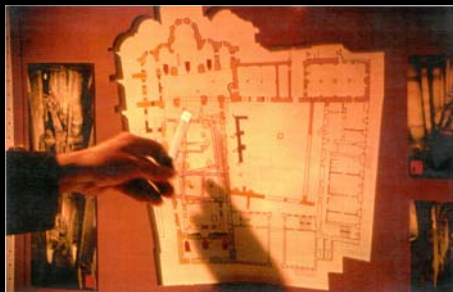


ICOMOS

International Cultural Tourism Charter

**Principles And Guidelines For Managing Tourism
At Places Of Cultural And Heritage Significance**



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Introduction

BACKGROUND

The *ICOMOS International Cultural Tourism Charter* was approved by the ICOMOS General Assembly in Mexico in October 1999. The *Charter* was prepared by the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Cultural Tourism. It replaces the 1976 *ICOMOS Cultural Tourism Charter*.

ICOMOS is the international representative body for those who work in the field of cultural heritage conservation.

PURPOSE OF THE CHARTER

The new *Charter* provides an umbrella statement of Principles that guide the dynamic relationships between tourism and places or collections of heritage significance. It can provide the basis of a dialogue and a common set of principles to manage these relationships.

Given that it has been prepared within the international conservation framework established by ICOMOS, the *Charter* addresses the primary relationships between the cultural identity and cultural heritage of the host community and the interests, expectations and behaviour of visitors, both domestic and international. It promotes the engagement of the host community, including indigenous and traditional custodians in all aspects of planning and managing for tourism, particularly at heritage sites, within cultural landscapes and in historic towns.

In addition to recognising the need to safeguard the enormous breadth, diversity and universal importance of cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, the new *Charter* promotes two major concepts:

- That one of the major reasons for undertaking any form of conservation is to make the significance of the place accessible to visitors and the host community, in a well managed manner.
- That both the conservation community and the tourism industry must work cooperatively together to protect and present the world's cultural and natural heritage, given their mutual respect for it and their concern for the fragility of the resource.

The revised *Charter* has adopted a co-operative approach to the relationship of the conservation community with tourism issues and the tourism industry, avoiding the traditional tensions while protecting those issues of concern. It recognises that greater progress will be made by establishing a positive dialogue than for conservationists to simply regard tourism primarily as something to be tolerated under duress.

The *Charter* is designed as a document for use by a wide variety of conservation and tourism industry bodies to assist manage the relationships with both domestic and international tourism. Accordingly the language and the coverage is deliberately broad and inclusive, rather than specific to any one country or situation. It encourages the further development of specific applications by interested parties.

THE KEY CHARTER CONCEPTS

- A major reason for undertaking the protection, conservation and management of heritage places, the intangible heritage and collections is to make their significance physically and/or intellectually accessible to the host community and to visitors. Unless there is public awareness and public support for cultural heritage places, the whole conservation process will be marginalised and not gain the critical levels of funding or public and political support so necessary for its survival.
- Reasonable and well managed access to cultural development and cultural heritage is both a human right and a privilege. It brings with it a duty of respect on the part of the visitor. Interpretation or presentation, play an important role in making the cultural heritage accessible to people.
- Cultural heritage is seen as a dynamic reference point for daily life, social growth and change. It is a major source of social capital and is an expression of diversity and community identity.
- Domestic and international tourism is one of the foremost vehicles of cultural exchange, providing personal experience of that which has survived from the past as well as the contemporary life and society of others. It can capture the economic benefits of cultural resources and is an important generator of economic development, when managed successfully.

Tourism should bring benefits to the host community and be planned to avoid adverse impacts on the authenticity and physical expression of the cultural heritage. Poorly managed or excessive tourism can have negative effects on the local community and their places of cultural significance.

- The *Charter* is not limited to considering tourism at the traditional ICOMOS concept of Monuments, or to World Heritage listed places, but has been expanded to include the interaction between tourism and all forms of the cultural heritage places, collections and the living aspects of the host communities.
- The *Charter* can be applied to a broad range of places and situations. It deliberately avoids describing the specific heritage characteristics of a limited number of places but uses the broad concept of “Heritage Significance”. The individual heritage characteristics of the particular place or community should be identified as part of the application of the *Charter* to any given situation.

RESPONSES TO THE CHARTER

Responses to the Charter are welcomed, and should addressed to

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The Charter Ethos

At the broadest level, the natural and cultural heritage belongs to all people. We each have a right and responsibility to understand, appreciate and conserve its universal values.

Heritage is a broad concept and includes the natural as well as the cultural environment. It encompasses landscapes, historic places, sites and built environments, as well as biodiversity, collections, past and continuing cultural practices, knowledge and living experiences. It records and expresses the long processes of historic development, forming the essence of diverse national, regional, indigenous and local identities and is an integral part of modern life. It is a dynamic social reference point and positive instrument for growth and change. The particular heritage and collective memory of each locality or community is irreplaceable and an important foundation for development, both now and into the future.

At a time of **increasing globalisation**, the protection, conservation, interpretation and presentation of the heritage and cultural diversity of any particular place or region is an important challenge for people everywhere. However, management of that heritage, within a framework of internationally recognised and appropriately applied standards, is usually the responsibility of the particular community or custodian group.

A primary objective for managing heritage is to **communicate its significance** and need for its conservation to its host community and to visitors. Reasonable and well managed physical, intellectual and/or emotive access to heritage and cultural development is both a right and a privilege. It brings with it a duty of respect for the heritage values, interests and equity of the present-day host community, indigenous custodians or owners of historic property and for the landscapes and cultures from which that heritage evolved.

Tourism and Cultural Heritage

THE DYNAMIC INTERACTION BETWEEN TOURISM AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

Domestic and international tourism continues to be among the foremost vehicles for cultural exchange, providing a personal experience, not only of that which has survived from the past, but of the contemporary life and society of others. It is increasingly appreciated as a positive force for natural and cultural conservation. Tourism can capture the economic characteristics of the heritage and harness these for conservation by generating funding, educating the community and influencing policy. It is an essential part of many national and regional economies and can be an important factor in development, when managed successfully.

Tourism itself has become an increasingly complex phenomenon, with political, economic, social, cultural, educational, bio-physical, ecological and aesthetic dimensions. The achievement of a beneficial inter-action between the potentially conflicting expectations and aspirations of visitors and host or local communities, presents many challenges and opportunities.

The natural and cultural heritage, diversities and living cultures are major tourism attractions. Excessive or poorly-managed tourism and tourism related development can threaten their physical nature, integrity and significant characteristics. The ecological setting, culture and lifestyles of host communities may also be degraded, along with the visitor's experience of the place.

Tourism should bring benefits to host communities and provide an important means and motivation for them to care for and maintain their heritage and cultural practices. The involvement and co-operation of local and/or indigenous community representatives, conservationists, tourism operators, property owners, policy makers, those preparing national development plans and site managers is necessary to achieve a sustainable tourism industry and enhance the protection of heritage resources for future generations.

ICOMOS, the International Council on Monuments and Sites, as the author of this Charter, other international organisations and the tourism industry, are dedicated to this challenge.

Objectives of the Charter

The Objectives of the *International Cultural Tourism Charter* are:

- To facilitate and encourage those involved with heritage conservation and management to make the significance of that heritage accessible to the host community and visitors.
- To facilitate and encourage the tourism industry to promote and manage tourism in ways that respect and enhance the heritage and living cultures of host communities.
- To facilitate and encourage a dialogue between conservation interests and the tourism industry about the importance and fragile nature of heritage places, collections and living cultures including the need to achieve a sustainable future for them.
- To encourage those formulating plans and policies to develop detailed, measurable goals and strategies relating to the presentation and interpretation of heritage places and cultural activities, in the context of their preservation and conservation.

In addition,

- The Charter supports wider initiatives by ICOMOS, other international bodies and the tourism industry in maintaining the integrity of heritage management and conservation.
- The Charter encourages the involvement of all those with relevant or at times conflicting interests, responsibilities and obligations to join in achieving its objectives.
- The Charter encourages the formulation of detailed guidelines by interested parties, facilitating the implementation of the Principles to their specific circumstances or the requirements of particular organisations and communities.

Charter Principles

Principle 1 **Encourage Public Awareness of Heritage**

Since domestic and international tourism is among the foremost vehicles for cultural exchange, conservation should provide responsible and well managed opportunities for members of the host community and visitors to experience and understand that community's heritage and culture at first hand.

1.1

The natural and cultural heritage is a material and spiritual resource, providing a narrative of historical development. It has an important role in modern life and should be made physically, intellectually and/or emotively accessible to the general public. Programmes for the protection and conservation of the physical attributes, intangible aspects, contemporary cultural expressions and broad context, should facilitate an understanding and appreciation of the heritage significance by the host community and the visitor, in an equitable and affordable manner.

1.2

Individual aspects of natural and cultural heritage have differing levels of significance, some with universal values, others of national, regional or local importance. Interpretation programmes should present that significance in a relevant and accessible manner to the host community and the visitor, with appropriate, stimulating and contemporary forms of education, media, technology and personal explanation of historical, environmental and cultural information.

1.3

Interpretation and presentation programmes should facilitate and encourage the high level of public awareness and support necessary for the long term survival of the natural and cultural heritage.

1.4

Interpretation programmes should present the significance of heritage places, traditions and cultural practices within the past experience and present diversities of the area and the host community, including that of minority cultural or linguistic groups. The visitor should always be informed of the differing cultural values that may be ascribed to a particular heritage resource.

Principle 2

Manage the Dynamic Relationship

The relationship between Heritage Places and Tourism is dynamic and may involve conflicting values. It should be managed in a sustainable way for present and future generations.

2.1

Places of heritage significance have an intrinsic value for all people as an important basis for cultural diversity and social development. The long term protection and conservation of living cultures, heritage places, collections, their physical and ecological integrity and their environmental context, should be an essential component of social, economic, political, legislative, cultural and tourism development policies.

2.2

The interaction between heritage resources or values and tourism is dynamic and ever changing, generating both opportunities and challenges, as well as potential conflicts. Tourism projects, activities and developments should achieve positive outcomes and minimise adverse impacts on the heritage and lifestyles of the host community, while responding to the needs and aspirations of the visitor.

2.3

Conservation, interpretation and tourism development programmes should be based on a comprehensive understanding of the specific, but often complex or conflicting aspects of heritage significance of the particular place. Continuing research and consultation are important to furthering the evolving understanding and appreciation of that significance.

2.4

The retention of the authenticity of heritage places and collections is important. It is an essential element of their cultural significance, as expressed in the physical material, collected memory and intangible traditions that remain from the past. Programmes should present and interpret the authenticity of places and cultural experiences to enhance the appreciation and understanding of that cultural heritage.

2.5

Tourism development and infrastructure projects should take account of the aesthetic, social and cultural dimensions, natural and cultural landscapes, bio-diversity characteristics and the broader visual context of heritage places. Preference should be given to using local materials and take account of local architectural styles or vernacular traditions.

2.6

Before heritage places are promoted or developed for increased tourism, management plans should assess the natural and cultural values of the resource. They should then establish appropriate limits of acceptable change, particularly in relation to the impact of visitor numbers on the physical characteristics, integrity, ecology and biodiversity of the place, local access and transportation systems and the social, economic and cultural well being of the host community. If the likely level of change is unacceptable the development proposal should be modified.

2.7

There should be on-going programmes of evaluation to assess the progressive impacts of tourism activities and development on the particular place or community.

Principle 3

Ensure a Worthwhile Visitor Experience

Conservation and Tourism Planning for Heritage Places should ensure that the Visitor Experience will be worthwhile, satisfying and enjoyable.

3.1

Conservation and tourism programmes should present high quality information to optimise the visitor's understanding of the significant heritage characteristics and of the need for their protection, enabling the visitor to enjoy the place in an appropriate manner.

3.2

Visitors should be able to experience the heritage place at their own pace, if they so choose. Specific circulation routes may be necessary to minimise impacts on the integrity and physical fabric of a place, its natural and cultural characteristics.

3.3

Respect for the sanctity of spiritual places, practices and traditions is an important consideration for site managers, visitors, policy makers, planners and tourism operators. Visitors should be encouraged to behave as welcomed guests, respecting the values and lifestyles of the host community, rejecting possible theft or illicit trade in cultural property and conducting themselves in a responsible manner which would generate a renewed welcome, should they return.

3.4

Planning for tourism activities should provide appropriate facilities for the comfort, safety and well being of the visitor, that enhance the enjoyment of the visit but do not adversely impact on the significant features or ecological characteristics.

Principle 4

Involve Host And Indigenous Communities

Host communities and indigenous peoples should be involved in planning for conservation and tourism.

4.1

The rights and interests of the host community, at regional and local levels, property owners and relevant indigenous peoples who may exercise traditional rights or responsibilities over their own land and its significant sites, should be respected. They should be involved in establishing goals, strategies, policies and protocols for the identification, conservation, management, presentation and interpretation of their heritage resources, cultural practices and contemporary cultural expressions, in the tourism context.

4.2

While the heritage of any specific place or region may have a universal dimension, the needs and wishes of some communities or indigenous peoples to restrict or manage physical, spiritual or intellectual access to certain cultural practices, knowledge, beliefs, activities, artefacts or sites should be respected.

Principle 5

Provide Benefit for the Local community

Tourism and conservation activities should benefit the host community.

5.1

Policy makers should promote measures for the equitable distribution of the benefits of tourism to be shared across countries or regions, improving the levels of socio-economic development and contributing where necessary to poverty alleviation.

5.2

Conservation management and tourism activities should provide equitable economic, social and cultural benefits to the men and women of the host or local community, at all levels, through education, training and the creation of full time employment opportunities.

5.3

A significant proportion of the revenue specifically derived from tourism programmes to heritage places should be allotted to the protection, conservation and presentation of those places, including their natural and cultural contexts. Where possible, visitors should be advised of this revenue allocation.

5.4

Tourism programmes should encourage the training and employment of guides and site interpreters from the host community to enhance the skills of local people in the presentation and interpretation of their cultural values.

5.5

Heritage interpretation and education programmes among the people of the host community should encourage the involvement of local site interpreters. The programmes should promote a knowledge and respect for their heritage, encouraging the local people to take a direct interest in its care and conservation.

5.6

Conservation management and tourism programmes should include education and training opportunities for policy makers, planners, researchers, designers, architects, interpreters, conservators and tourism operators. Participants should be encouraged to understand and help resolve the at times conflicting issues, opportunities and problems encountered by their colleagues.

Principle 6

Responsible Promotion Programmes

Tourism promotion programmes should protect and enhance Natural and Cultural Heritage characteristics.

6.1

Tourism promotion programmes should create realistic expectations and responsibly inform potential visitors of the specific heritage characteristics of a place or host community, thereby encouraging them to behave appropriately.

6.2

Places and collections of heritage significance should be promoted and managed in ways which protect their authenticity and enhance the visitor experience by minimising fluctuations in arrivals and avoiding excessive numbers of visitors at any one time.

6.3

Tourism promotion programmes should provide a wider distribution of benefits and relieve the pressures on more popular places by encouraging visitors to experience the wider cultural and natural heritage characteristics of the region or locality.

6.4

The promotion, distribution and sale of local crafts and other products should provide a reasonable social and economic return to the host community, while ensuring that their cultural integrity is not degraded.

Implementing the Charter

A CONSISTENT EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

There are a number of ways that the *ICOMOS International Cultural Tourism Charter* can be implemented to improve the relationship between tourism activities and the conservation of heritage places.

The *Charter* Principles and Guidelines may be used to undertake the evaluation of tourism at heritage places in a consistent and comparable manner. Irrespective of the scale, physical and heritage characteristics of the destination, and the scale and nature of the tourism experience, a consistent evaluation methodology will enable different sites to be compared in a useful and beneficial manner.

Site managers and those who design or implement tourism programs and projects at heritage places will be able to learn more efficiently from the experiences of other sites. They will also have a soundly based methodology for evaluating and monitoring the performance of their site or place over time, leading to improved conservation and visitor management policies and programs.

Researchers will be able to use a consistent methodology when assessing the dynamic nature of tourism at heritage sites and the impact on heritage significance that may arise from tourism activities.

Conservationists will be able to confidently present their work to the public, knowing there is a strong basis for visitor management.

Consent authorities will be able to evaluate tourism development proposals at heritage sites against a widely recognised and consistent set of Principles and Guidelines. Consent for development will thus be more soundly based on well-established criteria.

Providers of funding for tourism projects at heritage sites, whether by way of grant or investment, will have a set of criteria against which to evaluate applications for funding, investment or grant support. The long-term sustainability of heritage sites that is promoted by the Charter will give added security for those who invest or support such programs.

National, Regional and site based tourism promotion programs will be able to include programs which communicate the heritage significance of historic places in their programs. Promoting the unique or distinctive features of a destination is an essential component of successful tourism promotion.

Evaluation Questionnaire

GATHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE PLACE

Before any comparative evaluation can be made about a heritage site or historic place, it is essential that basic descriptive information is established. This information needs to be clearly and concisely recorded.

Nature of the Place

- Location, Physical nature, size, components, property definition
- Geographical and ecological description of the place and context
- Ownership and management structures
- Legislative background
- Nature of the host or custodial community
- Relation to nearby population centres
- Access and transport, site infrastructure
- Physical condition of the place and its locality
- Economic context of the place and the host community
- Stakeholders

Significance of the Place

- The historical, ecological and cultural significance of the place or collection and its authenticity
- Tangible and intangible characteristics
- Comparative values and unique features
- Differing views on significance

Conservation Context

- Responsibility for conservation activities
- Resources and management structure for conservation
- Objectives and standards for conservation
- Nature of current and past physical conservation activities
- Operational and conservation expenditure
- Ecological, political, and economic pressures and threats
- Security and protective measures

Tourism Context

- The broad tourism context of the place in relation to the region
- Local, domestic and/or international tourists
- How did they travel to the place?
- Tourism infrastructure such as airports, road, rail, sea access, accommodation
- Tourism operators transportation, accommodation, information and presentation
- Package tours v individual travel
- Revenue generated by tourism at the place

Relationships Between Tourism and Conservation

- Is the place a new or established tourism venue or attraction?
- The historical tourism experience over time, Is tourism growing or declining
- The broad dynamics between tourism and conservation in the region
- Impacts already experienced from tourism on the place and the community
- How do visitors move around the place, with or without guides and interpretation?

APPLICATION OF THE CHARTER

Principle 1 Encourage Public Awareness

Since domestic and international tourism is among the foremost vehicles for cultural exchange, conservation should provide responsible and well managed opportunities for members of the host community and visitors to experience and understand that community's heritage and culture at first hand.

1. What forms of physical, intellectual and emotive access, to the significance of the site, are available and how is the significance presented to the visitor?
2. Is access equitable and affordable for both the host community and the visitor?
3. What are the forms and techniques used for interpretation of that significance? Do they encourage a high level of public awareness of the significance of the place in the host community?
4. Is the visitor informed of any differing cultural values that may be ascribed to the place?

Principle 2 Managing the Dynamic Relationship

The relationship between Heritage Places and Tourism is dynamic and may involve conflicting values. It should be managed in a sustainable way for present and future generations.

1. How have tourism projects and activities impacted on the natural and cultural heritage and lifestyles of the host community?
2. Are existing or planned programmes based on a comprehensive understanding of the particular significance of the place?
3. Have programmes and projects taken into account their relationship with the aesthetic, social, cultural dimensions, natural and cultural landscapes, bio-diversity characteristics and broader visual context of the heritage place.

4. Have tourism projects given a preference for using local materials and architectural styles or vernacular traditions?
5. Are there on-going programmes of evaluation to assess the progressive impacts of tourism activities and development on the particular place or community?

Principle 3

Ensure a Worthwhile Visitor Experience

Conservation and Tourism Planning for Heritage Places should ensure that the Visitor Experience will be worthwhile, satisfying and enjoyable.

1. Does the information presented optimise the visitor's understanding of the place and encourage them to respect it?
2. Are specific circulation routes for visitors? Can the visitors experience the place at their own pace, if they so chose?
3. Is the visitor encouraged to respect the values and lifestyles of the host community?
4. Is the visitor encouraged to reject possible theft or illicit trade of cultural property?
5. Are there appropriate facilities for the safety, comfort, well being of the visitor, including reasonable access for the physically impaired?
6. Are there adequate and appropriate food, beverage and retail opportunities for visitor enjoyment, without adversely impacting on the significant features or ecological characteristics of the place.
7. Is the visitor directly involved in an activity or personal response which contributes, even in a small manner, to the conservation of the site.

Principle 4

Involve Host and Indigenous Communities

Host communities and indigenous peoples should be involved in planning for conservation and tourism.

1. Are the host community, property owners and/or relevant indigenous people involved in planning for conservation and tourism at the place?
2. Do planning, conservation and tourism activities show appropriate respect for the rights and interests of the host community, property owners and relevant indigenous people?
3. Have relevant people been involved in establishing goals, strategies, policies and protocols for identification, management and conservation programs?
4. If appropriate, has there been respect shown to the wishes of the host community or relevant indigenous people to restrict or manage access to certain cultural practices, knowledge, beliefs, activities, artefacts or sites?

Principle 5

Provide Benefit for the Local Community

Tourism and conservation activities should benefit the host communities

1. Do the economic and other benefits of tourism flow into the host community in an equitable manner?
2. Is a significant proportion of the revenue specifically derived from tourism allotted to protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural heritage?
3. Are there programmes for the training and employment of guides and site interpreters from the host community?
4. Are the local people encouraged to take a direct interest in the care and conservation of their heritage.

Principle 6

Responsible Promotion Programmes

Tourism promotion programmes should protect and enhance Natural and Cultural Heritage characteristics.

1. Do the tourism promotion programmes create realistic expectations and responsibly inform potential visitors?
2. Do the promotion and management programmes seek to minimise fluctuations in visitor numbers?
3. Do tourism promotion programmes encourage visitors to experience the wider cultural and natural heritage characteristics of the region or locality?
4. Does the promotion, distribution and sale of local crafts and other products provide reasonable social and economic returns to the host community.
5. Does the promotion, distribution and sale of local crafts ensure that their cultural integrity is not degraded.

Glossary

This Glossary has been prepared to provide those who use and implement the ICOMOS International Cultural Tourism Charter with a consistent terminology.

Access to significant features, values and characteristics, includes all form of access, including **physical access**, where the visitor experiences the place in person, **intellectual access**, where the visitor or others learn about the place, without possibly ever actually visiting it and **emotive access** where the sense of being there is felt, again even if a visit is never undertaken.

Authenticity describes the relative integrity of a place, an object or an activity in relation to its original creation. In the context of living cultural practices, the context of authenticity responds to the evolution of the traditional practice. In the context of an *Historic Place* or object, authenticity can encompass the accuracy or extent of its reconstruction to a known earlier state.

Biodiversity describes the variety of life forms, the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genes they contain and the *ecosystems* they form.

Conservation describes all of the processes of looking after a *Heritage Place*, *Cultural Landscape*, *Heritage Collection* or aspect of *Intangible Heritage* so as to retain its cultural, indigenous or natural heritage significance. In some English speaking countries, the term Preservation is used as an alternative to Conservation for this general activity.

Conservation Community includes all those who work towards the protection, conservation, management and presentation of the world's cultural and natural heritage.

Culture can be defined as the whole complex of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features that characterise a community, society or social group. It includes not only arts and literature, but also modes of life, the fundamental rights of the human being, value systems, traditions and beliefs. Culture encompasses the living or contemporary characteristics and values of a community as well as those that have survived from the past.

Cultural Exchange describes the process or processes whereby a person or group of people experience the respective *Culture*, lifestyle and *Heritage* of another person or group.

Cultural Heritage is an expression of the ways of living developed by a community and passed on from generation to generation, including customs, practices, places, objects, artistic expression and values. Cultural Heritage is often expressed as either *Intangible* or *Tangible Cultural Heritage*.

Cultural Heritage Significance means the aesthetic, historic, research, social, spiritual or other special characteristics and values a place, an object or a custom may have for present and future generations.

Cultural Landscapes describe those places and landscapes that have been shaped or influenced by human occupation. They include agricultural systems, modified landscapes, patterns of settlement and human activity, and the infrastructure of production, transportation and communication. The concepts of cultural landscapes can be useful in understanding the patterns of activity as diverse as industrial systems, defensive sites and the nature of towns or villages.

Cultural Resources encompass all of the *Tangible* and *Intangible Heritage* and living Cultural elements of a community.

Cultural Tourism is essentially that form of tourism that focuses on the culture, and cultural environments including landscapes of the destination, the values and lifestyles, heritage, visual and performing arts, industries, traditions and leisure pursuits of the local population or *host community*. It can include attendance at cultural events, visits to museums and heritage places and mixing with local people. It should not be regarded as a definable niche within the broad range of tourism activities, but encompasses all experiences absorbed by the visitor to a place that is beyond their own living environment.

Domestic Tourism generally refers to those who travel within their own country or region for pleasure, business, learning, holiday, recreation or to visit friends and relatives. It includes those who visit another part of their larger living environment, beyond the sphere of their daily lives.

Ecosystems means a dynamic complex of organisms their non-living environment , interacting as a functional unit.

Geodiversity is the range of earth features including geological, geomorphological, palaeontological, soil, hydrological and atmospheric features, systems and earth processes.

Heritage is a broad concept that encompasses our Natural, Indigenous and Historic or Cultural inheritance.

Heritage Collections include all of the moveable articles that may be associated with a place, an activity, a process or a specific historical event. They also include collections of related or unrelated items that have been gathered into museums, art galleries, scientific repositories, archives and libraries, both public and private.

Heritage Place describes a site or area of heritage significance that contains a number of buildings and structures, cultural landscape, monument, building or other structure, historic human settlement, together with the associated contents and surroundings or curtilage. Heritage places include those, which may be buried or underwater.

Heritage Significance recognizes both the *Natural* and *Cultural Significance* or important values and characteristics of places and people.

Host Community is a general concept that encompasses all of the people who inhabit a defined geographical entity, ranging from a continent, a country, a region, a town, village or historic site. Members of the host community have responsibilities that include governing the place and can be regarded as those who have or continue to define its particular cultural identity, lifestyle and diversity. They contribute to the conservation of its heritage and interact with visitors.

Indigenous Cultural Heritage is dynamic. It includes both *Tangible* and *Intangible* expressions of culture that link generations of Indigenous people over time. Indigenous people often express their cultural heritage through “the person”, their relationships with country, people, beliefs, knowledge, law, language, symbols, ways of living, sea, land and objects all of which arise from Indigenous spirituality. Indigenous Cultural Heritage is essentially defined and expressed by the *Traditional Custodians* of that heritage.

Intangible Cultural Heritage can be defined as embracing all forms of traditional and popular or folk culture, the collective works originating in a given community and based on tradition. These creations are transmitted orally or by gesture, and are modified over a period of time, through a process of collective re-creation. They include oral traditions, customs, languages, music, dance, rituals, festivals, traditional medicine and pharmacopeia, popular sports, food and the culinary arts and all kinds of special skill connected with the material aspects of culture, such as tools and the habitat.

International Tourism generally refers to those who travel to another country for pleasure, business, learning, holiday, recreation or to visit friends and relatives.

Interpretation means all of the activities, including research, involved in the explanation and presentation of the *Tangible* and *Intangible* values and characteristics of an *Historic Place*, object, collection, or activity to the visitor or member of the *Host Community*.

Limits of Acceptable Change refers to a process of establishing the key values and characteristics of a place and the maximum extent to which they may change before the core of their importance is degraded to an unacceptable extent. Tourism and other activities can then be monitored or evaluated to determine the rate at which these values are threatened.

Natural Heritage consists of *ecosystems*, *biodiversity*, and *geodiversity* considered significant for the existence value for present and future generations in terms of their scientific, social, aesthetic and life support values.

Natural Heritage Significance means the importance of *ecosystems*, *biodiversity* and *geodiversity* for their existence value or for present and future generations, in terms of their scientific, social, aesthetic and life support value.

Sustainable Future refers to the ability of an action to be carried out without diminishing the continuation of natural processes of change or damaging the long term integrity of natural or cultural environments, while providing for present and future economic and social well-being.

Sustainable Tourism refers to a level of tourism activity that can be maintained over the long term because it results in a net benefit for the social, economic, natural and cultural environments of the area in which it takes place.

Tangible Cultural Heritage encompasses the vast created works of humankind, including places of human habitation, villages, towns and cities, buildings, structures, art works, documents, handicrafts, musical instruments, furniture, clothing and items of personal decoration, religious, ritual and funerary objects, tools, machinery and equipment, and industrial systems.

Tourism Industry encompasses all those who work in, support, facilitate or provide goods and services to *Domestic* and *International Tourism* activities.

Tourism Projects include all of the activities that enable, facilitate, or enhance a visit to a destination, including the provision or upgrading of related infrastructure and facilities.

Traditional Custodians are those people who have by tradition or custom been responsible for the protection, conservation and continuity of the established significance of the place or cultural value. They include indigenous people and those from religious sects or other defined groups who have a strong and established relationship with a particular aspect of the cultural or natural heritage.