SALTY Travel Code of Conduct for Sensitive Excursions

Purpose: This Code of Conduct provides guidelines for conducting sensitive excursions that involve interactions with indigenous communities, wildlife, and fragile ecosystems. It aims to ensure these experiences are respectful, ethical, and sustainable, reflecting SALTY Travel's core values.

Scope: This policy applies to all employees, guides, and guests of SALTY Travel participating in sensitive excursions.

General Principles:

1. **Respect for Local Cultures and Traditions:**
    - Learn about and respect the local customs, traditions, and religious practices.
    - Dress modestly and appropriately as per local guidelines.
    - Always ask for permission before taking photographs of people, sacred sites, or ceremonies.
2. **Environmental Responsibility:**
    - Stay on marked trails and designated paths to minimize impact on natural habitats.
    - Do not remove any natural materials or artifacts from their environment.
    - Use environmentally friendly products and avoid single-use plastics.
3. **Wildlife Interactions:**
    - Maintain a safe and respectful distance from all wildlife.
    - Never feed or attempt to touch wild animals.
    - Avoid loud noises and sudden movements that can stress animals.
4. **Support for Local Economies:**
    - Prioritize the use of local guides who are knowledgeable about the area and cultural nuances.
    - Encourage the purchase of authentic local crafts and products at fair prices to support the community economically.
    - Engage local services and accommodations that practice sustainable business methods.
5. **Informed Consent:**
    - Ensure that all interactions with local communities are consensual and transparent.
    - Explain the purpose of the visit to community leaders and obtain their permission before proceeding.
    - Offer fair compensation for any services provided by local community members.
6. **Education and Awareness:**
    - Educate guests about the importance of cultural sensitivity and environmental conservation before and during the excursion.
    - Provide clear information on what behaviours are acceptable and those that are discouraged.
    - Encourage guests to engage in open and respectful dialogue to enhance mutual understanding.

7. **Safety:**
    - Adhere to all safety guidelines and local regulations.
    - Ensure that all participants are aware of any potential risks and the necessary precautions to take.
    - Have emergency procedures in place and make sure all participants know what to do in case of an emergency.
8. **Feedback and Continuous Improvement:**
    - Solicit feedback from both guests and local communities to improve the excursion experience.
    - Regularly review excursion practices and this Code of Conduct to adapt and evolve as needed.
    - Train and retrain guides and staff to ensure they remain sensitive to the nuances of hosting excursions in sensitive areas.

Enforcement:

- Violations of this Code by employees or guides may result in disciplinary action, including termination.
- Guests who do not comply with these guidelines may be asked to alter their behaviour or, in extreme cases, leave the excursion.

Conclusion: SALTY Travel is committed to providing experiences that are not only unforgettable but also responsible. This Code of Conduct is a living document, reflecting our dedication to the ethical and sensitive handling of all excursions in the environments and communities we are privileged to visit.
By adhering to these guidelines, SALTY Travel ensures that its sensitive excursions promote understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures and ecosystems, while contributing positively to their conservation and sustainability.