



Global Learning Program

Responsible Travel Guidebook



Whitsunday ANGLICAN SCHOOL



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Introduction

The digital revolution may have brought the world into the classroom, but it has also fed a desire to take the classroom into the world. The life-skills students develop through leadership, cultural, language and service experiences cannot be gained sitting behind a desk. They are gathered by travelling as a member of a team, whilst exploring new cultures.

Whitsunday Anglican School is proud to offer our various Global Expeditions to allow our students, staff, parents and Old scholars the opportunity to increase their international and cultural understanding. Ultimately, our program assists in our desire to grow a globally competent community.

This *Responsible Travel Guidebook* is a reference tool for our students, staff, parents, Old Scholars and travel industry partners to give guidance on our aim to promote responsible travel on our global expeditions.

By travelling responsibly, we can return to our lives feeling satisfied that our travels have left a positive impact.



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1. Credo of the Peaceful Traveller

It is a privilege to be able to travel and visit unique destinations. This privilege also comes with the responsibility to promote international understanding and cooperation, an improved quality of environment, the preservation of heritage, along with helping to bring about a peaceful and sustainable world.

Every traveller is potentially an "Ambassador for Peace".

We encourage all of our global expedition participants to read and enact the IIPST's Credo of the Peaceful Traveller.

Grateful for the opportunity to travel and experience the world and because peace begins with the individual, I affirm my personal responsibility and commitment to:

- *Journey with an open mind and gentle heart*
- *Accept with grace and gratitude the diversity I encounter*
- *Revere and protect the natural environment which sustains all life*
- *Appreciate all cultures I discover*
- *Respect and thank my hosts for their welcome*
- *Offer my hand in friendship to everyone I meet*
- *Support travel services that share these views and act upon them and, by my spirit, words and actions, encourage others to travel the world in peace*



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2. Our Identity

As members of the Whitsunday Anglican School community our actions exemplify the core values that we have identified as being central to who we are as an education community. It is imperative that all participants in our global expeditions acknowledge and model these **Core Values** whilst representing our School community.

CHRISTIANITY (through Social Responsibility) – characterized by faith in God, forgiveness, reconciliation, developing a sense of mission/purpose through service to, and compassion and care for others;

TOLERANCE (through Respect) – characterized by openness to a broad range of ideas and concepts, accommodation of multi cultures and faiths, and inclusivity of a wide range of backgrounds;

EXCELLENCE (through Effort) – characterized by the pursuit of optimum outcomes for students in their academic, sporting and cultural endeavours by our explicit strategies to assist students develop the habits of self-belief, persistence and resilience;

DIGNITY (through Tradition) – characterized by our expectations for a conservative approach to worship, dress, appearance, manners, language, social discourse, rituals and symbols;

TRUST (through Co-operation) – characterized by consideration of the needs of the group before the needs of the individual, expressed through collaboration, teamwork, honesty and consistency

In addition, as members of the wider Anglican Church we take guidance from the **Five Marks of Mission** to not only help shape our service focused global expeditions, but to assist in shaping our actions as responsible travellers.

- Witness to Christ's saving, forgiving and reconciling love for all people
- Build welcoming, transforming communities of faith
- Stand in solidarity with the poor and needy
- Challenge violence, injustice and oppression, and work for peace and reconciliation
- Protect, care for and renew life on our planet

It must be remembered that all communities that we visit provide us with an opportunity to make lasting memories and to help shape us as globally competent citizens. The people that you meet will make a permanent mark on your heart. Therefore, any identification of our School community on buildings, murals and signs need to be kept to a minimum. Ultimately we are being welcomed into their communities. All we should leave behind is a positive impact, lasting memories and our footprints.



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3. Engaging Communities

Our Global Learning Program aims to provide educational experiences through experiential learning to increase international and cultural understanding to promote a globally competent school community. However, with this aim in mind it is vital to remember that travel should be as rewarding for the host community as it is the traveller. The following are some practices that our program encourages to ensure that all stakeholders obtain the maximum benefit from our global expiation experiences.

Service Projects

At the core of each project lies our commitment to responsible travel and providing the most benefit to the host community. We take much care and consideration to ensure that the agencies that we engage with in the selection of service projects ensure that the following criteria is considered:

Consultation: during the project identification stage the leaders of the host community are consulted to ensure that the project fulfils a real need within that community. We listen to what the community needs as opposed to telling them what we think they need.

Collaboration: when the actual project is being carried out we ensure that members of the host community partake in the project work in either a paid or volunteer basis ensuring ownership, interaction and transference of skills (in both directions).

Sustainability: we investigate and ensure that the projects are sustainable and long term and that the local community has the skills and resources to sustain the project once we leave.



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Balancing the Inequalities

A great difference exists between the economic wealth of western nations and those of the developing world. We have the opportunity to bring some balance to this disparity through our actions. There are; however, occasions where sharing our wealth can perpetuate problematic situations in impoverished communities. Participants in our global expeditions are encouraged to avoid the following:

- **Avoid giving money to street beggars, because it provides a short- term solution to a large social problem.** It's very difficult for a traveller to know how money given on the street is spent, and in fact, if the person receiving it is actually the person to benefit from it – often street beggars are forced into the situation by others who take the money themselves.
- **Avoid handing out of gifts and lollies directly to children.** This practice creates an unrealistic expectation that all travellers come bearing gifts, which can create hostility when it doesn't occur.

Some positive actions that we encourage our global expedition participants to consider are:

- Before leaving home research local or international charities active in your chosen destination and contribute with a donation.
- If you would like to give gifts, think about giving essential items that parents or teachers may find hard to otherwise access, such as a hairbrush or hair ties, toothbrush or toothpaste, soap, appropriate clothing, or pens, books and education supplies. Hand the gifts to an adult or teacher, so that they are distributed fairly and appropriately.

To support the host communities and the economies of the countries that we visit, all **purchases required (gifts, building materials, books, stationery, etc) should be purchased in the host country and communities.** This supports their local economies and goes a long way to supporting the people that rely on the income.



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4. Protecting the Environment

In all of our global expeditions, especially the personal challenge focused experiences, it is vital that we minimise our impact on the environment in the host region. To achieve this all of our global expeditions adhere to the **7 principles of Leave No Trace**.

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimise Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Your Hosts and Other Visitors



Leave No Trace, is an international organisation that has set the global standard for outdoor ethics to ensure that our recreation in natural places is sustainable.



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5. Animal Welfare

The welfare of animals throughout the world is important to our School community. Ensuring that the world's unique animals remain for future generations in a central part of the sustainable practices that our students are taught.

We don't include the following activities in our itineraries:

1. Riding on elephants
2. Petting lion cubs or walking with lions in South Africa
3. Animals subjected to cruelty for the purpose of entertainment
4. Visiting aquariums or marine parks
5. Purchasing souvenirs made from wild animals
6. Visit animal sanctuaries or shelters involving wild animals in captivity

Some of our itineraries provide the opportunity to work with organisations that focus on improving the welfare of animals in their communities. This work can include the improvements to habitats, the availability of food and the upkeep and care of rehabilitation facilities.



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6. Final Considerations

- **Never provide medicine or medical attention to locals from the country you are visiting.** Even an experienced doctor or nurse cannot know the endemic diseases or influencing cultural factors of a foreign country, and they won't be around to provide follow-up care. In life threatening situations it's important to limit your assistance to first aid only and call for local professional medical services.
- **Dress appropriately out of respect for the local culture.** Steer away from revealing clothing in remote and rural settings. Keep in mind that when you dress in a way that is sympathetic to local culture you are more likely to be accepted by the locals and have a richer more authentic experience.
- **Always ask for permission first before taking someone's photograph.** If they decline, always respect their wish. Some people will give you permission but will expect a small payment. When photographing a child, permission should be sought from their parent or an adult guardian. Please be very careful when posting images of children online.
- **Lastly, but most importantly, when you experience a custom, an environment, a village, a dance, a cuisine or a traditional costume that you find beautiful or interesting, tell a local person that you like it and why.** This encourages pride in their traditions and culture, and in a small but important way, helps to preserve it.



Acknowledgment

We thank World Expeditions for the use of their Responsible Travel Guidebook to assist in the creation of this document.

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