



# PETA's augustus CLUB

2019 | No. 2, Issue 81

page  
2

Plan Your Animal-Friendly Vacation

page  
6

Animals Are Wondrous: Tigers

page  
8

China Greenlights New Non-Animal Cosmetics Tests After PETA Push; The Legacy Challenge Opportunity

## Plan Your Animal-Friendly Vacation



**PETA**

501 Front St.  
Norfolk, VA 23510

AUGUSTUS CLUB  
757-962-8213  
Legacy@peta.org  
PETA.org/Legacy

# On This Summer Vacation, Know What to Avoid and What to Do Instead

*Augustus Club members know that nothing is more speciesist than exploiting animals for entertainment, whether it's forcing horses to haul carriages full of tourists or keeping bears and other animals in captivity to be gawked at, posed with, or otherwise "encountered."*

*So if you know anyone whose summer vacation plans include speciesist pursuits, such as visiting zoos, swimming with dolphins, or riding in horse-drawn carriages, please let them know that these actions harm animals, and share with them the following ideas for animal-friendly "upgrades."*



Fifi, now at a sanctuary in Colorado, was rescued with PETA's help after spending 30 years in captivity at a ramshackle roadside zoo in Pennsylvania.

## **AVOID: Roadside Zoos**

These pitiful prisons deny animals their fundamental right to freedom and everything else that makes their lives meaningful. Following PETA lawsuits, federal complaints, and vigorous campaigns, numerous roadside zoos have been fined or closed down or have had their licenses revoked, including The Mobile Zoo in Alabama—a now-defunct facility that PETA worked for years to shut down. We helped rescue several animals from the facility, including Joe the chimpanzee, who spent the better part of two decades in solitary confinement, and bears Elsie, Bella, and Dusty, who were often seen panting because of the sweltering summer heat and who paced back and forth along the periphery of their cage so frequently that they created a dirt path. With the support of our Augustus Club members, we have rescued more than 100 animals from roadside zoos, including other chimpanzees, dozens of other bears, and dozens of tigers (see page 7 for details). All were placed in reputable sanctuaries, where they are able to explore and enjoy naturalistic habitats.



## **INSTEAD: Visit Accredited Sanctuaries**

The Wild Animal Sanctuary in Keenesburg, Colorado, is home to many tigers and bears rescued by PETA. At [SanctuaryFederation.org](http://SanctuaryFederation.org), you'll find a list of facilities accredited by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries. They have rigorous standards of management and animal care and never breed animals or use them in commercial activities. Some, but not all, provide educational tours, so if you're interested in visiting one that offers them, please check before you go.



## **AVOID: Marine Parks**

Orcas in the wild swim up to 100 miles each day and share intimate family relationships, but the depressed orcas at SeaWorld and other marine parks spend every single day floating at either the surface or the bottom of their small, barren concrete tanks—when they're not being forced to perform tricks for food in front of noisy crowds. This life of deprivation, stress, and loneliness takes an enormous toll, and all incarcerated orcas die far short of their natural lifespans, many from stress-related diseases.

Following PETA's shareholder activism, demonstrations, virtual-reality exhibits outside

SeaWorld parks, pressure on corporate sponsors, creative ads, and social media campaigns, the park stopped breeding orcas, dozens of companies ended their sponsorships, plans for a new facility were scrapped, hundreds of employees were laid off, and two of its CEOs stepped down.



## **INSTEAD: Visit Animal-Free Theme Parks**

Animal-free water parks like Raging Waters San Jose in California are pretty much the perfect family vacation destinations. Parents can take a dip, read, and picnic while the kids go crazy on the slides. Theme parks such as The Adventuredome in Las Vegas feature many exciting activities: roller coasters, laser tag, miniature golf, bumper cars, midway booths, arcades, clown shows, and more.



## **AVOID: Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides**

Horses are often forced to work in freezing cold or sweltering heat and walk on hard pavement while suffering from debilitating hoof and leg ailments, dodging cars, and inhaling toxic exhaust fumes that can cause lung damage. The industry also poses a public safety hazard because horses "spook" easily, and every year, the list of accidents involving horse-drawn carriages grows longer.

PETA has helped get horse-drawn carriages banned in some cities, including Salt Lake City. In New York City, our high-profile demonstrations and the recruitment of celebrities—including P!nk, Alec Baldwin, Bill Maher, and others—helped get the pick-up lines for horse-drawn carriages moved out of busy midtown traffic and restricted to Central Park, an important step forward in our push for a total ban.



## **INSTEAD: Take a Bicycle or Segway Tour**

Tour operators in hundreds of cities across the U.S. and Canada offer bicycle and Segway tours that are appropriate for all ages and fitness levels. Instead of gazing passively at the world going by as a passenger, you can interact with the city in a more personal way, experiencing the sights, sounds, and smells of a metropolis at full tilt, completely immersed in the moment.

### **AVOID: Aquariums**

Fish and marine mammals, who are meant to dwell in oceans and rivers, suffer miserably when forced to spend their lives in aquariums. Whether they're in large facilities like the Georgia Aquarium—which tried to import 18 beluga whales but was stopped by PETA and others—or small ones, like those run by SeaQuest in shopping malls across the U.S., the animals are robbed of their natural habitats and their freedom, left with nothing to do but swim in endless circles in the same few cubic feet of water. Animals in “petting pools” are frequently exposed to bacteria and other pathogens, and they can become anxious and frustrated as a result of having no respite from interactions with humans. Not surprisingly, members of the public have been injured by captive animals at SeaQuest aquariums on numerous occasions.



### **INSTEAD: Visit a Virtual Aquarium**

National Geographic Encounter: Ocean Odyssey—located in New York City’s Times Square—provides all the wonders of the ocean with none of the cruelty of captive-animal displays, thanks to interactive motion-capture technology.

Guests can interact with playful sea lions, explore a vibrant coral reef teeming with animals who react to their movements, travel through the ocean with dolphins and whales, and much more. Billed as the “aquarium of the future,” Ocean Odyssey proves that aquariums free of captive animals can be captivating.

## Get Help From a Pro: Use an Animal-Friendly Travel Company!

Humane Travel offers great value without compromising its dedication to animals. Visit **HumaneTrip.com** to check out tour packages that include sailing the Virgin Islands and the “Best of Egypt,” or sign up for day-trip activities, such as rafting through the Black Canyon on the Colorado River or learning to surf while visiting Maui. Every option offered by Humane Travel offers a fun travel experience without harming animals.

If you're looking for a 100% vegan vacation that requires minimal planning, visit **VegVoyages.com**. The company offers environmentally friendly, cruelty-free, vegan adventures to off-the-beaten-path destinations in Asia, including Bali, India, Laos, Malaysia, Sumatra, and Thailand.





## **AVOID: 'Swim With Dolphins' Programs**

Whether they're offered at inland facilities such as Dolphinaris parks or at seaside locations, "swim with dolphins" programs cause suffering. Sometimes, the dolphins have been torn away from their families in the wild—even babies, who typically stay with their mothers for three to six years. Dolphins confined to tanks can develop serious skin and eye problems from the chemically treated water, are often housed in incompatible groups, and can be driven insane by the reverberations of their own sonar bouncing off the concrete walls. Throughout the Caribbean, dolphins are kept in small pools or polluted sea pens, where they can end up with intestinal blockages and even die after ingesting plastic bags and other debris. Earlier this year, in a resounding victory for animals, longtime PETA target Dolphinaris Arizona relinquished its four remaining captive dolphins and closed its exhibit after four animals had died there in just 16 months.

## **INSTEAD: Go Dolphin-Watching, Snorkeling, or Scuba Diving**

Curious, playful dolphins like to check out boats and frequently race in their wake and spin around in the air, providing terrific photo opportunities. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is a great resource for finding tour companies that don't encircle or trap dolphins and would never steer over or through their pods, which can injure them. Visit NOAA's website [DolphinSmart.org](http://DolphinSmart.org) to find responsible, cruelty-free tours.

Or get up close and personal with marine animals by going snorkeling or scuba diving. While you're not guaranteed to see dolphins, you'll be able to observe lots of other fascinating wildlife while respecting their desire to come and go as they please.

## ▶▶ **What YOU Can Do**

Animal Adventure Park, a seedy roadside zoo in upstate New York, treats April the giraffe as a breeding machine, and she has been kept almost continuously pregnant for nearly a decade. In nature, mother giraffes and their calves may stay together for life. However, all of April's calves have been taken away from her before the age of 1½ years old, sometimes when they were just a few weeks old. All are at dubious roadside zoos and are being exploited for profit just like their mother. Please contact Animal Adventure Park at 607-760-4429 or [guestservices@theanimaladventurepark.com](mailto:guestservices@theanimaladventurepark.com) and urge the facility to stop breeding April and other giraffes.

*Thank you!*



# Animals Are Wondrous: Tigers

© iStock.com/MarkWalkinsonPhotography



Icons of strength and beauty, tigers are the largest members of the cat family. Unlike most big cats, they love water and are adept swimmers. Although they occasionally use their aquatic skills to pursue prey, they swim mainly for the same reason we do: because nothing feels better on a hot day than taking a cool dip.

They are expert hunters—a skill that cubs possess not only because of instinct but also because of their mothers' careful tutelage.

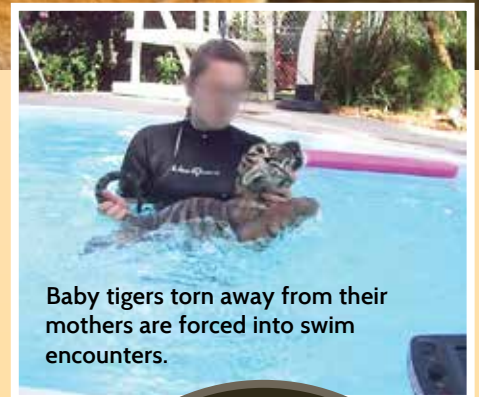
Cub-rearing is done almost exclusively by females, but there are exceptions: At a national park in India, a male tiger raised two orphaned female cubs. After their mother died, he provided them with food, trained them, and protected them from other tigers.

When it comes to protecting their food, tigers are creative and clever. If food is left over after they've finished eating, they hide it by covering it with leaves and dirt to prevent pilfering by vultures and other animals.

Sadly, thousands of these fascinating, intelligent animals are exploited every year in circuses and roadside zoos, at "tiger-encounter" businesses that peddle the chance to

swim or pose for photos with cubs, and in the backyard cages of people who keep them as "pets." Fortunately, with the help of Augustus Club members, PETA is able to come to their defense.

We've filed several lawsuits targeting businesses that offer tiger-cub encounters, such as playtime events and photo ops. These activities are harmful because cubs who are prematurely separated from their mothers have an underdeveloped immune system and are susceptible to disease transmission as well as to injuries from rough handling by untrained staff. These businesses



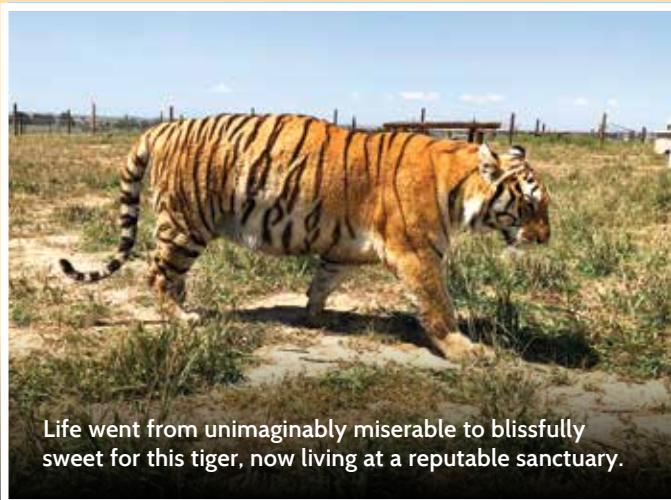
Baby tigers torn away from their mothers are forced into swim encounters.

**We've filed several lawsuits targeting businesses that offer tiger-cub encounters, such as playtime events and photo ops.**

are also the main cause of the overpopulation crisis among captive big cats, whose population is so large that there are more tigers held captive in the U.S. than exist in the wild worldwide.

Adding to the cubs' distress, many of these business operators declaw them, which is terribly painful. But thanks to your support, we're putting a stop to that. PETA's Endangered Species Act (ESA) lawsuit targeting Indiana tiger-cub exhibitor Wildlife in Need resulted in a *precedent-setting* court order finding that declawing big cats—other than when medically necessary, which is rare—violates the Act. This is a watershed judgment that could send the cub-encounter business into a tailspin.

And hopefully, more good news is in store, because we've also filed an ESA lawsuit against Florida roadside zoo Dade City's Wild Things (DCWT). This outfit has a history of breeding tigers who are torn away from their mothers when they're just days old and then used within weeks in "swim with a tiger" encounters, other tiger-interaction tourist activities, television promotions, and more. Our aim with this lawsuit is to ensure that the premature separation of tiger cubs from their mothers and the use of cubs in photo ops are prohibited.



Life went from unimaginably miserable to blissfully sweet for this tiger, now living at a reputable sanctuary.

In an attempt to thwart our efforts, DCWT's owners violated a court order and shipped 19 of its tigers (including a pregnant tiger who gave birth to three cubs en route, all of whom died) to a notoriously abusive facility in Oklahoma. But PETA's swift work resulted in the release of all 19 tigers, along with 20 others who had



been imprisoned there, as well as three black bears, two baboons, and two chimpanzees—who are all now thriving in reputable sanctuaries.

If successful, our lawsuits against Wildlife in Need and DCWT will pave the way for eliminating some of the most critical problems regarding captive tigers and other big cats and will create positive change for many thousands of animals.

This progress builds on a long record of victories for tigers by PETA and our international affiliates, including the following:

- ✓ After our eyewitness exposé of Bowmanville Zoo owner and animal trainer Michael Hackenberger, who had supplied a tiger for use in the film *Life of Pi*, showed him whipping a young tiger up to 19 times in a row, he was charged with cruelty to animals and his zoo was closed down.
- ✓ PETA's eyewitness exposé of Summer Wind Farms Sanctuary—a Michigan roadside zoo—documented that tigers Daisy and Mohan suffered from debilitating conditions for which they were denied adequate veterinary care. After the U.S. government stepped in, the tigers were transferred to an accredited sanctuary.
- ✓ After noting a proliferation of "tiger selfies" on the dating app Tinder, PETA Australia informed the company of the harm suffered by captive tigers. Tinder then called on its users to remove the photos, proclaiming on its blog, "Wild animals deserve to live in the wild. PETA says now is the time to rid the platform of tiger photos in honor of International Tiger Day ... and we could not agree more." The company also pledged to donate \$10,000 to tiger conservation.

# China Greenlights New Non-Animal Cosmetics Tests After PETA Push



After years of pressure from PETA, the Chinese government has approved two additional non-animal methods for testing cosmetics products in China.

The two newly approved tests—the direct peptide reaction assay for skin sensitization and the short time exposure assay for eye irritation—will spare countless animals the agony of caustic substances being dripped into their eyes and rubbed onto their skin.

This major progress is thanks to the groundbreaking work of the expert scientists and regulatory specialists at the Institute for In Vitro Sciences (IIVS), whom PETA provided with initial funding to train and educate Chinese scientists and officials on modern non-animal methods.

In 2012, PETA exposed the fact that some formerly cruelty-free companies had quietly started paying the Chinese government to test their products on animals in order to sell them in that country. At the time, animal tests were required for any cosmetics sold in China. So PETA immediately contacted the

leading experts in the field of non-animal test methods at IIVS and provided them with the initial grant to launch their work in China.

IIVS scientists successfully worked with Chinese officials to approve their first non-animal test method, the 3T3 neutral red uptake phototoxicity assay, which is used to test cosmetics for their potential toxicity when they come into contact with sunlight.

In 2014, the Chinese government announced that it would accept the results of non-animal test methods but only for non-special use cosmetics manufactured in China. Tests on animals are still required for all imported cosmetics and all special-use cosmetics, regardless of where they were manufactured.

Please support companies that never test on animals. PETA's Beauty Without Bunnies database at [PETA.org/CrueltyFree](http://PETA.org/CrueltyFree) currently lists more than 3,800 compassionate companies that don't test on animals *anywhere* in the world.

Guinea pig: © iStock.com/GloballP • Cover images | Divers: © iStock.com/Bicho\_raro • Segway tour: © iStock.com/anouchka Couple on beach: © iStock.com/aldomurillo • Desert photography: © iStock.com/CampPhoto

## The Legacy Challenge Opportunity

Now is the perfect time to make or reconfirm a legacy gift to PETA and increase the impact of our work today with your future donation. A small group of generous PETA donors has established the Legacy Challenge Fund, and when you reconfirm a contribution to us as a beneficiary of your will or other planned gift—and let us know before May 31, 2020—your future gift will unlock an immediate donation to PETA of up to \$5,000 from the Legacy Challenge Fund!

### How the Legacy Challenge Works



1 Leave a legacy gift to PETA, and share the details of it with us by completing a legacy gift notification form.



2 Return the completed form to unlock an immediate \$5,000 gift to PETA from the Legacy Challenge Fund.



3 You'll be strengthening our work today and in the future.



Please act soon—the Legacy Challenge Campaign ends on May 31, 2020.

Learn more at [PETA.org/LegacyChallenge](http://PETA.org/LegacyChallenge), or contact us at 757-962-8213 or [Legacy@peta.org](mailto:Legacy@peta.org).