Boat-based Marine Wildlife Viewing

Sustainability Code of Good Practice

MIRACLE OMAN

As part of our commitment to advancing sustainable tourism, we encourage our tourism partners to improve their sustainability performance by providing them with the guidance below.

- ✓ Ensure applicable legal **permits & permission** to access activity area are in place
- ✓ Ensure **insurance** is in place for guests and team
- ✓ Identify **health & safety** risks, implement management systems, and provide appropriate safety equipment
- ✓ Ensure enough team members are available in case of **emergency**
- ✓ Monitor activity **area conditions** (including weather) in advance & during the activity
- ✓ Be familiar with activity area and ensure that **navigation & communication** tools are in good working order
- ✓ Maximise local **economic benefits** through employment and purchasing
- ✓ Avoid single use & disposable items, provide secure on-board **waste** collection for safe disposal, and pick up any rubbish found along the way
- ✓ Use **eco-friendly products**, e.g., cleaning products
- ✓ Be **waterwise** and take pro-active measures to use water sparingly
- ✓ Minimise **energy** used in the activity as part of a climate action strategy
- ✓ Provide **information in advance** about your sustainability actions, activity accessibility, what to expect, and what to bring with
- ✓ **Screen participants** ahead of time to make sure that activity is well suited to their fitness & level of ability
- ✓ Obtain written confirmation, e.g., via **indemnity**, that participants are aware of activity risks
- ✓ **Brief participants** about do's and don'ts, safety, hazards to be aware of, what to expect, logistics, not disturbing / removing flora and fauna, rubbish collection and disposal, and rules regarding alcohol before the activity starts
- ✓ Show **respect** for the land, waterways, wildlife, and other activity area users
- ✓ **Share information** about local nature & culture, as well as social development / conservation projects that participants may want to support
- ✓ Manage **group size** to minimise impacts on people & the planet, and daily visitation limits on a single sighting (where silent: 3 vessels, 2x/ day at minimum 3-hour intervals is a guideline)
- ✓ **Reduce boat speed** to approach wildlife, preferably parallel to it, not from in front / behind
- ✓ **Do not chase** marine wildlife, alter / restrict their direction of movement, or position boats so that marine wildlife group is split
- ✓ Adhere to **viewing distances and durations** stipulated in permits (where silent: minimum 50 metres, and ±30 minutes)
- ✓ Do not allow **swimming** in close proximity of marine wildlife, i.e., within range of contact or safety risk being posed to participants or wildlife
- ✓ **Discontinue interaction** if the animal shows signs of disturbance or its behaviour is disrupted
- ✓ **Depart sighting** slowly, leaving no wake
- ✓ Repair and compensate for any **damage** caused to the activity area
- ✓ Participate in conserving activity area **integrity**; notify authorities of concerns and participate in rehabilitation projects

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Travelife Sustainability in tourism

For more sustainable tourism guidance and to provide feedback, visit **www.travelife.info/sustour/codes**

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