



## RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL POLICY

We feel a huge responsibility to make sure we treat people, places and animals with respect. We know our guests do too! Being responsible doesn't mean huge gestures or lots of money. If each person does their bit then we can really help to ensure we preserve the places we visit and the cultures we interact with.

### Small Group Travel

Our scheduled small group tours operate with a minimum group size of 6 and a maximum group size of 12 guests. By specialising only in small groups we reduce the impact on the destinations we visit and it means that when we stay in environmentally sensitive areas and interact with local cultures, we do not leave a large footprint from our tours.

### Accommodation

Wherever possible we choose to use locally owned hotels and lodges ensuring that local communities gain a direct economic benefit from our business through employment and tourism. We try our best to avoid large chains and more commercial properties unless the location dictates that we must, in which case we always ensure they use local staff so that the benefits are still felt within the community. We strive to leave no footprint on any campsite or lodging.

### Local Guides

On each of our small group tours there is a dedicated tour leader who escorts the group and ensures it all runs smoothly. In addition, we also employ local guides for each activity, which not only benefits the community directly through employment but is also of great value to our guests as they gain valuable insights into the local community. Their experience is enriched with the true expertise from people who live in the area, and it gives them a chance to see how their tourism is benefiting the places that they visit.

### Wildlife

On all game drives, we remind our guests that we are the visitors and that we do not want our presence to impact the wildlife or their environment in any way. We are always accompanied by fully trained and qualified guides who will ensure that our groups understand how to interact with wildlife appropriately. The feeding of animals is strictly prohibited.

### Entrance Fees

The national parks that we visit in each country support a large number of local communities and in particular provide local services and housing to the many staff that help to run the parks. Supporting these parks by paying the entrance fees is an important part of how we ensure the community is supported, and the parks are maintained, as well as providing an essential source of funding for the anti-poaching units.



### Human Rights

Where we have influence, we are committed to promoting human rights. We ensure that everybody involved with our company is treated with fairness and respect, including our office staff and tour leaders. We ensure our local guides are paid and treated fairly, and only work with local business who follow this policy too.

### Water Usage

We know that in many of the areas that we visit, water is a very scarce resource. Our guests are encouraged to be conscious of their individual water usage and not to take long showers or waste water wherever possible. All small group guests are provided with a pocket hand sanitiser before the trip so that they can reduce water usage when washing their hands, and all guests are actively discouraged from taking a bath over a shower. If the drinking water is unsafe or scarce, our guests are encouraged to purchase water in bulk rather than single use plastic bottles.

### Local Crafts

When we visit local craft markets we encourage our guests to barter in a friendly and respectful manner but ask them to remember that this is likely to be their only source of income. Our advice is not to bargain too hard over what may only be \$1 to you but is worth a lot more to them. Buying local crafts is a great way to support the local community, and we encourage our guests to buy smaller wooden carvings rather than large pieces in an effort to conserve the woodland areas.

### Charitable Donations

A small donation from the profits of each group tour is made to a local conservation charity. We know that there are a lot of communities that would benefit from our donations, particularly schools, however we recognise that in doing so we are allowing the local governments to continue to underfund the communities and do not wish to make the situation worse. We do not support local orphanages as we do not agree with industries that profit from vulnerable children.

### Travellers Code of Conduct

Every guest is provided with pre-trip information regarding the countries we will be visiting and they are encouraged to read up on the current social and political environments before they travel. We ask every guest to treat the people they meet locally with respect and fairness, and to make a concerted effort to understand the local customs and community beliefs.

### Our Offices

We know that being environmentally friendly starts at home, and as such we operate a virtual office so as not to increase the impact on the environment from having a separate office. We recycle all ink cartridges and paper where possible, and do not give out travel brochures other than minimal literature at our travel exhibitions. We recognise the need to reduce overall paper usage in travel documentation and as such have partnered with Vamoos, a travel app, which allows our guests to refer to their itinerary on their smart phones and therefore they will not need to print it. This is implemented for all types of holidays from small group tours to tailor-made private trips.