



SPEYSIDE WILDLIFE RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL POLICY

Speyside Wildlife has long been aware of the impact of travel on the environment and we have adhered to our environmental policy for many years. We have taken our commitment to sustainable travel further by developing a robust Responsible Travel Policy and we always welcome suggestions for improvement from our staff, our guests, our partners and our suppliers. We have an extremely comprehensive online customer feedback form and have an 80% completion rate. We have been awarded Green Tourism's Gold Award.

Small group travel is central to our philosophy, enabling us to minimise the impact on local communities and the environment, as well as providing an atmosphere of relaxed informality and a high level of personal attention to each of our guests. Our aim is to have a positive impact on the communities we visit and their environments.

Our commitment starts at home in Scotland:

- We adhere to the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle ethos throughout our operation.
- All general waste generated at our office and at the Steading is disposed of through David Ritchie & Sons Ltd recycling centre.
- All electrical and electronic waste is recycled through ReBOOT, a local charitable company - www.reboot-forres.co.uk.
- We use Green Cone composting at the Steading to dispose of food waste.
- We have reduced the amount of paperwork generated by our office by switching to online newsletters, booking confirmations, etc.
- We have developed an App where guests can access their trip details and paperwork digitally to reduce further the need for printed materials.
- We use recycled products wherever possible (e.g. toilet paper etc).
- We refill dispensers wherever possible (e.g. soap dispensers, cleaning products, etc).
- We have switched to using recycled paper bags for packed lunches instead of plastic wrap.
- We involve the local community on any environmental issues.
- We use organic fair-trade wines on all our holidays based at the Steading in Speyside and wherever else they are available.
- Wherever possible we use locally sourced products in catering for all our holidays based at the Steading in Speyside.

Travellers Code of Conduct

We provide accurate pre-trip information concerning the destination countries specific to a particular trip including, where relevant, a link to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's 'Travel Advice' website.

We also:

- inform our guests how and why purchasing locally produced goods and services - souvenirs, crafts, accommodation, meals and guides' services - from locally owned establishments has beneficial effect. We also explain how this enhances the guests' experience.
- suggest measures that can reduce water consumption and why it is important.
- provide our guests with relevant suggestions to minimise damage to the environment, wildlife and marine ecosystems

Environmental Impact

- We adhere to good environmental practice in all areas of our business activity.
- We adhere to the standards of the GTBS scheme, having gained a Gold accreditation for our business.
- We work continuously to reduce any polluting activities.
- We minimise the use of vehicles wherever possible by prioritizing local sites during our holidays.
- We encourage our guests to travel to and from their holiday meeting points by train whenever possible.
- We offer surface travel options for our European holidays whenever feasible.
- We use public transport on our holidays wherever feasible.
- We ask our guests to leave all excess packaging at home and to use water sparingly.

Economic Impact

- On most of our European and all of our long haul trips, we employ local guides, which, as well as helping sustain the local economy, enhances our guests' experience.
- Wherever possible we use small, independently owned hotels and lodges which employ local staff and use locally sourced food.
- We encourage our guests to buy local produce and gifts from sustainable sources and at independent outlets.

Social Impact

- Where relevant, we provide a link to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's 'Travel Advice' website.
- We provide our guests with guidance on how to minimise negative impacts on local cultures.
- Our tour itineraries include details of any visits to local projects and enterprises and relevant options for any free time activities.
- Speyside Wildlife has linked up with "RSPB Abernethy", which has a long-term vision to extend the Caledonian Pine Forest within the Reserve. For the travel and transport included in the price of our holidays, we contribute to RSPB to help fund their Abernethy Tree Nursery, so helping to offset the effects of climate change. Each hour of air travel is offset by $\frac{1}{4}$ of a tree and each 1,000 kms of car travel is offset by $\frac{1}{2}$ a tree.

We continually seek to improve ways of mitigating potential negative impacts and review our environmental performance each year at our annual staff conference. We welcome suggestions for improvement from both guides and guests and these will be implemented whenever it is feasible to do so.

We affirm our commitment to the delivery of best practice environmental management and ongoing improvement.



Signed:

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