



Enviro Matters



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Thinking About a Winter Getaway?

When the clocks change and the woolly jumpers come out, many of us consider chasing the sun. A well-deserved holiday can be just the thing to stay motivated through the remainder of the short, cold days of winter. In the excitement of planning an overseas adventure, it is not always easy to remember to think about the environment. Here are a few things to consider before booking a ticket.

A couple tips for traveling anywhere:

- Before you go: pull the plug on unneeded appliances. They can still draw power while off. Water heaters are especially power draining.
- Bring a reusable bag, coffee or tea mug and water bottle instead of using disposable ones.
- Use public transport, bike or walk when possible.
- To save petrol and reduce emissions if driving: avoid fast starts and stops, avoid idling, keep tires properly inflated, combine trips, keep cargo light and stick to the speed limit.
- Find out what kind of recycling your accommodation has in place and if it is locally owned and operated.
- Take pictures instead of collecting shells, rocks or other natural things. Leave a place as you found it.
- Give feedback – let businesses and other travelers know that you are looking for responsible travel options and reward the experiences that deliver these.

Destination: Paradise?

A couple of years ago 11x surfing world champion, Kelly Slater, tweeted “If Bali doesn’t #DoSomething serious about its pollution, it’ll be impossible to surf here in a few years. Worst I’ve ever seen.” He was referring to the growing pollution issues mounting in and out of the water: reports of trash fires in rice fields, sewage dumped into waterways and large scale plastic pollution encroaching on beaches and into the ocean.

and ‘90s that left the country with mountains of trash and poor air quality. Disgruntled Taiwanese people saw this was not going to work for their small island, which motivated the development of an intensive recycling industry and a refocus on ecotourism. Holidaymakers might want to consider supporting countries that have prioritized healthy citizens and environment, or organizations that are working to put these things in place for destinations with a poor environmental record.

The Alishan National Scenic area is a beautiful destination in Taiwan.



Without effective waste minimization, recycling and disposal plans, places like Bali are not able to cope with the demands of a growing tourism economy. Alternatively, many developing countries have recognized pollution will affect their social and economic welfare and have put measures in place to minimize harm. For example, Taiwan experienced an industrial boom in the ‘80s

What are carbon offsets and are they effective?

The best way to reduce your travel carbon footprint would be to avoid the use of petrol powered transportation. If walking or biking to a destination is not an option, many people use carbon offsetting with the intention to balance carbon use.

Although more commonly known through tree planting schemes, carbon offsetting that aims to reduce future emissions by allowing people or businesses to invest in environmental projects in developing countries is becoming more popular. Buying carbon offsets for clean-energy projects such as these are associated with establishing quicker and more permanent carbon savings with an added social benefit for

a local community. For example, these schemes may provide efficient cooking stoves or focus on capturing methane gas at a landfill site.

Critics of offsetting are concerned about these schemes providing an avenue for people to continue high carbon use habits. If people use offsets to counteract environmental guilt without consciously trying to reduce carbon use in their lives through other means, carbon offsets are seen to be ineffective. If carbon offsets are bought in conjunction with other actions, carbon-offsetting schemes are seen to be more useful. An interesting and more in depth article on the matter can be found at www.theguardian.com/environment/2011/sep/16/carbon-offset-projects-carbon-emissions

An example of how to buy carbon offsets can be found here: www.carbonfund.org/



New! Recycling Coloured Film

XZW now is accepting coloured film for recycling at our centre.

This includes empty clean:

- Prepaid post bags
- Frozen vegetable bags
- Cereal bags
- Potting Mix bags



Does not include:

- X Grocery shopping bags



Recycling must be clean!

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