

# Wildlife Viewing

#RecreateResponsibly



## Give wildlife space.

To keep everyone safe, healthy, and stress-free, it's important to give wildlife plenty of space. Keeping your distance from wildlife gives you the best chance to observe some amazing natural behaviors that you do not get to see when an animal feels stressed or threatened. When viewing wildlife, move back to the recommended or legally required distance. If an animal starts to stare, fidget or flee, calmly back away and give them more space.

### Keep wildlife safe and healthy.

Attempting to touch, handle, or ride wildlife can injure the animal, put you at risk and is illegal for many species.



HANDS TO YOURSELF



LEND A HAND WITH TRASH REMOVAL

### Keep their home clean.

Garbage is one of the greatest threats to marine wildlife. Pick up litter and recycle when possible. If you're on a boat, be sure to secure your trash on board.

### Leave it to the experts.

Some animals come to shore to rest and feed—there may be nothing wrong. Do not approach any wildlife, even if it appears injured, sick, or orphaned. Instead, contact the local authorities for help.



REPORT WILDLIFE THAT SEEMS ABANDONED OR SICK



KEEP YOUR SNACKS TO YOURSELF

### Wildlife can find their own food.

Feeding or attempting to attract wildlife with food, decoys, sound, or light is illegal for many species. Animals can become too accustomed to humans, which can cause sickness and even death.

### Wildlife and pets can harm each other.

Pets are not welcome everywhere; check local guidelines for restrictions. If pets are allowed, always keep them on a leash and away from wildlife. Wildlife and pets can cause stress, harm and sickness for one another.



KEEP PETS HOME OR ON A LEASH



HANG BACK AND ENJOY THE VIEW



LEAD BY EXAMPLE

### Help others become responsible wildlife watchers.

Practicing responsible wildlife viewing encourages others to do the same. Choose tour operators who follow these principles.

## FEDERAL LAWS PROTECTING WILDLIFE

- Marine Mammal Protection Act
- Endangered Species Act
- National Marine Sanctuaries Act
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act



To report a violation or distressed animal call NOAA Enforcement Hotline:

**+1 (800) 853-1964**

Join the movement and commit to being a responsible wildlife watcher! Scan the QR code to learn more and submit a pledge.

Take the **PLEDGE** for wildlife.



## NOTE

These guidelines are intended to help you enjoy watching marine wildlife without causing them harm or placing your personal safety at risk. Please note that these are general guidelines, and it is best to follow location or species-specific guidelines if they are available.



Download the ParkPassport app and receive your **Responsible Wildlife Watcher badge** when you submit your pledge!



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