

Responsible Tourism

Adventure Global's vision has always been to run a tourism business that allows everyone involved in providing a holiday to share in the economic benefits and not to suffer ecological or social damage as a result. Although we help people travel and discover new places around the world, we believe that it is in the host communities that tourism can most markedly improve people's lives.

We maintain a huge number of avenues and initiatives in order to further our vision. As we see it, these all essentially sit under the one banner of 'Responsibility'. As a very brief introduction to some of the issues involved we outline a few of our initiatives in relation to individual issues below. Each of these is a whole subject in its own right, we are happy to expand on our approaches to any one of these, please contact us for additional information.

Economic Equality

We have a principle of trying to retain as much of the trip fee as possible in the host country. This also extends to the skills and resources that are required to run trips. In this way we are not exploiting the country or community purely for our own gain. This is very common in the tourism industry, it makes for very fragile local communities, dependent on external organisations.

So far we have established local offices and salaried staff in Kenya and Tanzania. The ultimate aim being that these offices are able to be financially independent in the long term whilst benefitting from the resources, marketing and support of the Swedish and UK offices.

We also try to buy supplies for our trips from small, local, independent businesses where again, the money stays in the locality rather than being sucked out to a large, distant chain or corporation. We encourage our clients to do the same when buying their souvenirs etc.

Wages & Tips

We ensure that we pay fair wages to all of our staff, we are not prepared to drive down wages in the pursuit of low cost ventures at the cost of local people's livelihoods. This extends to the people who we employ for specific ventures such as porters, yak and camel drivers and so on.

At the same time we have seen the negative effect that can result from individuals or organisations paying way over the odds for goods or services. It can distort the whole of the local economy, driving up prices so that the local people can no longer afford them. We therefore build relationships with local people, suppliers and the community to ensure that we pay a good, fair price. We ensure that we pay a sufficient wage that tips are not a necessity for the employee. In some destinations organisations have driven such a hard bargain on wages that tips have become the only way that employees can make ends meet. We do not practice this. It can lead to a huge amount of misunderstanding and bad feeling between clients and staff where clients can see it as a hidden cost and staff see it as a sleight on their service if they do not get a tip. You can be assured that on Adventure Global trips, giving a tip is optional. Our staff are briefed as such and they pass this on to any others that they employ.

Porter's Rights

It is common for trekking groups to employ porters when travelling to areas that are not served by roads or other forms of transport. Often porters are from poor, uneducated backgrounds and the employment provides very welcome income

The work is of a very physical nature and is often necessarily in remote and sometimes moderately hostile environments. As with all employees, Adventure Global strongly upholds the rights of porters to a fair wage and fair working conditions. Through our working methods we naturally meet and exceed the International Porter Protection Group (IPPG) 5 guidelines on the safety & treatment of porters. We ensure that porters are properly equipped and have our own bank of clothing for their use throughout the trek. Our own in-country leaders on treks nearly always started their careers as porters themselves. They are therefore very aware of the issues relevant to their porters, this is supplemented by guidance and training from the in-country and Swedish/UK offices. We provide appropriate health, rescue and insurance cover for porters and they are not penalised if they have to leave the trip early due to sickness or family emergencies.

SUSTAINABILITY & RESPONSIBLE TOURISM GENERAL STATEMENT

Volunteering & Projects

Many Adventure Global trips include an element or phase of volunteer work in the host country. This is planned and provided through by Adventure Global Sweden.

We also adhere to the Fair Trade Volunteering (FTV), 5 criteria for ensuring that the volunteer work is of genuine, sustainable and benefits the host community. In some instances, other organisations' volunteering projects have cynically or naively been set up in such a way as to be wasteful or unsustainable. In the worst cases it is clear that the planning has been rushed through and the project included simply to further the marketing and economic purposes of the trip provider. We take great care to ensure that projects are planned and reviewed in such a way as to be as efficient and sustainable as possible.

Sensitivity to Community & Culture

When we travel abroad, we are guests in the home of others. At Adventure Global we always try to ensure that this essential principle is remembered and that our clients are given the necessary information and guidance to allow them to be respectful guests. This is greatly helped by our excellent teams of in-country staff. They are able to provide an insightful and genuine view of the country from an insider's point of view. This gives every trip far more depth and relevance, beyond the activities and views.

We offer advice relating to host country. These include information on the country, laws and on cultural awareness. This information helps enormously in the first days of a trip prior to 'tuning in' to the local customs and taboos. We undertake social impact assessment before our ventures and seek ways to minimise and risk of negative impacts and promote the positive. We also use our contacts and social impact survey to regularly assess the effects of our presence and make any necessary adjustments.

Carbon footprint and pollution waste.

Adventure Global takes its commitment to the environments, in which we travel, very seriously. Aside from the moral and ecological imperatives, we acknowledge that we are very often benefitting from the beauty of the natural landscapes, and that they should be promoted as a valuable resource in their own right. As such we adopt methods that minimise the negative impacts of our presence. This is assisted by a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment and mitigation measures. We also promote the education of local communities where the concepts and motivations of sustainability are less widely known or accepted.

Carbon Dioxide Emissions

We recognise that air travel is usually the only practical way of getting to most of the destinations in which we work. Along with virtually all forms of transport, air travel does release significant amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. In order to mitigate these emissions we have set up our own carbon offsetting initiative through Adventure Global We are supporting a tree planting initiative in Kenya. We offer all clients the option of offsetting some or all of the carbon dioxide emissions associated with their flights via a carbon calculator as much as possible.