

Sustainability Code of Good Practice

Walking, Hiking & Trekking

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 & permission** to access the activity area are in place
- ✓ Ensure **insurance** is in place for participants and team
- ✓ 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, avoiding areas at risk of erosion, e.g., due to recent rainfall or unstable soil
- ✓ Prepare **contingency plan** in case activity must be stopped / altered, e.g., trail conditions deteriorate, or participants be unable to continue
- ✓ Be familiar with activity area and ensure that **navigation and communication** tools are in good working order
- ✓ Maximise local **economic benefits** through employment and purchasing
- ✓ Apply best practice for **porter working conditions**, including equipment, provisions (food and water), load limitations, age screening, and medical support in case of injury / illness
- ✓ Avoid single use & disposable items, pack out what you take in, pick up any **rubbish** found along the way
- ✓ Use **eco-friendly** products, e.g., cleaning products for hiking equipment
- ✓ 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, e.g., drinking water purification requirements
- ✓ **Screen participants** ahead of time 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, and ensure safe guide : participant ratio
- ✓ Obtain written confirmation, e.g., via **indemnity**, that participants are aware of activity risks
- ✓ **Brief participants** before the activity starts about do's and don'ts , safety, what to expect, applicable etiquette / conduct to be respectful of, logistical considerations, hazards to be aware of, not disturbing / removing flora and fauna, rubbish collection and disposal, 'bush toilet' etiquette, and rules regarding alcohol and fires
- ✓ In sensitive environments, clean footwear before and after activity to prevent spread of **invasive species**
- ✓ Share **information** about local nature and culture, and social development / conservation projects that participants may want to support
- ✓ Show **respect** for the land, waterways, wildlife, and other activity area users
- ✓ Stay on **designated route** and apply least impact principles where no trail exists
- ✓ Repair and compensate for any **damage** caused to the activity area
- ✓ Participate in conserving activity area **integrity**; notify authorities of concerns and participate in rehabilitation projects