



## UNIQUE LODGES OF THE WORLD

# **National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World Member Application**

Name of the Property:

Legal Contracting Entity:

Finance Contact Name:

Finance Contact Email:

Your Name:

Your Contact Email:

Your Telephone Number:

Name of Property Owner(s):

Local Address of Property:

Name of Hotel Management Company (if applicable):

Legal/Business Address of Property:

Property Website:

Property Telephone Number:

Year property first opened:

Year property came under your management:

Seasonality (i.e. year-round, specific dates, etc.):

Have you applied for another property under the same ownership entity?

Will you apply for another property under the same ownership entity?

In the past ten years, has the property of its majority share owners been subjected to any legal action, been found in violation of an environmental regulations, or been subjected to a fine or other penalty or violation of any local or national laws and regulations?

## **Property Description**

Briefly tell us about your property and what makes it unique (1000 characters max)

## **Guest Composition**

Number of Leisure Travelers:

Number of Business Travelers:

Number of Meetings and/or Conventions:

Setting (check all that apply)

Beach

Coastal

Island

Forest

Mountain

Rural (village/countryside)

Savanna

Wilderness or remote location

Other:

## Getting There

Nearest International Airport and its distance from the property:

From what airport/location do the majority of your guests arrive/depart? Do you provide guest transfer services, or do most guests self-drive, etc?

Please describe a typical guest transfer experience: Do you arrange guest transfer services? What is the typical transfer time to/from the property? Do you provide transfers by road, air, boat, etc? (1000 characters max)

## Guest Rooms

Type and Number of Guest Rooms

Standard:

Deluxe:

Suite:

Villa:

Other:

Total Number of Rooms:

Average Daily Rate (ADR) in US Dollars:

Average Occupancy Rate:

## On-Site Facilities and Services

On-Site Facilities and Services (check all that apply):

- Activities Center
- Beach
- Business Center
- Concierge/Guest Services Desk
- Fitness Center
- Gift Shop
- Golf Course
- In-Room Mini Bar/Coffee/Tea
- Meeting/Event Space
- Pool
- Restaurant
- Room Service
- Spa
- Turndown Service
- Wi-Fi/internet access
- Other (guest library, garden, wine cellar, wildlife observation deck, etc.)

Number of Meeting Rooms:

Meeting Room Seating Capacity:

Please specify "Other" Facilities and Services:

Describe the nearby surroundings and noteworthy area attractions that are within one hour's travel time from the hotel (wildlife, nature, coral reefs, archaeological sites, historic districts, museums, local markets, shops, theaters, etc.). What is visible from the property (adjacent buildings, parks, nature reserves, beaches, etc.)? (1000 characters max)

Describe how your property embraces and reflects the character of its surroundings, in terms of architectural design, landscaping, history, and décor, including artwork, woodwork, textiles, etc. (1000 characters max)

Describe a typical guest room, including ensuite bathroom with a tub and/or shower, desk, sitting area, balcony, windows that open, air circulation, etc. Include any special amenities you provide (bathroom amenities, iPod docking station or music player, DVD/TV, Wi-Fi, etc.) (1000 characters max)

Past or Future Renovations:

Yes

No

If yes, please describe any recent renovations or expansions, or plans for any upcoming renovations. (1000 characters max)

Do you have a full-service (breakfast, lunch, dinner) restaurant(s) and/or bar(s) on premises?

Yes

No

If you have one or more restaurants, please describe the type(s) of restaurant (casual, fine dining, etc.), the type of food served (local cuisine, regional, international, etc.), the style of meal service (table seating options, group dining only, a la carte menu, set menu, etc.). Please also describe your bar (with/without seating, self-service, bartender/mixologist on premises, etc.).

Gift Shop/Specialty Items for Sale

Yes

No

If yes, please describe the shop or sales area and the items offered, including any products made by local artisans from the area/country. If no, please describe how you provide information to guests about shopping for local gift items, handicrafts, and any guidance on shopping (i.e. avoiding wildlife products, supporting local artisans, etc.). (1000 characters max)

Please list any property association programs of which you are a member (Small Luxury Hotels, Virtuoso, Relais & Châteaux, Leading Hotels, etc.). (1000 characters max)

## **Guest Experience**

Does your property have a mission statement?

Yes

No

If yes, what is your mission and how is it communicated to guests? (1000 characters max)

What is the property's staff-to-guest ratio?

Please describe your staff training to ensure quality guest services, including any incentives to employees for exemplary guest service. (1000 characters max)

What is your philosophy of guest service? What guest services distinguish your property as unique or special? (1000 characters max)

How do you handle guest complaints or problems? (1000 characters max)

Describe your procedure for handling a guest accident or injury? Do you have a first aid station on the property? How far is the nearest clinic or hospital? (1000 characters max)

How do you ensure that guests are receiving good value for their stay at your property? Give an example of what you consider "good value" while staying at your property. (1000 max characters)



Please describe what information about the local area you provide to your guests to enhance their experience: history, traditions, heritage, ecology, attractions, etc. (1000 characters max)

Do you offer activities/tours through your property so that guests can experience unique and special aspects of the area where you are located?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide a list of the tours and activities offered to guests and explain if you operate your own tours and activities, use your own guides for tours, or hire outside tour companies and guides. (1000 characters max)

In addition to any tours or activities noted above, in what other ways do you help guests experience local culture (performing arts, music, storytelling, visual arts, traditional cuisine, cooking classes, and/or participation in local events and festivals)? (1000 characters max)

In addition to any tours and activities noted above, please describe how you facilitate guest interactions with and understanding of nature in your location, including unique ecosystems, wildlife, birds, geology, etc. (1000 characters max)

## **Sustainable Tourism Best Practices**

### **Green Operations**

Do you reduce, reuse, and recycle (reducing paper use, using recycled content materials, avoiding Styrofoam, eliminating plastic water bottles, reducing plastic bathroom amenities and other plastics, using non-toxic cleaning products, etc.)?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide two current examples, including one example of how you have reduced or eliminated single-use plastics at your property (including plastic water bottles). (1000 characters max)

Do you engage in energy conservation efforts (monitoring use of energy on property, turning off lights, turning off air/heat systems when not in use, etc.)?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide two current examples. (1000 characters max)

Do you engage in water conservation and environmentally-sensitive wastewater treatment (low-flow devices, monitoring for leaks, recycling of greywater for irrigation, monitoring of chemical use in wastewater systems, etc.)?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide two current examples. (1000 characters max)

Are you engaged in efforts to reduce your carbon footprint (for example: using natural ventilation instead of air conditioning, using fuel efficient or hybrid vehicles, engaging in reforestation or tree planting efforts, using renewable energy such as solar, wind, geothermal or biofuels, or offering carbon offsets in addition to reducing your carbon footprint in other ways, as noted above)?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide two current examples. (1000 characters max)

## **Supporting Natural and Cultural Heritage**

Does your property contribute to efforts to protect the environment and support biodiversity conservation (for example, contributing to conservation organizations, supporting scientific research, engaging in habitat restoration, etc.)?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide two examples of nature conservation initiatives or projects that the property has supported in the last 24 months. (1000 characters max)

Does your property contribute to efforts to support cultural heritage, such as support for the protection of historic sites and ancient traditions, architectural sites, archaeological areas, safeguarding indigenous peoples' sacred sites, and celebrating living cultural and artistic traditions such as music, dance, textiles, art and handicrafts?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide two examples of cultural heritage initiatives or projects that your lodge has supported in the last 24 months.

Do you educate your guests on your efforts to minimize negative impacts on the natural environment and/or cultural heritage - i.e. guest guidelines for appropriate behavior around wildlife, local cultural norms and customs, respectful behavior around local peoples, leave no litter, do not climb on historic sites, etc.?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide two current examples. (1000 characters max)

### **Maximizing Community Benefits**

What supplies and services does your property source locally (fair-trade purchasing, offering organic or local farm-to-table products, buying local handicrafts, featuring local amenities, performers, handicrafts, etc.)? Please provide two current examples. (Max 1000 characters)

Does your property contribute to any local community development initiatives (support or collaboration with local organizations involved with education, social welfare, healthcare, etc.)?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide two examples of community initiatives or projects that your property has supported in the last 24 months. (1000 characters max)

Does your property maximize efforts to hire local people?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe these efforts and any opportunities for capacity-building, staff training and career advancement, and ensuring fair wages and benefits. (1000 characters max)

What percentage of staff is locally hired as opposed to expatriates (either hiring staff from nearby communities, or if your property is located in a remote area, hiring from the closest regional location; also separately include the percentage hired from the country you are in, after the local or regional area)?

How many locally hired staff have senior management roles, and what are their positions?

## **Additional Information**

Please share 2-3 example of “National Geographic Experiences” that your lodge and staff would be able to offer and personalize for National Geographic guests. The experiences should reflect a sense of place and uniquely showcase something special about your lodge (a behind-the-scenes tour of the chef’s garden, a special nature walk with a guide or naturalist, an evening stargazing talk/excursion, etc.). (1000 characters max)

Please describe how your property best reflects the key attributes of a National Geographic Unique Lodge: authentic, sustainable, enriching, and extraordinary.

Please indicate any awards, certifications, or “Best of” travel media recognitions the property has received in the last two years. (1000 characters max)

What do you hope to achieve for your property by becoming a member of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World? (1000 characters max)

*\*Please return application to Jenn Parks at [jenn.parks@natgeo.com](mailto:jenn.parks@natgeo.com)\**