



News release issued jointly by Honeyguide Wildlife Holidays and Carbon Clear

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Wildlife holidays no longer cost the earth Travellers to enjoy exotic wildlife without damaging the climate

A wildlife holiday company from Norwich is one of the first to cancel out the climate pollution from its overseas holidays.

Honeyguide Wildlife Holidays is teaming up with Carbon Clear to ‘offset’ the greenhouse gas emissions created by its customers’ flights, by investing in tree planting and clean energy projects that remove greenhouse gases from the air.

Honeyguide has been offering holidays to rich areas for wildlife in Europe and beyond since 1991. Its packages range from the Dordogne in France to South Africa’s Western Cape, taking in everything from lady orchids and golden orioles to protea flowers and black-browed albatrosses. Its tours are popular with nature-lovers from all over the UK plus some regular travellers from overseas.

The company established its ethical credentials long ago by including a donation to local wildlife conservation projects in the price of its holidays. However, evidence of climate change and its damage to wildlife convinced the company to go the extra mile.

“We became acutely aware that Honeyguide and its customers were contributing to global warming through our flights and wanted to do something about it,” said Chris Durdin, Honeyguide’s founder. “We are delighted to be working with Carbon Clear to cancel out the effects of our climate pollution and in so doing, create a better future for the endangered wildlife and special places that Honeyguiders enjoy today.

Mr Durdin added: “It’s a small step towards tackling such a large problem as climate change, but we hope that by establishing this principle other businesses will follow.”

Scientists predict that unless society takes urgent action to reduce the greenhouse gases that cause global warming, up to one third of land-based plant and animal species could be on the pathway to extinction by the year 2050. The species that are likely to be lost first are those that inhabit vulnerable and fragmented habitats.

Carbon Clear works with businesses and individuals to calculate how many greenhouse gases they emit and advises them on how to reduce emissions. To cancel the effects of the remaining pollution, Carbon Clear invests in developing country projects that absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere – such as tree planting – or stop carbon dioxide from being emitted in the first place – such as clean energy projects.

Jamal Gore, Carbon Clear Director, said: “Foreign wildlife holidays offer a magical experience for many Britons and indeed, provide valuable income to local communities and the impetus to protect wildlife sites. Honeyguide’s decision to offset its flight emissions means that customers can buy safe in the knowledge that they’re making a responsible choice. Their offsets will help limit the damage to precious sites and species from the future effects of climate change.

“Our message to everyone is to reduce as many emissions as you can, buy from companies that have adopted green policies, and offset the rest. I’m confident that with the help of people like Chris and Honeyguide Holidays we can all make a real difference.”

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Editors’ notes

1. To date Honeyguide has raised £43,378 for projects to monitor and protect endangered wildlife, mostly in Europe. Donations go through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust. Offsetting the greenhouse gas pollution from a Honeyguide Wildlife Holiday costs from £4 per return flight for short flights within Europe (0.5 tonnes CO₂), up to £26 for a return flight from the UK to South Africa (2.8 tonnes CO₂).
2. The world’s top climate scientists report that the average global temperature rose by 0.6 degrees Centigrade in the 20th century and “*There is new and stronger evidence that most of the warming observed over the last 50 years is attributable to human activities.*” (Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, Third Assessment Report, 2001). The same scientific body warns that the average global temperature could rise by up to 5.8 degrees further in this century unless humankind takes drastic measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
3. Under a mid-range warming scenario of 2-3 degrees Centigrade this century, between 15% and 37% of land-based plant and animal species could be committed to extinction by the year 2050 (“Extinction risk from climate change”, *Nature*, **427**, 145 - 148 (08 Jan 2004), Chris D. Thomas *et al.*)