

Canyoners Code of Ethics

Don't let the canyons wear you down:

- Take responsibility for your own safety and be self-reliant.
- Know the route, and have adequate food, water, safety and first aid gear, maps and clothing.
- Know how to swim and self-rescue on ropes.
- Don't climb alone.
- Avoid canyoning if rain is forecast or if the weather looks changeable. Unexpected and dangerous conditions are likely when water flows are above normal or when heavy rain is forecast.
- Test the water depth before entering.
- Teach beginner abseilers prior to canyon trips, rather than in canyons.
- Hypothermia is a real risk — wetsuits and spare warm clothes are advisable.
- Give way to faster groups.
- Avoid peak use times in well-known canyons if possible as overcrowding can cause delays and safety problems.
- Leave details of your group, route and expected return time with a responsible person.
- Protect your skin from sunburn by using sunscreen and wearing protective clothing and a hat.
- Ring 000 in case of emergency.

Don't wear the canyons down:

- Keep your group to a small and manageable size (4 to 8 people).
- Don't place bolts, or alter rock surfaces in any way.
- Avoid leaving unnecessary slings and remove old slings.
- Keep to creek channels, avoid sensitive creek banks and soft vegetation.
- Avoid establishing new abseil routes or footpads — keep to existing paths, or spread out in trackless terrain.
- Walk carefully in rocky pagoda areas — flaky rocks and thin ledges can break easily.
- Do not mark tracks (signs, cairns, broken branches). Each group should have at least one competent navigator.
- Don't publicise 'new' canyons or those in wilderness areas, to preserve opportunities for discovery and to minimise impacts.
- Use fuel stoves — fires scars are unsightly, attract rubbish and encourage vegetation damage.
- Avoid camping in canyon environments.
- Dispose of human waste away from canyons.
- Leave crayfish and other wildlife alone.
- Carry out any rubbish.