

THE GREEN LEAF



Wilderness Foundation

The Green Leaf Environmental Standard is an International Standard that measures environmental impact in hotels and lodges. The aim of the standard is to reduce the effects of consumption on our environment and improve upon environmental management and awareness in an eco friendly manner.

In order to reduce our overall environmental footprint, Three Tree Hill Lodge has comprehensive procedures and systems in place to reduce energy, water usage and to manage waste responsibly. We use energy-saving light bulbs throughout the lodge, insulate our walls and ceilings and purchase appliances and equipment with energy saving in mind. A solar cooker & Wonder Bag are used in the kitchen to further reduce consumption. A monthly electricity monitoring chart is posted in the kitchen, which helps everyone to keep a tab on energy usage trends. A very thorough recycling programme ensures that not only paper, cardboard, glass, plastic and tins are recycled, but also printer cartridges, old stationery, soap and candle wax are re-used in various forms and then recycled. Cereal & biscuit boxes, toilet rolls and magazines are taken to the community pre-school for use in their art classes. All garden and kitchen waste is composted or fed to earthworms, chickens & pigs.

All our geysers are fitted with insulated SABS approved thermal blankets to reduce heat loss & they have timers set to limit the consumption. The thermostats are adjusted with the seasons & kept to a minimum. When the rooms are not in use, housekeeping staff are trained to switch geysers off.

Water in the jugs in rooms & tables are fresh from our aquifer, which is 120m (430ft) deep.

Please do not leave the taps running while you are brushing your teeth or shaving. Don't



Please, only put towels & sheets under the basin if you want them washed or else we will only replace them when you leave. All our showers are fitted with low flow heads.

We have rain water collection tanks at the garage, water from which is used for washing the guests vehicles before departure. All the plants in our garden are indigenous & therefore use minimal water. Monthly roster in place to dose all septic tanks with bio salts. All cleaning chemicals are biodegradable & diluted on site. Guest Amenities are paraben-free & made in South Africa.



Fair Trade Tourism

Fair Trade in Tourism South Africa (FTTSA)

FTTSA certification is an independent endorsement of fair and responsible tourism practice in South Africa. It is based on adherence to specific criteria including fair wages and working conditions, fair distribution of benefits, ethical business practice, and respect for human rights, culture and the environment. Certification is offered on a voluntary basis to providers of tourist accommodation, activities and attractions.

Three Tree Hill Lodge is very active in the local community. The Lodge fundraises through the Three Tree Social Community Fund to benefit local schools, including provision of a feeding programme (with vitamin enriched porridge), maintaining the outside area and building a jungle gym as well as embarking on setting up a computer room for the high school! Two students who were sponsored by the Department of Economic Development completed their practical training at the lodge for a year, enabling them to gain a diploma in National Tourism Guiding; one is now permanently employed at the lodge. A local cattle herdsman is sponsored to run in the Two Oceans Marathon in Cape Town. His most recent participation earned him a nineteenth overall placement – a wonderful achievement! Of course, employment opportunities are given to the local community as a first priority and subsequent training not only includes job-related skills training not only includes job-related skills development but also personal development such as



personal budgeting / savings, relationships and conflict resolution, and wellness training including HIV/AIDS through Life Line, which was conducted in Zulu.

Fresh produce is all obtained from the local farmers co operative in Bergville. Great care and research has gone into sourcing produce from small business owners located in the area. We have our own vegetable & herb garden which is used daily in preparation for guest meals. Compost & Vermi-compost is made on site & used to nourish the garden. Only organic pesticides (garlic & canola oil) are used in the garden. We have also tried to replace foods in the kitchen with reduced preservatives, additives & colorants, purchasing only South African made products, where possible. Replacement linen & furnishings are bought locally in South Africa by South African designers.

