



## **Purpose**

Sacred Earth Journey (SEJ) is committed to responsible, ethical, and sustainable travel practices that honor cultural integrity, support local communities, and minimize environmental impact. This policy defines the principles guiding SEJ's operations, partnerships, and journey design.

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## **1. Ethical Governance and Integrity**

SEJ operates with transparency, accountability, and ethical clarity. Decisions prioritize long-term responsibility, trust, and relational integrity over short-term gain or rapid scale. All operations comply with applicable local laws and ethical business standards.

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## **2. Community Partnership and Local Benefit**

SEJ designs journeys in collaboration with local partners, guides, hosts, and small businesses. Priority is given to locally owned and operated services. Fair compensation, mutual respect, and long-term relationship building are central to all partnerships. SEJ avoids extractive practices and seeks to ensure that economic and social benefits remain within host communities.

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## **3. Cultural Respect and Protection**

SEJ is committed to cultural humility and non-extractive engagement. Journeys emphasize learning, listening, and relationship-based exchange rather than cultural consumption or commodification. Cultural traditions, values, and social norms are respected and protected in all journey activities.

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## **4. Environmental Responsibility**

SEJ minimizes environmental impact through low-volume travel, intentional pacing, and thoughtful itinerary design. Journeys are planned to avoid unnecessary strain on ecosystems and local resources. Environmental responsibility is integrated into planning decisions rather than offset-based or symbolic measures.

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## **5. Traveler Education and Responsible Conduct**

SEJ prepares participants with cultural, social, and environmental context prior to travel and reinforces responsible behavior throughout each journey. Guests are expected to engage respectfully with people, places, and environments and to follow SEJ guidelines for responsible travel conduct.

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## **6. Health, Safety, and Risk Management**

SEJ prioritizes the health and safety of participants, partners, and communities. Journeys are intentionally designed to avoid unnecessary risk and are supported by clear safety, medical, and escalation protocols appropriate to each destination. When elevated risk or specialized conditions are present, SEJ engages appropriately trained professionals.

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## **7. Fair Labor and Human Dignity**

SEJ works exclusively with partners who uphold fair labor practices, lawful employment standards, and respect for human dignity. Exploitation, coercion, or unsafe working conditions are not tolerated.

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## **8. Continuous Improvement**

Sustainability is an ongoing practice at SEJ. The organization commits to regular review of its operations, partnerships, and journey design and to continuous improvement guided by recognized third-party sustainability frameworks, including Travelife.

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## **Commitment**

Through this policy, Sacred Earth Journey affirms its commitment to responsible travel that supports local communities, protects cultural and environmental integrity, and reflects the values of ethical global engagement.