



Sustainability Update 2025 : Investing in People, Places & the Planet

At Black Mountain, sustainability isn't a side project, it's at the heart of how we travel.

From supporting our suppliers and our host communities, to protecting the wild places we love, we're excited to share the latest steps we've taken to make our adventures even more socially and environmentally responsible.



Empowering Our Partners through Sustainability Education.

To help our suppliers stay informed and inspired, we produced translated sustainability factsheets this year and share them widely—including with members of the Western Balkans Geotourism Network (WBGN) on LinkedIn.

In December 2024, we released new sustainability factsheets to all Black Mountain suppliers and added them to the WBGN online resource library.

Find the factsheets [here](#).

Interest in developing sustainable tourism is growing rapidly among tourism businesses in Montenegro with more than 120 Businesses now signed up to the WBGN charter – an initiative which we started





Our Working Policy for Suppliers and Sustainable Purchasing Policy were updated in 2025, incorporating valuable suggestions from our supplier network.

Download updated policies [here](#).

We've also refreshed our Sustainable Best Practices handout for accommodation partners.

Alongside mandatory sustainability standards, this guide now includes practical, money-saving tips to support greener operations.

New for 2025, we introduced a sustainability self-assessment questionnaire for accommodation providers—complementing our on-site inspections and guide and customer feedback.

Activities: Sustainable Travel in Action

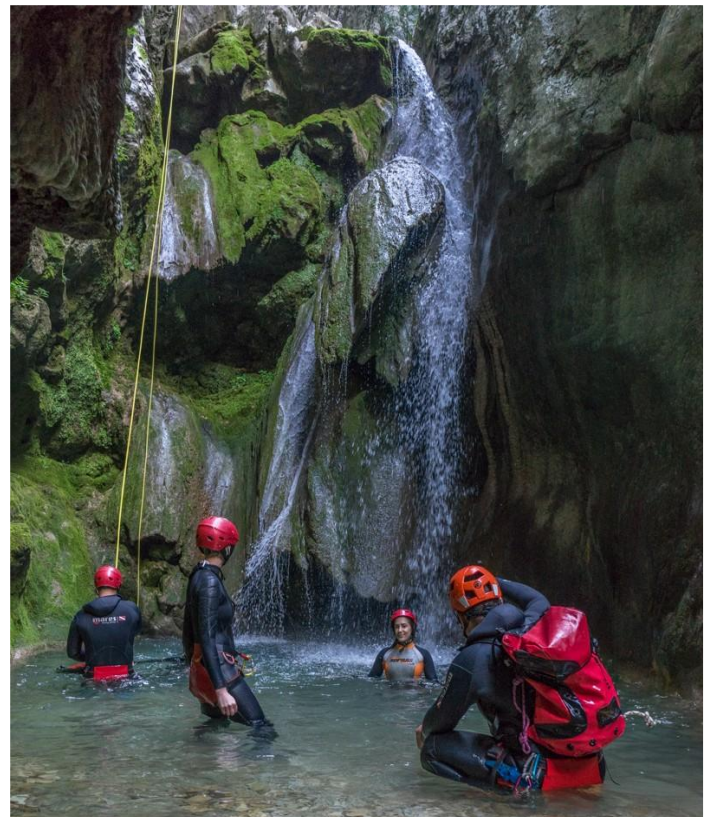
Every location and attraction we include in our trips is assessed for its sustainability performance.

In 2024, we developed a Code of Conduct for visiting vulnerable communities and sensitive environments, based on Travelife principles.

Our guides are trained to apply these protocols on the ground.

- Avoiding overcrowded destinations at peak times
- Respecting local customs and sensibilities
- Educating and informing hosts and travellers about Montenegro's unique cultural and natural vulnerabilities
- Following outdoor ethics

In 2024 we began monitoring cruise ship schedules to re-route our tours helps to reduce congestion in Kotor Old Town



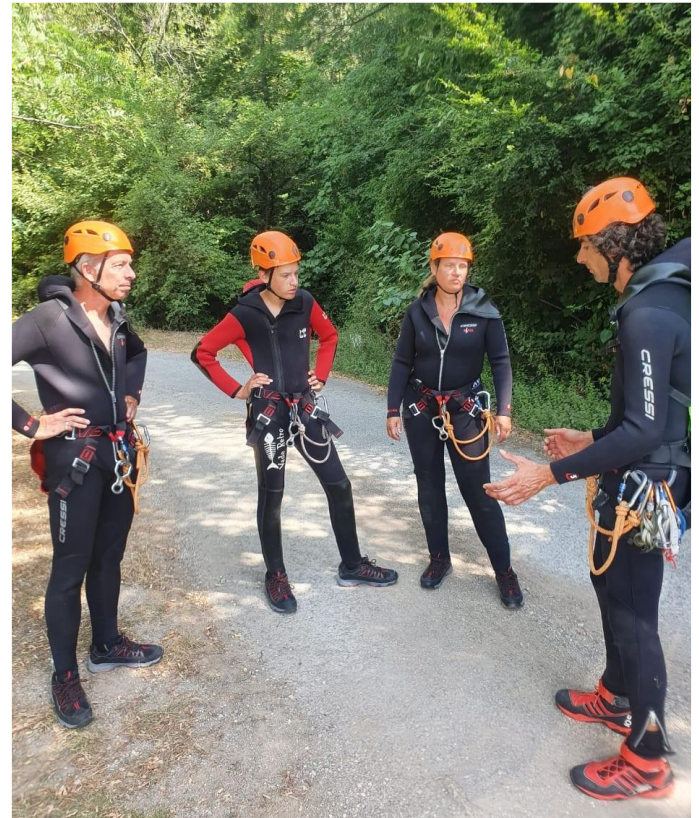
For visiting nature and natural sites we train our guides to ensure that our guests (and hosts) follow Leave No Trace outdoor ethics:

To better help our customers to minimise their impacts **in 2024 we introduced LEAVE NO TRACE guest briefings** before visiting protected natural areas

Leave No Trace training is now provided for all new suppliers offering outdoor activities.

Leave No Trace training covers two tiers depending upon our suppliers/host requirements. Trainer (who will be qualified to teach one day training seminars) and one day introductory training seminars.

18 Leave No Trace Trainers were educated by us during 2024.



Training & Qualifications

We updated our Guide & Sustainability Policies in 2025. We review them together during pre-season meetings and training sessions.

We continue to collaborate with the **Western Balkans Adventure Travel Trade Association (WBATA)**—a non-profit representing tourism businesses across the region. We are adopting their sustainability badges/logos and advising on the development of award criteria.



Sustainable Travel Offers

Our partners continue to invest in cleaner, greener transport options.

In 2025, we expanded two cycling routes that now incorporate e-bikes, reducing the need for road transfers and cutting emissions along the way.

Listening to Our Travellers

Sustainability matters to our guests—so we ask about it directly.

Our customer feedback questionnaire includes a dedicated sustainability section, and we always encourage open communication.

Guest feedback helps us track our progress and refine our practices.



Reducing Our Office Footprint

We're committed to keeping our operational footprint as low as possible.

Recent actions include:

Eliminating printed brochures and itineraries—guides now use e-versions

Introducing digital waivers for guests

Recycling plastic, paper, and metal—all now recyclable locally in Montenegro

Prioritizing locally produced and sustainably certified goods (including Fairtrade and eco-labelled products)

Monitoring home-office energy and water use, achieving an

**11% reduction in electricity use in 2024 and a
4% reduction in water use**

