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Best practices for travelers

Respect the Environment

Leave only your footprint

Reusable water bottles

Take a refillable water bottle with you when you travel. Each time you refill your water bottle, it saves the purchase of a plastic bottle, which reduces the amount of waste. Together with our suppliers, hotels and travel guides, we are working hard to increase the number of taps where you can refill your water bottle.

Be conscious about energy and water usage

When you leave your hotel room, don't forget to turn off the air conditioning and lights as this causes the biggest energy consumption in a hotel. Keep in mind that in many countries water is a scarce resource.

Don't leave waste behind

In many countries, litter is a major problem. Always take your own waste with you. For longer stays in nature, bury faeces as far away from open water as possible. Organic material also degrades less quickly than you think; a banana peel can remain there for up to two years! Store empty batteries and take them home with you.

Don't get too close to animals

On nature hikes or trips into the amazon, it is important for your own safety and for the wildlife to keep your distance and not to feed animals. Do not touch or feed animals. Do not touch plants, trees or corals, Do not scare wildlife. Do not hunt wildlife or support hunting activities. Do not wander off recommended trekking routes.

Don't touch or break coral

If you go snorkeling or diving don't touch coral and certainly don't break it down. We recommend to wear a T-shirt while snorkeling, as UV filters in sunscreens cause coral to die off. Not every local guide is as cautious, so be sure to speak to people when they touch or pick up coral and/or lure fish with food. Don't buy souvenirs made from coral.

Zero plastic attitude

Plastic disposal is a major problem. Try and reduce the use of single use plastic as much as possible. Order your drink without a straw, when buying souvenirs or snacks refuse the plastic bag or plastic wrapping,

Respect Cultural Differences

Greetings

Learn how to say 'hello', 'goodbye' and 'thank you' in the local language. People highly appreciate it!

Hola = hello

Buenas días = good morning

Buenas tardes = Good evening

Buenas noches = Good night

Hasta Luego = Goodbye

Muchas gracias = Thank you

Be sensitive to local culture and traditions

Inform yourself about the country you are going to visit with regard to the current situation, history, culture, language and customs. Remember that you are a guest in a country and therefore respect the local culture and traditions. In many destinations bare shoulders and short skirts and trousers are considered inappropriate for women. If in doubt, you can always ask the tour guide for advice.

Connect with people and photography

Learn a few words of the language of the country you are visiting, which makes contact much easier and more fun. If you want to photograph the locals, ask permission first, not everyone is willing to be photographed. It is greatly appreciated if you take the trouble to send photos, always keep promises made.

Respect Cultural sites

Many cultural sites, even those in ruins are sacred grounds. It is forbidden to walk or climb anywhere out off regular footpaths, to scrawl or scribble on monuments, and to collect stones or any parts of the

Ethical Travel

Support the local economy

Stimulate the local economy by eating in local restaurants or buying souvenirs. Please note that some souvenirs are made from protected plants or animals. The purchase of these contributes to the extinction of these species. Negotiating the price is part of the culture in many countries. When negotiating make sure that you don't go to the bottom price. Determine what you are willing to pay and strive for a price that is acceptable to both parties and fair.

Do not give gifts or buy anything from children

Do not give gifts, money or sweets to children or buy anything from them – although you might think it helps. It only encourages them to stay on the streets where they have little hope of a better life and are vulnerable to all sorts of abuse. If you do want to give something, donate it to a project that will benefit the children of that destination. It is also good to buy something on the spot that you want to donate; this way you also support the local economy.

Visiting children centres, orphanages or schools is forbidden in western countries. Research has shown that short-term visits (including volunteer tourism) can be harmful to a child's development and emotional balance. UNICEF, Friend's International and an increasing number of children organisations are now campaigning to stop what has become an exploitative practice that turns children and disadvantaged communities into tourist commodities. Ask yourself: would you allow complete strangers to approach your children, take pictures of them, or give them candies? If you wish to learn more, please visit: www.thinkchildsafes.org

Philanthropy

If you wish to alleviate poverty and provide better life opportunities for children and their families, we recommend you to do it through registered organisations. You can contact us for recommendations and help you choose the right one.

