



EXPEDITION AFRICA

RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL GUIDELINES

Although we want our customers to consider the environment, the last thing we want to do is enforce rules and regulations. Therefore we try very hard to maintain the balance between your enjoyment of our trips and continued conservation and respect for the environments we travel through. Our tour leaders are not 'environmental police'; however they will endeavour to lead by example and draw your attention to any issues specific to the destination and/or tour.

Our guidelines are meant not as rigid instructions but rather as suggestions to make our holidays more enjoyable – for everybody.

Culture

- We recommend that you use the various country links on our web site and guidebooks to familiarise yourself with the culture and customs of your destination. Try to learn a few words of the local language
- When confronted with begging try to avoid giving out money, sweets and pens (pens are not in short supply and encourage children to beg) – it is far better to interact with games or drawings
- When taking photographs always ask permission to photograph local people and respect their decision.
- In choosing what to wear respect dress codes in public areas and especially at religious sites where it may be customary to cover your head or remove shoes. In some of our destinations it is advisable to wear loose-fitting clothes that cover shoulders and knees
- Some religions and customs may seem strange, complicated and at times unfathomable, but to local people they are important so be respectful
- In many of the countries we visit you might see examples of animal cruelty (e.g. bush-meat markets, performing monkeys and snake charmers). Please do not take photographs of this or offer money as it encourages the activity.
- Familiarise yourself with endangered species, like some fishes and don't buy these foods if available in restaurants.

Outdoors

- Litter is an obvious one. Use rubbish bins or take it with you.
- If it is necessary to wash in streams, avoid detergents and use biodegradable, eco-friendly soaps instead. It maybe someone else's drinking water further downstream.
- If there are no toilets available, make sure you are at least 30 metres away from water



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- resources, bury waste and take any toilet tissue with you or burn it.

Shopping

- While it is customary and fun to haggle, remember that the stallholder / shopkeeper has to make a living. Stop when you have a fair price.
- Try to buy local produce, clothing and souvenirs etc.
- Use common sense when buying souvenirs. Many animals, plants and animal products are protected but non-restricted goods can also cause damage. Leave shells, coral and artefacts where they are.

Resources

- Use water sparingly
- Turn down or off heating, a/c and lights if they're not necessary or when you leave a room.

Before you leave

- Responsible travel starts at home. Consider using public transport to travel to the airport. You may also want to consider offsetting your flight carbon.
- Try to gather as much information possible online and print trip information sparingly. Only order the brochures you really need.
- A refillable water bottle is a great way to save wasting plastic. If you are a smoker a pocket ashtray can come in handy. An old pair of trekking boots makes a great donation to a porter community, and unwanted clothes are gratefully received by orphanages.