



**HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL**
UNITED KINGDOM

WHALE AND
DOLPHIN
CONSERVATION



RSPCA.

Andrew Flintham
Managing Director
TUI UK & Ireland

25 April 2024

Via e-mail: andrew.flintham@tui.co.uk

Dear Mr Flintham:

We are writing as a coalition of animal protection organisations – combined, our groups have many millions of members and supporters globally – to urge TUI to join the rest of the UK travel industry in turning its back on venues that keep cetaceans captive. It is past time for TUI to drop these facilities from its itineraries.

A spokesperson has been quoted in numerous media outlets as stating that the company is “currently reviewing the TUI animal welfare policy for venues with cetaceans in captivity” and undertaking “an in-depth analysis of scientific research and having an open dialogue with different stakeholders ... to take the most responsible decision”. While we are pleased you are reviewing and reassessing TUI’s position on this issue, the organisation has been issuing this statement for many months. When can we expect the audit to be completed and for TUI to take decisive action on this matter?

There is ample scientific evidence showing that captivity is wholly incompatible with the complex needs of orcas and other dolphins. At SeaWorld, one of the venues TUI promotes, at least 44 orcas and dozens of other dolphins have died from severe trauma, intestinal gangrene, chronic cardiovascular failure, and other diseases, all far short of their natural life expectancy. In the ocean, orcas can swim up to 150 miles a day, but at marine parks, these far-ranging animals are imprisoned in concrete tanks that are approximately 10,000 times smaller than their natural home range. These highly intelligent animals have their own language and culture, and their diminished existence in captivity leads many to exhibit signs of zoochosis, such as engaging in repetitive “pattern” swimming or floating listlessly.

The tide has turned against SeaWorld and other facilities that deny these animals a meaningful existence for the sake of human entertainment. Tourists are boycotting these venues in droves, and savvy businesses are cutting ties with them – and we urge TUI to follow suit. To do otherwise would be unconscionable. Please drop marine parks from your offerings immediately. We await your decision.

Yours sincerely,

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals
Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
World Animal Protection
Born Free Foundation
Marine Connection
Whale and Dolphin Conservation
World Cetacean Alliance
Humane Society International/UK