



## Sustainability Policy – Heart of India Travel

At Heart of India Travel, we are committed to growing our business in a sustainable manner. We recognize that the environment, communities and cultures within which we operate are vital to the success of our company.

Responsible travel is one of our core values. Our goal is to maximize the positive effects that tourism can have on individuals and local communities, while minimizing negative social, environmental and economic impacts.

This policy outlines what we have already achieved, what we are currently implementing, and what we aim to achieve in the future. It defines practices at the core of our product development, operations, and relationships with external partners. It is a work in progress for everyone at Heart of India Travel.

We therefore commit to the following objectives:

- Comply with all relevant legislation and embed sustainable development principles into our core business practices.
- Use our position to drive sustainability within our destinations.
- Preserve our environment and continually improve our environmental performance.
- Optimize our social impact to enhance local livelihoods and prevent tourism leakages.
- Provide information, training and support to colleagues and external partners to engage them towards sustainability.
- Provide clear and transparent information about our products to encourage our clients to opt for sustainable travel options.



## In Our Offices

- We ensure that all Heart of India Travel employees understand our sustainability goals and are accountable for implementation.
- We monitor, reduce and manage waste in a responsible way.
- We measure our use of natural resources, especially energy, and look for ways to reduce them.
- We purchase local products where possible and limit the use of small packaging.
- We respect our employees, embrace diversity, and advance their wellbeing wherever we can.
- We share best practices and raise awareness on sustainability among our teams and partners.
- We communicate transparently about our achievements against our sustainability goals, internally and externally, through annual reporting.

## On the Ground

- We prefer to work with locally owned businesses that reflect local culture (hotels, lodges, restaurants, handicraft outlets, arts and culture centers).
- We drive positive change within our supply chain, monitor sustainable practices, share best practices and organize training.
- We ensure that travels organized by Heart of India Travel do not have adverse effects on the environment or society, especially in sensitive activities that may bring travellers into contact with animals, children or remote communities.
- We give back to neighboring communities by supporting projects that address local development challenges, encourage fair employment opportunities and advance wellbeing.



- We actively promote Responsible Tourism in our industry and to stakeholders we engage with in our destinations.
- We put our clients and guests at the heart of our business and help them make informed and responsible decisions when traveling.

## Protecting Nature and Cultural Heritage

At Heart of India Travel and Bharatvaas Travels, we believe that travel should help preserve culture and nature. That's why we inform our travelers about Indian laws regarding the purchase and export of souvenirs.

Some products are prohibited or strictly regulated:

- Historical and religious artifacts: antiquities over 100 years old, religious statues or manuscripts without a permit.
- Protected wildlife products: ivory, tiger, rhino or turtle products, coral.
- Protected plants and woods: sandalwood and other restricted species.

Purchasing these souvenirs may result in confiscation, fines, or legal prosecution. We encourage our guests to buy only legal, locally made products that support communities. This way, you bring home not just a unique memory, but also contribute to a positive impact.

## Social Responsibility and Protection of Vulnerable Groups

- We place great importance on human rights and the protection of vulnerable groups.
- In all our activities and collaborations, we actively oppose any form of exploitation or abuse, with particular attention to children,



animals, and marginalized communities.

- We recognize that the sexual exploitation of children is a global issue. Therefore, we take a clear stance:
- We strongly condemn any form of child sexual exploitation in all destinations.
- In cooperation with our local partners, we ensure that this topic is open for discussion, risks are identified and prevented, and reports are taken seriously.
- We only work with organizations that share these standards and – where possible – we take steps towards signing or supporting international codes of conduct, such as the Child Protection Code.