

responsible sustainable travel

In today's world we all need to reduce our environmental footprint. It's an investment in our society's future. Travel is a privilege, so think about spending your money with a company that actively protects the environment and genuinely cares about the local communities it operates in.

At Auswalk, we are committed to running a responsible, sustainable business by:

- ◆ operating our office in an environmentally responsible way
- ◆ developing tours that are environmentally sound
- ◆ educating our customers about minimal impact walking
- ◆ spreading a caring philosophy amongst our suppliers
- ◆ buying local wherever possible
- ◆ providing financial assistance to conservation groups
- ◆ donating money to charities
- ◆ continually striving to lessen our environmental impact

auswalk's office...

We're fortunate to be based in one of the most spectacular natural regions in the world - the Grampians National Park. Yes, the kangaroos really do hop by the windows! Our office is very energy efficient with its passive solar design, double glazing, rainwater tanks, solar hot water, evaporative cooling, green power and a worm farm for sewerage waste. We adopt a reduce, reuse then recycle policy wherever possible. Our brochures are available electronically to lessen the adverse impacts associated with printing.

on tour...

We focus on small group travel as smaller groups cause less environmental and social impact. We foster an understanding and appreciation of our fragile ecosystems. We adopt a "carry it in - carry it out" policy and pick up litter left by others. You'll learn minimal impact walking techniques that will ensure we leave nothing behind other than footprints and take nothing away but memories and someone else's rubbish.

supporting local communities...

On Auswalks we care about the local communities we stay in. Our preference is to use small, locally owned accommodation properties, and restaurants featuring fresh regional produce. Wherever possible we incorporate local attractions and tours en route such as historic lighthouses, local wineries, boat cruises etc. that are worthwhile enhancements to a walking experience. On some tours we also include indigenous tourism experiences such as bush tucker walks so that our customers receive a broader cultural experience. The majority of the money we collect ends up in these local communities so you can be assured that more of your travel dollar benefits grass roots tourism, going to where it is needed the most.

supporting conservation...

We like the twin ideas of both conserving our environment and also making it easier for people to visit National Parks. During this year we assisted our local Friends of Grampians Gariwerd, who work in close co-operation with local Parks Victoria staff to promote the conservation, protection and restoration of the Grampians National Park. The Friends of Otway National Park also receives support which assists with its regeneration work in the Great Ocean Walk area - pictured bottom right is a re-vegetation project undertaken at Castle Cove. The Friends of the Great South West Walk help to maintain that track, and the Blue Mountains Conservation Society is currently working to protect endangered "hanging swamps" that are featured on our Blue Mountains walking holidays. All receive our assistance.

receive quality interpretation...

Advanced Ecotourism Certification provides travellers with an assurance that Auswalk is committed to best practice ecological sustainability, natural area management and the provision of quality ecotourism experiences.

