

Boat-based Marine Wildlife Viewing

As part of our commitment to advancing sustainable tourism, we encourage our tourism partners to improve their sustainability performance by providing them with the guidance below.

- ✓ Ensure applicable legal **permits & permission** to access activity area are in place
- ✓ Ensure **insurance** is in place for guests and team
- ✓ Identify **health & safety** risks, implement management systems, and provide appropriate safety equipment
- ✓ Ensure enough team members are available in case of **emergency**
- ✓ Monitor activity **area conditions** (including weather) in advance & during the activity
- ✓ Be familiar with activity area and ensure that **navigation & communication** tools are in good working order
- ✓ Maximise local **economic benefits** through employment and purchasing
- ✓ Avoid single use & disposable items, provide secure on-board **waste** collection for safe disposal, and pick up any rubbish found along the way
- ✓ Use **eco-friendly products**, e.g., cleaning products
- ✓ Be **waterwise** and take pro-active measures to use water sparingly
- ✓ Minimise **energy** used in the activity as part of a climate action strategy
- ✓ Provide **information in advance** about your sustainability actions, activity accessibility, what to expect, and what to bring with
- ✓ **Screen participants** ahead of time to make sure that activity is well suited to their fitness & level of ability
- ✓ Obtain written confirmation, e.g., via **indemnity**, that participants are aware of activity risks
- ✓ **Brief participants** about do's and don'ts, safety, hazards to be aware of, what to expect, logistics, not disturbing / removing flora and fauna, rubbish collection and disposal, and rules regarding alcohol before the activity starts
- ✓ Show **respect** for the land, waterways, wildlife, and other activity area users
- ✓ **Share information** about local nature & culture, as well as social development / conservation projects that participants may want to support
- ✓ Manage **group size** to minimise impacts on people & the planet, and daily visitation limits on a single sighting (where silent: 3 vessels, 2x/ day at minimum 3-hour intervals is a guideline)
- ✓ **Reduce boat speed** to approach wildlife, preferably parallel to it, not from in front / behind
- ✓ **Do not chase** marine wildlife, alter / restrict their direction of movement, or position boats so that marine wildlife group is split
- ✓ Adhere to **viewing distances and durations** stipulated in permits (where silent: minimum 50 metres, and ±30 minutes)
- ✓ Do not allow **swimming** in close proximity of marine wildlife, i.e., within range of contact or safety risk being posed to participants or wildlife
- ✓ **Discontinue interaction** if the animal shows signs of disturbance or its behaviour is disrupted
- ✓ **Depart sighting** slowly, leaving no wake
- ✓ Repair and compensate for any **damage** caused to the activity area
- ✓ Participate in conserving activity area **integrity**; notify authorities of concerns and participate in rehabilitation projects

