



Responsible Travel Tips

Responsible travel that maximizes the benefits of tourism while minimizing tourism's negative consequences!

Before you leave:

- **Do your research**
 - Consult guidebooks and online resources about your destination's environmental, social and political issues
 - Look for websites specializing in responsible/sustainable travel options
 - Check if companies that have achieved recognition in leading responsible travel competitions (such as World Travel & Tourism Council's Tourism for Tomorrow Awards and ResponsibleTravel.com's World Responsible Tourism Awards)
 - Check if companies have eco-certifications and eco-awards
 - Ask about environmental policies and practices of hotels & tour operators you are considering
 - Ask if the tour operator or hotel supports any local conservation or community-development projects (see CREST's www.travelersphilanthropy.org)
 - If you're interested in 'voluntourism' carefully investigate the local projects (see CREST's [Dos and Don'ts of Travel Giving & Travelers' Philanthropy Handbook](#))
- **Make your transportation count!**
 - Explore eco-friendly transportation– Are low-carbon or public transportation options available, such as trains or buses?
 - When traveling short distances, try not to fly. When flying, choose direct flights when possible, on larger planes and/or newer, more fuel efficient fleets
 - "Offset" the carbon emissions from your flights to mitigate your carbon footprint
 - Choose "green" airports, like Seattle-Tacoma International, Baltimore-Washington International, and San Francisco International that are making sustainability strides

While you're there:

- **Give and buy– but do so responsibly**
 - Eat in locally owned restaurants, and stay in locally-owned lodges, hotels and B&B's
 - Buy locally made handicrafts and products
 - Never buy crafts or products made from protected or endangered animals
 - Hire local guides – make sure they are licensed and live locally
 - Pay the fair price – don't engage in overly aggressive bargaining
 - Think twice about giving money to children – this can perpetuate a cycle where children are sent to beg rather than school
- **Be Culturally Sensitive**
 - Ask for permission before entering sacred places, homes, and private land
 - Always ask for permission before taking photos of individuals
 - Dress appropriately for local customs
 - Learn some words and phrases in the local language
- **Be Environmentally Conscious**
 - Refrain from taking seashells, coral or other natural objects,
 - Always carry your trash away from natural sites to dispose of properly
 - Recycle and compost waste when possible
 - Use wisely limited resources, such as water, fuel, and electricity
 - Stay on designated trails and observe set distances from wildlife – never provoke or otherwise engage the animals

When you return:

- **Help perpetuate responsible travel**
 - Share with others your experiences and promote responsible companies, destinations, and practices (blogging, social media, etc.)
 - Consider making a donation to programs that give back and benefit the local community you visited
 - Integrate further responsible travel suggestions into future trips

Helpful Internet Resources for Responsible Travel:

- Center for Responsible Travel (CREST): www.responsibletravel.org
- CREST's Travelers' Philanthropy program: www.travelersphilanthropy.org
- The International Ecotourism Society (TIES): www.ecotourism.org
- Rainforest Alliance –Green Your Travel: www.rainforest-alliance.org/green-living/travel
- Rainforest Alliance –Verification: www.rainforest-alliance.org/tourism/verification
- Ecoclub.com: www.ecoclub.com
- Eco Tour Directory: www.ecotourdirectory.org
- European Network for Sustainable Tourism Development (ECOTRANS): www.eco-tip.org
- "Green" Hotels Association: www.greenhotels.com
- Mesoamerican Ecotourism Alliance: www.travelwithmea.org
- Planeta.com: www.planeta.com
- ResponsibleTravel.com: www.responsibletravel.com
- The Travel Foundation: www.thetravelfoundation.org.uk
- Tourism Concern: www.tourismconcern.org.uk
- VISIT (Voluntary Initiative for Sustainability in Tourism): www.ecotrans.org/visit

Flying Responsibly: Offset your trips

- Sustainable Travel International: www.sustainabletravel.org/programs/carbon-emissions-and-offsets/
- Atmosfair: www.atmosfair.com
- NativeEnergy: www.nativeenergy.com
- My Climate: www.myclimate.org
- Terrapass: www.terrapass.com
- Carbon Fund: www.carbonfund.org
- The Nature Conservancy: www.nature.org
- Carbon Neutral: www.carbonneutral.com

Responsible travel tips drawn from the following resources: Center for Responsible Travel (www.responsibletravel.org), Global Sustainable Tourism Council (www.gstcouncil.org), Intrepid Travel (www.intrepidtravel.com), EcoTour (www.ecotourdirectory.com), and Expedia (www.expedia.com).



Washington, DC ■ 1333 H St, NW ■ Suite 300 East Tower ■ Washington, DC 20005 ■ P: 202-347-9203 ■ F: 202-775-0819
Stanford University ■ 450 Serra Mall, Building 50, Room 51D ■ Stanford, CA 94305 ■ P: 650-723-0894 ■ F: 650-725-0605
www.responsibletravel.org ■ www.travelersphilanthropy.org ■ info@responsibletravel.org