



Community & Local Engagement Policy

ACME Voyages is committed to promoting tourism that directly benefits local communities, ensuring that excursions and activities contribute to social, cultural, and economic sustainability.

1. Scope and Applicability

- Applies to all excursions and activities included in ACME Voyages' packages or promoted to clients.
- Focuses on local communities, indigenous groups, and small-scale producers.
- Ensures that tourism generates tangible benefits for communities while respecting culture, tradition, and environment.

2. Principles of Community Engagement

1. Economic Support:

- Prioritize local service providers, including:
 - Guides, drivers, and hospitality staff
 - Artisans, craft producers, and cooperatives
 - Local food producers and vendors
- Encourage guests to purchase local products and services, ensuring revenue remains in the community.

2. Cultural Respect:

- Excursions respect local customs, rituals, and social norms.

- Guides provide cultural context to educate guests on traditions and sustainable livelihoods.
- Activities are designed to avoid disrupting daily life in villages or indigenous settlements.

3. Support for Social Projects:

- Include visits to community-run schools, health centers, cooperatives, or NGOs when appropriate.
- These visits are structured to provide direct economic or social benefit, rather than purely for sightseeing.

4. Sustainable Practices:

- Activities minimize environmental impact, including waste reduction, responsible water use, and eco-friendly transport.
- Partnerships are based on fair and transparent agreements, ensuring equitable compensation and respect for community priorities.

3. Guidelines for Guests

- Guests are encouraged to:
 - Respect local customs, dress codes, and cultural norms
 - Purchase goods and services directly from local producers or cooperatives
 - Avoid unsolicited photography of people or sacred sites
 - Engage in responsible interaction with communities
- Guides provide pre-visit briefings to ensure guests understand their role in responsible tourism.

4. Examples of Community-Supporting Excursions in North India

Excursion / Activity	Location	Community Engagement	Notes / Guidelines
Village Handicraft Workshop	Rajasthan (near Jaipur / Jodhpur)	Purchase of local crafts, interaction with artisans	Limit group size, respect workspace, fair pricing
Organic Farm Visit & Meal	Himachal Pradesh (Kangra / Palampur)	Supporting local farmers, tasting local cuisine	Educate on sustainable agriculture, promote farm-to-table practices
Tribal Cultural Tour	Uttarakhand / Himachal Pradesh	Interaction with indigenous communities, cultural exchange	Pre-approved visits, fair compensation, guest briefing
Local Food Tasting & Cooking Class	Delhi / Rajasthan / Himachal	Support local vendors and chefs	Small groups, ensure hygiene and fair payment
Visit to Community School / NGO	Rishikesh / Uttarakhand	Awareness and support of social projects	Visits structured to avoid disruption, guided by local project staff
Craft Cooperative Market Tour	Jaipur / Udaipur	Promote local artisans, responsible buying	Guide explains fair trade, ethical purchasing practices

5. Supplier Requirements

- Excursion operators must:
 - Employ local staff and source local products when possible
 - Demonstrate transparent pricing and fair payment practices

- Ensure activities benefit the community economically, socially, or culturally
- Sign agreements acknowledging compliance with ACME Voyages' sustainability and community guidelines
- Suppliers failing to comply may be removed from preferred supplier lists.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

ACME Voyages ensures community engagement is effective through:

- Guide and staff observations during excursions
- Traveler feedback on community interactions
- Supplier audits to verify fair compensation and sustainable practices
- Reporting and addressing any non-compliance or negative impact immediately

7. Continuous Improvement

- ACME Voyages works with partners and communities to:
 - Develop new excursions that provide additional benefits
 - Train guides on cultural interpretation and ethical engagement
 - Share best practices among suppliers to enhance sustainable tourism standards

8. Non-Negotiable Principle

- Excursions that exploit local communities, provide unfair economic benefit, or disrespect local culture will not be included in any package.
- Compliance with this policy is mandatory for all suppliers, guides, and staff involved in excursions.