

Child Safe Tourism Solutions

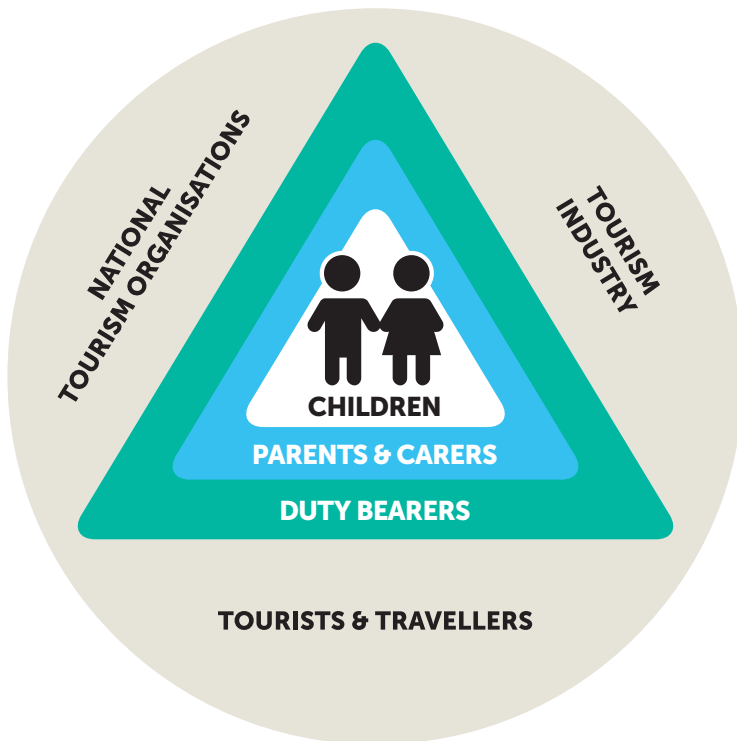
to prevent child abuse in tourism

www.childsafetourism.org

Protecting children is everyone's business

We all benefit from responsible tourism that protects our natural, cultural and human assets, especially our children. As tourism grows around the world, children are particularly vulnerable to abuse.

Children need special protection. This is not the responsibility of a single organisation. We all can play a part in protecting children.



**You can help build Child Safe Tourism.
We all have a role to play in protecting children
from abuse.**

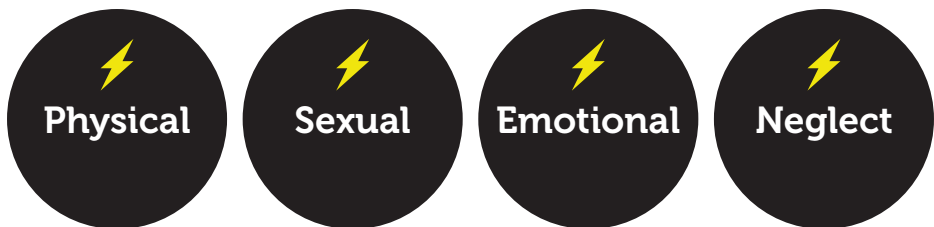
What is child abuse?

A 'child' is anyone under the age of 18 years. Child abuse is any action (or non-action) that is not accidental and hurts a child or puts a child in danger.

Millions of children around the world suffer abuse every day. Child abuse occurs in every country of the world.

Types of child abuse

There are four main forms of child abuse. Often, more than one type of abuse occurs at the same time.



Impacts of child abuse

Abuse has serious effects on children and can result in long-term physical and psychological problems.

The consequences of abuse extend beyond the immediate victims and affect families, communities and the tourism sector.

What is child abuse?



Verbally abusing a child



Teasing a child unnecessarily



Touching a child where he/she doesn't want to be touched



Ignoring a child



Exposing a child to pornographic acts or literature



Forcing a child to touch you



Breaking down the self confidence of a child



Hitting or hurting a child – often to relieve your own frustration



Manipulating a child



Not taking care of a child, for example: unclean, unclothed, unfed



Using a child as a servant



Neglecting emotional needs of a child



Making your own child a 'servant' depriving of time for education / leisure



Hitting and ridiculing a child at school



Neglecting a child's medical needs



Neglecting a child's educational needs



Leaving a child without supervision

The Child Safe Traveller

Asia

is predicted to experience the greatest growth in tourism in the next two decades.

3.6 million
tourists to
Cambodia

3.3 million
tourists to
Lao PDR

22.3 million
tourists to
Thailand

6.8 million
tourists to
Vietnam

Over

36 million tourists

came to Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam in 2012.

Children in tourism areas

are more vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.



60% of travellers saw children unsupervised on the streets.

33% of travellers saw children working in tourism facilities (eg. hotels, restaurants, etc).

18% of travellers saw children working in night-time entertainment facilities.

95% of travellers encountered local children in tourism areas. Many interactions left tourists feeling sad, guilty, concerned and disappointed.



Tourists to South East Asia want:

Child Safe Travellers are less likely to inadvertently put children at risk of abuse.

Activities that can put children at risk:

■ = Tourists who understood child safe tourism
■ = Tourists overall



1 clear information about how to be a child safe traveller.

2 more consumer choices that align with child safe tourism.

3 to be part of the change, led by governments and the tourism industry.

"Protecting children is everybody's responsibility."

— Research Participant

What are the risks to children in tourism?

1 Children are on the streets in tourism environments.

For example, children may be begging or selling items/food for tourists. Girls and boys that spend a lot of time on the streets are most vulnerable to abuse.

2 Children are working in tourism or related sectors, sometimes in exploitative situations.

For example, children may be working in the tourism industry, including as tour guides, in restaurants, karaoke clubs, bars, etc. Children may also be exploited in the sex industry.

3 Children are easily accessible to travellers and tourists.

For example, travelling child sex offenders may gain access to vulnerable girls and boys by working in schools or 'orphanages'. Concerning trends include:

- **"orphanage tourism"** which can cause harm to children's development and well-being and put children at risk of abuse
- **"voluntourism"** in children's organisations where volunteers are not adequately checked or 'vetted'
- **"home-stays"** where appropriate boundaries between visitors and children are not ensured

Children's vulnerability to various forms of abuse, such as sexual abuse, are interlinked.

What can I do to make the tourism environment safe for children?

1 Respect children

Ensure my own behaviour towards girls and boys is appropriate.

2 Raise awareness

Tell my family, colleagues, customers and community about risks to children and how they can ensure children are safe in tourism.

3 Be vigilant and recognise signs that indicate a child may be at risk

Be aware of what is happening in my environment. Look for situations where girls and boys may be at risk of abuse.

4 Take action if you see a child is at risk

Tell my manager or supervisor. Follow my company's child protection policy (if one exists). Write down the details of what I saw. Make a formal report (turn over for contact numbers).





How do I make a report?

Do not ignore a situation where children may be at risk of abuse. By making a report, you may help to prevent abuse.



Inform your manager of the situation

.....



Call the national child protection hotline

.....



Contact the local authorities

.....



Contact a reputable child protection agency

.....

How child safe is my tourism business?

Take the test

Please mark your answer with a tick ✓

Yes No

1. Staff in my business are aware about the issue of child abuse in tourism.		
2. Staff in my business know how to identify whether children may be at risk of abuse.		
3. Staff in my business know how to respond and report possible cases of child abuse, especially sexual abuse.		
4. My business supports local vulnerable families, schools and /or social programs in helping children.		
5. Staff in my business have been trained about the issue of child abuse in tourism.		
6. My business has a child protection policy which we actively implement to prevent child abuse.		
7. My business informs customers/partner companies about our commitment to protect children.		
8. My business raises general issues and concerns of child abuse at community and tourism forums.		

Results:

If you ticked 'Yes' for all of the above questions, your business is taking excellent steps to protect children. Keep up the good work!

If you ticked 'No' for any questions, refer to the back of this card for ways in which you can positively build a protective environment for children.

Ways to make my business child safe

1 Inside the business:

- Develop and apply a child protection policy.
- Conduct child protection training for all staff.
- Empower staff to act.
- Establish clear lines for referring cases, concerns and reports.

2 With clients/suppliers:

- Inform customers and other companies about your commitment.
- Include Child Safe Tourism information in your company documents, including advertising, website, promotional materials and invoices.
- Raise awareness of Child Safe Tourism by displaying campaign materials in public areas of your business.

3 In the community:

- Support reputable children's programs.
- Offer employment/mentoring opportunities to families of children at risk.
- Raise general issues of child vulnerability in the local community through appropriate community channels.
- Be creative. What can you do to make a difference for children?

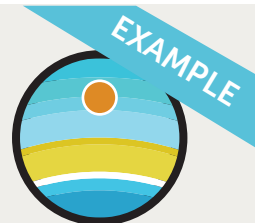
Writing a Child Protection Policy

A written policy makes it clear that your company will not tolerate child abuse. It includes clear processes to prevent and respond to abuse. It should be simple, practical and achievable.

Most importantly, your policy should not just be words on paper – but a set of guidelines which are actively followed by all managers and staff.

Golden Beach Guest House Child Protection Policy

The Golden Beach Guest House believes all children should be safe from harm. We will not tolerate abuse. Instead, we will protect children through all of our business practices.



We will provide training for all staff so they are empowered to act if they see a situation where children face abuse or exploitation.

We expect and encourage all staff to report any child protection concerns to management.

The management is committed to follow-up all reports and refer information about child exploitation to the relevant authorities.

We will actively display the child protection campaign in our business so our customers know our position.

We will find ways to positively support local children in our community, including raising general issues about child vulnerability to local authorities and community associations.

Customers prefer responsible businesses that keep children safe

Research shows that tourists and travellers to the Mekong Sub-Region prefer responsible businesses that keep children safe from abuse. So let your customers, investors and partner companies know that your business is committed to protecting children.

Join the Child Safe Tourism campaign

- Promote the Child Safe Tourism campaign on your website and in your workplace.
- Include Child Safe Tourism messaging in your promotional brochures, media and advertising.
- Invite your customers to help you in your efforts to protect children. Provide information that informs travellers how they can be Child Safe Travellers.

Contact us to request Child Safe Tourism marketing materials or discuss co-branding opportunities childsafetourism@wvi.org



w: childsafetourism.org and wvi.org/asiapacific/childsafetourism
f: facebook.com/ChildSafeTourism t: twitter.com/childsafetravel



Child Safe Tourism

Take action against abuse

How 'child safe' is tourism in my country?

Take the test

Please mark your answer with a tick ✓

Yes No

1. My Government is signatory to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.		
2. My Government has a national policy, strategy or plan of action to strengthen child protection systems.		
3. My Government recognises that children have special rights to protection.		
4. My Government has an effective legislative system addressing child abuse, especially sexual abuse.		
5. My Government applies standards for the tourism industry outlining their duties to protect children.		
6. My Government trains relevant officials in how to protect children and respond to cases of child abuse, including sexual abuse.		
7. My Government manages a hotline number for the reporting of child protection concerns, including sexual abuse.		
8. My Government supports a helpline number for children and their parents/carers to contact for advice.		
9. My Government supports public education and social dialogue on child protection, including child sexual abuse in tourism.		
10. Key departments in my Government cooperate together to protect children from abuse, including sexual abuse.		
11. My Government cooperates with the private sector, NGOs and communities to stop child abuse in tourism.		

Results:

If you ticked 'Yes' for all of the above questions, your government is taking excellent steps to protect children. Keep up the good work!

If you ticked 'No' for any questions, refer to the back of this card for ways you can positively build a protective environment for children.

Ways that governments can build Child Safe Tourism

1 Develop and deliver national policies, strategies or plans on child protection

- National policies addressing child abuse, including sexual abuse.
- Legal system.
- Standards for the tourism sector.

2 Take action to stop child abuse in tourism

- Behaviour change campaigns, public education and social dialogue.
- Hotline reporting numbers and helplines for children.
- Training for government officials.
- Vetting of people working directly with children.

3 Cooperate to build strong safeguards for children

- Cross-border cooperation.
- National cooperation.
- Local cooperation (referrals/coordination).

