

## **1) Care for Environments**

Our aim is to practice mountaineering, climbing and skiing in an environmentally sustainable way, and transfer environmental awareness to clients and team members. This means that making the mountains available to people has to be balanced against keeping the mountains untouched.

### **DAILY ACTIONS WE TAKE:**

#### **Protection of local environments**

- Preserve the rare alpine flora and limit the erosion problems by staying on the present trails.
- Keeping our party sizes small, which reduces noise and social interaction, not to disturb wild animals.
- Being responsible and professional when choosing routes and objectives, considering the capabilities of the group and the conditions in the mountains, so to completely avoid unnecessary flying for the rescue helicopters.
- We implement a 'Leave no trace' policy. Never marking routes and bringing down all rubbish to the valley, including food, even if there are bins in the huts!
- Are updated on local issues and special needs of species in the area, and respect eventual restrictions.
- Our political position is against further development of lift systems/commercial ski resorts in the Alps, as well as for the strip down of old constructions in the mountains.
- We take a similar stand towards the over-equipping of mountain routes, depending on the location, locals' opinions, and alternatives available.

#### **Energy**

The main energy-related (as well as disturbance in the natural terrain) that concerns our business is the mechanical transport (use of ski lifts) in the mountains.

Even though using the established systems of cable cars in the Alps, we encourage our clients to discover the dimension of ski touring and climbing by foot rather than using helicopters to get to remote places. Often they experience a superior way of exploring the mountains (on skis or on foot) then when simply staying within the areas where mechanical ascents are possible. Going home they bring with them a stronger sensation of achievement.

For example, springtime in Norway we spend several weeks ski touring, gaining every height meter on foot from sea to summit.

As mountain guides we do not offer on-piste skiing, but unavoidably use pistes as a means of transport and recognize the convenience of a certain amount of pistes. However we say no to snow canons as a means to extend the winter season and ignore the climate change.

#### **Travel**

- Encourage our clients to come for a longer visit instead of many short ones (we offer mainly weekly courses).
- Reduce car mileage in the Mt Blanc area by using public transport, trains, shared transfers, but most often filling up our own vehicle:  
On our summer courses our clients don't need a car. Most days they can walk to the starting point (ski lift). We recommend a shared airport transfer to get into the Chamonix valley. However some days we drive together to get out of the valley.  
For rock climbing courses with bigger groups we use the train to get to the crags.
- We implement the same travel policy for our self if travelling for work or holidays. In general we stay at our destination for 1 month if travelling by airplane, and are not going back and forth together with

our clients. Our team consists of guides based in various parts of the Alps as well as in Sweden and Norway, so most often the local guide is in place to receive the guests and no extra travel is needed.

### **Water**

In the Alps the quality of the drinking water is strongly connected to the contamination of the glaciers. Therefore depending on both air pollution and direct soiling of the glaciers.

- Never soil the glacier with human waste (we use the toilets in the huts). However, in some huts (such as the Cosmiques hut), the toilet goes straight onto the glacier and this need to be replaced by a more responsible system.
- Use biodegradable ski wax only.

### **Waste**

To reduce/correctly handle waste we take action in our daily life.

- Bringing down our personal waste from the mountains and recycle what is recyclable. When we see rubbish being burnt in huts in high altitude we ask the guardian about it.
- Buy high quality equipment, locally produced gear and food, and in general consume as little as possible. Used materials, such as skis and other equipment, we sell/trade/give on to clients and friends, to be used until really finished. Companies that provide us with equipment are:

Fisher Sports: have made long-term investments in energy saving and use only renewable energy sources (<http://www.fischersports.com/en/Alpine/Company/Eco-Page>)

Kask of Sweden: currently give aid to WWF and SOS Children's Villages are interested in developing their production chains towards sustainability.

Norröna: has responded to the Eco-guide by [www.Mountain-riders.com](http://www.Mountain-riders.com), proving that some efforts are being made in all categories investigated (social, environmental and eco-conception), but also that they have a long way to go.

### **Resource use**

Our company is 100% internet based, which is why we do not consume any extra energy or resources on office space, transport of staff, or printing and mailing papers.

## **2) Care for Communities**

ACTIONS TAKEN:

### **Employment**

- Employing or cooperating with local guides in all areas we visit with or without clients.
- Using local tradesmen of family businesses for accommodation and food providers on our trips.

### **Economy**

We are bringing additional tourism to the areas where we guide, which feeds the local economy in mountain villages in the Alps and other, remote climbing/skiing areas such as northern Sweden and Norway, Madagascar, the Pyrenees etc.

### **Culture**

Our aim is to give our clients a genuine experience in the place they visit. We have no interest in uniform mass-tourism, but wish to learn about local culture.

Respect for local traditions and agreements. For example regarding;

- the aspects of in-situ equipment on climbing routes.

- access limitations (whether in conflict with land owners, framers, hunters, religious settings, or local customs) in order to keep climbers and skiers in harmony with other social groups.

#### ACTIONS PLANNED:

- Actively create an awareness and understanding of the alpine nature and current environmental issues (such as pollution, over-development, threats to animals and plants, the responsibilities and possibilities of climbers and skiers to care for the preservation of nature), by bringing up the subjects on our trips/courses, providing good examples and suggest solutions, sharing our opinions and information though blogging and social media.

- Being able to recommend environmentally and socially responsible travel- and accommodation options for our guests on all our trips.

- Participate in initiatives organized by Mountainwilderness.fr and share their information, as we are members and have volunteered to be active in their projects in the Mt Blanc Massif.

- Participate in clean-up days. If no initiative is presented near us, we will take on a smaller project our selves to clean up a site.

- Demand more information from our equipment providers regarding the origin of products, production methods and recycling possibilities, to be able to provide and use environmentally and socially responsible gear.