Responsible Travel Tips

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

Before you leave

- **Choose Responsible Travel Companies Wisely**
  - Check travel companies for eco-label ratings and eco awards
  - Ask about environmental policies and practices at your hotel

- **Make your flights count!**
  - “Offset” the carbon emissions from your flights to mitigate your carbon footprint
  - Choose “green” airports, like Seattle-Tacoma International and Baltimore-Washington International that participate in recycling and green programs

- **Do your research**
  - Consult guidebooks about your destinations environmental, social and political issues
  - Look for websites specializing in Responsible Travel
  - Check for companies that have won awards in leading responsible travel competitions such as CondeNast Travelers’ World Savers, Virgin Holidays’ Responsible Tourism Awards, and World Travel & Tourism Council’s Tourism for Tomorrow

While you’re there

- **Give and buy– but do so responsibly**
  - Buy local, eat in locally owned restaurants, stay in locally-owned lodges, hotels and B&B’s
  - Hire local guides – make sure they are licensed and live locally
  - Think twice about giving money to children – this can perpetuate a cycle where children are sent to beg rather than school
  - Never buy crafts or products made from protected or endangered animals
  - Pay the fair price – don’t engage in overly aggressive bargaining

- **Be Culturally Sensitive**
  - Ask for permission before entering sacred places, homes, and private land
  - Always ask for permission before taking photos
  - Dress appropriately for local customs
  - Learn some words and phrases in the local language
Helpful Internet Resources:

Best Green Hotels: www.thebestgreenhotels.com
Center for Responsible Travel (CREST): www.responsibletravel.org
Certification Network of the Americas: www.certificationnetwork.org
Conservation International: www.ecotour.org
Ecocub.com: www.ecocub.com
Eco Tour Directory: www.ecotourdirectory.org
Green Hotels Association: www.greenhotels.com
Green Stop: www.greenstop.net
Mesoamerican Ecotourism Alliance: www.travelwithmea.com
Planeta: www.planeta.com
Rainforest Alliance – Sustainable Travel: sustainabletrip.org
Responsible Travel.com: www.responsibletravel.com
Sustainable Travel International: www.sustainabletravelinternational.org
The International Ecotourism Society (TIES): www.ecotourism.org
The Travel Foundation: www.thetravelfoundation.org.uk
Tourism Concern: www.tourismconcern.org.uk
Travelers Philanthropy: www.travelersphilanthropy.org
VISIT: ecotrans.org/visit/index.html
World Surface.com: www.worldsurface.com

Flying Responsibly: Offset your trips

Atmosfair: www.atmosfair.com
My Climate: www.myclimate.org
Native Energy: www.nativeenergy.com