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How to travel greener with TripAdvisor

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Many people are becoming more conscious about staying green while they travel.

TripAdvisor, the world's largest travel site, offers a few easy tips for travelers who want to curb their carbon footprint, without sacrificing comfort, relaxation or fun!

Book a nonstop flight. The fewer planes you need to reach your destination, the lower your carbon footprint. Also, choose an airline that participates in a recycling program.

Choose greener transportation. Once you get to your destination, you'll want to experience it. If you need a car, rent a hybrid or fuel-efficient vehicle. Better yet, rent a bike or take advantage of public transportation, so you'll never have to waste valuable time (and fuel) idling in traffic. Of course, the greenest way to get around is by walking. Sometimes walking is the only way to discover the true culture and see the sights of a destination. Plus, it's a great way to save money.

Eat local. Why travel to a place only to get food that has been flown in from thousands of miles away? Experience and support the community you are visiting and eat at restaurants that serve locally sourced, in-season foods.

Look for green hotels. TripAdvisor recently launched its new TripAdvisor GreenLeaders Program. Created in partnership with the U.S. Green Building Council and other green industry experts, the program recognizes hotels and B&Bs that engage in environmentally friendly practices, such as energy efficiency, recycling and solar panels.

All participating GreenLeaders hotels on TripAdvisor are marked by a green leaf badge. Just visit tripadvisor.com and click on the badge to see the hotel's green practices.

Reuse hotel towels. Every day, millions of gallons of water are used to wash hotel linens that have only been used once. TripAdvisor identifies hotels that participate in towel reuse programs. Just look for the GreenLeaders properties on TripAdvisor.

Jenny Rushmore is the Director of Responsible Travel at TripAdvisor.

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