poached for skins and meat
- Native Frogs – Threatened by illegal pet trade and fungal diseases

4. Flora Under Pressure 🌿

- Wollemi Pine (Australia) – One of the world's rarest trees
- Kauri Trees (NZ) – Threatened by logging and disease
- Rare Orchids & Native Bush Plants – Illegally harvested for horticulture

Protecting biodiversity starts with you!

 **Together, We Can Protect Wildlife & Preserve Nature** 

Thank you for traveling responsibly and supporting ethical tourism

