

# GREEN BOOTS



Environmentally  
Friendly Guidelines





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# WHAT IS GREEN BOOTS?

Green Boots is a program that promotes terrestrial tourism best practices in Palau. The guidelines provided ensure that the environment is sustainably used and continues to be a pristine tourism product and the main driver for Palau's economy.

The objectives of the Terrestrial Tourism Best Practices are:

1. To ensure that Palau's environment are sustainably managed in order to support healthy livelihoods, culture, and the local economy

2. To encourage environmentally friendly standards for the tourism industry

3. To cultivate a robust partnership between the national government, state government and communities, tourism sector, and non-government organizations

4. To uphold the reputation of Palau's tourism industry and the objective of the Responsible Tourism Policy Framework to ensure sustainability of Palau's tourism industry



**“... to support healthy livelihoods, culture, and the local economy”**





## **GREEN BOOTS | GREEN FINS**

*Green Boots* was developed using global principles and guidelines and aligned with the *Green Fins* initiative.

*Green Fins* is an initiative that promotes environmentally friendly guidelines for marine tourism.

Together, *Green Boots* and *Green Fins* provide a complete environmentally friendly guideline for the tourism industry in Palau.







**“Responsible  
travel to  
natural areas  
that conserves  
the  
environment...”**

## **THE INTERNATIONAL ECOTOURISM SOCIETY TIES**

The Terrestrial Tourism Best Practices are achieved through:

1. The development of standards that fit the ecotourism definition:
  - a. "Responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment, sustains the well-being of the local people, and involves interpretation and education (TIES, 2015).
  - b. "Environmentally responsible visiting of relatively unspoiled natural areas, in order to enjoy and appreciate nature (and any accompanying cultural features- both past and present), that promotes conservation, has a low negative visitor impact, and provides for beneficially active socio-economic involvement of local populations". (IUCN, 1996)



## **GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE TOURISM COUNCIL GSTC**

The Terrestrial Tourism Best Practices are aligned with the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) criteria, which serves as the global baseline standards for sustainability in travel and tourism. The criteria are used for education and awareness-raising, policy-making for businesses and government agencies and other organization types, measurement and evaluation, and as a basis for certification.

The GSTC criteria are globally recognized and endorsed by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). Palau officially became the newest member of UNWTO in January of 2020.



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**GREEN BOOTS MISSION STATEMENT**

**TO PROTECT AND  
CONSERVE THE  
ENVIRONMENT BY  
ESTABLISHING AND  
IMPLEMENTING  
ENVIRONMENTALLY  
FRIENDLY GUIDELINES  
TO PROMOTE A  
SUSTAINABLE TOURISM  
INDUSTRY**

”

# PRINCIPLES OF ECOTOURISM

## BEST PRACTICES

The development of Terrestrial Tourism Best Practices, which follow the Principles of Ecotourism, unites conservation, communities, and sustainable travel

### EDUCATE

Educate the traveler on the importance of conservation

### MINIMIZE

Minimize the negative impacts on nature and culture that can damage a destination

### LOCAL

Stress the importance of responsible business practices, which works cooperatively with local authorities and people to meet local needs and deliver conservation benefits

### REVENUES

Direct revenues to the conservation and management of natural and protected areas



**"Stress the importance of responsible business practices"**





## REGIONAL

Emphasize the need for regional tourism zoning and for visitor management plans designed for either regions or natural areas that are slated to become eco-destinations

## ASSESS

Emphasize use of environmental and social baseline studies, as well as long-term monitoring programs, to assess and minimize impacts

## BENEFIT

Strive to maximize economic benefit for the host country, local business and communities, particularly peoples living in and adjacent to natural and protected areas

## COOPERATION

Seek to ensure that tourism development does not exceed the social and environmental limits of acceptable change as determined by researchers in cooperation with local residents

## HARMONY

Rely on infrastructure that has been developed in harmony with the environment, minimizing use of fossil fuels, conserving local plants and wildlife, and blending with the natural and cultural environment

**"Developed in  
harmony with the  
environment"**





# GREEN BOOTS CODES OF CONDUCT

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- 1 ADOPT THE GREEN BOOTS MISSION STATEMENT
- 2 DISPLAY THE ADOPTED GREEN BOOTS AGREEMENT FOR THE PUBLIC TO SEE
- 3 ADHERE TO THE TERRESTRIAL TOURISM BEST PRACTICES GUIDELINES AND ACT AS A RESPONSIBLE ROLE FOR GUESTS
- 4 SUPPORT "GREEN CERTIFIED BUSINESSES", PATRONIZE THE LOCAL ARTISINAL SUPPLY CHAIN
- 5 FOLLOW RECOMMENDED VISITOR TO GUIDE RATION AND SUPPORT SITE MAINTENANCE
- 6 PROHIBIT SALE AND/OR DOMESTICATION OF WILDLIFE SPECIES
- 7 CONTRIBUTE TO ONGOING CONSERVATION EFFORTS, PARTICIPATE IN REGULAR CLEAN-UPS, AND REPORT VIOLATIONS AND DAMAGES
- 8 PROVIDE ADEQUATE GARBAGE FACILITIES AND PROMOTE RECYCLING
- 9 OPERATE UNDER A 'MINIMUM WASTE' EFFORT: USE ECO-FRIENDLY PRODUCTS AND PROMOTE A PLASTIC FREE ZONE
- 10 ABIDE BY ALL LOCAL, REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS
- 11 PROVIDE ENVIRONMENTAL BRIEFINGS AND PROVIDE GUESTS WITH EXPLANATIONS OF GREEN BOOTS' TERRESTRIAL TOURISM GUIDELINES
- 12 OBTAIN CERTIFIED AND ACCREDITED TRAINING. PROVIDE SITE SPECIFIC MATERIAL REGARDING
- 13 PROVIDE STAFF AND GUESTS WITH PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATERIALS
- 14 PROVIDE GUESTS WITH INFORMATION ON LOCAL TERRESTRIAL PROTECTED AREAS, ENVIRONMENTAL RULES AND REGULATIONS
- 15 PROMOTE A STRICT 'NO TOUCH' POLICY AND ADHERE TO POSTED SIGNS



# GREEN BOOTS ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY GUIDELINES

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- 1 NO TOUCHING, HARASSING OR CHASING WILDLIFE
- 2 NO FEEDING WILDLIFE
- 3 NO HUNTING OR HARVESTING
- 4 DO NOT SUPPORT ILLEGAL BIRD HUNTING
- 5 DO NOT COLLECT DEAD OR ALIVE WILDLIFE
- 6 DO NOT WALK OUTSIDE THE TRAIL
- 7 DO NOT CLIMB OR SHAKE TREES
- 8 DO NOT DISTURB VEGETATION WITH EQUIPMENT
- 9 DO NOT COLLECT, REMOVE OR DAMAGE CULTURAL ARTIFACTS
- 10 WEAR THE PROPER OUTFIT AND GEAR
- 11 UTILIZE PROVIDED BENCHES AND TRAIL MARKERS
- 12 REPORT ENVIRONMENTAL VIOLATIONS
- 13 PARTICIPATE IN CONSERVATION PROJECTS
- 14 DO NOT BUY SOIL, SAND, PLANTS OR ANIMALS
- 15 NO LITTERING



