

SAVANNAH GUIDES



Protectors and Interpreters of the Outback

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR CULTURAL PROTOCOLS

Please consider these principles in your tour guiding and operations:

- Appreciate and respect the interconnectedness of all peoples to each other and to country.
- Find out who the local people are and contact them for local knowledge and protocols. Remain open to, and listen out for, the local stories.
- In development stages – consult with local people about protocols and participation.
- Install interpretive signage stating traditional ownership and status of welcome/entry, relevance of area, sacred status.
- Acknowledge country by speaking from your heart. Identify yourself and state your purpose when entering to show respect. This is also a part of looking after yourself and your customers.
- Educate and encourage guests to respect country by also acknowledging country, and by not littering, damaging the land or behaving disrespectfully.
- As a tour leader you can change your guests' attitudes and cultural awareness, encouraging human respect for spiritual boundaries.
- Say hello to locals and show respect.
- Use local stories from local people, acknowledge your source and share appropriately.
- Only use cultural knowledge that has been authorised by local people.
- Slow down and feel the country. Enjoy the moment.

These concepts were noted at an interactive workshop at Standley Chasm, 13 October 2013 and discussed afterwards by email. Contributors were Alice Springs Savannah Guides School participants including Kimberley region Indigenous tour operators, Savannah Guides members, other tour guides and tourism personnel.