



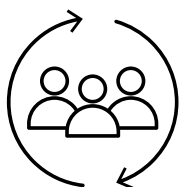
Creating experiences with a positive impact

Our commitment to sustainable and responsible exploration

Dear Traveler,

As you embark on your journey with KICHWA, we invite you to join us in our dedication to sustainable and responsible travel. Please take a moment to read and embrace our Code of Conduct, designed to ensure that your travels not only enrich your life but also respect and preserve the cultural heritage, natural environments, and communities you visit.

Enjoy your travels and thank you for helping us make a positive impact!



Respect for Cultural Heritage

Learn and Understand

Research: Prior to your visit, take some time to research about the local customs, traditions, and cultural practices. This could include understanding the local etiquette, religious practices, and social norms.

Cultural Sensitivity: Be aware that some behaviors, gestures or expressions that are acceptable in your culture may be inappropriate or offensive in others. Try to adapt to the local customs as much as possible.

Appreciation: This knowledge will not only help you avoid unintentional disrespect, but also enrich your travel experience by providing a deeper appreciation of the cultural heritage.

Photography Etiquette

Permission: Always ask for permission before taking photos of local residents, sacred sites, or private property. Some cultures have specific rules about photography, and it's important to respect these.

Respect: Avoid taking photos that may intrude on people's privacy or disrupt their activities. Remember, you are a guest in their community.

Mindfulness: Be mindful of your surroundings when taking photos. Avoid blocking the view for others, and be careful not to damage the environment or property.



Preservation of Nature Reserves and Wildlife

Noise Pollution

Quiet Enjoyment: While enjoying the beauty of nature, keep noise to a minimum to avoid disturbing wildlife and other visitors. This includes loud conversations, music, and unnecessary vehicle noise.

Wildlife Consideration: Remember that excessive noise can be stressful for wildlife and may alter their natural behavior. It's important to observe animals from a distance and in silence to avoid causing them distress.

Leave No Trace

Respect Nature: The principle of "leave no trace" goes beyond littering. It's about respecting the natural environment and preserving it for future generations. This means avoiding picking flowers, moving rocks, or doing anything that alters the natural environment.

Pack In, Pack Out: Carry out all trash and leftover food. If you see litter, do your part by picking it up.

Stay on Trails: Stick to designated trails to avoid trampling on plants and disturbing wildlife habitats.



Sustainable Travel Choices

Consider the environmental impact of your travel choices. We have made our best to direct and positively influence your decision. However, if you are considering booking extra services or if you continue your trip somewhere else, please consider choosing accommodation providers who have strong environmental policies or opting for public transport or cycling over car hire where possible.



Social Responsibility

Fair Trade

Ethical Purchasing: When purchasing souvenirs, look for fair trade products. These items ensure that artisans receive a fair price for their work, contributing to the local economy and supporting sustainable development.

Illegal Souvenirs: We strongly discourage the purchase of certain souvenirs, particularly those that can harm local ecosystems or violate international regulations. Specifically, we advise against items that contain parts of threatened or endangered species, both flora and fauna. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Endangered animal products such as ivory or exotic feathers
- Endangered plant products
- Unapproved antique artifacts
- Products from protected wood without proper certification
- Feline claws, bones and fur
- Shells, snail shells & coral pieces
- Stones and sometimes even sand

For detailed information, please refer to the CITES website: <https://cites.org/eng>

Local Guides: Our local tour guides are knowledgeable about the best places to find these items. They can guide you to shops and markets that support the local community.

Responsible Volunteering

Sustainable Actions: If you plan to volunteer during your trip, ensure that your actions are sustainable and meet a real need in the community. This could involve working with local organizations or participating in community-led projects.

Respectful Interaction: Always respect the local community and its customs when volunteering. Remember, the goal is to contribute positively without causing unintended harm or disruption.



Compliance with Local Laws and Regulations

Travel Documentation

Visas and Permits: Ensure you have all necessary visas and permits for your visit. Each country has different requirements, so it's important to check this well in advance of your trip.

Passport Validity: Make sure your passport is valid for the duration of your stay. Some countries require that your passport is valid for six months beyond the date of your arrival.



Personal Safety

Travel Insurance

Coverage: Always have appropriate travel insurance that covers any activities you plan to undertake. This includes medical coverage in case of illness or injury, as well as coverage for trip cancellation or interruption.

Emergency Contacts

Preparedness: Keep a list of emergency contacts on hand at all times. This should include the local embassy or consulate, local emergency services, and contact information for your travel insurance provider.

KICHWA Support: KICHWA provides an 24/7 emergency phone number for travelers. You will be in touch with our team throughout your tour, ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience.

Remember, responsible travel is about making better places for people to live in, and better places for people to visit.

By adhering to this Code of Conduct, you contribute to this goal.

Enjoy your travels!