

Geographic Travel Club

Excursion sustainability policy

At Geographic Travel Club Armenia, we believe that every excursion should leave a positive footprint on people, places, and the planet. Sustainability is not an add-on to our tours; it's built into how we design and deliver them.

To ensure this, we carefully assess, select and encourage excursion partners who demonstrate responsible practices and share our commitment to sustainable tourism.

Our selection principles

When choosing our local partners, we prioritize:

- ⊗ **Fair value:** good quality at a fair price for both visitors and providers
- ⊗ **Ethical business practices:** transparency, respect, and fairness in all collaborations
- ⊗ **Reduced impact:** minimizing environmental and social footprints wherever possible

Evaluation criteria

We evaluate excursion providers based on key criteria, which constitute minimum mandatory sustainability requirements for all excursion providers working with Geographic Travel Club Armenia:

- ⊗ **Care for people:** fair wages, reasonable working hours, safe conditions, and respect for workers' rights
- ⊗ **Plastic-free approach:** preference for reusable materials, refill options, and reduced single-use plastics
- ⊗ **Waste management:** proper sorting and responsible disposal of organic and recyclable waste
- ⊗ **Energy efficiency:** use of low-consumption appliances and responsible energy use
- ⊗ **Child protection:** strict respect for children's rights; no form of exploitation tolerated
- ⊗ **Local sourcing:** use of locally produced goods and food, following fair-trade and sustainable principles
- ⊗ **Biodiversity respect:** no harvesting, sale, or exhibition of wild species outside legal regulations
- ⊗ **Cultural authenticity:** preservation of local architectural and cultural identity
- ⊗ **Community support:** recognition and respect of local communities' intellectual and cultural property rights

Encouraging continuous improvement

We actively support and encourage our partners to strengthen their sustainable practices. Through regular exchanges with our tour leaders, we identify good practices and areas for improvement, ensuring an ongoing learning process. We also share guidance, resources, and access to sustainable certification schemes to help our partners progress further.

Our commitment to ethical and environmentally responsible tourism is non-negotiable. Geographic Travel Club Armenia may suspend or terminate the collaboration following formal warning procedures if a supplier fails to prevent or address the sexual exploitation of children, or if they persistently disregard sustainability principles after being formally warned.

All excursion partners are subject to regular and ongoing sustainability evaluation, not only at the time of selection but throughout the duration of the collaboration.

Failure to meet these requirements may result in formal warnings, follow-up assessments, and, where necessary, termination of the partnership.

Our commitment

By applying these standards, Geographic Travel Club Armenia aims to ensure that all excursions contribute positively to local communities, protect natural and cultural heritage, and provide visitors with meaningful and responsible experiences, in line with applicable Armenian legislation and sustainable tourism principles.