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 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.
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.

LOCAL

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

MINIMIZE

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

REVENUES

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

"Stress the importance of responsible business practices"
“Developed in harmony with the environment”
GREEN BOOTS
CODES OF CONDUCT

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

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