



**Asian Heritage
Travels**

Asian Heritage Travels Sustainable Accommodation Policy

Asian Heritage Travels Commitment

Asian Heritage Travels is committed to promoting sustainable accommodation as an essential part of responsible tourism. We believe that accommodations are not just places to stay — they are a core part of the travel experience and have a strong impact on people, culture, nature, and the economy.

By carefully selecting and working with accommodation providers, we can extend sustainability throughout our supply chain, reduce negative impacts, and create a more positive experience for our guests and local communities.

Whenever possible, we will recommend or select accommodations that follow sustainable practices across all areas of their operations. Even when clients make their own accommodation choice, we will guide them to choose the most sustainable options available within their 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. The Managing Director or Sustainability Coordinator must approve any exceptions.

Principles for Selecting Accommodation

We aim to select and recommend accommodations that:

- Provide guests with the right level of comfort at a fair price, ensuring accommodations are hygienic, safe, and designed to meet travelers' needs.
- Operate with integrity and transparency, complying with national laws, fair labor standards, human rights, anti-corruption measures, and proper treatment of animals.
- Minimize negative impacts on the environment, local biodiversity, and communities through sustainable practices, waste reduction, and resource conservation.
- Support local communities by hiring local staff, sourcing products from nearby businesses, and respecting local culture and intellectual property.
- Preserve the authenticity of the area by incorporating local art, traditional architecture, and cultural heritage into property design and guest services.
- Ensure the safety and protection of children and vulnerable groups by strictly following child protection standards and preventing any form of exploitation.

General Sustainability Considerations

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

Human Rights and Labor Standards

- All staff must be employed under fair working conditions (minimum wage, reasonable working hours, and proper breaks).
- No employment of children below 14 years.
- For staff aged 14–18, only special conditions such as internships or part-time work are acceptable, ensuring safety and education are not compromised.
- The accommodation must actively prevent sexual exploitation of children and vulnerable groups, and report any suspicious activity to local authorities.
- Equal opportunities must be provided regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, or background.

Environmental Impact

- **Waste management:** Must separate waste at least into organic and recyclable categories. Preference for establishments with advanced waste reduction practices.
- **Plastic reduction:** Single-use plastics, especially bottled water, should be avoided. Refill stations or jug refills must be provided to guests.
- **Energy efficiency:** Use LED lights, energy-efficient appliances, and encourage guests to save electricity.
- **Water efficiency:** Install water-saving systems (dual-flush toilets, efficient showers, rainwater harvesting). Bucket systems are acceptable if they clearly reduce water use.
- **Renewable energy:** Solar and other renewable energy sources are encouraged.
- **Biodiversity:** Protect wildlife and natural habitats. No red-listed species may be offered on menus. Animal-related activities must follow international welfare standards.

Cultural and Community Integration

- Design and decoration should include local art and architecture respectfully.
- Food and supplies should be locally sourced and preferably fair trade and sustainable.
- Souvenirs with historical or archaeological value may not be sold unless legally permitted.
- Accommodations should contribute to local communities (e.g., sponsoring events, supporting heritage sites, or donating to local initiatives).

Evaluation of Accommodation

We assess and monitor accommodations through:

- Site visits by our sustainability coordinator or manager.
- Feedback from clients and guides during or after tours.
- Sustainability questionnaires filled out by accommodation providers.
- Online reviews and third-party information.

Working with Partners

Communication with Partners

Asian Heritage 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.

Support for Partners

- We provide guidance, training materials, and best practice examples.
- Share information on certification systems such as Travelife for Hotels or other GSTC-recognized standards.
- Offer self-evaluation tools to help providers improve.
- Encourage collaboration with other stakeholders for long-term improvement.

Incentives

We give preference and promotion to accommodations that:

- Operate sustainably and responsibly.
- Demonstrate clear improvements in their practices.
- Maintain transparency and active communication with us.
Where we have sufficient business volume, we may also:
- Promote such accommodations on our website.
- Offer special contract conditions.

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.

Contractual Sustainability Clauses

Every contract signed with accommodation providers will include the following mandatory clauses:

- No child labour below age 14.
- Anti-corruption and anti-bribery – zero tolerance.
- Fair labor practices – staff treated according to law and with dignity.
- Waste management – proper systems in place.
- Protection of biodiversity – no red-listed species, responsible animal welfare.
- Prevention of sexual exploitation – clear reporting and zero tolerance.

Accommodations must agree to on-site monitoring and inspections by our company or authorized third parties.

Continuous Improvement

Sustainability is a long-term journey. We commit to:

- Regularly reviewing this policy every two years.
- Updating our practices based on guest feedback, industry standards, and global best practices.
- Working with accommodations not only to enforce standards but also to help them improve step by step.

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 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.