

The Tourist and the Responsible Traveller

The tips described below are based on the WTO's World Ethical Code for Tourism and are part of "The Tourist and the Responsible Traveller"

Travelling and Tourism should be conceived and practised as a means of personal and collective development. If they are carried out with an open mind, they are an irreplaceable source of self-education, mutual tolerance and learning of the legitimate differences between peoples and cultures in their diversity.

We all have a mission to fulfil as regards travelling and responsible tourism. Governments, enterprises and communities must accomplish it by all means. As a visitor, you can contribute to it in many ways:

- Open yourself to cultures and traditions different from yours: your experience will be transformed; you will be respected by the locals and they will welcome you more easily. Be tolerant and respect diversity; observe the local traditions and their social and cultural practices.
- Respect Human Rights. Any form of exploitation violates the fundamental goals of Tourism. Child sexual exploitation is a punishable offence, be it at the place where it is committed or at the infringer's home country.
- Help preserve the environment. Protect the flora and the fauna and their habitat, and do not buy any product made from endangered plants or animals.
- Respect the cultural resources. Tourist activities must be carried out preserving the artistic, archaeological and cultural heritage.
- Your trip may contribute to economic and social development. Buy local crafts and products so as to help the local economy, and observe the principles of fair commerce. When bargaining, do not forget the concept of fair wage.
- Before you leave home, check the current health situation of your destination and the availability of the consular and emergency services there, and make sure your health and your personal security will not be at risk. Be sure that your

personal essential needs (food, accessibility or medical assistance) are met before travelling to a particular destination.

- Gather all possible information on your destination, and take some time to understand the local customs, regulations and traditions. Avoid behaviours that may offend the local population
- Inform yourself on the current law in order not to commit an act that may be considered as criminal. Do not traffic in drugs, arms, antiquities, protected species nor dangerous products or substances forbidden by the national laws.