



Child Protection and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation Policy

1. Policy Statement

ACME Voyages is fully committed to protecting children from sexual exploitation and abuse in all destinations where we operate.

All tour leaders, local guides, and company representatives are expected to understand, recognize, and actively prevent any form of sexual exploitation of children (PSE), in compliance with local, national, and international laws.

This policy forms an integral part of our Sustainable Tourism and Human Rights Policy.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All employees of ACME Voyages, including permanent staff.
- Tour leaders, guides, and local representatives contracted or subcontracted by ACME Voyages.
- Partner suppliers engaged in excursions or activities involving children.

3. Mandatory Training and Information

1. Pre-departure and onboarding briefing:

- Tour leaders and local representatives are provided with written guidelines and verbal briefing on child protection, including:
 - Definition of sexual exploitation and abuse.
 - Identification of situations where children may be at risk.

- Laws relating to child protection in India and international regulations (UNCRC, Optional Protocols).

2. Formal training sessions:

- All guides and representatives are trained on how to avoid, report, and prevent PSE.
- Training includes scenario-based learning (e.g., appropriate behavior in communities, handling requests from clients, reporting concerns).

3. Code of conduct:

- Clear instructions are provided on expected behavior towards children, including:
 - Never engage in sexual activity with anyone under 18.
 - Avoid photographing, filming, or publishing images of children without parental or guardian consent.
 - Report suspected abuse or exploitation immediately to company authorities.

4. Responsibilities During Tours

- Guides must educate travelers on the importance of child protection, including:
 - Advising guests not to pay or offer gifts to children in exchange for services, performances, or photos.
 - Highlighting the risks of informal adoption, begging, or child labor practices.
 - Explaining how guests can support community-approved child welfare programs instead of exploitative activities.
- Any observation of potential abuse or exploitation must be immediately reported to the company's Sustainability Officer or Child Protection Officer.

5. Monitoring and Compliance

- ACME Voyages conducts periodic audits and reviews to ensure that guides and partners comply with child protection policies.
- Contracts with guides and local operators include mandatory compliance clauses for child protection.
- Non-compliance may result in termination of contracts, disciplinary action, or legal reporting.

6. Communication to Clients

- Guests are informed about ACME Voyages' zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation of children before and during the tour.
- Guides provide information on responsible interaction with children and highlight ways to contribute safely to local communities.

7. Conclusion

By ensuring that all tour leaders and local representatives receive relevant information and training, ACME Voyages proactively protects children, upholds ethical tourism standards, and strengthens sustainable and responsible tourism practices across India.