

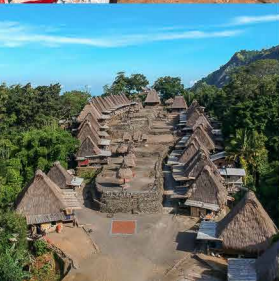


Sustainability Code of Good Practice

Volunteer Tourism

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** are in place, including at host projects
- ✓ Ensure **insurance** is in place for volunteers 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 in advance & during the activity
- ✓ Conduct **background checks** for volunteer placements with vulnerable groups, and only consider this when volunteers have relevant expertise
- ✓ Implement necessary **safeguards** for placements with vulnerable groups, including supervision and ensuring separate overnight accommodation for volunteers
- ✓ Prohibit placements where volunteers are **primary caregivers** at vulnerable group facilities
- ✓ **Screen volunteers** to make sure that placement is a match for their skills and interests
- ✓ Ensuring **continuity** of programme objectives after volunteer placements, e.g., through partnerships with existing initiatives
- ✓ Engage host project in **design and management** of volunteer programme, including number and selection of volunteers
- ✓ Maximise local **economic benefits** through employment and supporting local businesses
- ✓ Work with, not instead of, local people, ensuring **skills transfer** to host project
- ✓ Provide **transparency** regarding proportion of total fee paid to host project
- ✓ Provide **information in advance** about the project's longer-term sustainability vision, activity accessibility, what to expect, and what to bring with
- ✓ Obtain written confirmation, e.g., via **indemnity**, that participants are aware of activity risks
- ✓ **Brief participants** about do's and don'ts, safety, what to expect, applicable etiquette / conduct to be respectful of, and logistical considerations before the placement begins
- ✓ **Share information about** local nature and culture, and social development / conservation projects that participants may want to support
- ✓ Provide **meaningful placement** content so that the experience is rewarding for all parties
- ✓ Provide local **supervision** / contact point for volunteers
- ✓ Avoid single use & disposable items, provide adequate **waste** collection facilities for safe disposal, and pick up rubbish in the local area
- ✓ Be **waterwise** and take pro-active measures to use water sparingly
- ✓ Minimise **energy** used in the activity as part of a climate action strategy
- ✓ Obtain **feedback** at end of placement debriefing
- ✓ Maintain **communication** with volunteers, sending organisations, and host projects after placements
- ✓ Contribute to conserving activity area **integrity**; let relevant authorities know about any concerns and participate in rehabilitation projects



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Sustainability in tourism

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