

Guideline For Vehicle Safari Tour Operations

For Registration with Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority

1. Definition

Vehicle safari tour operation means a service provided to tourists by way of an overland journey with some degree of risk, to observe and record attractions of wildlife and their natural habitat within national parks or any other reserves authorized by the Department of Wildlife conservation or the Department of Forest Conservation, operated by professional safari operators, stationed outside those national parks and reserves.

2. General Guidelines

- 2.1.** The safari tour should be confined to the routes demarcated by the Department of Wildlife conservation and shall respect all rules and regulations including one-way paths and no parking zones.
- 2.2.** Safari operations have to be carried out with the permission of wildlife department in a manner that will not cause any disturbances to wildlife by the presence of excessive numbers of vehicles and guests (Safari jeeps up to the capacity of 09 passengers and mini coaches up to the capacity of 26 passengers).
- 2.3.** The operator should observe specified speed limits and ensure that the animals always have the right of way. Vehicles must stop and allow animals to pass through at their pace whenever the animals are crossing the roadways or gathered very close to the roadway.
- 2.4.** The maximum speed limit must be 30km per hour or what is otherwise specified by the wild life authorities, whichever is less.
- 2.5.** Feeding the animals is strictly prohibited and the visitors shall be informed accordingly and prevented from resorting to such activities.
- 2.6.** As any garbage or throwaways is very harmful to animals, there should be receptacles in vehicles to bring back garbage accumulated during the tour for disposal in a proper manner. The safari driver must ensure that left over food, garbage or any such materials are not disposed of within or around the wild life parks by the visitors.
- 2.7.** Guest must encourage to participate for sustainability and eco-friendly practices while on tour.
- 2.8.** The rules of the relevant authorities should be strictly observed in operating safari tours.
- 2.9.** *All safari vehicles shall be registered with the Department of wild life Conservation and possess a valid license to enter the park.
- 2.10.** All Safari vehicles shall prominently display the sticker, issued by the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, in the vehicle.

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2.11. The clients shall be briefed, before commencement of the tour regarding how they should conduct themselves, the “dos and don’ts”, while on the tour.

2.12. *All safari drivers & tracker shall be trained to act in case of all emergencies by certified authorities.

3. Minimum Requirements

3.1. For Safari Operator

3.1.1. *The Operator should possess a valid business registration obtained from the Registrar of Business Names or the Registrar of companies or relevant local authority.

3.1.2. *Should have a permanent base of operation with adequate number of qualified staff. In the case of individual operators, the address and contact details must be prominently displayed in the vehicle.

3.1.3. * Should have adequate communication facilities (Walkie-talkies provided by Department of Wildlife conservation) to maintain contacts with the vehicle driver/guide and the wild life department office as necessary during the safari tour. No mobile phones are permitted during the tour.

3.1.4. * Should have parking areas large enough for parking of the number of vehicles available for safari tours.

3.1.5. Should provide accommodation/ changing facilities with showers and toilets for staff including drivers

3.1.6. The operator shall ensure that all vehicles used for safari tours are always in excellent state of repair and should be fully equipped with safety equipment and emergency rescue gear as required.

3.1.7. The operator shall carry out orientations, regular training programs and the on-the-job training programs to develop hospitality and service skills of the staff, safari drivers. Records of the all-training programs carried out shall be maintained.

3.1.8. The operator shall provide brochure/s or booklet/s with the information of Information regarding tariffs, durations of tours, code of ethics and rates and attractions covered shall be clearly displayed prominently at the base of operation.

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3.2. For Safari Vehicles, Drivers, and Trackers

- 3.2.1.** All safari vehicles shall comply with the terms and conditions stipulated by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles. If safari vehicles are modified, it shall have a Condition Report obtained annually from the Commissioner General of Motor Traffic.
- 3.2.2. * All safari vehicles shall have a valid revenue license and comprehensive insurance cover with sufficient provision to cover the requirement of tourists as per their country of origin.**
- 3.2.3. * The number of passengers in a vehicle shall not exceed the registered carrying capacity of the vehicle**
- 3.2.4. *Safari Drivers shall be in possession of a valid driving license issued by the Department of Motor Traffic (DMT) and a medical certificate issued by the National Transport Medical Institute (NTMI) renewed as specified.**
- 3.2.5.** Safari Drivers shall have sufficient knowledge with regard to technical, safety and maintenance aspects of the safari vehicle.
- 3.2.6.** Safari Drivers shall be in uniformed attire depicting the Brand of Safari Service and be in possession of an Identity Card issued by the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority In Collaboration With Department Of Wild Life Conservation
- 3.2.7.** Safari Drivers Shall Refrain from Chewing Beetle, Consuming Alcohol, Smoking or Consuming Any Other Illegal Drugs While on Tour.
- 3.2.8.** Safari Drivers shall maintain professional and friendly relations with the passengers and the tracker.
- 3.2.9.** An emergency First Aid Box shall be available in the vehicle.

Note: All requirements marked with an asterisk (*) are mandatory.

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