



CODE OF CONDUCT

Homestays can be a great way to keep tourism on a low scale so that it does not escalate to unsustainable levels. However, sometimes cultural differences can be the cause of unnecessary misunderstanding between homestay owners and their guests. To reduce this, homestay owners are encouraged to keep a basic list of 'house rules' so that visitors know what to expect.

Being a responsible visitor

Suggested considerations for visitors:

- Acquaint yourself with **local religious and social customs** and be aware of the feelings of other people, thus preventing what might be intrusive behaviour on your part.
- Participation or attendance at local **events and traditional gatherings** is a privilege and the wishes of your host and the local community should be respected
- Ask permission before taking **photos** of people. Put yourself in their shoes and respect their wishes.
- Ensure that your behaviour has minimal impact on the natural **environment**. Avoid picking flowers or removing seeds.
- Keep money in the community. Eat, drink and buy **local produce**. A lot of the local food from the Edge of India areas is organic and tastes fantastic, as well as supporting the local economy by buying their products and using their services.
- **Reduce, Re-use!** Our villages are set in picturesque and pristine landscapes. The remote setting means that waste disposal and processing can be a challenge, particularly if the volume is increased. Food waste is given to cattle, but plastics and other synthetic products are not easily disposed of in the remote locations. Please help us keep the villages beautiful; avoid carrying in items which will end up as waste. Edge of India is committed to working towards **zero waste**.
- **Respect** local attitudes. Avoid revealing clothing and inappropriate public displays of affection.
- Eating is *usually* done with the **right hand**, although this is not necessarily expected from visitors. Ask your host if you are unsure.
- Ensure you have taken out adequate **travel insurance** for your trip.

- Nearest **medical facilities** are listed on the 'Getting Around' sections of the www.edgeofindia.com website.
- No **pets**, sorry.

Homestays can offer a unique view of life with a local family and a great experience, but we encourage visitors to Edge of India homestays to check with your host for any specific points you should be aware of. Having these out in the open from the start will make for a more enjoyable and memorable experience for all. Basic house rules will vary between homestays, but might include points such as:

- curfews
- smoking and drinking
- laundry washing
- waste
- water use
- participation in local events or traditional gatherings
- land access and biodiversity

Being a responsible host

Basic expectations of our homestay providers:

- clean, safe and adequately furnished room
- access to a separate bathroom where possible
- access to kitchen facilities
- preparation of food meets basic hygiene standards and is locally sourced wherever possible
- provide guests with bottled or boiled water
- commitment to working towards zero waste
- respect the Co-operative principles
- homestays will not discriminate against gender, sexuality, religion or nationality.

Hosts may also provide or arrange upon request extras such as transportation, tour guiding, taking visitors to local events, or teach local arts, crafts, and cookery.