



Uptuyu Adventures

Our Responsible Tourism Policy

Background

Uptuyu Adventures is a small tour operator specialising in private charter tours. We provide ecotourism experiences in the remote Kimberley of Australia as a way of maintaining custodianship over traditional country and creating a local culture conservation economy. We demonstrate to our wider regional community that business can be a vehicle to support development issues by providing alternative livelihoods and demonstrating that there is a different way of providing for remote Indigenous communities brought about by eco-cultural tourism.

We recognise that we have a responsibility to ensure long-term sustainability. Our aim in formalising a policy on responsible tourism is to continually improve the way in which we run our business to the benefit of all involved (the business, our clients, and the Indigenous community of our region).

Uptuyu provides opportunities for visitors to journey into pristine natural surroundings whilst immersing in and learning about the environment, local traditions and culture, and by engaging directly and supporting communities to develop their own ecotourism as guides, home stay hosts and artefact producers.

We take into consideration economic, environmental and cultural issues when designing all tours. It is important to us that traditional cultural protocols are maintained and our enterprise is able to benefit local communities with appropriate ways of earning an income. We design and operate our tours in a way that gives the highest degree of long-term economic benefit to the host communities, whilst also maintaining and/or improving the environment.

We have a policy to engage traditional custodians to share their culture directly with our guests. We have a staff development and training plan to encourage career advancement. We ensure our contract guides are supported through appropriate training and development, and paid above market rates for their products and services.



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We have a policy of maintaining the highest quality of equipment on our tours to maintain comfort and safety. Camping equipment is upgraded regularly and in turn, surplus equipment is donated to the local community.

We aim to use local suppliers wherever possible and purchase all supplies for the tours locally. We provide the freshest of local produce in all of our meals and inviting guests to shop at small community owned galleries and retail outlets. We also use locally owned and run accommodation whenever possible.

We aim to ensure that our type and scale of tourism is appropriate to local conditions and does not overload local infrastructure.

We aim to minimise water, waste and atmospheric pollution in all operations

We have a 'leave no trace' zero litter policy everywhere we travel.

Uptuyu Adventures operate in a way that encourages positive cultural exchanges.

We encourage our clients, through our literature, staff and leaders, to act in a socially, environmentally and culturally responsible way.

Our tours invite all guests to gain an insight and understanding of our culture and community.

We make guests aware where particularly fragile environments or culturally sensitive areas exist and advise them on how to minimise the impact their presence or actions may have.

We give guidance and encourage our guests to experience other local tours when they travel on to their next destination. We also suggest local restaurants and specialities.

We encourage communication between our guests and traditional custodians, by informing them of local taboos and customs and providing some useful communication strategies.

We encourage and train our local partners and guides to gain an insight into the culture and way of life of our guests.



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We integrate the ethos of responsible tourism throughout our organisation.

Our office operates in a responsible manner by using fair-trade products, recycling, and where possible reducing our energy usage.

We provide regular and ongoing mentoring in the principles and practices of responsible tourism in our training and consultancy eco-tourism business development projects.

We have various office initiatives to reduce our impact on the environment and use of energy: we recycle all paper, use local suppliers whenever possible and strive for a paper-free office.

Our brochure is only printed when required (on average every 3-4 years), to eliminate excess wastage. We always review the materials used and available technologies (e.g. recyclable vs. recycled) with our suppliers whenever we produce printed materials.

Ongoing Quality Improvement

Our Responsible Tourism Policy is discussed regularly and we make sure that wherever possible, guides are involved in the decision-making process and encouraged to contribute.

We work with other organisations to share our experience and learn from others. Current partners are WAITOC (Western Australian Indigenous Tour Operators Council) and WINTA (World Indigenous Tourism Alliance)

A copy of our policy can be made available to all of our clients should they wish to see it, and is also posted on our web site.

In general, we are fortunate that most Uptuyu guests are already very aware of the need to travel responsibly, and we welcome suggestions for improvements to our own practices.

We take our responsibility to our guests very seriously and offer impartial and realistic advice on the safety of travel to their chosen ongoing destination.



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We always look for more ways in which we can help protect the environment and cultures with which we are involved.