

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

Guidance Notes for Travellers

In 2008 we celebrated our 50th anniversary. A founding principle of ACE Study Tours is that the best forms of travel benefit not only our customers but also the communities that host our tours. We provide funding for cultural and educational projects in the regions that we visit and support local businesses wherever possible. We are striving to reduce the environmental impact of our tours and we continue our long-standing support of conservation projects to protect natural habitats, fauna and flora.

The effect of worldwide travel on both the environment and local communities is a matter of increasing concern to all of us. As a cultured traveller, you may wish to consider some of the guidelines that we have put together for the responsible tourist. We welcome further suggestions and ideas of your own.

Transportation – A Difficult Issue

Carbon dioxide and other emissions from all types of human activity, including travel, are of increasing concern. ACE is working with Fauna & Flora International, the world's oldest international conservation charity, on a scheme to invest in conservation for carbon purposes. This provides funds for the conservation of habitats that lock-in carbon mass, such as peat-land and forests. If you are concerned about your own carbon footprint and would like to contribute to this scheme, please send a cheque to ACE, made payable to Fauna & Flora International, for £5 for each European tour you have booked and £10 (or more!) for Worldwide tours. 100% of your donation will go directly to this initiative.

Culture

The very fact that you have selected an ACE Study Tour indicates that you are someone with an interest and appreciation of different cultures. Through our recommended reading lists, you will be able to gain greater understanding of a country's history, culture and customs prior to the tour – a practice that only enriches your experience.

Local Facilities – A Warm Welcome

Wherever possible, we like to use small, family-owned hotels and guesthouses as well as local coach companies and guides. Please feel free to take advantage of their hospitality and knowledge – feedback from many clients praises the warm welcome our groups receive and many say they are made to feel more like family than guests. Our hosts will appreciate it if a few words of their language are attempted – however a smile and friendly face is universally recognised!

Outdoor Visits – Take Only a Memory

Although it is often tempting to collect the odd plant, seed or other artefact, we ask that you do not indulge in this practice. Please be considerate when taking photographs and, if in doubt, ask permission first.

Dress Code – What shall I pack?

In many parts of the world, dress code plays an important part in the local way of life. Please remember to dress sensitively and do not risk offending host countries by dressing inappropriately. In our Tour Information packs, we always strive to make participants fully aware of acceptable dress code and make recommendations for visits to churches and mosques.

Safety - First

Although safety standards in the UK are viewed as a priority, this is not always the case in other parts of the world. Always take care and do not put other members of the group at risk or unnecessarily call upon the services offered by the emergency services.

Energy Conservation – Turn It Off!

Please remember to turn off air conditioning (where available) and lights before leaving your room for the day and keep to a minimum towel and bed linen changes. Showers use less water than baths – water is a precious commodity in many parts of the world and our enjoyment may be at someone else's expense.

Toiletries

Wherever possible, use environmentally friendly travel products with minimal packaging. Please try to avoid disposable items, as recycling is non-existent in many parts of the world.

Souvenirs

Tourism can be a force for good in many regions by providing much needed resources. Responsible tourism also has a key role to play by providing financial incentives for conservation. However, please avoid buying items that exploit any wildlife and instead support local communities by selecting, for example, hand-made items. Although it is often fun to barter, do retain a sense of fairness.

Financial Support of Local Communities

Although it is distressing to see people, especially children, begging, it is often preferable to help by supporting formal humanitarian or conservation projects. Please feel free to contact us for a list of initiatives that we recommend.

ACE Study Tours – Charitable Work

We support many different causes throughout the world. If, during the course of your trip, you feel a small donation would make a real difference, please either let us know directly or thought your Course Director, who has a duty to make us aware of new potential beneficiaries.