



**Asian Heritage**  
Treks & Travels

## **Sustainable Accommodation Policy**

### **Asian Heritage Treks and Travels' Commitment**

Asian Heritage Treks and Travels is committed to promoting sustainable accommodation as an essential part of responsible tourism. Accommodations play a key role in tourism's environmental, social, and cultural impact. We aim to work with partners who share our vision for a more sustainable and responsible industry.

We prioritize accommodations that meet clear sustainability and quality standards. This includes responsible use of water and energy, proper waste management, local sourcing, fair labor practices, and respect for local culture and biodiversity.

Our goal is to offer our clients the most sustainable accommodation options that fit their needs and budget.

### **Scope**

This policy is part of our overall Sustainability Policy and applies to all accommodation providers we work with or recommend. It takes effect immediately upon approval and distribution to our team. We will review and update this policy every two years to ensure it stays relevant and effective. Any exceptions must be approved by the Managing Director or Sustainability Coordinator.

### **Our Sustainable Accommodation Principles**

- We aim to select and recommend accommodations that:
- Offer safe, comfortable, and hygienic lodging at a fair price.
- Follow fair business practices, including transparency, respect for human rights, and compliance with local laws.
- Actively minimize their impact on the environment, culture, and society.
- Support local communities through employment and local sourcing.
- Incorporate local art, architecture, and cultural heritage while respecting intellectual property rights.
- Respect and protect the rights of children and vulnerable groups.

### **General Sustainability Considerations**

When evaluating accommodation providers, Asian Heritage Treks and Travels considers the following areas:

#### **Human Rights and Labor Standards**

- Accommodations must uphold human rights and comply with national labor standards.
- Staff should have fair working conditions, including minimum wage, reasonable working hours, and proper breaks.
- Child labor must be strictly regulated: no employment of children under 16, and special conditions for those 16–18 (e.g. internships, part-time work).
- Accommodations must actively prevent sexual exploitation and report any suspicious behavior to authorities.

## Environmental Impact

- Minimize waste and encourage waste separation (organic, plastic, recyclables).
- Reduce or eliminate single-use plastics, especially bottled water, and promote refill stations.
- Use energy-efficient systems (e.g. LED lighting, efficient appliances) and encourage responsible guest behavior.
- Prefer and support solar power and renewable energy.
- Use water-saving systems in bathrooms and kitchens, reuse pool water where applicable, and adopt rainwater harvesting if possible.
- Protect local biodiversity, e.g. avoid offering red-listed species on menus.

## Cultural and Community Integration

- Include local art, architecture, and cultural elements in their design.
- Respect local customs and communities.
- Source food and products locally, prioritizing fair trade and sustainable suppliers.
- Contribute to the local community through sponsorships, donations, or partnerships.

## Our Working Approach

### Communication with Partners

Asian Heritage Treks and Travels clearly and actively communicates our sustainability objectives and requirements to all contracted and relevant accommodation providers. We do this through:

- Emails sharing our policy and expectations.
- Verbal discussions during coordination and site visits.
- Inclusion of sustainability clauses in contracts with accommodations where possible.
- Digital vouchers to reduce paper waste, except for partners who require printed proof.

### Selection Criteria

We prefer accommodations that:

- They are locally owned and managed.
- Employ local staff and support local communities.
- Demonstrate clear sustainability goals and strategies.
- Are certified by recognized programs (e.g., Travelife, GSTC-recognized certifications).
- We are willing to fill out our sustainability questionnaire for better transparency.
- Show evidence of sustainable practices through site visits, guest feedback, and online reviews.

### Continuous Improvement

- We encourage partners to adopt best practices in responsible tourism.
- We offer guidance, share sustainability training materials, and provide feedback to help partners improve.
- We support collaborative initiatives with other tour operators or local stakeholders to promote sustainability in our destinations.

### Monitoring and Sanctions

We aim to monitor our accommodation partners through site visits, feedback from our staff and guests, and communication with management.

- If we find clear evidence of unsustainable or harmful practices, we will:

- Issue a warning and request corrective action.
- If the partner does not improve, terminate our cooperation and remove them from our recommendations.
- We give preference to accommodations that are transparent, responsive, and committed to continuous improvement in sustainability.

### Conclusion

Asian Heritage Treks and Travels believes tourism can and should be a force for good. By carefully selecting and supporting accommodations that share our sustainability goals, we can reduce negative impacts and create a more responsible, rewarding experience for our guests and the communities we visit.

We are committed to working closely with our accommodation partners to achieve these goals, ensuring that our entire supply chain supports a more sustainable future for tourism in Nepal.