

Sustainability at Atmosphere

At Atmosphere Resorts & Spa we combine the warmest of Philippine hospitality with first class service and amenities. We are beautifully situated on a spectacular beach front location within a seven acre coconut plantation on the island of Negros, just south of Dumaguete city.

As a leading luxury boutique resort in the Philippines we are dedicated to improving our sustainability efforts whilst maintaining a luxury guests experience. We are aware of our potential negative impact on the environment and are committed to limiting such effects.

The implementation of a long-term sustainable management system enables us to identify and address integral social, cultural and environmental issues. The primary purpose is to guide decision making, management and daily operations in a sustainable manner.

Core Values

- We practice equality, flexibility, trust and fairness in all engagements with colleagues, partners and guests.
- We uphold exemplary ethical and moral standards.
- We have local and global social, economic and environmental awareness.
- We are professional, innovative and dynamic.

Sustainable Management & Operations

Since Atmosphere's inception in 2008, and throughout the continued development of the resort we have been conscious of our surrounding environment and local community. From incorporating traditional design within our buildings to employing local construction workers, we have ensured we sit sympathetically within our community and environment. Our daily operations are in a constant state of evolution as we assess and address our sustainability practices. Steps we have taken so far include;

- The resort is inspired by traditional Philippine architecture and design, using local cogon grass to adorn roofs and incorporating large overhangs to protect from monsoon rains.
- Rooftop solar panels heat water for in-room bathing facilities.
- The removal of room key cards shuts off electricity, minimising our energy requirements.
- The in-house laundry facilities clean linens every three days, enabling us to limit water usage.
- All resort waste is separated for processing and recycling, our guests are also encouraged to do the same.
- Our lush resort landscape and gardens are maintained by an on-site plant nursery and water is collected through the local river catchment system.
- Drinking water is filtered on site ensuring it is fit for consumption. It is provided to guests through large in-room water containers and complementary aluminium water bottles, enabling us to save thousands of single-use plastic water bottles each year.

Social Responsibility

Health & Safety

We follow strict health and safety procedures as well as all local and national laws and regulations to ensure the welfare of our staff and guests. First aid, fire and natural disaster training and refresher sessions are provided to all staff as required. We have an experienced team of technicians who maintain strict regulations within each department and guards who oversee the security of the resort 24 hours a day.

To comply with food safety standards, all food and beverage team members attend appropriate training including food hygiene and handling.

Signage regarding the terms of use of our three swimming pools is clearly positioned, and depths of associated water is marked in appropriate places. Guests staying within our premium pool suits are presented with pool use regulations upon arrival. Several staff within the resort are trained life guards.

Local employment and training

We pride ourselves on being a major employer for the local community, and are proud to say 94% of our +200 workforce are locals. A large proportion of our staff have been with us since our inception and work alongside multiple members of their families.

All staff are provided with the training needed to meet the requirements of their role. Hard working staff are able to take advantage of career development opportunities within the resort. Many have progressed from their original station into supervisor and management roles, benefitting the individual, their families and the business.



Members of our Food & Beverage and Reception teams.

Twice a year we host high school and college trainees. During this work experience period they explore the hospitality industry and may have the opportunity for full time employment once their education is complete.

Community Development

Atmosphere has created, and continues to support many local initiatives, bringing further social and economic benefits to the local community, such as the [Atmosphere Soup Kitchen \(ASK\)](#). ASK began in 2011 and is located within one of the most impoverished areas of Dumaguete. It's aim is direct and simple - to provide school children between 6 - 12 years of age with a healthy lunch 5 days a week, whilst they are attend school. Guests are welcome to join our visits to ASK twice a week, and are able to make donations and volunteer at the kitchen during their stay. For more information please contact gabrielle@atmosphereresorts.com.



Children enjoying lunch at the Atmosphere Soup Kitchen.

Supporting local businesses

Responsible sourcing of products used throughout the resort has enabled us to support local and environmentally conscious businesses, from the soft furnishings in the rooms, the food served within the restaurant, and the items available within the resort boutique.

[Lumgao Designs](#) - Founded in 2011, Lumgao provided

alternative livelihoods for women whose families had suffered following a devastating typhoon, and continues to grow and flourish. Beautiful jewellery creations are made from up-cycled materials such as paper, drink cans and scraps of fabric, and sold throughout the Philippines, including in our boutique.

[EcoVie](#) - Based in Cebu, Philippines, EcoVie transforms waste materials into beautiful soft furnishings seen in our luxurious rooms.

[Anthill](#) - Also based in Cebu, Anthill weaves traditional Filipino fabrics and have developed a no-waste fabric, produced from waste pieces. It's this beautiful fabric that adorns many of the soft furnishings within our rooms.



Beautiful Anthill fabrics in our premium suits.

Cultural Heritage

The people of the Philippines are happy, friendly and respectful. The main religion in Dumaguete is Christianity, with some areas being conservative Catholic. When embarking on excursions outside of the resort, guests are briefed on local cultural customs, ensuring our visitor impact is minimised. Complementary aluminium water bottles and reusable or compostable containers are used for transporting food, ensuring no waste is left behind.

Our fine dining restaurant, Ocean, promotes traditional Filipino cuisine, enabling international guests to sample the delights of native dishes, all prepared by local chefs. Each week we host a local musician whose talents entertain our guests with traditional Filipino songs. This cocktail evening is also a chance for guests to meet the resort team, exchanging thoughts on their stay.

The illegal wildlife trade is present within the Philippines and culturally important sites can be found within the local area. Our efforts towards sustainable tourism means no such items or animals are sold, traded or displayed within the resort.

The illegal wildlife trade is present within the Philippines and culturally important sites can be found within the local area. Our efforts towards sustainable tourism means no such items or animals are sold, traded or displayed within the resort.

Environmental Stewardship

Our in-house marine biologist is at the forefront of ensuring we are not just maintaining our local environment, but working to improve its health and raise awareness with our guests. As the resort has developed, so have our efforts to ensure our impacts on the natural environment are minimised through;



Riverbed clean-up on International Coastal Clean-up day 2019

- Taking environmental ownership of our beach and encouraging our guests to join us on regular beach cleans. Data from these surveys are submitted to a global dataset managed by the [Ocean Conservancy](#).
- Adopting our house reef with [Project AWARE](#) and completing Dives Against Debris.
- Raising environmental awareness with marine conservation focused presentations.
- Guests are kindly asked not to remove coral, shells or sand from our beach.

atmosphere

RESORTS & SPA • PHILIPPINES

- Hosting school groups for service trips focusing on marine conservation and community outreach activities.
- Working with local Non-Governmental Organisation, the [Institute for Marine Research](#), who are gathering long-term monitoring data on the health of Dauin's coral reefs.

Plastic free Atmosphere

In 2019 we joined [Mission 2020](#), an online platform created by Fourth Element, for dive organisations around the world to publicly pledge to do something positive for the environment by World Oceans Day 2020 (8th June). We pledged;

“At Atmosphere Resorts & Spa, we have already made great strides in limiting our environmental impact. By World Oceans Day 2020, we pledge to have eliminated front of house single-use plastics and will continue to expand our sustainability and awareness raising efforts with our guests, suppliers and local community.”

This has led us to create single-use plastic free minibars, tea and coffee making facilities, as well as toiletries. We do not provide plastic straws or toothbrushes, instead offering natural bamboo alternatives. No plastic water or soda bottles are available on site, guests are provided with reusable aluminium bottles on arrival, and large refillable water containers within their rooms.



Atmosphere's complimentary reusable water bottles.

The Bigger Picture

Here at Atmosphere we are constantly striving to improve our sustainability, yet recognise we are part of a much bigger, global picture. Therefore our efforts are in line with the United Nations (UN) [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs). Created at the 2015 UN General Assembly, the 17 goals address global challenges including poverty, environmental degradation and inequality, and are the world's blueprint to achieving a better, and more sustainable future for all.