

# **Ecotourism Association of Australia**

## **Code of Practice**

The Ecotourism Association of Australia has adopted the following Code of Practice for Ecotourism Operators:

- Strengthen the conservation effort for, and enhance the natural integrity of, the places visited
- Respect the sensitivities of other cultures
- Be efficient in the use of natural resources e.g. water, energy
- Ensure waste disposal has minimal environmental and aesthetic impacts
- Develop a recycling program
- Support principals (i.e. hotels, carriers etc. who have a conservation ethic
- Keep abreast of current political and environmental issues, particularly of the local area
- Network with other stakeholders (particularly those in the local area) to keep each other informed of developments and to encourage the use of this Code of Practice
- Endeavour to use distribution networks (e.g. catalogues) and retail outlets to raise environmental awareness by distributing guidelines to consumers
- Support ecotourism education /training for guides and managers
- Employ tour guides well versed and respectful of local cultures and environments
- Give clients appropriate verbal and written educational material (interpretation) and guidance with respect to the natural and cultural history of the areas visited
- Use locally produced goods that benefit the local community, but do not buy goods made from threatened or endangered species
- Never intentionally disturb or encourage the disturbance of wildlife or wildlife habitats
- Keep vehicles to designated roads and trails
- Abide by the rules and regulations applying in natural areas
- Commit to the principle of best practice
- Comply with Australian safety standards
- Ensure truth in advertising, and
- Maximise the quality of experience for hosts and guests.

Prepared by ...

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