

Travelife Certified sustainability award for Rhapsody Travel

Amsterdam, June 28, 2019. The Travelife Certified award was received today by Athens based Rhapsody Group. The award is recognition for the long-term efforts and frontrunner position of Rhapsody Group regarding sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility.

Rhapsody complies with more than 200 criteria, related to an operator's office management, product range, international business partners and customer information. The Travelife standard covers the ISO 26000 Corporate Social Responsibility themes, including environment, biodiversity, human rights and labour relations; and is formally recognized as in full compliance with the criteria established by the UN supported Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC).

Mr. Naut Kusters, manager of Travelife for tour operators, *"I am delighted to see that sustainability in the tour operators sector is obtaining momentum. The award of the front runner Rhapsody will inspire other companies in Greece to follow the same path"*.

Travelife, which has been established with the support of the European Commission, is the leading international sustainability certification for the travel sector. More than 35 national travel associations are promoting the scheme to their members including ABTA, The British Travel Association and PATA, the Pacific Asian Travel Association. Travelife for Tour operators has obtained GSTC Accreditation, meaning its procedures comply with the highest global standards.

Rhapsody is the second tour operator in Greece to have reached a GSTC Accredited Travelife Certified certification.

John Siokas, President of Rhapsody Travel, *"Given our role as a major cruise line tour operator and being pioneers in the field of sustainable tourism in Greece, we understand the importance and responsibility we have in promoting sustainability to the industry. We are proud of our TRAVELIFE CERTIFIED AWARD and using our experience, leadership and influence we will minimize negative impacts of our operation on the natural and social environment. As it coincides with Rhapsody's 20th year of presence in the Greek tourism industry, this is a remarkable achievement!"*



About Rhapsody

Rhapsody Travel is an international tour operator specializing in quality excursions and shore side activities for cruise ship passengers.

Rhapsody is executive CLIA (Cruise Line International Association) Gold Member, member of the Hellenic Association of Cruise Ship and Cruise Ship Operators, HATTA (Hellenic Association of Travel and Tourist Agencies) and member of ASTA (American Society of Travel Advisors).

Rhapsody Travel

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About Travelife (www.travelife.org)

Travelife is a certification system, dedicated to achieving sustainable practices within the tourism industry. It provides companies with realistic sustainability goals, tools and solutions to implement positive change within their businesses and supply chains. Travelife is managed by ABTA – The Travel Association in the UK - and by ECEAT Projects - a not-for-profit organisation based in The Netherlands. Travelife has two key focuses:

Travelife for Tour operators: the scheme provides online training and practical tools for sustainability management and certification. The training and online tools are suitable for tour operators and travel agencies of any size and cover all management aspects of the travel company business including office operations, the supply chain, destinations and consumers. Upon submitting a report in compliance with the Travelife standard (based on an independent onsite audit), the company can obtain the “Travelife Certified” status.

The Travelife standard for Tour operators and Travel agencies is based upon the full Corporate Social Responsibility themes, including labour conditions, human rights, environment, biodiversity and fair business practices. The management requirements are compatible with EMAS and ISO 14001. The system is supported by more than 35 national travel associations to further its implementation among members.