

Diving & Snorkelling

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**, appropriate dive master / similar **qualifications, and permission** to access the 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, including life jackets for snorkellers (to avoid kicking over shallow corals)
- ✓ 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 adequate **waste** collection for safe disposal, and pick up any rubbish found along the way
- ✓ Use **eco-friendly products**, e.g., sanitising products for diving / snorkelling equipment
- ✓ 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, including reef-safe sunscreen (or rash vests for snorkelling)
- ✓ **Screen participants** ahead of time to ensure activity is well suited to fitness level & ability; provide refresher courses or buoyancy orientation for less experienced / out-of-practice divers
- ✓ Verify that divers using bulky **photographic equipment** are sufficiently experienced to control equipment and prevent activity area damage
- ✓ Manage **group size** to minimise impacts on people & planet, and ensure safe guide : diver ratio
- ✓ Obtain written confirmation, e.g., via **indemnity**, that participants are aware of activity risks
- ✓ **Brief participants** before the activity starts about do's and don'ts, safety, hazards to be aware of, what to expect, logistics, communication, marine wildlife disturbance & viewing distance, and preventing damage to marine ecosystem
- ✓ **Share information** about local nature & culture, as well as social development / conservation projects that participants may want to support
- ✓ Show **respect** for the land, waterways, wildlife, and other users in the activity area
- ✓ Discourage the use of **gloves** (to discourage participants from touching coral)
- ✓ Prohibit the use of sunscreen that is not "**reef-safe**"
- ✓ Ensure that **flash photography** is not excessive as repeated flash can cause undue stress
- ✓ Confirm that all diving **equipment is secured** to prevent damage from dragging
- ✓ Monitor divers for **neutral buoyancy** to avoid contact with coral reef, seagrass, sandy surfaces
- ✓ Find an area free from fragile organisms should a **rest / pause** in the dive be necessary
- ✓ Use low intensity lights for **night dives** to avoid confusing and causing harm to marine wildlife
- ✓ Repair and compensate for any **damage** caused to the activity area
- ✓ Participate in conserving activity area **integrity**; notify authorities of concerns and participate in marine conservation and rehabilitation projects