

Sustainable Accommodation policy

As a responsible tour agency, we are committed to promoting sustainable accommodations for our clients. Wherever feasible, all employees including directors, management and employees should adhere to following policy:

Criteria for selecting hotels:

Seek out establishments who have a goal of reducing its impact on the environment and society in the surrounding area. During the selection process, hotels with following criteria are to be prioritized:

- **Human care:** We aim to work with establishments with sound care for their human resources, which is of key importance to the hospitality sector. Hence, we assess if the establishment provides good labor conditions for their staff (minimum wage, reasonable working times, proper lunch hours, etc.).
- **No plastic policy:** The accommodation minimizes the use of plastic and as a common practice does not offer plastic water bottles to its guests. Instead the establishment makes available places where guests can re-fill jugs that are provided in the room and their own bottles.
- **Waste management:** We verify that the accommodation separates at least organic waste for composting and plastic for recycling. Establishments that are able to go beyond these basic waste management practices will be highly preferred.
- **Energy efficiency:** The establishment follows energy efficiency practices, such as energy saving light bulbs, and energy efficient equipment. The accommodation provider advises their guests (e.g. through signs in the rooms and hallways) to switch off lights and electric appliances when not in use or has put in place an overall switch off plan (automated system).
- **Water efficiency:** The accommodation efficiently uses water. Places with a water saving system on their 'western' toilet and shower will be preferred over other. Places that make use of a bucket flush for the toilet and/or bucket shower also have a clear control over the amount used.
- **Child protection:** The establishment ensures that the rights of children are respected and safeguarded. If the supplier employs children below the age of 14, the business should ensure that there are special working conditions put in place to safeguard them (for example part-time or on internship basis).
- **Local supplies:** Accommodations are stimulated to purchase and use local food products, which are produced based on fair trade and sustainability principles.
- **Biodiversity care:** The accommodation limits their negative effect on local and global biodiversity wherever feasible (e.g. do not offer red listed species on the menu).
- **Authentic charm:** The accommodation building (exterior and/or interior) incorporates elements of local art, architecture, or cultural heritage.
- **Community value:** The establishment respects the intellectual property rights of local communities and contributes to the local community in whichever way they can (e.g. sponsoring of local events, engaging local artists for performance in their establishments for guests, donation to local heritage sites).

Communication to clients: Encourage and provide guidance to clients on selecting accommodations that adheres to criteria mentioned above.

Preferred accommodations:

| Hotel Name | Sustainable issue | Certification | Location |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------|-----------------|
| Dwarika's | Designed in traditional architecture Preservation of historical artifacts Organic farming Cultural restoration | | Kathmandu |
| Traditional Comfort Inn | Designed in traditional architecture Local community homestay project | Travelife | Kathmandu |
| Gokarna Forest Resort | Organic farming Wildlife conservation Local community project Water recycling project Eco-friendly construction | | Kathmandu |
| Pavilion | Organic farming Local employment Community project for children Rainwater harvesting Solar energy Biodegradable toiletry Biogas energy | | Pokhara |
| Tiger Mountain Lodge | Designed with local materials Tree plantation projects Local handicrafts Organic farming | Travelife | Pokhara |
| Temple Tree | Sustainable design Solar energy Water and energy conservation measures Support local communities | | Pokhara |
| Tiger Tops | Charity through international trust for nature conservation Anti-poaching network Tiger mountain project Local conservation efforts Health clinics Local sourcing Solar energy Organic farming Elephant welfare initiatives | | Chitwan |
| Hotel Heritage | Traditional Nepali architecture Rainwater harvesting Energy efficient systems Waste management Supports local artisans | | Bhaktapur |

Communication to accommodation providers: There are multiple ways we communicate sustainability issues with accommodation establishments:

- The most common methods include email and phone, with a particular focus on sustainability aspects when sending emails. For regular suppliers with sufficient volume, sign contracts that include our codes of conduct and sanctions.
- During communication with accommodation providers inspire and urge them to obtain sustainable certification for their accommodations.
- When we have the opportunity, we visit the accommodation in person and talk to them about how they could improve on their services and become more sustainable. In many instances it is our guides who deliver these messages.

What we communicate: Our Company promotes as a mandatory policy:

- Child labour Strategy
- Anti-corruption / bribery
- Waste management
- Protection of biodiversity

Stimulating enhanced sustainable practice: Our Company follows a long-term strategy to improve the sustainability of regular accommodation suppliers. Upon request or self-initiative, we support collaborative initiatives with other tour operators and/or stakeholders to promote sustainability among accommodations in our destinations. When possible, we talk to the accommodation owner / manager about their current practices and what they could do to follow more sustainable practices (e.g. by visit from our manager or through our guides). In addition, we share best practice standards and guidance to our accommodation suppliers, including:

- Information about hotel certification, such as Travelife for Hotels
- Self-evaluation tools
- Training manuals

Sanctions: If it is revealed that an accommodation supplier acts on unsustainable practices, our company will give them a warning. If that supplier does not amend its practice, our company will end any form of collaboration (informal and contractual) and will blacklist that company from any further association.

Incentives: Our Company will give preference to working with those accommodation establishments who are able to operate in a sustainable manner, taking responsibility for their impact on environment and society. Where we have enough volume, we may offer additional benefits, such as marketing of the hotel on our website or special contract conditions.