



# OCEANS 2 EARTH VOLUNTEERS

Is an Australian charity organisation that was founded in Melbourne, Australia for the purpose of providing resources and financial assistance to animal welfare and conservation projects both locally and around the world.

The O2E Founders are animal lovers and committed volunteers. They established the organisation having seen firsthand that volunteer recruitment agencies were not always aware if the projects they supported had the best interests of animals and the environment in mind. Instead, unethical and harmful behavior including elephant riding, unsustainable tree nursery projects and the consumption of scarce community resources by the presence of volunteers were often the result. Local wildlife communities and the animals' environments were also clearly disadvantaged.

For this reason, Oceans 2 Earth Volunteers created its Ethical Standards and the Wildlife Code and measures all potential projects by these policies before partnering with them.



## Our Mission

- Promote environmental sustainability and to be accountable for our impact on the environment.
- Take action and find solutions to improve the natural, bio-diverse way of life for all.
- Promote the ethical treatment and natural living ecology of all animals.
- Expose and educate volunteers to the plight of animals ill affected by conflict or interaction with man, encouraging them to take action and find solutions to these global issues.

O2E's objectives are to link animal and nature lovers from around the world with a network of ethical, sustainable and conscientious non-profit organisations in the developing and developed world. Individuals contribute by engaging in one of our 27 unique international volunteer projects offered in 7 countries, and volunteers make a positive contribution to criteria assessed initiatives such as caring for rescued elephants, captive wildlife enrichment, indigenous community education, human - elephant conflict research, mammal rehabilitation, and release and marine conservation.

We are focused on providing affordable volunteer travel experiences that are responsible, safe and high quality. Our programs heighten global awareness and cultural understanding through the skills and expertise taken by volunteers to their host communities, and through the experiences and lessons that volunteers take back to their own countries and cultures. Our programs are ideal for anyone committing to spend some time, effort and money helping protect and care for some of our Earth's precious resources.

O2E recognise that individuals really can make a difference. However small the work effort is from one person, if you combine the actions of many people as a whole, the result can become quite significant. By bringing like-minded and ethically conscious animal lovers together, O2E believe that there is no limit to what we can achieve.



## About Oceans 2 Earth Volunteers

Oceans 2 Earth Volunteers offers volunteering and adventure travel experiences for ethically minded animal and conservation lovers looking for the trip of a lifetime.

In creating O2E, the founders challenge and engage individuals to contribute to meaningful animal welfare and conservation projects. As wildlife carers and avid animal welfare and rights campaigners, they uphold a vision to promote ethical volunteering as an advisable travel alternative.

O2E believes the way to solve the issues of animal mistreatment and environmental destruction and degradation is to provide people with the opportunity to contribute and interact so that they may develop their own personal culture of responsibility and global conservation. People exposed first hand to challenging bio diverse environmental issues are more likely to draw on those experiences and continue to make a positive impact once they arrive home.

- O2E links volunteers from around the world who aspire to travel, experience and contribute.
- O2E provide opportunities for individuals to interact with people of diverse cultures who share common values.
- O2E assists with local sustainable solutions to global problems.
- O2E projects are non-governmental groups (NGOs) and not-for-profit organisations who value the contribution volunteers make.
- O2E raises funds for animal welfare and habitat protection organisations by providing purposeful experiences for volunteers.
- O2E DOES NOT support commercial ventures involving animals.

## Created by Volunteers, For Volunteers

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Where possible, each project is visited by O2E so that we can immerse ourselves in the work, the accommodation, the animals and the community firsthand. This ensures that we best understand the project's objectives, challenges and limitations while safeguarding that each project meets the Oceans 2 Earth Volunteer's Ethical Standards and Wildlife Code.

Projects offered by O2E Volunteers are located all around the globe including Asia, South America, Australia and Africa. Volunteers have the opportunity to care for and improve the lives of a variety of animals such as kangaroos, koalas, elephants, bears, birds, turtles, dolphins, reptiles and primates of all types by conducting research, caring for animals in captivity or contributing to rescue and release programs.

# O2E as a Responsible Travel Organisation

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O2E prides itself on being an ethically responsible volunteering company taking into consideration, first and foremost, animal welfare and environmental responsibility.

O2E believes it is crucial that there are standards that should be upheld when organisations place candidates within the voluntary sector. Since the main purpose of providing volunteers within projects is to supply much needed funding and resources that are otherwise difficult to come by, it is essential that the main beneficiary of the volunteers' presence and financial contribution is to the project itself.

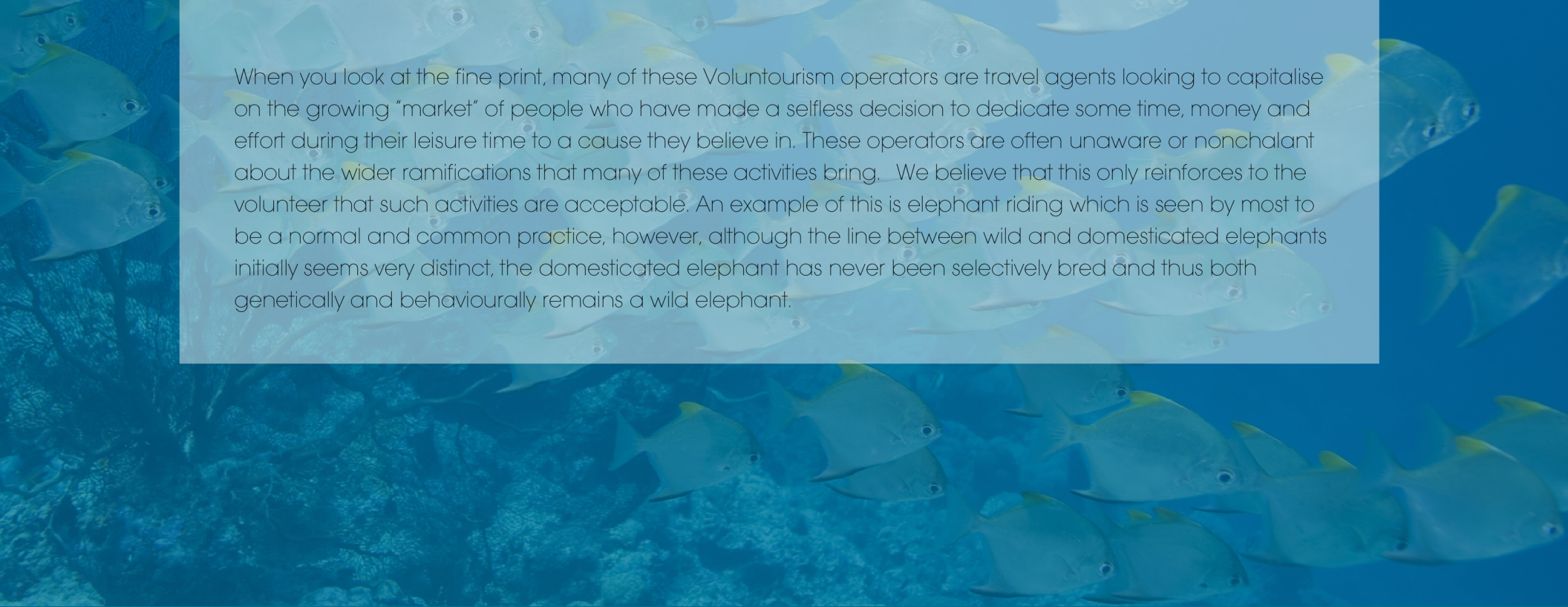
Many volunteer organisations have become established over the past few years aimed at recruiting and placing volunteers on animal, conservation and community projects; however O2E questions the actual impact volunteers make on some of these projects and the animals and people they aim to help.



Recent studies have been undertaken showing the presence of volunteers can actually have a negative impact on communities and some organisations are passing little or none of the volunteers' financial contribution to the project or community.

Projects that are sold as animal welfare projects but are commercial ventures that exploit and abuse animals, conservation project volunteers leave tree nurseries alive and well only to have them die within a few days, and the transient nature of social development placements that involves children such as orphanage care or teaching can have lasting negative effects on the children involved. Instances such as these are seen especially in developing countries, where individuals and communities are easily taken advantage of.

The term Voluntourism has come to define the growing number of volunteer projects which have little value to beneficiaries. Instead these projects provide little other than warm fuzzy feelings and photo opportunities for the volunteer. The volunteer leaves believing they have made a difference and have contributed to a worthy cause, none the wiser that they have simply undertaken a tour in irresponsible travel. Worse still, they may have contributed negatively to broader issues such as local job loss, placed increased stress on local sanitation systems and water supplies, supported negligent animal breeding programs or projects where profits go straight into the pockets of project owners or organisers rather than to achieve project outcomes.



When you look at the fine print, many of these Voluntourism operators are travel agents looking to capitalise on the growing “market” of people who have made a selfless decision to dedicate some time, money and effort during their leisure time to a cause they believe in. These operators are often unaware or nonchalant about the wider ramifications that many of these activities bring. We believe that this only reinforces to the volunteer that such activities are acceptable. An example of this is elephant riding which is seen by most to be a normal and common practice, however, although the line between wild and domesticated elephants initially seems very distinct, the domesticated elephant has never been selectively bred and thus both genetically and behaviourally remains a wild elephant.

O2E was founded and is run by volunteers. It was established with one main objective in mind; to create partnerships between individuals and animal welfare and conservation organisations so that positive contributions could be made by the volunteer, both short term at the project and long term with a change of attitude and global responsibility.

The first step is to recognise the major environmental problems faced by the planet today including over population, deforestation, animal extinction and water pollution. The second step is to do something about it! This focus, on one individual or one action at a time, may seem like a slow route to a more sustainable world. However, it is individual change at the grass-roots level that makes it possible for broader social and policy progress to occur..





# Our Commitment

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We highly value our volunteers and recognise their importance and the contribution they make to animal and conservation efforts and the organisations they visit. As part of our commitment to ethically responsible volunteering, O2E are committed to the following areas.

## Responsibilities to Animals and Conservation

- O2E has established a system of selection of both local and international organisations that is governed by O2E's Ethical Standards to ensure that we only support project partners whose objectives are animal and environmental conservation.
- We work collaboratively with local bodies and authorities where possible to help preserve or improve the surrounding environment and deliver long-term, sustainable benefits for animals and wildlife communities.



- Where possible, each project is visited by O2E so that we experience the project, the work, the accommodation, the food and the people firsthand, ensuring that each project meets the Ethical Standards and the Wildlife Code.
- We do not support commercial ventures that profit from animals, wildlife, people or the environment. We only support organisations where funds are used to benefit animals and conservation initiatives.

## Responsibilities to the Project

- Design and facilitate volunteer travel experiences that are jointly beneficial to the volunteer and project partners.
- Through an application process, we source conscientious volunteers in support of O2E projects which fulfil the needs and requirements of animal welfare and environmental conservation objectives.
- Develop positive long-term relationships with our project partners so that the benefit for each organisation is ongoing.
- Provide financial and service support that will benefit the project or organisation.
- Facilitate volunteer experiences in a way that encourages positive cultural exchanges.
- Establish a zero litter policy in all project locations.



## Responsibility to our Volunteers

- Design and facilitate volunteer travel experiences that are jointly beneficial to the volunteer and the project partners.
- Provide O2E volunteers with meaningful, safe, low-cost, quality animal welfare and conservation projects.
- Facilitate volunteer experiences in a way that encourages positive cultural exchanges.
- Provide honest, accurate and relevant information to prepare volunteers for placements.
- Offer continual assistance and support to volunteers throughout their placements.
- Provide support and direction for those returning home who wish to continue in supporting animal and conservation initiatives.

## Responsibility to the Environment

- Environmental conservation lies at the heart of O2E projects, therefore we recognise the need to improve and sustain the natural landscapes that our wildlife lives safely and in good health.
- Take measures to contribute to effective protection, preservation and re-vegetation methods which are paramount for habitat conservation initiatives.
- Encourage our project partners and volunteers to consume responsibly so that Earth's natural resources are preserved.
- Aim to awaken greater environmental awareness within our own organisation, as well as collaborating and learning from others through dialogue, partnerships and local initiatives.
- Promote more compassion in attitudes so people can make environmental choices that can be felt in all areas of their lives.



# Responsibility to Wildlife Communities

- All conservation problems are enhanced by human populations and therefore most O2E projects involve the local wildlife communities. Since man causes many of the challenges we are facing in this respect, we recognise that altering behaviours and attitudes together with implementing and supporting education initiatives are important factors in developing solutions to the problems.
- O2E believes in developing successful working partnerships at each project site and works with local communities, government bodies, NGO's and universities to share its knowledge with this wider community.
- Our affiliations with host communities aim to be long-term, and over time enduring relationships are built based on mutual trust and respect.
- We focus on the organisations and communities O2E are supporting and are mindful not to create dependencies within host communities of developing countries for services and products they are not in a position to support long term.
- Volunteers usually stay in one place for longer than a traditional traveler; therefore it is likely you will be making friends with the local people. To gain the most out of the placement, we encourage volunteers to get involved and embrace the heart and soul of the country.
- Recognise that the presence of volunteers in developing countries can affect local wildlife communities in a negative way, so care is taken to ensure that volunteer placements are aligned with the objectives of the host organisations.
- Volunteer fees are forwarded to the organisation and are used to contribute to the day to day running and development of the project. Volunteers often have the opportunity to visit the local villages or markets and therefore contribute to the economy of the area. This allows locals to appreciate and welcome visitors into their communities and for them to develop alternate money generating activities than those involving animals.



# Ethical Standards

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O2E supports the successful implementation of environmental protection, revegetation and restoration programs.

O2E or its partners do not replace local jobs with the presence of volunteers.

O2E ensures the projects trade with local businesses providing positive relationships for sustainable economic trade.

O2E and its partners will provide information to volunteers about health and safety matters.

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O2E supports the conservation of biodiversity and the respect for local culture that aligns with O2E's ethical standards.

O2E does not support for endorse the use of animals as beasts of burden and commercial animal ventures.

O2E or its partners do not replace local jobs with the presence of volunteers.

O2E is committed to protecting and restoring the health, diversity and productivity of the environment.

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O2E and its partners support local community development by assisting with local initiatives.

O2E supports the successful implementation of environmental protection, revegetation and restoration programs.

O2E ensures the projects encourage volunteers and other visitors to support local business and purchase local products and services.

O2E respects and obeys the laws, rules and regulations of the cities, states and countries in which O2E and its partners operate.

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O2E also expects that commercial and other sensitive information will be not shared without the consent of the owner of that information. O2E and its partners protect the privacy of their customers and secure their information appropriately.

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O2E and its project partners encourage volunteers to visit local sites of historical, social and cultural significance.

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O2E or its project partners do not support the exploitation of animals in tourism or as a form of entertainment. For example, animals as photo props, elephant rides, elephant painting, walking with big cats.

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O2E supports projects that seek to engage and educate local communities in skills, knowledge and values that promote behaviour in support of a sustainable environment.

O2E encourages relationships with animal welfare organisations that actively seek to rehabilitate and release wherever possible wildlife into its natural habitat.

O2E and its project partners contribute to the protection of areas that are of local importance.

O2E ensures that activities of projects, staff and volunteers do not harm the provision of services and resources to local communities including water, energy, sanitation, fuel and food.

O2E does not support formalised breeding programs that currently do not induct and release wildlife into its natural habitat for the purpose of maintaining and/or improving the region's biodiversity

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# Why Volunteer with O2E?

With so many pressing social issues on the agendas of governments around the world today, saving our animals and the environment seems low on the priority list. The result is that resources and funding for animal and environmental conservation endeavours throughout the world is limited and assistance is needed by caring individuals and groups to preserve this richly bio-diverse habitat and every life form in it. And it is certainly worth protecting. Volunteering is defined as:

"A person who voluntarily offers himself or herself for a service or undertaking"

Volunteers offer their skills, time and expertise to causes they find worthy. In the case of O2E:



Environment



Animals



Wildlife Communities

Each goes hand in hand

Through O2E, volunteers have the unique opportunity to be involved in meaningful projects from the grassroots level where they will contribute to the day to day running of their chosen cause.

# O2E does not create projects for volunteers

We believe in supporting local organisations that have identified a genuine need for intervention at a local level and are sustainable and effective in their approaches.

Your decision to volunteer with an O2E supported project will impact more than you realise; that is until you see the project for itself. When you experience firsthand the contribution that these organisations make in the rescue, intervention, conservation, rehabilitation, release and management of wildlife, domestic animals and the environment, while supporting and educating local wildlife communities, you become acutely aware of the need for volunteers such as yourself, to provide assistance. The work the volunteer undertakes through to the sharing of experiences with friends and family, resulting in project donations and animal adoptions makes an enormous difference to each project, the local people, the environment and the animals in its care.

Volunteers can create lifelong friendships with other volunteers they meet, and through shared interests and experiences, they take home with them new outlooks and ideas, often changing careers or developing new interests such as fundraising, campaigning, wildlife photography or sustainable living. That's how O2E got started! You can even become a member of our organisation and support our various campaigns and fundraising activities. These can include starting up an elephant dung paper operation in Thailand, sponsoring wildlife sanctuary land or building an animal rescue centre in Africa.



O2E volunteers gain first-hand knowledge of how non-profit organisations work for a cause. Whether you help save an animal from extinction, undertake research or provide care for the injured, homeless or disabled, or educate the local people, your eyes open up to many of the environmental challenges our world is facing and how many organisations are tackling these serious environmental issues head on. Upon leaving your placement, you take with you improved habits and a changed way of thinking. And in the long run, we hope that you share your experiences with others and join forces with likeminded people to continue the fight for our precious animals and the environment they live in.

Whichever O2E project you embark upon, you will be exposed to what will be one of the most enjoyable, challenging, memorable and life-changing experiences you will ever undertake. The hardest part will be leaving the animals you have worked so closely with and saying goodbye with the new friends you've made!

## The Benefits of Volunteering with O2E



- Assist in caring for animals and the environment
- Contribute to a worthy cause
- Exchange skills and knowledge with the local people
- Experience an adventure of a lifetime
- Make new friends from all around the world
- Gain valuable new job and life skills
- Become more independent
- Live and work in a foreign country
- Discover a different culture & lifestyle
- Experience new food
- Learn a new language
- Broaden your horizons
- Widen your comfort zone
- Build your CV





Participants gain a wide range of life skills when they undertake a volunteering project with O2E. These skills are often the ones employers identify as lacking in new recruits but are highly valued. Life skills such as initiative, effective communication, decision making skills, confidence, patience, understanding and the achievement of goals.

A survey among 200 of Britain's top businesses, carried out by TimeBank, a national campaign inspiring and connecting people to give time, found:

- 73% of employers would employ candidates with volunteering experience, more readily than those without.
- 94% of employers believed that volunteering could enhance skills.

## The Bigger Picture

If you are passionate about the welfare of animals and the environment, and would like to ensure that you are not supporting a commercial venture that may exploit animals, you can be assured that O2E partner organisations are vetted to meet strict Ethical Standards, ensuring each project has the best interests of each individual animal, the wildlife community and the environment at heart.

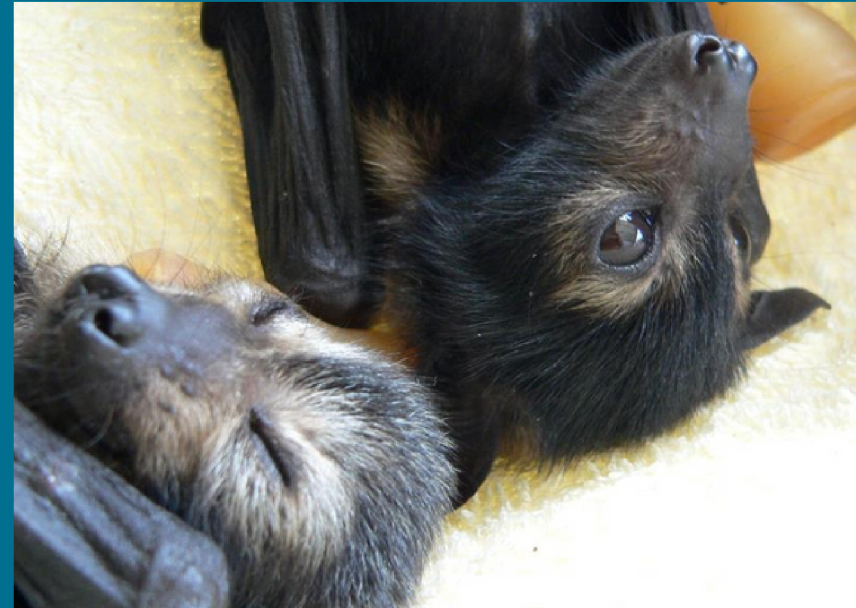
# O2E in the Global Economy

O2E assists in creating local employment in the global regions where we provide volunteers. Your presence creates jobs including builders, cooks, labourers, transporters, tour guides, cleaners, maintenance, administration and support staff. Your contribution creates opportunities for speciality or qualified staff including wildlife carers, specialists and veterinarian staff to work permanently within an organisation. O2E takes measures to ensure that we do not reduce employment opportunities for local people.

We welcome approaches from potential partners such as rescue and rehabilitation centres, animal orphanages and sanctuaries as O2E seeks to broaden our own partnerships and to make contributions to those worthwhile projects needing our help.

## The Wildlife Code

1. Respect the privacy of wildlife when you visit their habitat and their home. Observe them from a distance as animals can become distressed and injure themselves. Don't crowd them, make sudden noises or movements or try to attract their attention.
2. Beware of wildlife. They are wild and can be unpredictable and dangerous.
3. Wildlife always has right of way. Allow them to pass freely.
4. Don't feed wildlife. It upsets their diet, can have harmful effects on their health and leads to human dependence.
5. Keep quiet. Noise disturbs wildlife.
6. Do not use your flash when photographing wildlife. It can damage the animal's eyesight and cause them stress.
7. When in your car, never drive off-road. This damages wildlife habitat, pollutes the ecosystem and causes soil erosion.



8. Drive slowly and carefully at night, many of our native animals are nocturnal.
9. Never light fires or discard burning objects. Bush fires cause immense damage to both vegetation and wildlife.
10. Carry a towel, blanket, sack or box in your car, in case you encounter injured wildlife on the road. Call a wildlife carer as soon as possible.
11. Do not purchase, collect or remove any animal products, rocks, plants, seeds or birds' nests from the wild, or alter the environment in any way.
12. Be a responsible pet owner, dogs and cats cause injury and death in many of our wildlife species.
13. Teach your children to love and appreciate all wildlife and the environment.
14. Take your litter home with you. Litter is dangerous to wildlife, the ecosystem, is unsightly and creates fire hazards.
15. Animals are not humans and should be treated as such with respect and not as providers of entertainment.



Take nothing but photographs, leave nothing but footprints



# Awards

## 2020

- Winner - Go Abroad - Innovative New Volunteer Program

## 2019

- Gold Award Winner Organisation of the Year– Government or Non-Profit – 10 or Less Employees – The Stevie Awards for Women
- Gold Award Winner Female Entrepreneur of the Year in Asia, Australia or New Zealand – The Stevie Awards for Women
- Silver Award Winner Woman of the Year- Government or Non-Profit – The Stevie Awards for Women in Business
- Finalist Community Service Award- REIQ Awards of Excellences

## 2018

- Silver Award Winner Organisation of the Year– Government or Non-Profit – 10 or Less Employees – The Stevie Awards for Women
- Silver Award Winner Female Entrepreneur of the Year in Asia, Australia or New Zealand – The Stevie Awards for Women
- Bronze Award Winner Woman of the Year- Government or Non-Profit – The Stevie Awards for Women in Business
- Bronze Award Winner Most Innovative Woman of the Year–The Stevie Awards for Women in Business
- Bronze Award Winner Women-Run Workplace of the Year- The Stevie Awards for Women in Business
- Finalist Creating Change - Australian Women in Business Awards
- Community Service Award- REIQ Awards of Excellence



# Contact Information



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## Company Information

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