

Visiting Traditional/ Rural Communities

As part of our commitment to advancing sustainable tourism, we encourage our tourism partners to improve their sustainability performance by providing them with the guidance below.

- ✓ Ensure applicable legal **permits** are in place
- ✓ Ensure **insurance** is in place for guests and team
- ✓ Respect local leadership / traditional governance structures; their **permission** being obtained for visits to take place
- ✓ Identify **health & safety** risks, implement management systems, and provide appropriate safety equipment
- ✓ Ensure enough team members are available in case of **emergency**
- ✓ Monitor activity **area conditions** (including weather) in advance & during the activity
- ✓ Be familiar with activity area and ensure that **navigation and communication** tools are in good working order
- ✓ Maximise local **economic benefits** through employment and supporting local businesses / hosts
- ✓ Engage **local stakeholders** about how the activity should happen, and to ensure social and environmental impacts are managed responsibly
- ✓ Agree **expectations and responsibilities** of the experience with local businesses / hosts
- ✓ Ensure **regular engagement** with local businesses / hosts to improve quality and ensure that respect for cultural heritage is maintained
- ✓ Avoid single use & disposable items, provide adequate **waste** collection facilities for safe disposal (or better yet - pack out what you take in), and pick up any rubbish found along the way
- ✓ Be **waterwise** and take pro-active measures to use water sparingly
- ✓ Minimise **energy** used in the activity as part of a climate action strategy
- ✓ Provide **information in advance** about your sustainability actions, activity accessibility, what to expect, and what to bring with
- ✓ **Screen participants** to make sure that the activity is well suited to their fitness & level of ability
- ✓ Manage **group size** to minimise impacts on people & the planet
- ✓ Ensure that activity **vehicles** do not disturb residents
- ✓ Obtain written confirmation, e.g., via **indemnity**, that participants are aware of activity risks
- ✓ **Brief participants** about do's and don'ts, safety, what to expect, applicable etiquette / conduct to be respectful of, topics of conversation that might be culturally inappropriate, activity areas / buildings that might be off-limits, and logistical considerations before the activity starts
- ✓ In sensitive **socio-economic or cultural contexts**, e.g., communities with little contact with other cultures, someone from the local community must accompany the group
- ✓ Share **information** about local nature and culture along the way and social development / conservation projects that participants may want to support
- ✓ Facilitate opportunities for **meaningful exchange** with local people
- ✓ Show **respect** for the land, waterways, wildlife, and others in the area
- ✓ Repair and compensate for any **damage** caused to the activity area
- ✓ Contribute to conserving activity area **integrity**; let relevant authorities / leadership know about any concerns and participate in rehabilitation projects

