



EARTH CARE @LEWINSVILLE

SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL TIPS

As pandemic restrictions are lifted, many of us look forward to traveling again. Making the shift safely is of utmost concern, but environmental sustainability should have a priority in our planning as well. Here are some suggestions:

- Choose a destination close to home. The shorter the distance, the lower the carbon footprint.
- Choose the most energy efficient mode of transportation for reaching your destination. Generally, shared ground transport (bus, train, carpool) is more environmentally friendly than flying. For more information:
 - [Which is Worse for the Environment - Driving or Flying](#)
 - [Evolving Climate Math of Flying vs. Driving](#)
- If your destination requires flying, select an itinerary with as few stops as possible. A significant percentage of a plane's carbon emissions comes from takeoff and landing.
- Utilize public transit/shared cars at your destination whenever possible. If you rent a car, choose the smallest, most fuel-efficient model available.
- The cruise industry has a poor environmental record historically. New technology and stronger enforcement are leading to modest improvements but some cruise lines/individual ships are better than others. If you choose to cruise, search carefully for the most sustainable option.
 - See [Cruise Environmental Impact](#)
- Choose lodging and tour operators based on their sustainability practices. For an assemblage of green travel resources:
 - [Green Travel Resources](#)
- Eat locally sourced foods when possible (vegetarian/vegan options have the lowest environmental impact) and buy locally made souvenirs;
- Practice sustainable living practices on the road, just as you would at home:
 - Take short showers.
 - Opt to use sheets and towels for multiple days.



Figure 1-Image from Shutterstock

- Turn off the lights and adjust the thermostat to use less energy any time you are out.
- Reduce plastic waste: pack a reusable bag for shopping, a refillable water bottle, and a set of reusable utensils.
- Recycle according to local guidelines.

When traveling, leave nothing behind but footprints, and keep your footprints light!

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