

WORLD WILDLIFE DAY: SIX WILDLIFE STORIES WORTH TELLING

Carrier highlights the most powerful, conservation-driven wildlife experiences travellers are seeking this year



Manchester, 20 February 2026

As World Wildlife Day approaches (3rd March), luxury operator Carrier is spotlighting a collection of rare and responsible wildlife experiences that are redefining how travellers connect with the natural world. With demand for meaningful, conservation-led travel at an all-time high, these standout encounters offer a fresh angle on some of the most compelling stories of our time – from frontline rhino protection efforts in Kenya to the world’s largest gathering of Asian elephants in Sri Lanka. Each experience pairs extraordinary access with measurable conservation impact, offering powerful narratives for exploring how travel can support wildlife at a critical moment for global biodiversity.

Track endangered rhino on foot in Borana, Kenya

A model of modern conservation, Borana Conservancy stands as one of East Africa’s greatest success stories. Operating a low-density tourism model and maintaining one of the region’s most secure rhino sanctuaries, Borana has grown its black and white rhino population from 21 individuals to more than 250 through decades of dedicated intensive monitoring and anti-poaching efforts. Visitors witness first-hand how carefully managed tourism directly contributes to safeguarding these critically endangered giants.

Get involved:

Carrier recommends Lengishu, an exclusive-use home where guests can join anti-poaching rangers at first light to track black and white rhino on foot. This intimate, high-impact experience provides a glimpse into the daily realities of frontline conservation – from learning how rangers use field-sign reading, radio telemetry and deter poaching through constant surveillance and community engagement. Tourism revenue here directly funds ranger salaries and critical security infrastructure.

Spot elusive leopards on a walking safari in Zambia

South Luangwa National Park, widely regarded as the birthplace of the walking safari, offers one of Africa's most immersive wildlife experiences. Known as the Valley of the Leopard, the park boasts one of the continent's highest densities of these elusive predators. Exploring the landscape on foot reveals a deeper understanding of how leopards – and other species – survive within one of Africa's most ecologically rich river systems.

Get involved:

Carrier recommends Puku Ridge, a luxury camp with elevated views over wildlife-filled plains. Guided walking safaris teach guests the same tracking techniques used by conservation researchers, from reading footprints to interpreting alarm calls. Operating on foot minimises environmental impact and helps guests appreciate how predators move, hunt and maintain territories – knowledge that supports ongoing monitoring projects within the park.

Encounter and support manta ray conservation in the Maldives

Manta rays are among the ocean's most threatened species, facing increasing pressure from habitat loss, plastic pollution and warming seas that disrupt their feeding and breeding grounds. The Maldives plays a crucial role in global manta conservation as home to one of the world's largest reef manta populations. Here, cleaning stations like Hithadhoo Corner provide vital habitats where mantas feed and socialise – making ongoing scientific monitoring essential to protecting these graceful creatures.

Get involved:

Carrier recommends staying at Six Senses Laamu, where guests can join Manta Trust researchers on guided dives to observe and help identify individual manta rays by their unique belly markings. Guests can also visit the resort's SHELL research hub to learn about broader conservation work led through the Maldives Underwater Initiative (MUI), including coral restoration, seagrass protection and community-led sustainability projects that their stay directly supports.

A filmmaker-led Bengal tiger experience in India's Kanha National Park

Kanha National Park, a crucial stronghold for the Bengal tiger, is a centrepiece of India's wildlife conservation efforts. Its sweeping sal forests and grasslands play a vital role in supporting a growing tiger population, thanks to sustained habitat protection and scientific management. Visiting Kanha offers a window into both India's natural heritage and the complex conservation challenges that shape the tiger's future.

Get involved:

Carrier offers an exclusive experience alongside wildlife filmmaker Warren Pereira and leading naturalists. Guests join specialised tiger tracking drives, gaining insights into behaviour, territorial patterns and the pressures facing the species, including habitat loss and human-wildlife conflict. Warren also shares expert tips on wildlife cinematography, illustrating how visual storytelling enhances global awareness and drives conservation support.

Witness Asia's largest elephant gathering in Sri Lanka

Every year, between July to October, Minneriya National Park becomes the stage for The Gathering – the largest meeting of Asian elephants anywhere in the world. Up to 300 elephants converge around the receding Minneriya Tank as dry season grazing draws family herds together, creating one of Asia's most extraordinary wildlife spectacles. The event also highlights critical conservation challenges around habitat fragmentation and long-term elephant protection.

Get involved:

Carrier can arrange exclusive time with Professor Sarath Kotagama, one of Sri Lanka's most respected environmental scientists. Guests gain unique insight into human-elephant coexistence, the role of seasonal water systems, and national efforts to reduce conflict. Expert-led visits provide deeper context to The Gathering and showcase how protected areas and conservation research are helping safeguard the country's endangered elephants.

Trek to see endangered mountain gorillas in Rwanda

Rwanda offers one of the world's most profound wildlife encounters: coming face to face with endangered mountain gorillas in Volcanoes National Park. The country's conservation approach – combining community revenue sharing, ranger protection and ecotourism – has helped gorilla numbers slowly increase, making Rwanda a leading example of modern conservation success.

Get involved:

Guests begin with a briefing from resident conservationist Charles Nsabimana before venturing into the bamboo forests to meet one of the park's 12 habituated gorilla families. Gorilla permit fees directly support ranger patrols, veterinary teams and community projects, ensuring that tourism contributes to long-term population recovery. A wider itinerary including Kigali and Akagera National Park reveals Rwanda's broader commitment to rewilding and ecosystem restoration.

For more wildlife and conservation-based stories and initiatives see: carrier.co.uk/wild

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