



BIOSPHERE DESTINATIONS COMMUNITY

The "Biosphere Destinations Community" is a meeting point that brings together those destinations committed to sustainability through Biosphere, whether they have obtained the seal or are in the process of obtaining it.

Objectives:

The Biosphere Destinations Community is established with the aim of:

- Promoting sustainable tourism in the destinations
- Encourage destinations that have not opted for sustainability to do so.
- Stimulate the exchange of practices, policies and communications about sustainable initiatives carried out by members and promote the exchange of projects and ideas.
- Encourage the development of projects in which member destinations can participate.
- Participate in the discussion and decision making on requirements, methodology and relationships with companies and tourism services within the destinations.

Membership

Shall have the right to belong to the Biosphere Destinations Community: The Biosphere certified tourist destinations, as well as tourist destinations in process of obtaining the seal.

Joining procedure:

To belong to the Biosphere Destinations Community destinations must meet one of the following requirements:

1. Having obtain the Biosphere Destination Certification.
2. Having begun the process of certification under the Biosphere standard through the signing of the Commitment Letter.

The signing of the Commitment Letter for destinations not yet certified is an indispensable requirement to belong to the Community.

Member destinations commitments

All member destinations commit to:

- Promote the interaction between the different member destinations.
- Contribute to create a constant flow of information between the member destinations and the managing body.
- Promote the exchange of initiatives and projects between the member destinations and the managing body.
- Contribute in the tourism promotion of the Biosphere Destinations Community, as well as in the tourist promotion of the member destinations.
- Transfer information in relation to tourist destinations and sustainable tourism, with the purpose of distributing information among member destinations.



Benefits of joining the BIOSPHERE Destinations Community

Being part of the Biosphere Destinations Community means joining forces through the assurance offered by Biosphere Responsible Tourism in measuring the contribution of tourism to the 17 SDGs, such as raising the quality of life of citizens, increasing the protection of local culture and intangible values, advancing in environmental protection, improving the economic impact, and generating means of communication between peoples.

In addition, the discussion and sharing of the criteria, requirements and indicators will improve the sustainable practices in destinations, and thus destinations will be valued and recognized by the industry, tour operators and other tourism stakeholders through the marketing and promotion channels of Biosphere and the management entities.

Joining the Community will allow destinations to establish a continuous information flow relating to tourist destinations and sustainable tourism, as well as sharing initiatives, projects and ideas with other destinations worldwide. To this end, a virtual forum within the Community website will be created, in which all member destinations may participate, communicate and discuss.

Through the Community will be encourage the development of projects in which member destinations will be able to participate, also by promoting different ways of financing sustainable projects.

Economic conditions

No financial contribution is necessary to belong to the Community; the only condition is to meet the requirements.

Biosphere Destinations Community's maintenance is included in the cost of the annual monitoring audit that must be carried out by certified destinations.

Organizational structure

The community will be coordinated annually by a representative of one of the Biosphere Destinations, a member of the Community, with the Responsible Tourism Institute managing the secretariat.

Renewal of the coordinating destination

On an annual basis, the member destinations of the Community may submit a proposal for the Coordination of the same, at least 3 months before the annual meeting, so that there is a vote (one vote per destination), needing at least a simple majority. The destination will prepare a plan of activities to be carried out by the community during that year.

Regular meetings

On an annual basis, at least once, the Community will meet to establish the lines of action of the year in question. In general, the destination that hosts the Coordination, would be responsible for the expenses derived from it.