

Green Holidays

Tourism is often criticised for its environmental impacts, but there's a growing number of options for 'eco-tourism' which can help the environment, create income for small businesses and also let you discover the hidden gems on your doorstep.

Reduce Your Air Miles

One of the best ways of going green on holiday is to avoid flying, so why not rediscover Scotland or the rest of the UK using sustainable modes of transport such as train and ferry? Here are a few ideas:

- The great outdoors: walking in the Highlands or the rolling hills of the Borders
- Sports: cycling, golfing, fishing, sailing or kayaking on Scotland's many trails, golf courses, rivers, lochs and coasts
- Arts: a photography holiday taking advantage of Scotland's stunning scenery
- Wildlife: take a boat trip to do some sealife spotting, or explore wildlife gardens, woodlands and visitors centres

If Britain just doesn't appeal, many European destinations are easily accessible by ferry or train, including:

- Cycling holidays on the almost hill-free terrain of the Netherlands
- Camping in the north of France
- Summer walking holidays in the meadows and mountain passes of the Alps

You can even go to Australia on a reduced carbon footprint! [OzBus](#) travels from London to Sydney on a 3-month trip that visits many interesting places along the way.

Green Accommodation

Remember that environmental responsibility doesn't stop at the end of the journey – you can also be green when choosing accommodation and activities.

- [Green Tourism](#) lists accommodation with 'Green Tourism Business Scheme' accreditation
- If staying in a hotel, save resources by choosing not to have fresh towels every day and by not using individually-packaged soaps and shampoos
- If the places you stay and visit aren't green, encourage them to change! Supporting small businesses is also a good way to make your holiday sustainable and will also give you a better flavour of local life.

Taking it Further

To get more involved in sustainable tourism issues, visit [Tourism Concern](#)