

## Walking, Hiking & Trekking

Code of Good Practice

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 & permission to access the activity area are in place
- ✓ Ensure insurance is in place for participants 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 (including weather) in advance & during the activity, avoiding areas at risk of erosion, e.g., due to recent rainfall or unstable soil
- ✓ Prepare contingency plan in case activity must be stopped / altered, e.g., trail conditions deteriorate, or participants be unable to continue
- ✓ Be familiar with activity area and ensure that navigation and communication tools are in good working order
- ✓ Maximise local economic benefits through employment and purchasing
- Apply best practice for **porter working conditions**, including equipment, provisions (food and water), load limitations, age screening, and medical support in case of injury / illness
- Avoid single use & disposable items, pack out what you take in, pick up any rubbish found along the way
- ✓ Use eco-friendly products, e.g., cleaning products for hiking equipment
- ✓ Be waterwise and take pro-active measures to use water sparingly
- ✓ Minimise energy used in the activity as part of a climate action strategy
- Provide information in advance about your sustainability actions, activity accessibility, what to expect, and what to bring, e.g., drinking water purification requirements
- Screen participants ahead of time to make sure that the activity is well suited to their fitness & level of ability
- Manage group size to minimise impacts on people & the planet, and ensure safe guide : participant ratio
- ✓ Obtain written confirmation, e.g., via indemnity, that participants are aware of activity risks
- ✓ Brief participants before the activity starts about do's and don'ts, safety, what to expect, applicable etiquette / conduct to be respectful of, logistical considerations, hazards to be aware of, not disturbing / removing flora and fauna, rubbish collection and disposal, 'bush toilet' etiquette, and rules regarding alcohol and fires
- ✓ In sensitive environments, clean footwear before and after activity to prevent spread of invasive species
- Share information about local nature and culture, and social development / conservation projects that participants may want to support
- ✓ Show respect for the land, waterways, wildlife, and other activity area users
- Stay on designated route and apply least impact principles where no trail exists
- Repair and compensate for any damage caused to the activity area
- Participate in conserving activity area integrity; notify authorities of concerns and participate in rehabilitation projects





