



RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

Economic responsibility

We do not cooperate with big tour operators where money does not remain in the local community but is leaked to foreign companies. We are independent and therefore have the luxury of being able to determine our own priorities and have the ability to ensure that this ethos is central to everything we do.

We use local products to prepare our meals and we recommend local taverns to our guests. From the soap in the w.c. to the breakfast, everything is from Lesvos and the islands around. We always prefer things that are produced locally and in this way we decrease the imported products.

When it comes to souvenirs we inform our clients of the locally produced handicrafts to look out for and encourage them to purchase goods from the region if they wish to take something home. We also ensure that we discourage the removal of natural souvenirs such as shells, corals etc.

We want to utilize the tourism multiplier effect wherever possible in order to widen the economic benefit of our company.

We do not operate in a harmful way for the destination. We are part of the destination, since we are also locals.

Fair trade is something which we believe should apply in all commercial transactions. We pay a fair price for the services we receive. We are lucky in that our independence enables us to set our own guidance on such matters.

Social responsibility

We fully recognize the impact which tourism can have on a community, a culture and on an individual. For us this is especially important as we work closely with local people. All of our associates; food providers and tour guides, are locals or people who live on Lesvos for many years and they love and care about the island. We have developed a network of local associates so as to strengthen the fragile local economy of the island and to reduce unemployment.

Another important thing for us is education and training. For this reason, we train our local associates in every opportunity. This way, not only they serve our clients better, but they are better qualified and have an advantage for the rest of their life.

We ensure that anyone involved in our trips and activities:

- Has a safe and clean environment in which to work.
- Is paid fairly for their work.
- Is not given an unreasonable amount of work.
- Is treated with respect and equality by all clients and members of staff.
- Is not discriminated against for reasons of colour, race, gender, religion or disability.

We ensure that all guests are supplied with necessary information with regards to local customs, cultures, dress codes and conduct. We may teach all clients some basic phrases in the Greek language.

Environmental responsibility

This is the section that most people will associate most strongly with responsible tourism. Firstly, we are a small company that deals with small groups of guests during each week. This means that we do not carry many people to remote areas with fragile environments, but a manageable amount of tourists.

When we plan our holiday trips we do so with the environment in mind. We deliberately leave out certain activities if we feel that their impact on the environment is to its detriment.

We always encourage group transportation. Not only it is obviously more economical but it reduces emissions as well. We also ask clients to consider the use of public transport such as buses on their free days and for their transfer from/to the airport.

We dedicate additional time and money to ensuring that the impacts of our holidays are positive and that the environments we operate in remain unspoiled by our presence.

In our boats:

We also use solar panel for the energy production that we need.

We use waste holding tank in order to avoid sea pollution.

We use ecological cleaning products that are biodegradable.

We use led lights for low energy consumption.

We can do even more but we need your help in that.

- Help us recycle. Separate your plastic, metal, paper or glass garbage.
- Use family and not individual packages for your breakfast ingredients (honey, marmalade, butter, milk, juice, etc) as well as for personal hygiene (shampoo, shower gel etc), to reduce solid wastes.
- Let us know when you want your linen and towel change and if you are happy to keep your towels and bed linen for additional days. This helps us decrease the water consumption and the cleaning products that will end up in the environment.

Responsible tourists

We want to help our clients to become more responsible during their trip and also minimize their ecological footprint.

On boat

Try to use as little water and energy as possible and produce the less solid wastes you can. You may ask us anything you want if you are not sure what to do.

- Please turn off any electrical appliances when you do not use them.
- Please follow any guidelines with regards to the usage of the bathroom facilities. Do not put paper in the loo. Try to reduce the use of freebies which produce many solid wastes.
- Please try to use as little water as possible. Turn off the tap while you brush your teeth or shave.

On activities

- Take a reusable water bottle with you if possible. Use the largest containers available (e.g. of 1.5lt) and then decant water into individual bottles (e.g. of 0.5lt).

- When you have an excursion please ensure that you remove every scrap of rubbish from the area. Litter should be disposed of responsibly including cigarette butts which can also pose a fire threat in many areas.
- Safety is of course paramount and your guide's word on a situation is final with regards to this. The guides are there to look after your safety and so if you disagree with something then please deal with this in a respectful manner. We use local guides who know the activities better than anyone and so respect for their opinion and of course their respect for you is vital.
- If you are out hiking, please ensure that you stick to the paths – this is for your own safety as much as the protection of the flora and fauna.
- If you visit historic sites please obey instructions and do not remove anything from the site except your own litter.

In your free time

- Consider public transport options during your free time. Taxis are not the only way to travel and in some cases buses can be much more enjoyable.
- Buy local. If you are making your own lunch then please try and buy from local shops or eat in locally owned restaurants. You'll get a much greater insight into the destination. If you want to take a souvenir home then local handicrafts or foods (check what you are allowed to import) are always a great option but try and ensure that you find out their origins.
- Shop wisely. If you want to take souvenirs back please try and shop responsibly, please don't buy shell products for example as this encourages the destruction of these special creatures or products that may be made from protected woods. If in doubt ask us.
- Photographs are a great souvenir – very cheap! If you are taking pictures of a person or something belonging to someone then please always ask their permission – it is simply good manners.
- Locals really will appreciate your effort to speak their language. If you want to learn some simple phrases just ask us.
- Always consider local customs, culture and dress codes. You are guests in another country and practices may not be the same as in your country. For example in monasteries you are not allowed to enter wearing shorts. Please ask questions but do not openly criticize practices that you may not know enough about.
- Take a reusable shopping bag with you on holiday or at least reuse your old ones. Try to avoid the use of plastic bags.

Thank you