

Diving & Snorkelling

Sustainability Code of Good Practice

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**, appropriate dive master / similar **qualifications, and permission** to access the 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, including life jackets for snorkellers (to avoid kicking over shallow corals)
- ✓ 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 adequate **waste** collection for safe disposal, and pick up any rubbish found along the way
- ✓ Use **eco-friendly products**, e.g., sanitising products for diving / snorkelling equipment
- ✓ 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, including reef-safe sunscreen (or rash vests for snorkelling)
- ✓ **Screen participants** ahead of time to ensure activity is well suited to fitness level & ability; provide refresher courses or buoyancy orientation for less experienced / out-of-practice divers
- ✓ Verify that divers using bulky **photographic equipment** are sufficiently experienced to control equipment and prevent activity area damage
- ✓ Manage **group size** to minimise impacts on people & planet, and ensure safe guide : diver ratio
- ✓ Obtain written confirmation, e.g., via **indemnity**, that participants are aware of activity risks
- ✓ **Brief participants** before the activity starts about do's and don'ts, safety, hazards to be aware of, what to expect, logistics, communication, marine wildlife disturbance & viewing distance, and preventing damage to marine ecosystem
- ✓ **Share information** about local nature & culture, as well as social development / conservation projects that participants may want to support
- ✓ Show **respect** for the land, waterways, wildlife, and other users in the activity area
- ✓ Discourage the use of **gloves** (to discourage participants from touching coral)
- ✓ Prohibit the use of sunscreen that is not "**reef-safe**"
- ✓ Ensure that **flash photography** is not excessive as repeated flash can cause undue stress
- ✓ Confirm that all diving **equipment is secured** to prevent damage from dragging
- ✓ Monitor divers for **neutral buoyancy** to avoid contact with coral reef, seagrass, sandy surfaces
- ✓ Find an area free from fragile organisms should a **rest / pause** in the dive be necessary
- ✓ Use low intensity lights for **night dives** to avoid confusing and causing harm to marine wildlife
- ✓ Repair and compensate for any **damage** caused to the activity area
- ✓ Participate in conserving activity area **integrity**; notify authorities of concerns and participate in marine conservation and rehabilitation projects