



Geographic Travel Club  
Sustainability Policy

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## I. Geographic Travel Club's commitment

We are committed to developing our activities in a responsible and sustainable way, guided by respect for nature, people, and the diverse cultures that enrich our world.

Our approach to travel is founded on empathy and awareness, recognising that every journey leaves an imprint and that it is our shared duty to ensure it is a positive one. We seek to protect the natural environment, honour cultural heritage, and uphold the dignity and well-being of all living beings connected to our work.

This document presents our sustainability policy: the actions we have already taken, those we are currently implementing, and the goals we continue to pursue. These principles guide every choice we make, from the way we design our trips to how we collaborate with our partners and communities in the field.

We are firmly committed to putting sustainability at the core of everything we do:

- ⊗ We comply with all relevant laws and apply sustainable principles across every aspect of our work.
- ⊗ We use our role in tourism to actively promote responsible development within our destinations.
- ⊗ We protect natural environments and constantly seek to reduce our ecological footprint.
- ⊗ We strive to ensure tourism brings real benefits to local communities and supports fair livelihoods.
- ⊗ We provide training, guidance, and encouragement to our team and partners to help them adopt responsible practices.
- ⊗ We communicate transparently with our travelers, giving them clear information to make conscious and sustainable choices.

## II. Office management

### Engaged and informed employees

Our team understands our sustainability goals and plays an active role in achieving them. Everyone at Geographic Travel Club contributes to creating a responsible and respectful working environment.

### Team well-being

We value diversity, equality, and mutual respect. We aim to create a safe, motivating, and positive workplace for all.



### Sharing good practices

We actively share sustainability knowledge within our team and with our partners. Small, consistent actions can make a big difference when everyone takes part.

### Energy and resource efficiency

We monitor our energy and water use and seek practical ways to reduce consumption — such as using energy-efficient lighting and encouraging digital documentation over printing.

### Buying local and responsible

Whenever possible, we purchase locally made and eco-friendly materials. We limit single-use packaging and prioritize durable, reusable items.

### Waste management

We reduce waste at the source, reuse whenever possible, and recycle responsibly in partnership with local waste collection initiatives.

### Data Privacy and Security

We treat our travelers' personal information with the utmost care and respect. All data is stored securely and accessed only by authorized team members. We collect only what is necessary to provide our services and keep it for a maximum of one year, unless required otherwise by law. At any time, travelers may request to view or delete their information. Protecting privacy and maintaining confidentiality are at the heart of our relationship with every guest.

## III. Field management

### Supporting local businesses

We choose to work with local suppliers: family-owned hotels, traditional guesthouses, small restaurants, artisan workshops, and cultural centers. This supports the local economy and strengthens authentic cultural exchange.

### Strengthening the supply chain

We encourage our partners to improve their sustainability performance. We share practical guidance, training, and best practices to help them make progress over time.

### Supporting communities and protecting children

We support community initiatives that address local development challenges, promote fair employment, and improve quality of life.

Geographic Travel Club strongly condemns any form of sexual exploitation, especially involving minors. We require our staff and partners to respect strict ethical standards. Any violation results in the immediate termination of collaboration.

We also remind travelers that they can play a vital role in preventing exploitation and should report any suspicious behavior involving children.

### Choosing sustainable transport

We promote the most sustainable transport options available: well-maintained, fuel-efficient, or hybrid vehicles; shared transport; train travel; hiking and horseback excursions whenever possible.

Together with our partners, we monitor and reduce carbon emissions related to our trips.

### Protecting nature and heritage

We never allow or promote the purchase of souvenirs made from endangered species, archaeological artifacts, or any illegal goods. We comply with all local and international regulations that protect nature and cultural heritage.

Souvenirs specifically banned in Armenia:

Cultural heritage items: coins, paintings, jewelry, or armor that have cultural heritage significance, as well as any stolen art items

Plants and plant products: fresh or dried plants, plant products, and seeds

Animal products: items of animal origin, including meat products, animal fats, and dairy products

Taxidermy: any form of taxidermy trophy

(updated on October 9, 2025. Source: <https://www.visahq.com/fr/armenia/customs/#lexport-regulations>)

### Minimizing negative impacts

We ensure that our tours do not harm the environment or local communities. Activities involving wildlife, children, or remote populations are designed and monitored with care and respect.

Geographic Travel Club promotes responsible tourism not only within our company but also among our partners and travelers, encouraging a culture of awareness and care for Armenia's landscapes and communities.

Endangered species in Armenia:

23 Birds: Black-tailed Godwit, Black-winged Pratincole, Caucasian Black Grouse, Cinereous Vulture, Corncrake, Dalmatian Pelican, Egyptian Vulture, Eurasian Curlew, Eurasian Peregrine Falcon, European Roller, Furriginous Duck, Great Bustard, Houbara Bustard, Lesser Kestrel, Little Bustard, Marbled Teal, Pallid Harrier, Red Kite, Red-footed Falcon, Saker Falcon, Semi-Collared Flycatcher, Sociable Lapwing, White-headed Duck

Crustacean: Potamon Ibericum

Fish: Luciobarbus Capito, Luciobarbus Brachycephalus, Wild Common Carp

Insects: Apollo Butterfly, Cerambyx Longicorn, Onychogomphus Assimilis, Predatory Bush Cricket, Red Chaser, Rosalia Longicorn, Zerynthia Caucasia

Mammals: Armenian Birch Mouse, Armenian Myotis, Asia Minor Ground Squirrel, Bechstein's Bat, Brandt's Hamster, Common Bentwing Bat, Cyprian Wild Sheep, Dahl's Jird, Eurasian Otter, European Marbled Polecat, Leopard, Mediterranean Horseshoe Bat, Mehely's Horseshoe Bat, Pallas's Cat, Striped Hyena, Western Barbastelle, Wild Goat

Plants: Sambucus Tigranii

Reptiles: Afghan Tortoise, Common Tortoise, Darevsky's Viper

(updated on October 2, 2025. source: <https://www.earthsendangered.com/search-regions3.asp>)

#### **IV. Geographic Travel Club's sustainability approach**

Geographic Travel Club is committed to long-term, hands-on action in cooperation with all our partners. Together, we develop and implement the following tools and policies:

- ⊗ A *Good practices guide* shared with all travelers before their trip.
- ⊗ A *Sustainability action* plan with clear goals and measurable results, reviewed every two years.
- ⊗ A *Sustainable accommodation policy* signed and followed by our lodging partners.
- ⊗ A *Sustainable excursion policy* ensuring responsible activities and respectful cultural experiences.
- ⊗ An *Internal responsible purchasing policy* encouraging eco-friendly and local sourcing.

All these policies are available on the Geographic Travel Club website and updated regularly to reflect our continuous progress.

## V. Looking ahead in the Caucasus

Tourism is evolving, and so must we. As the world rethinks how we move, connect, and explore, we see sustainability not as an option, but as a duty. Through our collaborations and collective reflection, we take part in shaping a travel industry that protects what truly matters: nature, culture, and the dignity of all living beings. For us, sustainability is a long-term commitment to balance, respect, and care.

At Geographic Travel Club, we believe travel can give more than it takes. When done thoughtfully, it can inspire understanding, preserve diversity, and nurture the world we share. Sustainability is an ongoing practice, it is something we renew, refine, and challenge on the long run. Thus, our *Sustainability action plan* is reviewed every two years to ensure our progress stays real and measurable.

We encourage open dialogue among our team, partners, and travelers, welcoming new ideas, feedback, and creative solutions. By learning, sharing, and improving together, we strengthen the impact of our collective actions.

Our mission is to make every journey meaningful: respectful of the planet, mindful of others, and rooted in responsibility.