



Vagabond Tours Sustainability Policy

Vagabond Tours is committed to reducing its impact on the planet, our environment, and the people we interact with on a daily basis. We are dedicated to operating in an environmentally and socially responsible manner while promoting the preservation of Ireland's natural and cultural heritage.

Policy Statement

As one of Ireland's leading tour operators, we are committed to promoting responsible and sustainable tourism practices that preserve the natural beauty, cultural heritage and communities of Ireland.

At Vagabond Tours, we recognise the immense responsibility we have in ensuring that our tours contribute positively to the places we visit and the people we encounter.

Our commitment to sustainability goes beyond words; it is ingrained in everything we do. We are committed to a code of best practice in all aspects of our business, including our relationship with, and effect on, the environment and the communities that we visit.



We believe it is our responsibility to constantly monitor our business methods to make sure that our environmental impact is as low as possible.

We at Vagabond invite you to join us in preserving the wonders of this extraordinary country for generations to come.

We have adopted The World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) definition of responsible tourism:

“Tourism that takes full account of its current and future environmental, social and economic impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and communities” - [The World Tourism Organisation \(UNWTO\)](#)

Scope

This policy applies to all employees and all aspects of the company; from the office headquarters to on-the-road guiding. It also extends to our guests, third-party suppliers and the local communities that we visit. The Company aims to minimise the impact on the environment in all areas of operations.

Aims

1. To pursue further environmental certifications and implement best practices.
2. To reduce our energy consumption and offset the emissions that we cannot avoid at this time.



3. To reduce waste in all areas of the company and reduce water usage
4. To encourage ethical purchasing in all areas of the company.
5. To support biodiversity and heritage locally.
6. To encourage our suppliers and other members of the tourism-related business community in Ireland to adopt similar practices.
7. To maintain and strengthen our relationships with local communities.
8. To regularly review and assess our sustainability practices to identify areas for improvement and to welcome feedback from our guests and stakeholders to enhance our sustainability efforts.
9. To continue to nurture and respect Ireland's landscape, culture, and heritage by bringing and educating our small-group, low-impact tours to rural Ireland.

Implementation

The policy will be implemented in the following ways:

- Measuring and monitoring energy and water consumption.
- Monitoring and reducing waste within the company.
- Producing a procurement policy for guidelines on ethical purchasing.
- Committing to support the local communities our tours visit.
- Continue to support local environmental organisations such as BirdWatch Ireland and Leave No Trace through membership.
- Continue to Adopt Leave No Trace principles on all our tours.
- Continue to offset our carbon footprint each year using reputable organisations.



- Continue to be transparent about our sustainability goals by sharing our progress, achievements, and challenges with stakeholders, guests and the public.

Rob Rankin

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Owner, Vagabond Tours

Date: August 14th 2023

Edwina Horgan

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Sustainability & General Executive

Date: August 14th 2023