

Traveler's Code

In light of our dedication to the conservation of the environment, a fair economic benefit for local communities and the preservation of cultural values, we have presented below our Traveller's Code. We hope this will serve not only to ensure the sustainability of the areas you are visiting, but also to improve the quality of your experience overall.

Learn about local culture and traditions. A little time spent researching the unique customs can avoid embarrassment and offence as well as provide a useful insight. It is the cultural differences that will make your trip special.

Learn a few words in a local language. It will be greatly appreciated and can open the doors to a more “authentic” experience. Likewise reading local literature, whether contemporary or classic, will help you get the most out of your trip.

Consider adopting cultural practices where appropriate. Eg. dressing appropriately in places of worship or significance.

Help preserve resources by complying with local environmental initiatives. If your hotel has a policy for reusing sheets or towels, try to support this as often as you feel you can. Remember to turn off lights and electrical equipment in your room if you are not using them – for example, you could turn televisions off fully rather than leaving them on standby, and turn off air-conditioning units when they are not needed or when you leave the room.

Water is often a precious resource so try to keep your usage of it to a minimum, both in your hotel room and whenever possible throughout your trip.

Respect and care for the local environment by not picking wild flowers or plants, disposing of litter responsibly and recycling what you can. Water bottles given to you can be refilled by purchasing larger bottles of water.

When taking photographs with locals please obtain their permission beforehand. Do not be offended should they decline. Flash photography can be damaging to artworks.

When visiting national parks, stick to set paths in order to preserve natural habitats and leave animals undisturbed. Keeping noise to a minimum also helps and allows you to enjoy the sights and sounds of nature in peace and quiet. Take care not to touch coral reefs when swimming or diving as they are extremely fragile and take decades to grow.

Look out for illegal souvenirs. Ancient artefacts and products made from endangered animals and plants were probably acquired illegally, so refusing to buy them is not only in the interests of the local people and the environment, it could help you avoid getting into trouble with police and customs. Your local guide should always be able to advise you if you are in doubt.

Support the locals by ensuring that as much of your money as possible stays in the local area. Eg. Patronize locally owned restaurants and order local drinks and produce rather than requesting international brands. You can encourage local community initiatives such as handmade crafts by buying locally produced souvenirs.

Avoid giving money to Beggars. It sometimes takes a hard heart not to give money to beggars, but remember that if a person earns more than someone who works for a living it may encourage the practice and cause problems for the local economy, and giving money to children might dissuade their parents from sending them to school. If you would like to make a donation we will be able to recommend a charity or project that will welcome your donation.