

PRINCIPLES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN TOURISM

Thomas Cook Northern Europe

To us at Thomas Cook Northern Europe, sustainable development is of the greatest importance. We strive to minimize the negative effects of tourism and increase the positive ones.

- We wish to develop, implement and market tourism in a sustainable way.
- We wish to minimize the negative effects of tourism on the environment, and to adhere to all local, national and international laws and regulations that apply to our activities.
- We are against all illegal and exploitative forms of tourism.
- We always strive to start on a basis of sustainability, both in our own activities and in our work with local partners.

PRINCIPLES FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Tourism and travel affect not only the environment but also the local inhabitants at the destinations we travel to. To succeed in this effort, Thomas Cook Northern Europe has laid down four guidelines:

- Working conditions
- Child labour
- The environment
- Child sex tourism

The guidelines are based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the conventions on working conditions and workers' rights, as set out by the UN's labour agency: ILO.

1. Working conditions

We will work towards working conditions that include:

- the freedom to join a trade union
- a minimum wage
- a good working environment
- regulated working hours

2. Child labour

We will work towards:

- The prohibition of child labour (we accept no employees younger than the laws of the respective countries allow)

3. The environment

We will aim to:

- Influence partners to act in as environmentally conscious ways as possible in their activities (for example in the areas of energy, water and chemical consumption, and in waste separation)
- Reduce the amount of carbon emissions and waste at the destinations.
- Encourage a healthy development of tourism at the destinations
- Stimulate the use of local products and labour

4. Child Protection from sexual abuse in tourism

We condemn all forms of sexual exploitation of children and support all laws to prevent and punish such offences. We have entered into an agreement with The Code to adopt and implement: *“Code of conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism”*.

The Code of Conduct covers the following criteria:

- We have established a policy regarding commercial sexual exploitation of children
- We inform and train our staff
- We inform our travellers
- We add a clause to all our hotel contracts
- We inform local partners about our standpoint
- We annually report to the Code’s international secretariat

FOLLOW UP:

These issues are important to us. Our endeavour is that we and our partners will adhere to these guidelines on social responsibility and sustainability in travel to the greatest possible extent.

As tour operators, we follow the laws of each respective country, and we expect our partners to do the same. We undertake to report any improper conditions and offences on the part of our partners as soon as these may be discovered. Such conditions may lead to the end of our collaboration.

Through our collaboration with Travelife, our work on the environment and social responsibility is followed up by Travelife’s independent auditors. Travelife, which is a joint cooperation between European tour operators, provides guidelines and measurement systems aimed at contributing to improvement in environmental and social responsibility in the travel industry.

Companies associated with Travelife must contribute to society by employing locally, using local suppliers and by marketing local business. They must also work against child labour and child sex tourism.

EU Ecolabel is the most stringent and reliable eco-certification currently existing for hotels. Thomas Cook Northern Europe’s own Sunwing Resorts work in accordance with the EU Ecolabel. At present no other charter tour operator in the Nordic countries can offer hotels with the EU Ecolabel.

