

What does it mean when a: Hotel/ Villa/ Losman or Home stay claims to be “Eco” in Indonesia

The word “Eco” has become misused as a promotional catch phrase over the last few years - with many businesses “cashing in” on the burgeoning Eco Tourism Industry. In Asia, as in other parts of the world - There exists pathways for a Business to be assessed for Sustainability. There are organisations that offer: Benchmark Guidelines, Assessments & Awards. These organisations serve to ratify Sustainable operations in Indonesia.

So seek out those businesses that have been assessed for their Sustainability, for a real “Eco” experience.

Definition: (As defined by Sarinbuana Eco Lodge)

An Eco Lodge seeks to be: Sustainably integrated with the Natural, Built and Social Environments

An Eco establishment offers so much more than a room... lets break it down.

Natural Environment

- Is located in a natural area, or a rural area within a short distance to a natural area, and is not significantly impacted by a town site, noise, traffic, or smog.
- Employs land management strategies & systems that protect the environment from pollution & degradation.
- Employs sustainable waste management systems.
- Employs water saving measures.
- Minimizes the use of toxic or non-biodegradable chemicals.
- Has organic / local food available for guests.
- Replenishes trees, that have been harvested by building.
- Supports biodiversity, Protecting native fauna and flora.
- Chemicals are not used in the food production system.

Built Environment

- Uses natural cleaning materials in housekeeping.
- Uses local, sustainable building materials where possible.
- Is small, usually less than 20 rooms.
- Employs energy saving tactics and renewable energy where possible.
- Buildings are built in harmony with the natural surroundings.
- Buildings consume less than 1/3 of the overall land area.
- Buildings reflect traditional designs.
- Uses only local trades persons where possible.
- Recycles organic, and non-organic wastes where possible.
- Has a system in place to offset carbon.

Social Environment

- Employs local staff where possible – training locals onsite local, where skills are not available
- Training and employing local people - who are paid Government standard or above wages.
- Informs guests, staff and visitors of the importance and value of a healthy ecosystem and describes how to best enjoy the area without causing negative impacts.
- Joins local village/government meetings and welcomes feedback from the local people.
- Places real value on, and actively supports, the local culture.
- Employs, or has access to, interpretive nature guides who are either trained in biology or have significant local knowledge of the habitat.
- Provides books, posters, maps, photographs, orientation talks to inform guests and visitors about the biology of the area.
- Contributes to the local economy and helps demonstrate that ecotourism is a more sustainable long term way to earn income than destroying or altering habitats for short term gains.
- Is involved in community social and environmental projects.
- Encourages sustainable economic community development.
- The operation strives to harmonise with and highlight the local culture.