



## **Black Mountain Montenegro Ltd and Black Mountain D.o.o.**

### **Sustainability / Responsible Travel Policy**

#### **Our Current Policy and Practice**

##### **1) Care for Environments** - Protection of local environments:

- Black Mountain originated and part funded Leave No Trace training for a group of Montenegrins in 2008, including tourism providers, guides, National Park wardens and people working in NGOs and local policy implementation.
- We provide free outdoor Leave No Trace seminars for schools.
- Through our ARMeX Adventure race we have initiated a conservation programme to survey endangered large mammal species in Montenegro and neighbouring regions and to protect their habitats. See [www.adventureracemontenegro.com](http://www.adventureracemontenegro.com).
- Black Mountain joins together with other community groups and NGOs to organise annual clean up' of local areas and also abseil clean ups of mountain ravines where rubbish has collected.

##### **Energy:**

We provide factsheets to all our accommodation providers containing advice on how to minimise energy use.

##### **Water:**

We provide factsheets to our accommodation providers to show them how to minimise water use and how to re-cycle grey water.

##### **Waste:**

We have given seminars and factsheets to our accommodation providers to help them collect and recycle waste. In 2 cases, we collect this recycled waste from 'eco-camps' and take it to our municipality where it can be recycled.

##### **Resource use:**

We only use paper bags when we sell items from our agency shops. We recycle paper and plastic from our offices.

##### **Travel:**

Our vehicles are all maintained to UK emissions standards.



## **2) Care for Communities**

### **Employment:**

We are an equal opportunities employer and encourage part-time employees who are still completing their education. We have provided and paid for training for our employees in the past.

### **Economy:**

Our travel agency shops only stock souvenirs which were manufactured in Montenegro. We are the only company to sell craftwork produced by a local handicapped children's group for no profit.

### **Culture:**

We have encouraged tourism into the most remote communities such as the Sinjajevina Plateau where traditional transhumance is in decline. By bringing guests and media (eg Globetrekker and Treks in a Wild World) to highlight the region we are encouraging visitors to stay in the summer shepherd's villages (katuns) thereby providing an income for local families. We ensure that our tours include cultural highlights such as music (Guzla, Trumpet and Gypsy music) and particularly domestically prepared food.

We set up and run a charitable NGO - Adventure Race Montenegro (ARM) with 5 other outdoor/adventure tourism businesses as well as local NGOs and sports clubs. ARM stages 2 adventure races each year with entry free to local teams. Both events promote the ARM conservation programme and raise money for local charities.  
[www.adventureracemontenegro.com](http://www.adventureracemontenegro.com)

### **Future Actions Planned**

- \* ) Work more closely with our accommodation providers to develop best practices for energy and water use.
- \* ) Continue to expand our Leave No Trace network through free instruction for LNT trainers certificates.
- \* ) Invite more local environmental NGO's / clubs to join our annual clean ups.
- \* ) Adapt all the ARMeX adventure race support vehicles to run on bio-diesel.

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