

Responsible Travel News



River front, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Responsible travel is not only about minimising the environmental impact of travel, but also about improving the social and economic infrastructures of host destinations. Ultimately, we strive to ensure that a visit from Audley clients leaves a destination better rather than worse off. The nature of our ground operations lends itself to the ethos of responsible travel – we use, wherever possible, locally owned accommodation options, locally managed grounds agents and local guides and drivers. One of the vital parts of our country specialists' research trips is to unearth new initiatives. Here are a few of our favourites.

Friends (Mith Samlanh), Cambodia

Since 1994, Friends has worked in fields from education and vocational training to healthcare and the provision of emotional support to homeless or abandoned children in Cambodia. As part of their training programmes Friends run a number of enterprises to enable students to work in a real business environment. Profits generated from these enterprises go back into their programmes, and students are rewarded with an income. In Phnom Penh alone the organisation operates three non-profit restaurants to suit all culinary tastes, run by former street youths. A visit is highly recommended.

For details, please contact our Cambodia specialists on 01993 838 160.

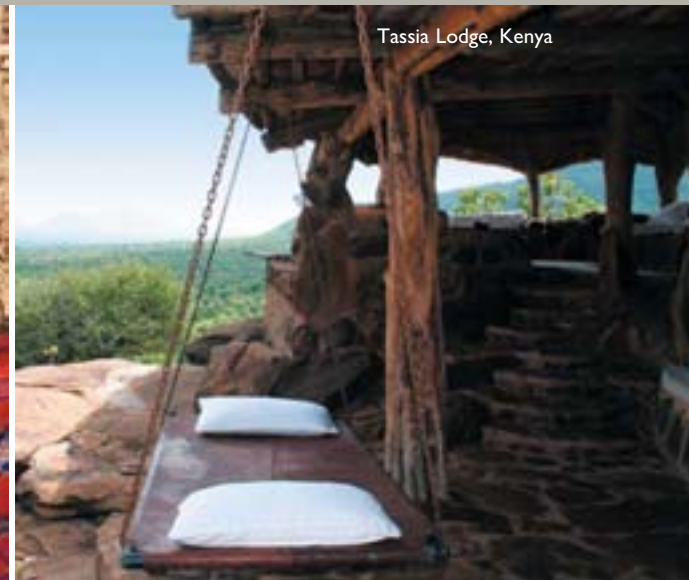
Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, Jordan

Our work with the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) in Jordan goes beyond simply being corporate members. We actively promote visits to their reserves, most notably Dana, and by staying in these reserves you help conserve the scenery and wildlife whilst also providing employment for the local communities. We also encourage our clients to visit Wild Jordan in Amman, the first stop on our new walking tour of the city described elsewhere in this newsletter. As well as giving a great overview of the activities of the RSCN, Wild Jordan is also an outlet for traditional handicrafts made in community workshops where local women develop skills and make friendships.

For details, please contact our Jordan specialists on 01993 838 415.



Masai people



Tassia Lodge, Kenya



Village girls near Almora, India

Il N'gvesi and Tassia Lodges, Kenya

Many camps and lodges in Kenya help contribute to local villages but at the forefront of these are Il N'gvesi and Tassia. Il N'gvesi Lodge is sited on a rocky outcrop in the northeastern part of the Il N'gvesi Group Ranch. All the beautiful furniture in the lodge is built by the Maasai from local materials. The lodge is run by local Maasai that have been trained in hotel management and all proceeds from the running of the lodge support the families of up to 6,000 people on the ranch, be it through building schools, getting water pumped or simply finding land for grazing their cattle. Similarly, Tassia Lodge looks after the Lekurruki Group Ranch, both found up on the Laikipia Plateau area. Visits can be made to the local Maasai villages giving you insight into traditional village life and the local community.

For details, please contact our Kenya specialists on 01993 838 510.

Village walks in the Himalayan Foothills, Uttaranchal and Sikkim, India

This superb walking experience between villages on deserted Himalayan paths also benefits the local community through employment, supporting local cultures (encouraging the Kumaoni Dancers helps to sustain traditional skills) and community projects such as rainwater harvesting. Although operating in the more remote regions can have an impact, these walking tours are undertaken on a small scale so this can be controlled.

For details, please contact our India specialists on 01993 838 330.

Visit www.audleytravel.com/rt for further information on our Responsible Travel policy, to read our Travellers' Code, and for details on our Carbon Offsetting programme.

DAILY TELEGRAPH SURVEY

We were delighted to top our category in the recent Daily Telegraph survey: *How green is your travel company?* Our responsible travel practices are also fully audited by the Association of Independent Tour Operators (AITO) and we have been awarded the maximum three stars.



Dana village, Dana Nature Reserve, Jordan