The journey is an encounter, and every encounter is a privilege. At Capawasi Travel, we conceive it as an exchange between two worlds. This charter defines the DNA of our agency: an exploration that magnifies the world without transforming it. As a traveler, you are the main actor. This document is not a list of prohibitions, but a guide to enrich your experience while preserving the diversity of people and nature.

"Take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints. »

1. BEFORE DEPARTURE: THE SPIRIT OF PREPARATION

A successful journey begins with curiosity and humility.

- **Get informed**: Take the time to discover Ecuador's history and cultures; learn a few basic words, a sign of courtesy that facilitates contact. Also respect the recommended vaccinations: it is an act of protection for you and respect for local populations.
- **Responsible luggage**: Carry only the essentials. Prefer biodegradable hygiene products (phosphate-free soaps) and replace plastic bottles with a reusable bottle with a filter. Limit the use of non-biodegradable packaging that you might be forced to leave behind.

2. DURING THE JOURNEY: THE ETHICS OF ENCOUNTER

- **The off-the-beaten-path adventure**: Choosing Capawasi means accepting the unpredictable as part of the adventure. Our itineraries prioritize authenticity and can be modified at any time for weather reasons, safety or to take advantage of the opportunity of a unique encounter. The traveler agrees to face these changes with a "flexible mentality", understanding that the unforeseen is the guarantee of a truly extraordinary experience.

- **The local rhythm**: Haste and impatience are rarely the best way to win sympathy. Overcome the cultural barrier with an open, smiling and appreciative attitude (e.g. by sincerely praising the welcome or a meal offered).

- **Photography Ethics**: A photo is taken with its subject, not against it. Always ask permission before photographing someone, and parental consent in the case of children. Always respect a refusal.

https://capawasitravel.com I info@capawasitravel.com I +593 (0)99 549 7684

- **Dress and behavior**: Dress appropriately for the places visited, especially at sacred sites or rural communities. Avoid ostentatious signs of wealth that contrast sharply with the local standard of living.

- **No "trophies"**: Do not take souvenirs from natural or archaeological sites (stones, plants, fossils). The purchase of sacred objects or products from protected species (ivory, furs, feathers) is strictly prohibited.

- **Human dignity**: Sex tourism is a violation of dignity condemned by law. Stay alert: what may seem like "sexual freedom" is often a consequence of economic hardship.

- **Responsible donations**: Avoid giving money or materials directly (medicines, school supplies...) without consulting us beforehand. These gestures can generate jealousy or encourage child begging, keeping children away from school. If you would like to help, please contact us to coordinate an official and helpful action.

- **Support a balanced economy**: Tipping should be a token of gratitude based on the local cost of living and not on your own purchasing power. A disproportionate tip generates artificial inflation that makes basic products inaccessible to locals. We will guide you on the appropriate amounts so that your generosity contributes to a harmonious development.

- **The practice of haggling**: If it is part of the local culture, haggling is welcome, but it must be done with judgment and fairness. If a price seems excessive to you, try to adjust it to a fairer value, keeping in mind that small sums to you can be vital to the economy of a local household. Particular attention is required when dealing directly with artisans: in front of the creator, negotiation becomes a matter of respect for their expertise.

- **Humility**: The journey is a discovery, not a reproduction of your everyday life. Cultural humility involves respecting the social structures and traditions of our hosts, even if they differ from their personal convictions. Be a conscientious guest: observe without judgment and be careful not to disturb local customs with inappropriate habits or demands.

3. ON THE GROUND: PROTECTING LIFE

- **Towards Zero Waste and Zero Plastic**: To preserve the purity of Ecuadorian landscapes, prioritize the use of a reusable bottle and tote bags to eliminate single-use plastic. Practice waste separation according to local regulations and, in the absence of adequate recycling infrastructure, commit to bringing your polluting or non-biodegradable waste (disposable and rechargeable batteries, plastics) back to your country of origin.
- **Save water and energy**: Drinking water and electricity are valuable resources in Ecuador. Use them carefully: Turn off the lights and air conditioning when you leave your room and prefer short showers. To protect rivers and oceans, use biodegradable soaps and shampoos without

phosphates. Avoid tanning oils that create a film on the surface of the water and prefer biodegradable sunscreens.

- **Wildlife**: Animal observation should never alter their natural behavior. Keep a safe distance, remain silent, and do not touch or feed animals so as not to modify their diet or make them aggressive.

- **Fragile ecosystems**: Strictly respect the boundaries of protected areas and restricted zones; these standards ensure the safety of all and the survival of vulnerable ecosystems.

4. AFTER THE TRIP: THE SUSTAINABLE COMMITMENT

- **Keep your promises**: If you've promised to send photos, do so. The human bond is the most rewarding part of the journey. You can also send them to the agency, and we will gladly share them with local communities.

- **Share your story**: Share your experiences to raise awareness about the fragility of our planet and the benefits of responsible tourism.

- **Take action**: Support local initiatives or contribute to climate offsetting to reduce the impact of your trip.