

Responsible Travel Policy



CASTrips

Inspired by the International Baccalaureate's Creativity, Activity, and Service program, CAS Trips aims to make a genuine, sustainable impact through transformative cross-cultural experiences. We recognize our responsibility as educators and seek to harness the power of experiential learning to inspire students while bringing long-term benefits to the communities and environments in which we operate.

We believe that a short trip can have a long-term impact on students who see sustainability in action. So while there will be inevitable use of resources as we travel, CAS Trips is taking responsibility for our actions and are utilizing this document to show how we do so, in the following areas;

Where We Go

Society



- For CAS Trips, hiring local leaders and activity providers is the foundation of every itinerary.
- We aim to ensure destination-specific education (like responsible travel, language, and cultural sensitivity) takes place pre-trip, on-trip, and that students are taking lessons home.
- It is important to us to preserve and celebrate local traditions and customs wherever we are.
- We aim to provide further inclusion by ensuring travel is accessible for all, including any physical or dietary needs.

Economy



- Our preferential sourcing policy prioritizes locally-run and sustainable suppliers, especially dining and accommodation.
- All service-learning opportunities are well-researched to ensure volunteering fulfills genuine community-identified needs.
- We actively communicate about sustainability efforts with our partners and suppliers.

Environment



- When transportation is in our control, we utilize public or low-emission transportation whenever possible. As travelers still must get to us, we are consciously developing spread-out destinations, so clients have the opportunity to take low-emission ground transportation, incentivized further through our ground travel initiative.
- CAS Trips has taken many conscious steps to reduce plastic (BPA-free reusable bottles), paper (eliminating 90% of printing, and waste (digitalization of information on our app, blog, and website).
- Food waste reduction is an ongoing challenge, but one we are passionately championing in our trip-planning process and the resources we offer our travelers.

How We Operate

Internal Management



- Our staff partakes in ongoing sustainability training and collaborates in sustainability meetings.
- Contracted Trip Leaders must provide a background check through a third party to ensure they satisfy our safety standards.
- We are measuring and mitigating our office and operational (Scope 1 and 2) emissions by developing and implementing an Internal Environmental Management System. This includes paper, energy, and waste management reduction.
- We have implemented internal standards to measure our itinerary footprints and aim to publicly share this data through emission labeling on our products.
- CAS Trips ensures equal employment opportunities through formal contracts. Contracts include 25 paid vacation days for full-time staff and offer staff volunteer days biannually.

Carbon Management



Glasgow Declaration
Climate Action in Tourism

We acknowledge that the ongoing climate crisis must be placed at the forefront of all decisions we make. As such, in 2021, CAS Trips became a founding signatory of the Glasgow Declaration committing to cut emissions in half by 2030 and achieve Net Zero by 2050.

To do this, we will:

- **Measure:** Measure and disclose all travel and tourism-related emissions.
- **Decarbonize:** Set and deliver science-based targets to accelerate tourism's decarbonization.
- **Regenerate:** Support nature's ability to draw down carbon, as well as safeguard biodiversity, food security, and water supply.
- **Collaborate:** Share evidence of risks and solutions with all stakeholders and our guests, and work together to ensure our plans are as effective and coordinated as possible.
- **Finance:** Ensure organizational resources and capacity are sufficient to meet objectives set out in climate plans.

How We Communicate

- We use metric-based communication to give readers honest and transparent information.
- Our ethical marketing standards expect authentic presentation of destinations on our website, social media, and in itineraries.
- We plan to continue to innovate new strategies to integrate sustainability education on our trips in addition to our current workshops and activities.
- We showcase student and teacher voices alongside environmental, economic, and social impacts in our annual impact reporting.