



How Green are you?

Green Holidays

Tourism has grown rapidly and in 2000, it accounted for more jobs across the world than any other industry. Your choice in leisure activities can make a big impact on both the environment and the communities visited. In choosing where and how to go on holiday, there are a number of issues to consider.

Travelling

How you travel can have a significant impact on the environment. Flying to your destination may be relatively cheap (partly as there is no international tax on aviation fuel), but it has environment costs. An individual's return flight to the USA causes more pollution than an average person's yearly car travel in the UK.

If flying, minimise the number of stopovers or transfers you make as more carbon emissions are created during takeoff and landing than at any other time.

Taking a train, bus, coach or ferry has a lower impact on the environment than flying or driving. Taking a walking or cycling holiday has the least impact and allows a fuller appreciation of the

country. To reduce travelling, consider choosing a destination in the UK.

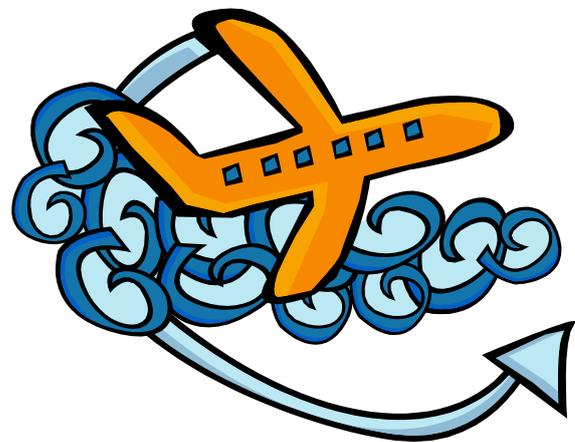
There are many websites offering environmentally friendly holidays, to give you an idea of what is available:

www.responsibletravel.com

www.greenholidaysandadventures.com

www.greentraveller.co.uk

to name just a few.



Offsetting your Carbon Emissions

Your carbon footprint is a measure of your own carbon dioxide you create and therefore how much you contribute to climate change.

Act on CO2 calculator
www.direct.gov.uk/actonco2

Many travel operators now provide information about the carbon cost of your travel. For example, SNCF (the French railways) tell you the carbon cost of your journey when you purchase your ticket. Many Ecotourism companies factor the cost of carbon emissions into their prices. Alternatively, you can carbon-offset your journey by paying for trees to be planted, for example. This can be done locally or through one of many national schemes.

Your destination

Tourism can have a considerable impact on the locality where the holidays are based. Consider choosing a destination and holiday where you can both contribute to the local economy and gain experience of the destination. Personally arranged holidays are more likely to make a positive contribution to the local economy than package holiday, where the main profits go to the tour operator.



Also consider UK destinations which reduce the distances travelled.

Information on beaches can be found in The Good Beach Guide which is available from the Marine Conservation Society.

01989 566017

info@mcsuk.org

www.goodbeachguide.co.uk

Ecological Holidays

Consider a conservation activity, leisure-based or educational holiday. These are organised by a number of organisations including the Field Studies Council, the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, the RSPB and the National Trust. Many other organisations, including environmental ones, have volunteering opportunities.

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Holiday Souvenirs

Avoid buying wildlife souvenirs such as skins, shells, coral, hardwood carvings, plants, unless you are sure they are legal.