

Ciclofree Sustainability Policy

Ciclofree is committed to growing our business in a sustainable manner. We recognize that the environment, communities, and cultures within which we operate are vital to the success of our business. Cycling, as an eco-friendly form of travel, is at the heart of our commitment to responsible tourism.

We aim to maximize the positive effects that cycling tourism can have on individuals and local communities, while minimizing the negative social, environmental, and economic impacts.

This policy outlines our current achievements, ongoing efforts, and future aspirations. It defines practices at the core of our product development, operations, and external partner relationships. It is a work in progress for everyone in our company. We therefore commit to the following objectives:

- **Comply with all relevant legislation and embed sustainable development principles into core business practices.**
- **Use our position to promote sustainable cycling tourism in our destinations.**
- **Preserve our environment and continually improve our environmental performance.**
- **Optimize our social impact to enhance local livelihoods and prevent tourism leakages.**
- **Encourage sustainable travel options through cycling tours that respect nature and culture.**
- **Provide information, training, and support to colleagues and external partners to engage them towards sustainability.**

In our operations:

- We organize bicycle tours that minimize environmental impact and foster a connection with nature and local communities.
- We promote the use of cycling as a sustainable mode of transportation during our tours and in everyday life.
- We ensure our employees understand our sustainability goals and are accountable for implementing sustainable practices.
- We monitor, reduce, and manage waste responsibly during tours and within our offices.
- We measure our use of natural resources, especially energy, and seek ways to reduce consumption.
- We prioritize the use of local products and services to support the local economy.
- We respect our employees, their diversity, and advance their well-being wherever we can.
- We raise awareness about sustainable tourism among our team, partners, and clients.

On the ground:

- We partner with locally owned businesses such as bike-friendly accommodations, restaurants, and craft shops that reflect the local culture.
- We work to reduce the environmental footprint of our cycling tours by using renewable resources where possible and avoiding unnecessary waste.
- We ensure that our activities respect the environment, cultural heritage, and communities we visit.
- We support local development initiatives, creating fair employment opportunities and enhancing community well-being.
- We encourage our clients to travel responsibly by providing information on how to minimize their impact while enjoying cycling experiences.

By adhering to this policy, Ciclofree aims to offer exceptional cycling experiences in Sicily, promoting safe, sustainable, and culturally enriching journeys that showcase the authentic essence of the island while preserving it for future generations.

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- We give back to neighboring communities by supporting projects addressing local development challenges, encouraging fair employment opportunities, and advancing well-being.
- We promote responsible tourism in our industry and to stakeholders we engage with in our destinations.
- We put our clients and guests at the forefront of our business and help them make informed decisions when traveling.

Ciclofree is committed to managing its environmental impact as a fundamental aspect of our operations. Our goal is to minimize our ecological footprint while promoting sustainable practices in line with our values of responsible travel and cycling tourism. We achieve this through the following measures:

- **Compliance:** We adhere to all local and national environmental regulations and laws.
- **Monitoring and evaluation:** We measure and monitor the use of resources such as water, energy, and materials to track our environmental performance and identify areas for improvement.
- **Sustainable procurement:** Office supplies and materials are sourced locally, seasonally, and sustainably whenever possible, prioritizing bulk purchases and limited packaging.
- **Waste reduction:** We adopt the principles of refuse, reduce, reuse, repurpose, and recycle. Waste is separated into categories (plastic, paper, organic, glass, etc.) and disposed of responsibly through appropriate channels.
- **Energy efficiency:** All office equipment and lighting are energy-efficient, and devices are turned off, unplugged, or set to sleep mode when not in use.
- **Printing practices:** Printing is limited to essential needs, and when necessary, we use double-sided and grayscale settings to reduce paper and ink usage.
- **Pollution prevention:** Measures are in place to minimize noise, light, and air pollution, as well as any potential contamination of soil or water.

We actively encourage participation and promote environmental awareness among employees, stakeholders, and clients to foster a culture of sustainability. By continuously setting objectives, measuring progress, and sharing results, Ciclofree ensures that environmental integrity is at the heart of our cycling tourism operations.

Ciclofree has a strong commitment to selecting and promoting sustainable accommodations. We prioritize accommodations that demonstrate environmentally friendly practices, such as energy and water conservation, waste reduction, and support for the local economy. When contracting new accommodations, we give preference to those with recognised sustainability certifications or documented eco-friendly initiatives.

Sustainable excursions

Ciclofree has adopted a sustainable excursion policy that guides all our activities and collaborations with local partners. Our excursions are exclusively cycling tours on public roads and existing routes, with very limited environmental impact.

Our policy is based on the following principles:

- **Respect for the environment:** preference is given to slow, non-motorised travel; groups are kept small; no waste is left on-site; guests are encouraged to refill water bottles.
- **Respect for local communities:** we collaborate with locally-owned restaurants, accommodations, and service providers, ensuring that economic benefits remain in the territory. We encourage respectful interaction with residents, always in line with cultural norms
- **Support to local economy and culture:** we promote local food and traditions
- **Exclusion of sensitive activities:** we do not offer excursions involving animals in captivity, wildlife feeding, or visits to indigenous communities.

This policy is shared with our team, partners, published in our website and is applied in practice through our daily operations and selection of services

No excessive negative impact activities

Ciclofree has a strict policy to avoid any activities that may cause excessive negative impact on people, animals, plants, natural resources, or local culture.

Our excursions and tours are exclusively on bikes and on public roads, which have a very low environmental footprint and do not involve activities that could be considered harmful or socially/culturally unacceptable.

In particular, Ciclofree doesn't offer or promote:

- animal shows, performances, or rides involving captive wildlife (dolphinariums, circuses, elephant rides, etc.)
- excursions that include direct interaction with wildlife (feeding, touching, or close contact)
- visits to schools, orphanages, or vulnerable communities for voyeurism purposes
- excursions that damage ecosystems, overexploit natural resources, water/energy or restrict local communities' access to them

All our partners are required to comply with these principles, ensuring that no activity promoted through Ciclofree has excessive negative impacts on the natural, cultural, or social environment.

Child Protection Clause

Ciclofree does not collaborate with any accommodation or partner where the sexual exploitation of children occurs or could occur. We strictly adhere to national and European laws and consider it a matter of ethics and common sense. Any partner or accommodation we work with must take all necessary measures to prevent sexual exploitation of children. Should we become aware of any violation, we reserve the right to immediately end the collaboration.

By adhering to this policy, Ciclofree aims to offer unforgettable cycling experiences in Sicily, promoting safe, sustainable, and culturally enriching journeys that capture the authentic essence of the island.