

## **TOURISM ACT No. 38 of 2005**

### **Tourist Luxury Camping / Caravanning Sites / Mobile Camping**

Regulations made by the Minister of Economic Development under Section 69 of the Tourism Act No. 38 of 2005 read with the Section 50 of the aforesaid Act, on the advice of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority.

#### **1. REGULATIONS**

- 1.1.** These regulations may be cited as the Tourism (Registration of Tourist **Tourist Luxury Camping / Caravanning Sites / Mobile Camping** as Tourist Enterprises) Regulations No. of 2012 and shall come into operation from
- 1.2.** Every registered operator shall ensure at all times the registered Tourism Tourist Luxury Camping / Caravanning Sites / Mobile Camping conforms to the general guidelines indicated in section 3 and complies with the minimum requirements as stipulated in section 4 below.

#### **2. Definition**

Camping is an outdoor activity involving overnight stay with shelter. Shelter can be temporary or semi-permanent with or without essential services. Organized camping will be basically at pre-selected camp sites. A camping and/or caravanning site (herein after called Site) is defined as a demarcated area of land specifically developed to provide sleeping accommodation either in tents or in caravans and common amenities for living, in a natural environment bordering or in close proximity to outstanding natural or cultural attractions. These can be located either in a restricted area (eg. wildlife, nature and forest reserves or buffer zones or sacred areas) or in a non-restricted area.

##### **2.1. Tourist Luxury Camping/Glamping**

Luxury Camping, also known as Glamping, is organized camping that can be graded as premium and Deluxe based on the facilities provided, offering accommodation and amenities more luxurious than those associated with traditional camping.

##### **2.2. Caravan Camping /RVs**

RV camping, also known as recreational vehicle camping, is a form of outdoor recreation where individuals or families travel and stay in recreational vehicles (RVs) for accommodation and mobility. RVs are equipped with various amenities, such as sleeping quarters, kitchen facilities, and bathroom amenities, allowing campers to

experience the convenience of home while enjoying the freedom and flexibility of camping in various locations, such as campgrounds, national parks, or other outdoor settings.

### **2.3. Mobile Camping**

Mobile camping, also known as expedition camping or mobile tented camping, is a type of outdoor adventure where temporary camps are set up and moved to different locations, allowing participants to explore various landscapes and remote areas. Unlike traditional camping, where campers stay in one location for an extended period, mobile camping involves packing up and relocating the camp frequently, usually every few days or as needed.

## **3. General Guidelines**

### **3.1. Location**

- 3.1.1. Location of sites in a restricted area should be done either at the request of the relevant government Authority or by obtaining prior approval of the Authority. In such cases, the proprietor, in addition to complying with the rules and regulations of the Authority, should also comply with the minimum requirements stipulated in these regulations.
- 3.1.2. Sites can also be located in non-restricted areas such as in government land obtained on lease or in private lands, with the necessary natural and/or cultural attractions.
- 3.1.3. The extent of land necessary to set up a viable site with the minimum necessary facilities should preferably be around three acres, depending on whether the land is flat or hilly or terraced.

### **3.2. Sites Located in Restricted Areas**

- 3.2.1. Limited/restricted campfires are permitted at the discretion of the relevant Authority, depending on the location of the site, but shall be prohibited (this refers only for glamping) where a designated common cooking facility or food service is provided. In areas where such facilities are not provided, campfires may be allowed in designated fire ring under strict guidelines subject to approval by the relevant authorities, with the requirement that the campfire must be completely extinguished before leaving the campsite.
- 3.2.2. Any noise levels that can disturb the environment are not permitted in these sites, and the use of audio-visual equipment shall also not be allowed in the campsite to minimize disturbance to fellow campers and the environment. encourage to follow

quiet hours specially in the evening and the early morning allowing others to enjoy a peaceful camping experience.

- 3.2.3. Cutting of trees or their branches within the Site or environs are strictly prohibited.
- 3.2.4. The Operators of these sites should strictly abide by the rules prescribed by the relevant government authority.
- 3.2.5. The camping site shall be erected at a distance of 200 Ft away from water bodies. Any naturally occurring water bodies within the proposed site shall not be disturbed, altered, or modified.
- 3.2.6. \* 3.2.1 to 3.2.5 adhere to Leave No Trace Principles (LNT).

### **3.3. Sites Located in Non-Restricted Areas.**

- 3.3.1. Limited/restricted campfires are permitted at the discretion of the relevant Authority, depending on the location of the site, but shall be prohibited where a designated common cooking facility or food service is provided. In areas where such facilities are not provided, campfires may be allowed in designated fire ring under strict guidelines subject to approval by the relevant authorities, with the requirement that the campfire must be completely extinguished before leaving the campsite.
- 3.3.2. The sites in non-restricted areas should be developed in a manner which will not cause any adverse impacts on the physical and socio-cultural environment.
- 3.3.3. The extent of development should be in proportion to the carrying capacity of the land area available for development, ensuring avoidance of any adverse effects of overdevelopment. The size of the development shall be determined based on the available land area, maintaining the necessary spaces and distances for a campsite that provides living conditions close to nature.
- 3.3.4. The removal of naturally occurring trees within the proposed site shall not be done and shall be kept to an absolute minimum if it is found to be unavoidable.
- 3.3.5. The use of audio-visual equipment shall be permitted in the camp site under strict guidelines to regulate the sound levels to minimise the disturbance to fellow campers and the environment.

### **3.4. The Essential Facilities and Services to be provided at Organized Camp Sites**

- 3.4.1. The organized sites can be developed to provide facilities and services both for camping and for caravanning/RVs.

- 3.4.2. Separate camping pads(base) should be constructed for camping purposes and separate parking slots should be constructed for caravanning purposes. In addition, there should be a general parking area for the use of the campers.
- 3.4.3. Running water should be made available to the site for washing, cleaning, bathing, and cooking purposes and potable water for drinking purposes.
- 3.4.4. Electric lighting, solar lighting, or any other form of lighting should be made available at the site, ensuring that tents, walkways, and all common facilities are well-lit using appropriate environmentally friendly technology.
- 3.4.5. The use of individual portable electricity generators for the tents shall not be permitted. If the electricity supply to the site requires a generator set, such generator(s) shall be provided with soundproof enclosures, ensuring that the sound level is less than 7 dBA @ 1m. Additionally, the generators shall be positioned as far away as practically possible from the tents and the mobile camper site to minimize any potential disturbances.
- 3.4.6. Common toilet facilities (portable or permanent) should be made available at the site, with separate facilities for males and females, catering to the needs of the campers and other site occupants. The toilets must be equipped with floor and wall finishes conducive to easy cleaning and should be maintained in a very clean condition at all times.
- 3.4.7. There should be common sitting and resting places in the form of summer houses to be used freely by the campers.
- 3.4.8. There should be separate structures (mess tent) built for dining purposes with adequate number of tables and chairs.
- 3.4.9. If the common hearth facilities are used for cooking, they must be well-maintained. Alternatively, gas or electric stoves may be used for cooking, but they should be located in safe areas, avoiding animal corridors. In cases where the site operator has no other means of providing food and beverage services to the campers, wind barriers shall also be provided for the hearth to ensure a safe cooking environment. Safety and cleanliness standards should be upheld at all times to ensure a pleasant camping experience for all visitors.
- 3.4.10. Where food service is provided by the operator, such facility shall maintain very good standards of health and hygiene conditions. The kitchen shall be free from insects and flies. The floor and wall finishes shall be conducive for easy cleaning. Food shall be kept covered at all times and served at the correct temperature at all times.
- 3.4.11. there shall be a designated waste disposal system in place.

### **3.5. The Essential Facilities and Services to be provided at Mobile Camp Sites**

- 3.5.1. The selection of suitable mobile camping sites for safe board and lodging shall ensure that camps are set up at least 200 feet from water sources to allow wildlife to access it from their usual routes and prevent water pollution.
- 3.5.2. The ideal mobile camping site should be flat, conveniently close to firewood and water, off-trail to avoid disrupting other solo campers' wilderness experience, and not located at the bottom of a valley or canyon to avoid the coldest and most humid air.
- 3.5.3. mobile camping organizer must possess knowledge of wilderness first aid and emergency response procedures to ensure the health and safety of the campers.
- 3.5.4. Adequate portable drinking water shall be provided.
- 3.5.5. Solar lighting, or any other form of lighting illumination should be made available at the site, ensuring that tents, walkways, and all common facilities are well-lit using appropriate environmentally friendly technology.
- 3.5.6. Appropriate toilet facilities (portable/cat hole) should be provided.
- 3.5.7. Where food service is provided by the operator, such facility shall maintain very good standards of health and hygiene conditions.
- 3.5.8. De-Camping shall be done according to the LNT principles and be respectful of the nature and the use designated waste disposal facilities or packed-out waste and disposed of it at home.
- 3.5.9. Every effort shall be made to educate campers about the sustainable practices and use of environmentally friendly materials for storing and packaging their camping essentials.

## **4. Minimum Requirements**

### **4.1. Access**

- 4.1.1. There should be unobstructed motorable access to the site or pick-up point from a main trunk road with distinguishable signage leading to the Site.

### **4.2. The organized camping Site**

- 4.2.1. The organized camping site should be landscaped and well maintained at all times.
- 4.2.2. The organized camping site should have pathways leading to common areas and to the individual tents and caravan parking lots.
- 4.2.3. All common areas and the pathways should be adequately lit in the night.

### **4.3. The Mobile Camping Site**

- 4.3.1. The site shall be allowed in non-restricted area and relevant approvals should be taken from relevant land-owning authorities.

### **4.4. Visitor Reception Area/ Assembly Point**

- 4.4.1. There should be a separate reception area/Assembly Point to receive the guests on arrival, attend to registration matters and other requirements.
- 4.4.2. Guests should be fully briefed about the rules and regulations regarding the use of facilities provided and the services available to them.
- 4.4.3. Information regarding the attractions in the area and the activities that can be engaged in should be made available to the guests on arrival.

### **4.5. Camping Pads (base) and Tented camps for organized camping**

- 4.5.1. For Luxury Camps (Glamping), a minimum of ten (10) camping pads (platforms/base), other type of premium and standard camp setups shall be constructed with a minimum of two (2) tents. Each camp setups should be constructed within the site either by hardening the top-soil or by stone paving or by fixing timber decks etc. The minimum size of a camping pad to erect a tent for two sleepers should be 9.3 m<sup>2</sup>. This should leave a small area in front to serve as a veranda.
- 4.5.2. Each camping pad should be supplied with a minimum of two small wooden/plastic/iron/recyclably-made chairs with a small wooden/plastic iron/recyclably-made table and sleeping pads or mattresses.
- 4.5.3. The tents should have a front entry or two entry which becomes sealed once closed and at least two windows with protective nets which could be kept open for ventilation purposes.
- 4.5.4. The tents should become sealed once fixed to prevent entry of harmful insects, rodents, reptiles, serpents etc.
- 4.5.5. Some system of lighting, either electricity, lanterns, or renewable energy to be used in the night should be available.
- 4.5.6. There should be a canopy over each tent, if considered necessary, to prevent any inconveniences causing from adverse weather conditions.
- 4.5.7. The distance between any two camping pads should be around 20 meters. (Premium & Standard camps sites are exempted)
- 4.5.8. The camp operator should have adequate number of tents of different dimensions to be hired to the campers.

#### **4.6. Camping base, tents, and other utensils for mobile camping**

- 4.6.1. complete set of ground sheet, tent, rain fly (ply sheet) and other accessories (poles, pegs & guy line) shall be available for each camp base.
- 4.6.2. Entrenching tool, GPS Tracker/ map & compass, Voki-toki, field first aid pouch, sleeping bags or pads, camping stove, gel freezer cooling bags, camping cutlery & Crockery, multi tool pocket knife, camping tent repair kit, rain gear, touches, A portable battery-operated lamp and/or a flashlight shall be available.
- 4.6.3. The camp operator should have substantially adequate number of tents of different dimensions.

#### **4.7. Common Toilet Unit (portable or permanent) for Organized Camps**

- 4.7.1. The floors and walls up to 1.5 m of common toilet units should be paved with impervious materials.
- 4.7.2. They should be fitted at least with commodes with cisterns, bidet showers, wash basins, bath showers, soap dispensers and towel holders.
- 4.7.3. There should be adequate lighting in the common toilet units, particularly in the night.
- 4.7.4. They should be clean and well maintained at all times.
- 4.7.5. Sanitized Portable toilets are encouraged for mobile camping. cat holes also can be recommended.
- 4.7.6. The sewer and wastewater from the toilets shall be disposed of after treatment using a correctly designed septic tank and a covered soakage pit or a soakage system. For larger facilities an effluent treatment system may be considered.

#### **4.8. Common Toilet Unit for Mobile Camps**

- 4.8.1. Appropriate toilet facilities (portable/cat hole) should be provided.

#### **4.9. Common Hearth / Cooking Area for Organized Camp**

- 4.9.1. There should be a common hearth for cooking, appropriately arranged with at least four outlets for cooking. This facility, however, will not be required if
- 4.9.2. The camping rules do not permit the campers to have their own food and beverage services. (This refers to deluxe camps only)
- 4.9.3. The hearth should have a separate sink for washing and cleaning purposes with the required number of items of cooking utensils. Waste water from the service kitchen and/or the common kitchen facility shall be directed to a well-designed covered grease trap and thereafter to a covered soakage pit or a soakage system.

4.9.4. There should be adequate lighting in and around the hearth/kitchen, particularly in the night.

4.9.5. The place should be kept clean, hygienic, and well maintained at all times.

#### **4.10. Dining area for Organized Camps**

4.10.1. There should be a mess tent, separate building or a separate area in the Site preferably with half walls and thatched roofs, for dining, with adequate number of dining tables and chairs.

4.10.2. The dining area should be kept clean and free of insects and rodents at all times and should be well maintained.

4.10.3. There should be adequate lighting in the dining area, particularly in the night.

#### **4.11. The Site Staff**

4.11.1. The staff of the site should include a manager and such other staff as may be necessary for efficient operation of the Site.

4.11.2. All of them should have the necessary training in the operation of the site and also on safety measure, first aid and fire fighting

4.11.3. They should be medically checked regularly for any communicable diseases

#### **4.12. Health and Safety (First Aid & Fire Fighting Measures)**

4.12.1. A doctor on call should be available at all times to deal with any emergency situation.

4.12.2. Adequate first aid box shall be available with premium non-expired medicines for long-lasting effectiveness.

4.12.3. Adequate fire precautions shall be available on the site with the installation of basic firefighting equipment

**END**