

The Network

EARTH is the first **European network** bringing together experts on responsible tourism. In 2008, its members decided to share their experience and knowledge in order to represent, as best as possible, the principles of responsible tourism before European Institutions and society in general.

EARTH is the grouping of private organisations present in 7 **European countries**, including associations, NGOs, travel agencies and consulting firms. All with the same goal: To **promote democratic principles** and responsible tourism behaviour among institutions and independent travellers.

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Umwelt & Entwicklung

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Vademecum promotes by



The first European network for Responsible Tourism

INFO AVAILABLE AT

www.earth-net.eu

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CONTACT

EARTH's Head Office

Square de Meeûs 18

Bruxelles 1050 (Belgium)

Phone: + 32 25 43 10 42 Fax: +32 25 4105 69

info@earth-net.eu



Travel with the
Responsible Tourism
principles

« There are not bad travellers only illinformed travellers exist »



One Europe for Responsible Tourism

www.earth-net.eu



What is Responsible Tourism?

Responsible Tourism is tourism that is carried out according to principles of social justice and economic justice and with full respect toward the environment and cultures. Responsible tourism recognizes the centrality of the local host community and its right to be a protagonist in developing sustainable and responsible tourism in its native land. Responsible tourism encourages the positive interaction between the tourist industry, local communities and travelers

Everyone of us might be a « good traveller » caring for the world and people around, just following some easy behavioural rules before, during and after the journey.



BEFORE

- **Find as much information as you can about the country you are going to visit:** its history, culture, economy, nature, religion, cuisine.... and perhaps even learn a few phrases in the local language.
- **Whenever possible, choose tour operators, airlines and hotels that are committed to benefiting the host community and the environment.**

DURING

- **Remember that your holiday is also a time when you can encounter a different culture.** Try to adapt to local practices and customs without imposing your own habits and lifestyle.
- **Even if you have paid for your holiday try to meet local rules;** don't insist on demanding privileges or exceptions; don't act offensively or arrogantly. Find out about local practices of tipping and begging.
- **Wear appropriate clothing that isn't too ostentatious especially at religious sites.** Don't show off wealth and luxury that may contrast dramatically with local conditions.
- **Help sustain local cultural events and craftwork; this way you will take home 'real' souvenirs and help the host community at the same time.** Make sure you know about how and when to haggle over prices.
- **The world's wealth is its variety** – while remaining appropriately cautious, do your best to act cordially, with respect and without prejudice in your dealings with local people.
- **Use services provided by the local population, particularly transport and hospitality services.** This will help you to get to know the country and its people better while contributing to the local economy.

- **Leave only your footprints: do not leave rubbish or graffiti behind you.** Don't take 'keepsakes' from the environment or archaeological sites. Don't purchase products made from endangered plants or animals (e.g. ivory, furs/skins, shells...).
- **When outdoors and particularly in protected areas, keep to paths; don't disturb plants, animals or their environment.** Visit protected areas only in small groups and with expert guides – even better if they are local ones.
- **By turning off taps, air conditioning and lights in your hotel room when you go out, you will help save water and energy – precious resources for the entire planet.**
- **People are not part of the landscape – ask for permission before taking their photos.**
- **Have fun tasting local foods** – you've got the rest of the year for your home cooking or international cuisine.
- **Remember that there are no populations that are 'anthropologically predisposed' to prostitution,** that consent from minors is totally irrelevant, that the collusion of families, hoteliers or the police is not an alibi. The legislation of many countries condemns sexual crimes committed abroad by their citizens.

AFTER

- **When you return home, take time to reflect on what you have seen and the people you have met. If you made promises to anyone – to send a postcard, photos or do a small favour – do your best to keep your word.**
- **If you noticed any serious situations or intolerable conditions, get in touch with your travel agent or tour operator or to the members of EARTH.**