



# Tips for a Responsible Traveler

#StayHealthyTravelResponsibly#





# Intro

*We live in a wonderful world that is full of beauty, charm and adventure. There is no end to the adventures we can have if only we seek them with our eyes open.*

## Jawaharlal Nehru

Navigating the mighty Mekong River in a slow boat. Savouring the authentic cuisine of a street vendor in Morocco. Reflecting on life's mysteries amid the ancient temples of Angkor and Machu Picchu. Admiring the artwork within the Sistine Chapel and Alhambra.

The diversity of our world unites us and gives us the chance to explore, engage and experience the best that local culture and communities have to offer.

**Respecting our world and all that makes us different and unique will enhance your travel experience.** Whether your trip takes you to a tropical beach, a bustling city, or a tranquil village, if you act responsibly, you will earn the respect of the host communities.

**Following these practical steps** will make your travels as rewarding and safe as possible for you, for the people you meet, and for the places you visit.





# Honour your hosts and our common heritage

Research your destination to **learn about local customs**, traditions, and social conditions. It is a great way to build understanding of the local community and excitement for your adventure ahead.

Learn to **speak a few words** in the local language. This can help you connect with the local community and its people in a more meaningful way.

**Experience and respect** all that makes a tourism destination different and unique, from its history, architecture, religion, dress, and communication codes, to its music, art, and cuisine.

Always ask before **taking photographs** of other people as their privacy matter as much as yours. Do not offer money to get the desired picture.

**Pause and reflect** before criticizing local living conditions or customs. Learn to listen and leave your preconceptions at home.

Treat with courtesy and respect staff and service providers at all tourism facilities.



A person wearing a yellow backpack and a hat is walking away from the camera on a suspension bridge. The bridge has a metal grate floor and wire mesh railings. It spans a deep, lush green forest with many trees and hanging vines. The scene is bright and sunny.

# Protect our Planet

Reduce your **environmental impact** by being a guardian of natural resources, especially forests and wetlands.

**Respect wildlife** and their natural habitats. Animal attractions may imply cruelty.

**Do not purchase** products made of endangered plants, animals, or non-sustainable hardwood.

In protected areas, access only the **places open to visitors**. **Do not offer money to locals** to discover “no-go areas”.

**Sleep green and go rural** as countryside has so much to offer.

Reduce waste, single-use plastic, water & energy consumption and **plan your transport** to cut carbon emissions.

Leave a **minimum footprint** and a good impression behind.



A woman with a warm smile is seated outdoors, wearing a vibrant blue and black patterned blouse with floral embroidery and a matching skirt. She is adorned with a blue beaded headband, large gold earrings, and a long gold necklace. She is surrounded by colorful woven textiles. In the background, a calm blue lake stretches towards distant mountains under a clear sky, with a large tree branch framing the top of the scene.

# Support the local economy

**Buy locally made handcrafts** and products. Respect livelihoods of local artisans by **paying a fair price**.

Do not buy **counterfeit products** or items prohibited by national and international regulations.

**Hire local guides, spend locally**, and find out about **tipping practices**.

Support businesses embracing **diversity and equality**.

**Slow down** and spend more time in less visited areas.



# Travel safely

Take **health and safety** precautions and **consult** your national authorities in case of doubts.

Read the small print in **visa requirements** and your **travel insurance**.

Be aware of cancellation policies and your **passenger rights**.

**Practice “social distancing”** during epidemics. Avoid crowds and sign up for **security alerts**.

Know how to access medical care or contact your embassy in case of an emergency.



A photograph of two young women in a city street, looking at a map. The woman on the left has long, wavy red hair and is wearing a black leather jacket. The woman on the right has dark hair, wears glasses, a colorful headband, and a red backpack. They are both smiling. The background shows a blurred city street with buildings and cars.

# Be an informed traveler

**Research well** before engaging into voluntary tourism.

**Choose tourism operators** with environmental policies and community projects. Some initiatives may seem green or ethical but do not provide decent working conditions.

**Observe** national laws and regulations. Follow the rules at **religious sites** and respect “**private spaces**”.

**Observe human rights** and **protect children** from exploitation. Abusing children is a crime.

Refrain from giving money and gifts to begging children. **Support community projects** instead.

**Have fun** but respect the locals and their lifestyle. **Interact** with them to understand their culture.

**Take photos** of protected cultural artefacts as mementos of your trip.





# Use digital platforms wisely

Before embarking on your travels, **browse online** reviews and blogs.

**Provide honest reviews** upon your return and promote your travel experiences on **social media**.

**Think twice** before posting selfies and pictures of other people. They may disapprove and your likes can wait.

**Advocate** for non-profit and community projects you have learned about.

**Report injustice**, exploitation, and discrimination.





# Make tourism the force for good and set a good example for other travelers!

The **Tips for a Responsible Traveler** were developed by the **World Committee on Tourism Ethics**, the impartial body responsible for interpreting, applying, and evaluating the provisions of the **UN Tourism Global Code of Ethics for Tourism**.

The UN Tourism Code of Ethics, which inspired the drafting of these tips, is a fundamental frame of reference for responsible and sustainable tourism. Adopted in 1999 by the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization (UN Tourism) and acknowledged by the General Assembly of the United Nations two years later, this set of principles is designed to guide key-players in tourism development. The Code is addressed to governments, tourism companies, destinations, local communities, and tourists alike.

**The UN Tourism Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics**, built around the nine core principles of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, was adopted by the UN Tourism General Assembly in 2019. **The World Committee on Tourism Ethics** has been entrusted with overseeing the implementation of this first UN Tourism international Convention.



