

A Code of Ethics for Tourists

1. **Travel in a spirit of humility and with a genuine desire to learn** more about the people of your host country. Be sensitively aware of the feelings of other people, thus preventing what might be offensive behavior on your part. This applies very much to photography.

2. **Cultivate the habit of listening and observing**, rather than merely hearing and seeing.

3. Realize that often the people in the country you visit have **time concepts and thought patterns different from your own**. This does not make them inferior, only different.

4. Instead of looking for that "beach paradise," **discover the enrichment of seeing a different way of life**, through other eyes.

5. **Acquaint yourself with local customs**. What is courteous in one country may be quite the reverse in another. People will be happy to help you learn their ways.

6. Instead of the Western practice of knowing all the answers, cultivate the habit of **asking questions**.

7. Remember that you are only one of thousands of tourists visiting the country, and **do not expect special privileges**.

8. If you really want your experience to be a "home away from home," it is **foolish to waste money on traveling**.

9. **Do not make promises to people in your host country unless you can carry them through**.

10. **Spend time reflecting on your daily experience** in an attempt to deepen your understanding. It has been said that what enriches you may rob and violate others.

Issued by the **Ecumenical Coalition on Third World Tourism**