



NATURFREUNDE
AMIS DE LA NATURE
NATUREFRIENDS
INTERNATIONAL

Guiding Principles for Naturefriends Houses

Introduction

In the course of almost one hundred years, Naturefriends have built more than 700 houses. The spectrum extends from rustic mountain shelters to Naturefriends hotels. The present Guiding Principles set out the objectives pursued with our activities in the 'houses sector' and serve a common internal and external approach. Naturefriends houses are identifiable by the Naturefriends logo and name.

Guiding Principles for all Naturefriends houses

Naturefriends

We are an international, democratically organised movement seeking to establish or to maintain sustainable relations among people and between people and nature.

Openminded, international and inspired by a spirit of solidarity

Naturefriends houses are vibrant meeting points. Welcome are all visitors subscribing to the principles of democracy, tolerance and solidarity.

Ecological and sustainable

The sustainable use of resources and respect for the natural environment are essential elements of our overall goals. We seek to meet our energy requirements to the greatest possible extent from renewable sources, we use state-of-the-art technologies to save water and energy and refrain from discharging untreated sewage into nature.



Socially committed

Families, children and young people are most welcome. Disadvantaged groups (e.g. lone parents, people with disabilities, unemployed people or people from countries with low purchasing power) deserve our solidarity, and we take account of their needs.

Discounts

Members of the Naturefriends movement make a major contribution to the upkeep of our houses and are consequently entitled to discounts on overnight stays.

Fit and fun

Our focus is on the joyful encounter with people and nature. We wish to instil people with health awareness in a cheerful and relaxing atmosphere.

Amicable atmosphere

We give pride of place to the well-being of our visitors. We make them welcome, showing everyone the same consideration and cordiality.

Peace and quiet

We make sure that our visitors' need for recreation and relaxation is not impaired by noise and exhaust fumes in the vicinity of our houses.

Eco-friendly furnishings and amenities

Our houses are convenient and cosy. In sensitive regions, convenience will be governed by ecological requirements.

Regional construction

When building, expanding and converting our houses, we make sure to use regional construction material and to build in the regional style. When it comes to interior work, we try to go for an open, functional and welcoming design.

Statutory provisions

It goes without saying that our houses comply with the statutory provisions for hygiene, safety, fire prevention, health and safety at the workplace and environment protection.

Teamwork and advanced training

Our managers, leaseholders, shelter wardens and employees form welcoming teams who cooperate in a friendly and considerate way and go in for periodic advanced training. They inform visitors about Naturefriends activities.



Addenda

a) Fully serviced houses

Healthy fare

Healthy food is included as a matter of course in our bills of fare. Non-smoking zones and compliance with rules of hygiene and cleanliness are standard features at our houses.

Sustainability in catering

We seek to ensure that our managers refrain from using non-returnable containers or packaged individual servings. Our guests are asked to take their litter home. We give preference to products from the region, with a view to foster local businesses.

b) Houses with special functions

Focus on soft tourism

Those in charge of our houses seek to introduce visitors to the region's natural and cultural features and to inform them about options for outings and excursions as well as about routes and walks. If at all possible, they provide written vademecums and sketched maps. Naturefriends walking guides are well trained to take care of visitors. Every effort is made to maintain trails and signage in the vicinity of the houses.

Equipment rental (optional for boat houses, climbing centres, biker hostels, etc.)

To visitors going in for climbing, canoeing or other leisure sports, house managers will be happy to rent out available equipment and to establish contact with experts, if they require advice or instruction.

Safety and advice

In the mountains or in difficult terrain (densely timbered or uninhabited areas) staff will be prepared to give advice on weather developments, choice of equipment and routes. All serviced houses provide rescue and first aid equipment as well as facilities for contacting the ambulance service in case of accidents.

