











ENVIRONMENTAL CODE OF CONDUCT

Koh Surin National Park is a protected area and this environmental code of conduct is to help us preserve this stunning natural area. We have to be concerned about our impact on the marine environment while enjoying this beautiful location. In fact, we have to be aware that the corals provide protection and shelter for so many different species of fish. Coral turns carbon dioxide in the water into a limestone shell. Without coral, the amount of carbon dioxide in the water would rise dramatically and that would affect all living things on our earth and also the quality of the visitor experience to this wonderful area.

SNORKELING

-  Where possible practice snorkeling techniques away from live coral: be careful of where you swim with your fins at all times and manage fin kicks, particularly in shallow water, be aware of moving up sediment.
-  Do not rest or stand on coral. If you must stand up, make sure it's on sand. You could destroy coral reefs; without reefs fish cannot live or reproduce.
-  Do not lean on coral for support when taking underwater photographs and avoid touching fragile coral stands.
-  Do not jab with fingers or interfere with any plants or animals, you may destroy their habitats and disturb the ecosystem.
-  Enjoy observing animals rather than touching them. Manipulating some animals or live corals can be dangerous.
-  Do not track or try to capture free-swimming animals. Avoid blocking their pathway.
-  Do not pick up anything underwater, living or dead; always return it to exactly the same place.
-  Take time to learn about the underwater environment. Don't hesitate to ask questions to your guides.

FEEDING FISH

- 🌐 Please do not feed the fish.
- 🌐 They would get used to another type of food which doesn't exist underwater, or they may get sick. Fish feeding results in changing their feeding behavior and they won't graze on algae which, if not managed by the fish, can choke the corals.
- 🌐 When animals become habituated to being fed by snorkelers, they may lose some of their ability to find food on their own, or create diseases which can affect population size.
- 🌐 Fish have their own nourishment in the marine biodiversity, which is adapted to their particularities; fish feeding disrupts the natural balance of marine ecosystems.
- 🌐 If we feed fish, the extra food can stop the fish feeding from their natural habitat. This is important to maintain a healthy ecosystem.
- 🌐 Fish food tends to make fish more aggressive, and it may also have a damaging effect on the reef and ecosystem.

WASTE DISPOSAL

- 🌐 If a boat does not provide toilets, visitors should use toilets before reaching and after leaving the reef, visitors should not urinate in the water. Corals grow in low nutrient waters. If you urinate, the nutrient level in the water increases and that has negative effect on the corals. Corals eventually die when they are exposed to water mixed with urine.
- 🌐 Use biodegradable sunscreen, because UV blocking chemicals used in many popular sunscreens (parabens, cinnamare, benzophenone, camphor derivatives), can rapidly cause viral infections that promote coral bleaching which kills off coral even at a low concentration. Sunscreens leave a film on the surface water that actually blocks essential UV rays for the marine life and ecosystem.
- 🌐 Koh Surin Island provides recycling containers (glass, plastic, cans...) so keep your garbage on the boat and dispose of it at a recycling depot on shore.

If you are part of the Moken tour, please dress respectfully, smile and try to have contact with the villagers before taking pictures of them, please remember this is a living and working village.