



Child Protection Policy

Sampan Travel is acutely aware of the risks that tourism, especially uncontrolled tourism, can have on children. Conscious of the situation in neighboring countries, and aware of recent reports that child exploitation at the hands of tourists (both local and international) is already a reality in Myanmar, we are determined to play our part in working to protect those that are vulnerable and at risk in Myanmar.

Aside from tourism, we are aware of other hardships children face in Myanmar, whether that is sexual or otherwise. Conscious of our own small remit, we are dedicated to play our part in helping all children in need or at risk Myanmar, in particular those affected by tourism, whether directly or indirectly. The following points aim to outline what measure we are taking now, and what measures we plan to take in the future.

Sampan Staff

Training

All Sampan Travel staff are to undertake training with both the local ChildSafe Agent in Yangon, and with The Code in collaboration with Myanmar Responsible Tourism Institute (MRTI). All staff are taking part in the online modules provided by the Code / ECPAT in regard to the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CESC.)

We are encouraging the guides we use and our partner agencies and suppliers to similarly take part in such training. At this current time, we do not have the resources to provide such training to them ourselves.

Service

It is Sampan Travel's policy to no longer offer visits to schools or orphanages as part of our itineraries. We understand that the vast majority of people requesting to visit schools and orphanages do so with the best intentions. However, we are aware that not only can these visits be disruptive to the children, but the commercialization of orphanages through 'orphanage tourism' in other Southeast Asian countries has led to the maltreatment of the children that these orphanages purport to be helping.

Communication and Collaboration

Through the company's social media accounts (principally Twitter) Sampan Travel share topical and useful information and advise in regard to child protection in Myanmar.

We participate in events for the bettering and promotion of children's development and protection in our local community, principally Yangon. We support and promote organizations such as LinkAge restaurant, myME, and the Kuthodaw Library in New



Bagan, who each in their own way are working towards the protection and support of marginalized youth.

We plan to include a clause within our contracts with hotels that states that if we are aware that they are permitting (even if through inaction) the exploitation of children to occur on their premises, that the contract will be immediately void.

Stakeholders

Hotels, Restaurants, Bars and Shops

Having written to all hotels that we actively work with and promote on our website (please see supporting document) we encourage them to join the Code, and therefore take note of the following protocol, as created by the Code / ECPAT.

Staff concerned that a case of child exploitation might be taking place or about to take place, must immediately alert supervisor of Department, Department Head, or Director.

- *Person in charge of Department, Director or Manager, will alert General Manager or Human Resources Manager, or professionally approach the customer under suspicion.*

- *Director/Manager will advise customer that unless proof is made that it is a genuine family relationship, the hotel will follow its rules by refusing:*

- 1) Access to rooms;*
- 2) Access to facilities;*
- 3) Access to entertainment complex; or*
- 4) To make reservations or bookings with other hotels or facilities on behalf of the said customer.*

- *If a customer is already registered as a hotel guest and is confronted by the staff for suspicious behavior towards a minor, the Director or Manager will advise the customer on the rules of the hotel and request the customer either to release the minor immediately, or to leave the hotel or facility.*

- *If Front Desk/Guest Relations staff encounter a customer wanting to check in with a minor under suspicious circumstances, the staff will report the matter by following the same procedure described above. The Director or Manager then has the right to refuse to provide any room or facility to the said customer.*

- *The same procedure applies to staff in the restaurant(s) and entertainment complex of the hotel.*

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DMCs and Ground Handlers (incl. guides and drivers)

[Please see attached letter to the DMCs / ground handlers that we work with.]

We insist that our DMC partners that we work with do not employ any children.

We insist that our DMC partners are aware of the situation and dangers of child exploitation; in Myanmar, in the tourism industry, and in general.

We insist that no DMCs or Ground Handlers take our clients to schools or orphanages. We ensure that both clients and DMCs are aware of our policy on this in advance.

We encourage them to train themselves; and / or work with ChildSafe, or the Code, or another similar organization.

We encourage our DMCs and ground handlers to promote child protection awareness to their colleagues, locals and clients.

We ask our DMC partners, guides and drivers to notify us if they are aware of any sexual exploitation of children in any of the locations that we send clients to / collaborate with.

We ensure that all DMCs and Ground Handlers are aware when minors are traveling with Sampan Travel as guests and that they the adequate knowledge and capacity to handle this.

Transport providers; airlines, boats, coaches, trains

We plan to ensure that all our transport providers are aware of the situation and dangers of child exploitation in Myanmar, in the tourism industry, and in general.

Excursion Providers

We insist that the excursion providers that we work with do not employ any children.

We encourage our excursion providers to promote child protection awareness to their colleagues, locals and clients.

We ensure that all excursion providers are aware when minors are traveling with Sampan Travel as guests and that they the adequate knowledge and capacity to handle this.

Government and local authorities

We ensure that all at Sampan Travel are aware of Myanmar law in regard to the rights of the child.



We read and circulate relevant documents and reports in relation to child rights and protection in Myanmar, and are open to contributing our experience and knowledge at any time.

NGOs / local communities

We currently support and promote the work of myME, working to provide an education to boys and girls working in Myanmar.

We meet and collaborate with local NGOs and think tanks such as the Myanmar Responsible Tourism Institute and the Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business. We regularly attend events put on by the above, so to give us the best chance in protecting children from exploitation.

Clients

We encourage everyone who comes to Myanmar to have a look at the organizations which are working on child protection and development via our [Giving Back](#) and [Green Heroes](#) page. Information can also be found on our [Before You Arrive](#) page and [Responsible Travel](#) page. Information and advice is disseminated through social media. All clients are sent both the [Dos and Don'ts for Tourists in Myanmar](#) and the [ChildSafe tips for travellers](#).

We wish to stress that our Child Protection Policy is a working, living document, and therefore will be constantly updated and amended as our training continues, and as the situation changes in Myanmar.