



Responsible Travel Policy

Slow Travel Workshops and Tours "Compassionate Tours Leave a Positive Impact"

Learn from the local people in their village authentic culture, traditional cuisine, handicrafts and environmental relationship while enhancing art, photography and cooking skills with expert Gekotour local guides and professional facilitators. Contribute wholeheartedly with local NGO organizations, family and local community operated businesses, and village chiefs while engaged in experiential tour or workshop with Gekotour.org. Sit back and reflect in remote communities away from the hustling tour groups.

Policy aims:

- Gekotour is dedicated in supporting charitable organization projects, non-profit shops and local family run Fair-trade businesses in Asia.
- Our goal is to assist in the preservation of sustainable community and healthy environments by demonstrating sound humanitarian and environmental practices throughout the journey.
- To minimize negative impacts on local cultures, small groups are teamed with passionate local guides to provide unique insight to family, community, nature, history, and spirit.
- Our aim is to show how tourism and modernity has impacted ancient cultures and how individuals can help make a positive impact through environmentally friendly tourism practices
- Gekotour hopes to contribute to the development of sustainable and responsible travel today and for generations to come.

Focus towards sustainable and responsible tourism by:

- PROVIDING safe, clean, and friendly affordable guesthouse experience
- DEVELOPING tour programs that are ethically responsible and ECO friendly
- FOLLOWING environmentally sound practices
- OFFERING hands-on experiences to help preserve culture, history, and cuisine
- IMPROVING the environmental education in community and international minds

Economic responsibility

1. Joint Efforts with Local Tour Guides for humanitarian projects:

Gekotour management seeks to provide economic resources to guides and drivers; accommodation, restaurant, and transportation providers, who demonstrate Responsible Travel, Fair-trade and ECO friendly practices.

2. ECO Accommodation:

Gekotour sources licenced, safe and clean, local family run guesthouses, boutique hotels and restaurants with environmentally conscious water usage, waste management, and fair wage practices. Ideal properties, such as Swallow Guesthouse in Bali, are hand-made by village craftsmen using natural product and low negative environmental impact practices.

3. Encourage Responsible Guests:

- Buy traditional organic product and craft hand-made from recycled and natural products
- Pack light and avoid bringing excess packaging
- Donate clothing, make-up and soaps, medicine to Gekotour community sponsor projects
- 'Karma Yoga' is encouraged ie. Picking up plastic from beach or village fields without judgmental minds



4. English and Environmental Education:

- Collects by donation children's books for English and Environmental Education.
- 2013-2015 Distribution to PKP Women's Centre, Ubud; Helping Hands, Munduk private education initiative; Yayasan Widya Guna, Pejeng; Padangbai private education initiative; Cemadik.org
- Volunteer teaching opportunities offered at local private homes and classes in community

5. Charity Donation:

- Compassionate Artists Donate:
Art supplies from West Vancouver residence and businesses donate to Tampaksiring Handicap Village where four quadriplegic brothers join 21 challenged community members in creating a self-sustainable community. Compassionate Arts Tour, Nov 2015.
- Women Supporting Woman Campaign:
Linking heart Vancouver women and PKP Women's Centre. Collecting women's bras for ceremony and farming attire. Women Supporting Women Tour, Dec 2015.
- Seacology - Berkeley, CA USA
- Friends of the National Parks Foundation
- Jane Goodall Institute of Canada

Environmental responsibility

"POP" Pesalakan Organic Project:

Established August 2012 by Swallow House Trading, the parent company of Gekotour.org and Swallow Guesthouse in Bali, to assist the Balinese farming families involved in the government sponsored Simentri Project, an organic farming method converting cattle waste into natural pesticide, organic fertilizer and bio-gas electricity.

- Sponsor funding for weekly plastic waste removal by Eco-Bali Recycling
- Assist marketing and sales at local Organic Markets and ECO Stores selling fresh produce and baked goods to expats and restaurants.
- Provide interactive educational activity between farmers and guests at Swallow Guesthouse and Gekotour: ie. Guest taught local store owner how to make paper bags out of old newspaper
- Donate funds yearly to village ceremony promoting healthy harvest of crops Community Waste
- Provide reports concerning the harmful effects of burning plastic to health to project manager at Eco-Bali Recycling
- Provide gloves and tongs to local shop keepers for village clean-up initiatives
- Provide well-water bottle refills to Pesalakan villagers

Other Environmental support:

- Gili Aire BEACH CLEANUP with Mari from Puri Air Resort and Spa (www.puriairbeach.com)
- Padangbai BEACH CLEANUP with Geko Dive (www.gekodivebali.com/)
- Amed, Bunatan WASTE MANAGEMENT project committee member and Trash Hero supporter

Social responsibility

SAMPLE FOR BALI TOUR:

From visiting the historic and sacred places in Bali to the villages and homes of the locals, our hands-on experiences assist community sustainability, organic permaculture farming, environmental and disaster awareness education, and environmental and waste management projects.

Learn to make coconut oil, enjoy a chocolate massage, snorkel with the mantas, and enjoy cooking healthy locally produced organic food from the surrounding gardens and rice fields. See how tourism and modernity create both pro and con affects to an ancient civilization ... take a step to make a positive influence. Teach English to community members, teach yoga at an orphanage for disabled and underprivileged children, enjoy an art class with physically challenged adults at their self-run community, do karma yoga waste clean-up on the beach and in the rice fields, see and learn how the Balinese Government is aiming to be a GREEN Island by visiting the sponsored organic farm, and meet the happy "sapi"!



The story behind our business

"I am a learner at heart, keen to immerse myself in new cultures, and assist environmental and community sustainability projects where I can. I'm passionate and determined to help people who live in sacred paradise."

Suzan Badgley, **The Geko Treker**, has been living and working as an English Professor in North Asia since 1999 and part time in Bali since 2002, one year after the Bali Bomb. Feeling the devastation of this unfortunate event on local friends who gave her joy and a sense of family, she reached out with heart to friends, family and the few tourists willing to visit and obtained small financial aid, clothing and article donations. It was then that she established Swallow House Trading Company to help local artists sell their handicrafts.

With funds in hand, Suzan returned to Bali to sponsor Wayan, a local dreamer living in Karma. Together in 2004, they built Swallow Guesthouse and Tours sharing culture and spirit with guests from all over the world. For 10 years, Suzan has been creating cultural tours for guests and friends. Thrilled by their experiences and professional travel services provided by Suzan, encouraged her to make it into a business. Gekotour.org was created in 2015 and registered as a Tour Operator with BC Business Registry.

Links:

Swallow Guesthouse <http://swallowguesthousebali.com>

Fairtrade shop <http://gekogear.co>

Yayasan Cahaya Mutiara Ubud <https://www.facebook.com/yacahayamuu>

Permablitz Bali https://www.facebook.com/Permablitzbali/?hc_location=ufi

PKP Women's Centre <https://www.facebook.com/IPBUbud/?fref=ts>

Seacology - Berkeley, CA USA www.seacology.org

Friends of the National Parks Foundation <http://www.fnfp.org/>

Jane Goodall Institute of Canada <http://www.janegoodall.org/>

Indonesia Horse Rescue, Bali Island <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1624222161173544/>

Yayasan Belantara Budaya <https://www.facebook.com/kirana.bbi.5>

Trash Hero Indonesia <https://www.facebook.com/trashheroindonesia/?fref=ts>

Clean Bali Now <https://www.facebook.com/groups/196600053803322/>