

## Sustainable Accommodation Policy

We consider the sustainability of an accommodation facility as vital, as it allows our company to extend the sustainability of our tours. When the budget and the client's criteria allow it, we prefer establishments that follow sustainable practices in all aspects of their operations.

### Scope

This policy is part of our sustainable development policy. It applies to the selection of accommodation providers with whom our company collaborates. It will be formally reviewed every two years to ensure its relevance.

### Sustainable Accommodation Principles

In our effort to select the most sustainable accommodation providers, we prefer establishments that follow the following fundamental principles:

- *Provides the necessary comfort at a reasonable price*

The facilities are hygienic, sanitary, and safe. The establishment is not only ethical, but also capable of providing good comfort and services, that meet our clients' expectations. Sustainable accommodation practices can be found in various price ranges, so we aim to identify the most sustainable options available within our clients' budgets.

- *Applies fair business practices*

The establishment applies fair business practices, including transparency, respect for the law and human rights, economic and social fairness, as well as environmental and animal protection. Hotels do not participate in any activities involving animal or child abuse.

- *Minimizes its impact on the environment and society*

The establishment places notable importance on general sustainable practices, aiming to minimize its overall impact on the environment and society.

### Sustainability Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria will be considered in the evaluation of sustainability and help us selecting our partner accommodation establishments. We value all of these criteria and if they are not respected, it could cause a breach of the contract with our partners.

#### 1. *Clear sustainability policy*

We prefer to work with organisations that have a written sustainability statement as an integral part of their business policy, but also which has a clear sustainability policy in place. We also favor any agency with GSTC-accredited certifications.

## *2. Respect of human resources*

We ensure that hotels take care of their staff, offering them good working conditions (correct wages, breaks, etc.).

## *3. Minimal plastic use*

As an accommodation institution, it is essential to limit plastic consumption by offering reusable products (steel cutlery, glass water bottles, washable towels, etc.) instead of disposable ones.

## *4. Waste management policy*

The establishment, but also its potential restaurant and others facilities, must sort its waste by separating organic trash for composting, plastic trash for recycling and non-recyclable trash.

## *5. Protection of children*

The establishment ensures that the rights of children are respected and protected. Therefore, it should neither exploit nor employ underage children, and certainly not doing any sexual abuse either.

## *6. Local sourcing*

Accommodations favor local suppliers and producers. They use, when it is possible, food products from their province or region, produced according to fair trade and sustainability principles. They also rely on local suppliers for furniture and decoration when possible.

Having a private garden is a considerable asset when the harvests are directly brought to the restaurant, benefiting hotel guests and giving them access to fresh and quality products.

## *7. Art and local heritage*

The establishment favors local art, architecture and heritage while respecting the intellectual property rights of local communities. We are seeking for a typical experience for our guest and will be prioritize accommodation that adopts a local style.

## *8. Respect for the environment*

Accommodations limit their negative effects on local and global biodiversity as much as possible. It is essential that their activities do not involve any animal abuse. They must also pay attention to fauna and flora in general.

### **Promotion of sustainable practices**

Our company follows a long-term strategy aimed at improving the sustainability of our partner agencies. We support sustainability initiatives taken by our partners, and provide assistance if necessary and manageable.

Whenever possible, we discuss with the agency about his current sustainable practices. We also exchange ideas about potential opportunities and steps to take to be more sustainable.

Our company prefers agencies capable of operating sustainably. When this is the case, we sometimes promote the tours on our social media, highlighting their quality in terms of services and sustainability.

Finally, we communicate to our partner agencies some standards and tips on good practices. We also provide them information on certification, such as Travelife.

### **Communication with our partners**

We favor online communication, by email or phone, to avoid excessive use of paper. Contracts, which we sign only with providers with whom we regularly work and who represent a sufficient volume of clients, are also signed and shared using online tools.

Whenever we have the opportunity, we visit the accommodations in person. If they do not meet our sustainability expectations or if we have comments, we directly share our thoughts with the manager. During this discussion, we highlight the negative points, but also explain how they can improve their services and become more sustainable.

### **Contracts**

The contracts, established by our partners, are then shared with us. Therefore, we do not have control over the clauses mentioning sustainability in the contract.

However, we share our sustainable accommodation policy with our partners, as well as our tips and best practices to apply, as soon as we signed a contract with an establishment.