








Speleology (Caving)

Sustainability Code of Conduct

lalalanka

As part of our commitment to sustainable tourism, we provide activity participants with the sustainability savvy travel tips below.

- ✓ Be **selective** – choose tourism businesses that share how they benefit people & planet
- ✓ Tread **lightly** – choose activities & transport options with a reduced environmental impact
- ✓ Be **informed** – learn a bit about local nature, history & culture beforehand to enrich your experience
- ✓ Be accurate about your level of **fitness** & ability so we can design an enjoyable experience for everyone
- ✓ Respect your guide / host's **instructions** regarding safety, local etiquette & dos & don'ts
- ✓ Before entering sensitive or newly discovered caves, clean your footwear & clothing to prevent contamination of the cave
- ✓ Remain on **designated paths** when approaching entrance & inside the cave; stay in single file, & don't take shortcuts or wander off
- ✓ If you need hand or **footholds**, use previously established ones, where possible
- ✓ Don't collect or touch **flora or fauna**, or their cave habitat & its features, e.g. speleothem
- ✓ If **lights** are used, avoid shining these on any cave-dwelling wildlife
- ✓ Don't feed **wildlife**; it can harm their health & encourage problematic behaviour
- ✓ Do not **eat or smoke** inside the cave
- ✓ **Ask questions** – your local guide will happily share their knowledge
- ✓ **Reduce waste** – from food to paper, remember to take only what & as much as you need, & bring **re-usable items**, e.g. water bottle, coffee cup, shopping / carry bag (or buy a locally made one that can be re-used!)
- ✓ **Dispose** of waste responsibly & use local **recycling** facilities where available
- ✓ Be **waterwise** – your participation shouldn't place additional stress on water-scarce environments
- ✓ **Save energy** to reduce your carbon footprint & your impact on local supply challenges
- ✓ Support **climate change** action, e.g. offset or regeneration programmes
- ✓ Be respectful of **privacy**; obtain permission before taking photos / videos of people or sensitive sites
- ✓ **Respect others** using the area so that their experience & access are not compromised
- ✓ If you want to **give**, ask us how to do so responsibly; offering sweets or money to individuals, for example, can often do more harm than good
- ✓ **Buy** from local, small &/or community-owned businesses, especially if they feature local nature or culture
- ✓ Be cautious about **buying from children** – you could unknowingly be supporting their exploitation
- ✓ Refuse to buy **souvenirs**, food & beverages that harm the environment, people, or wildlife, especially those that are illegal to buy / sell
- ✓ Respect customary **tipping & trading** practices – such as bartering – & pay fair prices
- ✓ Provide **feedback** about what you liked or how we can do better

switchasia GRANTS PROGRAMME · BHUTAN SUSTOUR · HRAB · Travelife Sustainability in tourism

Visit www.travelife.info for more guidance & 20+ other sustainability codes of conduct.

© photos by Holosys, Robert Thiemann* (2-3), Nguy van Decasteel*, Craig Cooper*, Jed Owen*, Andrew Svk* (7-8) (* @ unplash)