



OUR COMMITMENT TO RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

REPORT 2024

travel
pioneers®





OUR EFFORTS

Travel Pioneers has established an official Sustainability Policy that highlights our dedication to incorporating sustainable practices across all aspects of our operations, from internal processes to the selection of suppliers. This policy ensures that our decisions are guided by environmental, social, and economic responsibility, promoting positive impacts on the destinations we offer and the communities we collaborate with.

As a luxury tourism company, we are deeply committed to

preserving the environment, supporting local cultures, and fostering sustainability throughout our activities. The policy focuses on mitigating adverse impacts, minimizing unavoidable ones, and promoting the equitable sharing of benefits between our company, the communities we work with, and the environment.

The key areas of our policy are: environmental, social, cultural and economic efforts.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS

- We implement resource saving practices and recycling in our operations, encouraging the same from our travelers and suppliers.
- Our travel routes are optimized to minimize time on the road, reducing fuel use and carbon footprints.
- We support local organizations with projects that enhance environmental well-being in vulnerable areas.
- We involve our travelers in CO2 measurement, reduction, and offset programs.
- Our itineraries incorporate collaborations with environmental conservation projects.
- Suppliers are chosen for their high quality, sustainable products and shared values.
- We emphasize environmental education with certified guides and awareness during visits to national parks and wildlife reserves.
- We operate small, personalized group tours to avoid mass tourism.

ECONOMIC EFFORTS

- We work closely with small local operators, supporting their growth through financial assistance for specific projects.
- We prioritize suppliers who demonstrate a strong commitment to sustainability and responsible business practices.
- Our staff receive fair wages, additional benefits, and recognition for their contributions through bonuses and opportunities for professional growth.

SOCIAL & CULTURAL EFFORTS

- We respect and value local communities and cultures, seeking to make a positive impact through ongoing collaborations and support.
- We support local projects that contribute to social well-being in vulnerable areas.
- We provide continuous training to our staff for professional development and awareness of social and environmental issues.
- We offer flexible working models for staff, promoting work-life balance and well-being.
- Gender equity is a key focus, with our female-led company ensuring equal opportunities for all employees.
- We create a productive work environment that promotes gender equality and overall staff well-being.

At Travel Pioneers, we believe luxury and sustainability can go hand in hand. While we acknowledge that there is still much to improve, our commitment to these values is unwavering. We hope to inspire others in the tourism industry to join us on this journey. Our Sustainability Policy is regularly reviewed and updated to ensure its relevance and effectiveness, with every team member committed to its implementation.





FROM WORDS **TO ACTION**

INTERNAL SIGNATURE INITIATIVES

Create a sustainable menu & support local communities

OTR TRAVEL WITH PURPOSE

At Travel Pioneers, we offer a special line of "purpose-driven" itineraries designed to provide travelers with meaningful experiences while contributing to social and environmental causes in Costa Rica.

These journeys allow our guests to engage in activities that not only enrich their travels but also make a positive impact on the communities and ecosystems they visit.

OUR ITINERARIES INCLUDE SHORT VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES SUCH AS:

TRAP CAMERA DATA ANALYSIS

Helping researchers analyze data from cameras set up to monitor wildlife in their natural habitats. These cameras provide critical insights into species behavior and movement, contributing to conservation efforts.

CORAL GARDEN NURSERIES

Assisting in the care and restoration of coral nurseries that help revive coral reefs, vital to marine biodiversity.

TURTLE NEST CARE AND RELEASE

Taking part in the protection and release of sea turtle hatchlings, helping to ensure their survival in the wild.



WILDLIFE RESCUE CENTER ASSISTANCE

Supporting centers dedicated to the rehabilitation of animals such as sloths and toucans, providing hands-on help in their care and recovery.

These are just a few of the carefully curated experiences that allow travelers to connect with Costa Rica on a deeper level, making their journey not only unique but also purposeful.

02 **PROMOTE WASTE REDUCTION**

All our clients receive a welcome package that includes a reusable metal water bottle, encouraging them to refill and avoid contributing to plastic waste.



03 **OPT FOR LOWE CARBON TRANSPORT MODELS**



We proudly promote electric car itineraries, offering clients the option to choose a safe and eco-friendly transportation solution while exploring the beauty of Costa Rica. It's a greener way to travel and experience the country sustainably.

04 REGENERATIVE TOURISM

We also offer a special line of itineraries designed to nurture holistic human well-being.

These journeys blend immersive learning experiences and volunteering with alternative techniques for relaxation, meditation, and healthy eating.

Inspired by the ancient, these itineraries aim to rejuvenate the mind, body, and soul while providing deeper insight into wellness traditions. It's an opportunity to not only explore Costa Rica but to discover a path to inner balance and lasting health.



05 **ALIGN WITH CAUSES** THAT SHARE OUR VISION

CANAECO

We are member of a private non-profit organization that works to promote sustainability in the Costa Rican tourism sector.

CANAECO was created on June 17, 2003, becoming the first chamber that specifi-

cally addresses the issues of ecotourism and sustainable tourism in the country and in Central America.



ESSENTIAL COSTA RICA

The "Essential Costa Rica" seal proudly promotes our country by certifying that companies carry the core values of Excellence, Sustainability, Innovation, Social Progress, and a profound connection to Costa Rica's heritage.

Being part of this distinguished group

means we are deeply committed to advancing the nation's sustainability efforts and environmental protection — values that are at the very heart of who we are.



THE CODE

We are proud members of The Code, a voluntary initiative to protect children from sexual exploitation in the travel and tourism industry. As members, we commit to six key principles:

- Set policies to prevent child exploitation.
- Train staff to recognize and report signs of exploitation.

- Include zero-tolerance clauses in contracts.
- Inform travelers about children's rights and prevention.
- Collaborate with stakeholders to protect children.
- Report annually on progress.



06

EDUCATE ON CULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL RESPECT

We also provide sustainability recommendations that travelers can implement during their trip, helping to minimize the environmental impact of tourism activities.”

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Biodiversity Bonds - Harmonizing Tourism, Local Cultures and Nature.

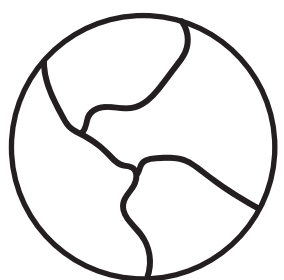
Eco Practices and Recommendations for Travelers:

Tourism isn't just about money; it's a key player in showcasing and preserving a region's historical, cultural, and natural treasures. These aren't just for show; they define a place and become must-see attractions for visitors. It's vital not just to talk about their value but also to make sure they stick around. Conserving these treasures during travel isn't just about protecting them; it's about getting people to care and ensuring all visitors can easily enjoy these cultural and natural gems.

Tips you can do to help:

07

CONSCIOUSLY HAND-PICKED



In addition to this, our travel designers are instructed to include a sustainability-focused tour in every area visited.

Whether it's an educational experience, a cultural immersion that supports local economic development, or an activity

that highlights the value of biodiversity and the importance of conscious conservation, we ensure that each itinerary promotes sustainability in meaningful ways.



FROM WORDS **TO ACTION**

EXTERNAL INICIATIVES &
SELECTED PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT

SOCIAL IMPACT & ECONOMIC SUPPORT

Through **Donorsee** and **CEPIA**, we've supported projects that provide tools for women heads of households to learn trades and support their families. Travel Pioneers donated funds for a sewing machine for Karen Campos Mena from Guanacaste, who aims to provide for her two daughters. DonorSee



Through **Donorsee** and **CEPIA**, we've supported projects that provide tools for women heads of households to learn trades and support their families. Travel Pioneers donated funds for a pastry oven for Geovanna Gutierrez from Cartagena, that way, she can have a dignified life with an income to support her family. DonorSee



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SOCIAL IMPACT & ECONOMIC SUPPORT

Through **Donorsee** and **CEPIA**, we've supported projects that provide tools for women heads of households to learn trades and support their families. Travel Pioneers helped Ruth, a 22-year-old single mother of two, has faced many challenges since her teenage years. After completing a manicure course with CEPIA, she needed materials to start her own home-based manicure business to achieve financial stability. DonorSee



Through **CEPIA**, art workshops are offered to children and teenagers in vulnerable social conditions, aiming to create spaces for stimulation and therapeutic play. Travel Pioneers donates materials to make these workshops possible



Coffee Kids partners with communities to foster the creativity and entrepreneurial spirit needed to protect the future of coffee farming. It was the first nonprofit within the budding specialty coffee industry dedicated solely to improving Colombian coffee farmers' quality of life. Travel Pioneers helped for many years this project with economical support.



SOCIAL IMPACT & ECONOMIC SUPPORT

Travel Pioneers donated a wooden playset to bring joy and playtime to the children of CEPIA, offering them a moment of happiness and escape. CEPIA is a remarkable organization dedicated to supporting, healing, and empowering children and families in vulnerable conditions in the Guanacaste area, providing them with the tools and care they need to thrive.



Through **Donorsee and CEPIA**, we've supported projects empowering women to learn trades and sustain their families. Travel Pioneers recently helped Yahosca, a determined entrepreneur who, despite 10 childhood surgeries and a physical disability, is skilled making crochet bags. She needed recycled plastic for beach bags and new glasses to work more comfortably. DonorSee



In December 2022, Travel Pioneers volunteered as hosts for a Christmas party for approximately 150 children living in vulnerable social and economic conditions in Huacas, Guanacaste. By organizing entertainment activities and providing snacks, they helped bring many smiles.



SOCIAL IMPACT & ECONOMIC SUPPORT

Travel Pioneers' Christmas Celebration
with CEPIA – Holiday Joy!

As part of our commitment to giving back to the communities we work with, Travel Pioneers organized a special Christmas celebration for the students of CEPIA at the close of the 2024 school year. This heartwarming event brought together 109 children for a day filled with joy, laughter, and meaningful connections.

Our team took the lead in planning and coordinating the activities, ensuring every child experienced the magic of the season with engaging recreational activities, carefully selecting and distributing a personalized gift for each student, we aimed to make the celebration truly memorable.

Responsible tourism extends beyond travel it's about making a positive impact on the communities that make each destination so special.



ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERING

Travel Pioneers has actively participated in volunteer days organized by '**Amigos del Río Torres**,' a non-profit association made up of volunteers and social entrepreneurs.

Their mission is to inform, educate, and promote the protection and cleanup of the Torres River, with the goal of restoring this urban watershed.

Amigos del Rio Torres



Travel Pioneers has participated in beach cleanup campaigns organized by **Operation Rich Coast**, an organization determined to take action for ocean conservation and create a collective impact.

This organization has conducted over 120 beach cleanups, collecting more than 60,000 pounds of trash with the help of 600 volunteers.

Operation Rich Coast



ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERING

We partnered with Planta Mi Árbol to plant trees in Salitral, Santa Ana, reinforcing our commitment to reforestation and climate action.

Each of our team members helped plant five native tree species—Cacao, Cristóbal, Lorito, Cas, and Roble Sabana, each carefully selected for their ecological benefits, such as improving soil fertility, enhancing biodiversity, and providing habitats for wildlife.

These trees will be maintained for the next three years to ensure their healthy growth and long-term environmental impact.

With this project we aim to neutralize carbon emissions, restore ecosystems and wildlife. Every tree planted today contributes to a healthier, more resilient planet for future generations.



ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERING

Our team of #StoryMakers took action to support marine conservation by participating in the coral restoration project at the Four Seasons Costa Rica. Through this initiative, we contributed to planting coral fragments to help restore the region's delicate reef ecosystem. By actively engaging in this hands-on effort, we reinforced our commitment to protecting the natural beauty that makes Central America such a remarkable destination.

Preserving ecosystems, we are dedicated to fostering a more responsible and regenerative travel industry, one that leaves a lasting, positive impact. We had so much fun!





RECOGNITIONS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUSTAINABLE PROJECTS

Travel Pioneers has been honored with certificates of recognition for our financial contributions to the sustainability initiatives of our business partners.

These programs promote harmonious coexistence between the region's fragile

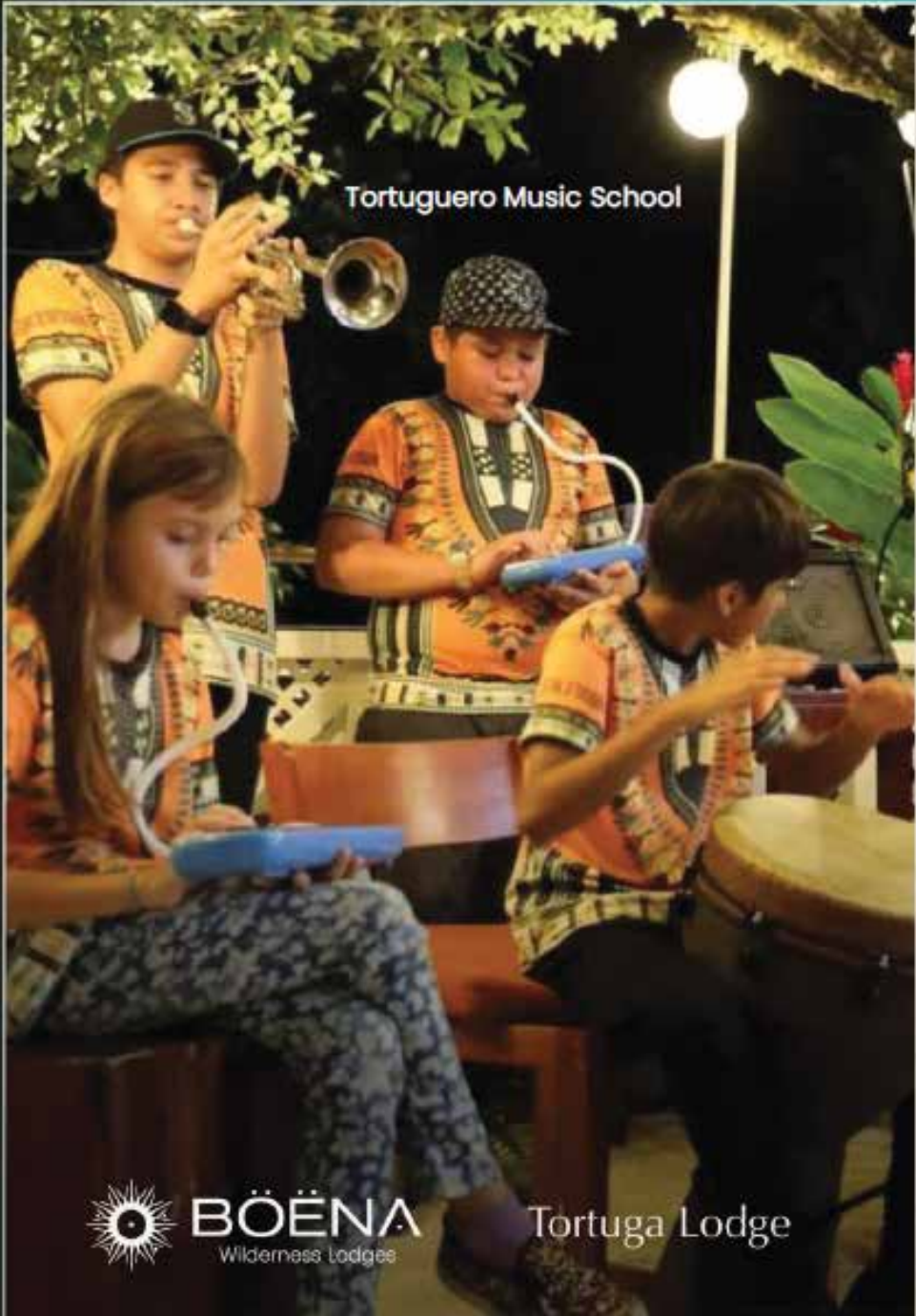
ecosystems, rich biodiversity, and the local communities and businesses that operate within them.

Through our clients, we actively support several impactful projects across Costa Rica, including:

FUNSION POCILLOPORA RESEARCH PROJECT – LAPA RÍOS, GOLFO DULCE



TORTUGUERO MUSIC SCHOOL – TORTUGA LODGE, TORTUGUERO



Tortuguero Music School

BOËNA
Wilderness Lodges

Tortuga Lodge

**TRAVEL PIONEERS
CONSERVATION FEE
CERTIFICATE**

Boëna Wilderness Lodges certifies travelers from **Travel Pioneers** for their annual contribution of **\$1050** in 2023, corresponding to **105** guests who donated **\$10** for their stay at **Tortuga Lodge**.

We believe our lodges should be a vehicle for achieving higher goals. Goals that include fostering a positive coexistence between the delicate ecosystems and biodiversity and the communities and businesses that live and operate here.

Through a one-time Conservation Support Contribution—less than 1% of a standard vacation—our sustainability programs reach fruition.

Thanks for your contribution.

Priscilla Murillo
Sustainability Manager

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM – CLOUD FOREST LODGE, MONTEVERDE



Environmental Education Program

BOËNA
Wilderness Lodges

Cloud Forest Lodge

**TRAVEL PIONEERS
CONSERVATION FEE
CERTIFICATE**

Boëna Wilderness Lodges certifies travelers from **Travel Pioneers** for their annual contribution of **\$168** in 2023, corresponding to **21** guests who donated **\$8** for their stay at **Cloud Forest Lodge**.

We believe our lodges should be a vehicle for achieving higher goals. Goals that include fostering a positive coexistence between the delicate ecosystems and biodiversity and the communities and businesses that live and operate here.

Through a one-time Conservation Support Contribution—less than 1% of a standard vacation—our sustainability programs reach fruition.

Thanks for your contribution.

Priscilla Murillo
Sustainability Manager

REFORESTATION PROGRAM – MONTEVERDE LODGE, PUNTARENAS



TRAVEL PIONEERS CONSERVATION FEE CERTIFICATE

Boëna Wilderness Lodges certifies travelers from **Travel Pioneers** for their annual contribution of **\$744** in 2023, corresponding to **93** guests who donated **\$8** for their stay at **Monteverde Lodge**.

We believe our lodges should be a vehicle for achieving higher goals. Goals that include fostering a positive coexistence between the delicate ecosystems and biodiversity and the communities and businesses that live and operate here.

Through a one-time Conservation Support Contribution—less than 1% of a standard vacation—our sustainability programs reach fruition.

Thanks for your contribution.

Priscilla Murillo
Sustainability Manager

**BOËNA**
Wilderness Lodges



Reforestation Program

Monteverde Lodge

JAGUAR PROGRAM – PACUARE LODGE, TURRIALBA

**BOËNA**
Wilderness Lodges

Pacuare Lodge



Jaguar Program

TRAVEL PIONEERS CONSERVATION FEE CERTIFICATE

Boëna Wilderness Lodges certifies travelers from **Travel Pioneers** for their annual contribution of **\$3750** in 2023, corresponding to **150** guests who donated **\$25** for their stay at Pacuare Lodge.

We believe our lodges should be a vehicle for achieving higher goals. Goals that include fostering a positive coexistence between the delicate ecosystems and biodiversity and the communities and businesses that live and operate here.

Through a one-time Conservation Support Contribution—less than 1% of a standard vacation—our sustainability programs reach fruition.

Thanks for your contribution.

Priscilla Murillo
Sustainability Manager

BOËNA
Wilderness Lodges

Travel Pioneers volunteers with the Santa Juana Tree Adoption Reforestation Program on behalf of Green Boutique hotels and the residents of Santa Juana, in collaboration with the Corcovado Foundation.

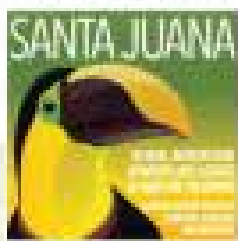
This initiative has helped preserve part of Costa Rica's rural culture and the biodiversity of the Pacific Mountain Wet Forest watershed in Chonta.

Tree Adoption Certificate

This certificate recognizes Travel Pioneers for their participation in the Santa Juana Tree Adoption Reforestation Program on July 08th, 2017. On behalf of Greentique Hotels and the residents of the village of Santa Juana, in association with the Corcovado Foundation, we thank you for helping to preserve part of Costa Rica's rural culture and the precious watershed and biodiversity of the Pacific Mountain Wet Forest of Fila Chonta. Your choice in tours or lodging with Greentique Hotels will continue to benefit future generations to come with our initiatives in Sustainable Tourism.



Jim Damalas.
President / CEO
Greentique Hotels.



We have participated in tree planting campaigns to offset the CO2 emissions from our operations. Additionally, we offer our clients the option to purchase

CO2 offsets through us for the emissions generated by their internal transfers during their trips.

PLANTA
MI ÁRBOL

Carbono Cero

Programa Voluntario
de Compensación de
Carbono Neutralidad de
Planta Mi Árbol

CERTIFICADO

DE COMPENSACIONES DE CO2

Planta Mi Árbol hace constar que:

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Compensará potencialmente 141.5 kilogramos de Dióxido de Carbono (CO2) de forma anual. Estas compensaciones se lograrán a través de la plantación de 75 árboles, con base en características de captura y almacenamiento de carbono propias de cada una de las especies.

Especie	Nombre común	Cantidad plantada
Theobroma cacao L	Cacao	20
Platymiscium sp.	Cristóbal	15
Cojoba arborea	Lorito	15
Psidium friedrichsthalianum	Cas	10
Tabebuia rosea	Roble sabana	15
		75

Max Anders
Fundador de Planta Mi Árbol

Ing. Jorge Baltodano C.
Ingeniero Forestal

A close-up photograph of a light-colored, textured fabric, likely a shirt, with the words "travel pioneers." embroidered in a red, serif font. In the foreground, several green leaves are visible, some in sharp focus and others blurred, creating a sense of depth. The overall composition suggests an outdoor or nature-related theme.

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SPONSORS

OF SELECTED ACTIVITIES

01 **NICOYA PENINSULA** **WATERKEEPERS**

Travel Pioneers partnered with Nicoya Peninsula Waterkeepers, a Costa Rican non-profit dedicated to protecting coastal waters from pollution, spanning from Cabo Blanco Absolute Reserve to Caletas-Ario Wildlife Refuge. As part of our efforts to reduce our impact, we've partnered with three local nonprofits promoting sustainability and conservation, aligned with the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Guests can get involved through volunteering and donations. You can find a link to donate to Nicoya Peninsula Waterkeepers on our website.



02 **CEPIA** CULTURE, EDUCATION, AND PSYCHOLOGY FOR INFANTS AND ADOLESCENTS

Travel Pioneers partnered with CEPIA (Culture, Education, and Psychology for Infants and Adolescents), a nationally accredited Costa Rican non-profit dedicated to improving the quality of life for children, teenagers, and their families from underprivileged backgrounds in Guanacaste. Together, we support families struggling to meet basic needs by

providing access to CEPIA's food bank. You can find a link to donate to this cause on our website.



03 **TORTUGAS PRECIOSAS**

Travel Pioneers partnered with Tortugas Preciosas, a nonprofit in Costa Rica's South Pacific dedicated to protecting the four species of sea turtles that nest in the Osa Peninsula. We promote awareness and offer our guests the opportunity to get involved by adopting a turtle nest or volunteering. You can find a link to support this cause on our website.





Our team believes tourism is about creating real connections with nature and local communities. With a strong commitment to sustainability, we work to offer unforgettable experiences while protecting and preserving the world around us. Together, we strive for a future where tourism not only explores but also cares for our planet.

TRAVEL-PIONEERS.COM

