

GLOBAL★HUMANE

FIRST TO SERVE®

1400 16th Street NW, Suite 360, Washington, DC 20036

HUMANE TOURISM™ CERTIFICATION

A Program of Global Humane

Recognizing wildlife reserves, lodges, and tour operators for their humane responsibility

Global Humane – the international brand of American Humane – is the United States’ first national humane organization and the world’s largest certifier of animal welfare, helping to verify the humane treatment of more than one billion animals across the globe each year. Founded in 1877, American Humane has been First to Serve™ the cause of animals and has been at the forefront of virtually every major advance in the humane movement.

At the foundation of each of our animal welfare certification programs is a Scientific Advisory Committee made up of the world’s leading animal welfare experts, behaviorists, and ethicists. Together, these groups of independent experts evaluate the latest animal welfare science to identify and define standards and best practices for the humane treatment of animals.

As millions of people worldwide seek opportunities to connect with Earth’s majestic wildlife, Global Humane has identified an opportunity to apply our expertise in animal welfare and create this unique certification program – **Humane Tourism™** – to assess and certify wildlife reserves, lodges, and tour operators for their humane responsibility toward the animal life that the operations may encounter and have the potential to impact. This initiative utilizes the same foundation of science and evidence-based practices for which we are globally recognized.

The Certification Process

The Humane Tourism™ certification program has two overarching components: 1.) the *Pre-Audit Application* and 2.) the *Onsite Audit*.

Pre-Audit Application

The Pre-Audit Application is completed by any animal tourism operator seeking Global Humane Certification™. The Pre-Audit Application requires detailed information including, but not limited to, the animal collection or biodiversity within the area of operation, species management, land management, facility operations, wildlife tour or excursion protocols, animal safety and security measures, and emergency procedures.

The Pre-Audit Application must be completed prior to the onsite audit of the operation.

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Onsite Audit

During the onsite audit, independent auditors evaluate an operator's direct and indirect impacts on animal welfare. Extensive examinations based on core principles set the stage for the audit, followed by a set of detailed questions aimed at confirming that the animals within the entity's range of operation are in receipt of good overall welfare. The entity seeking certification must conduct business practices that demonstrate a humane responsibility toward the wildlife that these operations may encounter and have the potential to impact. To assess this as rigorously as possible, the audit reviews the following animal welfare indicators, as applicable for the type of operations:

- *Animal Management:* A review of the operator's management of animals within the area of operation, with consideration for factors such as the range or habitat carrying capacity, display of appropriate animal appearance and condition, display of natural animal behaviors with minimal impacts from human activities, good species and population management, an appropriate veterinary intervention plan, and disease surveillance.
- *Operations:* A review of the operator's daily operations and the potential for impact on animal welfare with consideration for factors such as environmental assessment for infrastructure design and construction, pest management, food waste management, trash disposal and plastic waste, sewage disposal, safe handling of potentially harmful cleaning products, wildlife tour and excursion vehicles, and good veld management.
- *Guides and Tour Staff:* A review of the operator's wildlife guides and tour staff including, but not limited to, guides, drivers, trackers, and other staff members that are involved in wildlife tours, with consideration for factors such as staff training and qualifications, guest-to-guide rations, safe distance guidelines, and mitigation of impacts to wildlife during tours.
- *Water Management:* A review of the operator's water management with consideration for factors such as water source for the animals, water supply security, and drought planning protocols.
- *Security Measures:* A review of the operator's animal safety and security measures with consideration for factors such as poaching threats, guest security from animals, and appropriate fire protection.

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Core Principles

In addition to examining the key indicators of animal welfare, the Humane Tourism certification program is founded upon three essential welfare criteria that must be met:

1. ***No Animal Abuse or Neglect:*** No observations of willful acts or signs of abuse by any person at the facility (staff or guest) are acceptable. Observations of such acts will automatically result in failure of the audit.
2. ***Access to Water at all Times:*** For operators who manage an animal collection, the animals must have access to water at all times.
3. ***Staff Conduct that Promotes Animal Welfare:*** Staff should be aware of the facility's protocols and procedures, as well as conduct themselves in a manner that promotes animal welfare.

Maintaining Certification

Global Humane Certified™ operators are expected to maintain high welfare standards throughout the term of their certification. If it is determined after an audit that a certified operator has fallen out of compliance, then that entity will be immediately suspended from the program. Suspended operators must verify correction of the non-conformances before being reinstated. Global Humane reserves the right to perform additional audits at any time during the certification term.

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