

Rules to be Followed for Nature Tours and Other Area Uses in Protected Areas

1. Nature tours are organized events aimed at exploring, seeing, recognizing, and promoting all of our country's natural areas. To ensure the sustainability, proper management, and protection of resources, the safety of visitors, and their guidance, all event organizers must obtain permission from the relevant authorities before organizing any activities.
2. Permission applications should be made in person, by mail, fax, or email to the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks or Provincial Directorates. Applications will be processed within 10 (ten) business days.
3. Before the tour, the "rules to be followed in nature" will be distributed by the organizers to the participants/visitors, and compliance with the rules will be ensured.
4. No damage can be done to rare, endemic, endangered, or potentially endangered plant species in protected areas. These species cannot be collected, uprooted, or cut, and wild animal eggs cannot be collected, nor can their nests be disturbed.
5. No tours are allowed in areas where species under definite protection due to their endangered status are located, or in regions considered hazardous for general security.
6. During tours, activities that may harm birds are prohibited (individuals cannot be disturbed, nests and young birds cannot be touched, and no tissue or blood samples can be taken for any reason). Bird watching and taking photographs during the breeding season is not allowed.
7. Professional photo and film shoots cannot be conducted without the necessary permissions from the Ministry.
8. Travel agencies conducting hunting tours, photo and film shoots, or wildlife observation tours in Türkiye for foreign visitors must obtain a hunting tourism certificate from the Ministry (Article 15 of Law No. 4915).
9. The fees and durations for tours, photography, and film shoots are determined and announced by the General Directorate at the beginning of each year.
10. Wild animals seen or encountered during tours should not be startled or followed. If the animal is moving, an appropriate waiting time should be observed, and the tour should continue slowly without disturbing or approaching the animal too closely.
11. The authorities will provide the necessary warnings for visitor safety, and the organizers of the event will take the required precautions.
12. Visitors must take all the waste they produce back with them.
13. Noise and loud music are prohibited during tours.
14. No activities that pollute the area, harm the flora, or disturb the fauna may take place.
15. No fires may be lit in the protected areas.
16. Wildlife cannot be destroyed or harmed.
17. No activities or interventions that may result in the loss or alteration of the characteristics of protected areas, or cause environmental problems such as soil, water, and air pollution, are allowed.
18. If there is a certified "Area Guide" in protected areas, it is mandatory for visitors to visit the area with the guides. However, areas outside of designated day-use zones or absolute protection zones may still be visited within the defined rules.
19. In areas of absolute protection, where natural resources must remain untouched by human impact, the use of the area without the authorities' knowledge, and random movement of visitors, is strictly prohibited.
20. Visitors in protected areas cannot leave the designated regions or routes (this is crucial both for the preservation of resource values and for the safety of visitors).
21. The usage conditions and limits of the areas are determined by the authorities, and the "carrying capacity" must not be exceeded.

22. In planned areas, visitor management and other related practices will be carried out according to the plans prepared, and the decisions in the plans must be strictly followed.
23. The types of transport (vehicle, walking, etc.) that can be used on the tour routes are defined in the long-term development plans and management plans for the area. Vehicles not specified in the plan cannot be used. In areas without a management plan, environmentally safe vehicles approved by the authorities should be used.
24. Services and facilities related to conservation, management, research, visitor information, and guidance in protected areas should be carried out in line with the plans prepared for these areas, minimizing negative impact and implemented through action plans.
25. No activity that may affect the water regime in wetlands is allowed.
26. Foreign species cannot be released into wetlands for any purpose, and no species can be collected from wetlands.
27. These rules have been prepared in accordance with the General Circular of the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks 2007/1. Those who act contrary to the provisions of the circular will face penalties as stipulated in the "Environmental Law No. 2872". In the case of legal entities such as travel agencies, if prohibited actions are committed in areas where the National Parks Law No. 2873 is applicable, penalties will be doubled. The complete implementation of the above rules is vital for the sustainable management and protection of wildlife and protected areas, ensuring visitor safety, and addressing the needs and expectations of visitors.