

Observing Arctic wildlife



Enjoy the experience of watching Arctic wildlife, but please follow these guidelines to avoid disturbing animals.



Keep your distance

- Stay with your guide and always follow their instructions.
- Keep your distance to avoid disturbing animals.
- Do not follow wildlife that is moving away from you.
- Animals such as reindeer, fox and seals can be inquisitive. Stay where you are and let the animals approach you.
- On beaches, do not get between seals or walrus and the sea.
- Never attempt to touch animals.

Stay safe

General

- Never feed or leave anything edible on land or in the water.
- Never touch live or dead wild animals – rabies has been detected in Arctic regions.
- If birds attack, slowly retreat in the direction you came from.

Polar bears

- Always be vigilant for bears when in “bear country”.
- Always listen to your guide – they are here to ensure your safety.
- Guides carrying firearms and other bear deterrents must lead the group.
- If a bear is spotted during a landing, your group will be evacuated back to the ship.



Observe without disturbing

- The animal's behavior should not be altered because of your presence.
- Watch behavior for signs of disturbance.
- If the animal seems disturbed, retreat slowly the same way you came from.
- Keep your voice low, do not whistle or shout.
- Loud radio use, ship horn and loudspeaker announcements on deck should be avoided around wildlife.



Be considerate to wildlife

- Limit your time in proximity of animals to avoid disturbing their natural activities and stressing them with your presence.
- Stay in the animal's line of sight.
- Do not walk up to animals from different directions or surround them.