

MANDATORY RULES FOR NATURE TOURS AND OTHER AREA USES IN PROTECTED AREAS

1. Nature tours are organized activities conducted for the purposes of visiting, seeing, recognizing, and promoting all natural areas of our country. In order to ensure sustainability of resources, effective management and protection, visitor safety, visitor guidance, and meeting visitor needs and expectations, all activity organizers are required to obtain permission from the administration.
2. Permission applications shall be submitted in person or via mail, fax, or electronic mail to the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks or to the Provincial Directorates. Applications shall be finalized within ten (10) business days.
3. Prior to the tour, the 'rules to be followed in nature' shall be distributed to participants/visitors by the organizers and compliance with these rules shall be ensured.
4. Rare, endemic, endangered, or potentially endangered natural plant species within protected areas shall not be harmed in any way. Such species shall not be collected, uprooted, or partially cut. Eggs of wild animals shall not be collected and nests shall not be disturbed.
5. Tours shall not be permitted in areas where species under threat of extinction are under strict protection or in areas deemed unsafe to enter for general security reasons.
6. During tours, no activities that may harm birds are permitted. Individuals shall not be disturbed; nests and chicks shall not be touched; and no tissue or blood samples shall be taken under any circumstances. Birdwatching and image capture shall not be conducted during breeding periods.
7. Professional photography and filming for commercial purposes shall not be conducted without obtaining the necessary permits from the Ministry.
8. Travel agencies organizing hunting tours, photography and filming activities, or wildlife observation tours for foreign visitors in Türkiye are required to obtain a hunting tourism certificate from the Ministry pursuant to Article 15 of Law No. 4915.
9. Fees and durations applicable to tours, photography, and filming shall be determined and announced annually by the General Directorate.
10. Wild animals encountered during tours shall not be frightened or followed. If the tour route coincides with the direction taken by the observed animal, an appropriate waiting period shall be observed and the route shall be continued slowly while maintaining sufficient distance to avoid disturbing the animal.
11. For visitor safety, the Administration shall issue necessary warnings, and all other required measures shall be taken by the organizers of the activity.
12. Visitors are obliged to take back all waste they generate, under all circumstances.
13. Making noise and playing loud music during tours is strictly prohibited.
14. No activity that pollutes the area, harms flora, or disturbs fauna may be carried out.
15. Lighting fires within the areas is prohibited.
16. Wildlife shall not be damaged.
17. Any intervention that causes or may cause the loss or alteration of the characteristics of protected areas, as well as activities causing soil, water, or air pollution or similar environmental problems, are prohibited.

18. In protected areas where certified 'Area Guides' are available, visitors are required to visit the site accompanied by area guides. However, daily-use areas and areas outside the strictly protected zones defined in plans may be visited within the framework of defined rules.

19. In areas requiring absolute protection and strictly protected zones defined in plans, natural resources are intended to remain in their natural state without human intervention. Therefore, any use of such areas without the knowledge of the administration and random movement of visitors within these areas is strictly prohibited.

20. Visitors in protected areas shall not leave designated zones and routes. This is essential both for the protection of resource values and visitor safety.

21. Conditions and levels of use of areas shall be determined by the Administration, and the carrying capacity shall not be exceeded.

22. Visitor management and visitor use practices in planned areas shall be implemented within the scope of approved plans, and no deviation from plan decisions is permitted.

23. The manner in which tour routes may be visited (by vehicle, on foot, etc.) is defined in long-term development plans and management plans. Vehicles outside plan decisions shall not be used. In areas without management plans, environmentally non-damaging vehicles deemed appropriate by the administration shall be used.

24. Services and facilities related to protection, management, research, visitor information, and guidance in protected areas shall be implemented in accordance with plans prepared for these areas in a manner that creates minimal negative impact.

25. No activity that may affect the water regime in wetlands may be carried out.

26. No alien species may be introduced into wetlands for any purpose, and no species may be collected from wetlands.

27. These rules have been prepared in accordance with Circular No. 2007/1 of the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks. Administrative penalties stipulated under Environmental Law No. 2872 shall be applied to those acting contrary to these provisions. For travel agencies and other legal entities, penalties stipulated under Forestry Law No. 6831 and Fisheries Law No. 1380 shall be doubled if prohibited acts are committed in areas where National Parks Law No. 2873 is applicable.

RULES TO BE OBSERVED DURING MUSEUM VISITS

- Present identification at entrances when required.
- Take photographs without flash to prevent damage to historical artifacts.
- During group visits, present tour approval to authorized personnel without waiting for a request.
- Do not separate from the group during group visits.
- Comply with warnings issued by officials and the visitor rules posted within the museum.
- Do not touch or damage artifacts under any circumstances.
- Avoid behavior that may disturb others during visits; do not speak loudly and do not enter museums with food or beverages.
- Thank the staff members who provide information about the exhibits.