

**MINISTRY OF TOURISM
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF CAMP SITES

There is growing awareness of and increasing demand for eco, adventure, wildlife and pilgrimage tourism. These tourism products involve visiting and staying in remote areas, forests, deserts and river side. There is an overall shortage of accommodation at tourist destinations, especially in remote areas. Moreover, permanent construction in these areas may either not be permissible or feasible. To meet the increasing demand of tourists, camping facilities and tented accommodation would need to be developed. There is, therefore, a need to promote and facilitate setting up camps sites while ensuring adherence to quality, standards and safety norms. These guidelines are being issued for promoting and regulating setting up camp sites in States and Union Territories.

A. CATEGORIES & CLASS

Camp sites can be classified into following five categories according to their geographical features:

i. Wildlife

This category of camp sites includes areas near (but outside) National Parks, Sanctuaries and Bio-Sphere Reserves within the country.

ii. Adventure

Adventure is broadly classified into Land, Water & Aero sports as explained below:

(a) Land: Campsites on/ near trekking routes & hiking trails, camps in remote areas for overland journeys, camps near rock climbing areas.

(b) Water: Rafting beach camps along rivers, camps for sea kayaking along the ocean / along water bodies and backwaters, camps near water bodies for promotion of water touring, water sports and tourism activities such as kayaking, canoeing, waterskiing, parasailing using motorboats etc.

(c) Air: Camps in the mountains for promoting paragliding, parasailing, hot air ballooning and micro light flying, etc.

iii. Pilgrimage

Pilgrimage tourism attracts large number of tourists but there is scarcity of accommodation. Such camp sites should be able to offer quality accommodation with low impact.

iv. New Destinations

There is immense scope of developing new routes & sectors with the help of camp sites.

v. Destinations Linked To International Events

The entire accommodation infrastructure comes under pressure when there are international events & festivals in the country. Few examples can be the scheduled Common Wealth Games in 2010, popular festivals such as Hemis in Ladakh, Kumbh Mela and the Pushkar fair in Rajasthan.

The camp sites can be further classified under 2 categories according to the facilities available:

- I. Deluxe
- II. Standard

B. SPECIFICATIONS

Following are the proposed specifications required to be observed for setting up a permanent camping site:

1. MINIMUM/ MAXIMUM NO. OF UNITS

CATEGORY	IN PLAINS		IN MOUNTAINS & HILLS	
	MIN.	MAX.	MIN.	MAX.
Wildlife	6	30	6	20
Adventure	6	40	6	40
Pilgrimage	6	50	6	25
New Destinations	6	30	6	30
Destination linked to International events	6	50	6	30

Note: There should be a minimum gap of 5/6 feet between tents. In the case of big cultural and ethnic events such as the Kumbh mela and Pushkar fair where large tracts of land are allotted for camping, the maximum number of tents in any one camp may be relaxed to the extent feasible and desirable for the event.

2. CAMPS

- a) **Platforms:** The minimum area required for the platforms should be 10/10 ft. The platform should be raised minimum 12 inches from the ground. Construction of the platform should ideally be of brick & mortar.

- b) Structures:** The tents may be pitched under temporary semi built structures with the help of iron frames and temporary roofs like thatch, tiles, bolted plywood for protection from harsh weather conditions which may be easy to

remove if desired. Side brick walls for stability may also be used if desired and permissible.

- c) Room:** The minimum size for the sleeping area of the tent should be 10 x 10 ft. with a minimum centre height of approximately 7 ft. The tent must have a front entry with at least 2 windows on each side of the wall with attached connecting door at the back leading to a bathroom.
- d) Low-cost ecological sanitation (Ecosan) Toilets:** The camp site should be provided with ecological sanitation (Ecosan) which offers a new philosophy of dealing with what is presently regarded as waste and wastewater. Ecosan is based on the systematic implementation of reuse and recycling of nutrients and water as a hygienically safe, closed-loop and holistic alternative to conventional sanitation solutions. Ecosan is a new holistic paradigm in sanitation, which is based on an overall view of material flows as part of an ecologically and economically sustainable wastewater management system tailored to the needs of the users and to the respective local conditions. UNDP has developed expertise in this regard. Further information on Ecosan can be accessed at <http://www.undp.org/water/initiatives/ecol.html>. Deluxe tents should have attached toilets.
- e) Veranda:** The minimum area for veranda in front should be 6x10 ft. with a clear height of 7ft.
- f) Kitchen:** Ideal kitchen size should not be less than 15x 20 ft. with a clear height of 8 ft. Recommended fuel for cooking meals for the camp should be LPG & if possible the use of solar cookers must be encouraged. The kitchen should be well lit with ample room for ventilation. Proper counters for placing burners, working tables, storage of groceries & ration, washbasin, storage of crockery, cutlery & serving dishes and also place for garbage bins should be earmarked.
- g) Storage:** Separate & easily accessible storage units would be required for :
- a) Ration
 - b) House keeping goods
 - c) Electrical goods
 - d) Sanitary & Plumbing goods
 - e) Gardening tools
 - f) Construction material
 - g) Adventure equipment (for adventure camps)

3. TOURIST RECEPTION CENTRE

The Tourist Reception Centre (TRC) may be constructed in a manner which blends with nature and surroundings of the location and region. The TRC should have appropriate facilities and infrastructure for the tourists.

C. SAFETY, HYGIENE, RESPONSIBLE STANDARDS, ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY

Responsible tourism friendly policy should be adopted for sustainable growth which also benefits the local community and does not adversely affect the local environment.

Special attention should be given for safety and security of the permanent residents and guests who use the facility. Use of eco friendly practices and local products should be encouraged.

(i) CAMP SECURITY & SAFETY - Adequate security and safety arrangements should be made at the camp facility viz. deployment of security guards, system of patrolling, fencing of the area wherever feasible to avoid unnecessary trespassing and unauthorized entry.

The facility of first aid should be available at the site and adequate first aid training should be provided to the staff. A well defined mechanism should be available to handle a medical emergency. There should also be a backup plan to handle emergencies as well as a mechanism for evacuation in the need of any eventuality. The camp management should maintain effective coordination with local medical establishments.

(ii) GARBAGE / WASTE DISPOSAL- Garbage should be segregated into bio-degradable (kitchen waste etc), non-bio-degradable (thermo coal products, aluminum foil, cigarette butts etc) & recyclable (newspapers, bottles, cans etc). Vermi-composting should be encouraged for the disposal of kitchen garbage. Solid waste and sewage disposal should be carried out in an orderly and eco-friendly manner. Use of a sewage treatment plant should be encouraged.

(iii) MINIMAL USE OF PLASTIC- The use of plastic products and disposable cutlery / crockery made of plastic should be minimized / discouraged.

(iv) GREEN DRIVE / POLLUTION CONTROL- Greening of the camp site along with planting of trees and landscaping should be encouraged. Use of chemical fertilizers should be discouraged and use of natural manures / fertilizers should be practiced. Rain water harvesting measures should be encouraged and there should be one water bore well per 3 acres. Efforts should be made to regulate noise, air and water pollution.

(v) FIRE FIGHTING MEASURES- Adequate fire fighting equipment should be available at the camp site. Controlled burning of camp fires should be exercised with caution and fire drills should be held regularly for the staff. Dry foliage, leaves, etc should be cleared away regularly to avoid fire. In addition to the availability of sand and water buckets, modern fire extinguishers should be available on site and also frequently checked and serviced.

(vi) USE OF ALTERNATE ENERGY RESOURCES & CONSERVATION- In addition to the use of CFL lighting, the use of solar energy should be encouraged. Other non-conventional eco-friendly energy resources should be used

(vii) HEALTH & HYGIENE- Regular medical checkup should be carried out and the staff should be trained about personal hygiene and cleanliness

D. SUPPORT FROM THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

The following support is required from the local administration to set up a campsite:

- Waste disposal
- Water supply
- Electricity – Single phase & 3 phase connection

- LPG connection from the nearest depot
- Subsidies on buying state of the art alternate energy resources such as solar & wind based equipment.

E. ROLE OF THE STATE GOVERNMENTS

- To identify land banks for campsites as per the categories proposed
- To arrange single window clearance for all approvals
- To facilitate/execute lease of land to private partners/entrepreneurs. Suggested lease tenure for land identified for campsites is as under:

TYPE	TENURE
WILDLIFE	5 YEARS
NEW DESTINATION	20 YEARS
PILGRIMAGE/ FESTIVALS & EVENTS	5 YEARS
ADVENTURE	10 YEARS

F. LAND REQUIREMENT FOR DIFFERENT CATEGORIES FOR CAMPS

SECTOR	MOUNTAINS/ HILLS	PLAINS
WILDLIFE	Min 1200 sq mtrs	Min 2000 sq. mtrs
NEW DESTINATIONS	Min 1200 sq mtrs	Min 2000 sq. mtrs
PILGRIMAGE	Min 2000 sq mtrs	Min 4000 sq. mtrs
ADVENTURE	Min 1200 sq mtrs	Min 2000 sq. mtrs
FESTIVALS & EVENTS	Min 1200 sq mtrs	Min 2000 sq. mtrs

G. PARTICIPATION OF LOCAL COMMUNITY

All efforts should be made to encourage participation of the local community in the tourism related activities of the camp sites. Training and sensitization of the members of the local communities should be undertaken for capacity building and for creating awareness about economic benefits of tourism to the local communities. Tourists/campers should be sensitized about the socio-cultural traditions of the local communities through brochures and welcome address.

H. CARRYING CAPACITY

Carrying capacity must be kept in mind for wild life / adventure / new destinations campsites. There should be a minimum separation of 500 meters between campsites and no more than two campsites in an area of one sq kilometer. The maximum number of campsites for a destination must be planned ahead as a part of the camping master plan. Congestion of campsites in popular areas must be avoided at all costs.

I. PROMOTION AND MARKETING

The State Government would undertake initiatives and campaigns to promote the camping facilities located in their states.

J. RECOGNIZATION PROCEDURE & AWARDS

Separate guidelines for recognition, classification and awards for the camping sites would be formulated and issued by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.
