

What is Sustainable Tourism?

Sustainable Tourism is tourism that strives to minimize its impact on the environment, to respect local people and cultures, to offer economic benefit to local businesses and communities, and to provide a memorable experience for travellers and protects destinations for future generations. Using small-scale lodging, local transportation, supporting locally-owned businesses, and incorporating community-based ecotourism projects into tours are some ways travel can work towards sustainability.

What does a sustainable trip look like?

- Using efficient local transportation where possible, which also provides more interaction with local people.
- Staying at locally owned accommodations and supporting local businesses, so that the money you spend stays within the families and individuals you encounter along the way, enabling them to grow their community.
- Encourage the preservation of cultural heritage by appreciating, but not altering, archaeological sites, sampling local cuisine, and learning about traditional customs and belief systems.
- Visiting local community projects. This will give you a greater understanding of the issues facing local people and learn how individuals are working to strengthen the health and viability of their communities. You may also have a chance to volunteer and give back during your visit.
- Support fair trade by purchasing goods directly from the individuals who have made them.

(Source: <http://www.gapadventures.com/sustainable-tourism/about/#what-is>)

Ten Commandments on Eco-Tourism

Whether you are travelling on business, pleasure or a bit of both, the citizens of the world would be grateful if you would respect the ten commandments of world travel and eco-tourism:

1. Respect the frailty of the earth. Unique and beautiful destinations may not be here for future generations to enjoy unless all are willing to help in its preservation.
2. Patronize those (hotels, airlines, resorts, cruise lines, tour operators and suppliers) who advance energy conservation; promote water and air quality; provide recycling; manage waste and toxic materials safely for people and the environment; practice noise abatement; encourages community involvement; and provides experienced, well-trained staff dedicated to strong principles of conservation.
3. Learn about and support conservation-oriented programs and organizations working to preserve the environment and the local culture. Consider a volunteer vacation where you could volunteer to help the local community during a portion of your vacation.
4. Walk or utilize environmentally-sound methods of transportation whenever possible.
5. Encourage drivers of public vehicles to stop engines when parked and not idle.
6. Leave only footprints. Take only photographs. No graffiti! No litter! Do not take away "souvenirs" from historical sites and natural areas.



7. To make your travels more meaningful educate yourself about the geography, customs, manners and cultures of the region you visit. Take time to listen to the people. Encourage local conservation efforts.
8. Respect the privacy and dignity of others. Inquire before photographing people.
9. Do not buy products made from endangered plants or animals, such as ivory, tortoise shell, animal skins, and feathers.
10. Always follow designated trails. Do not disturb animals, plants or their natural habitats.



Travel is a natural right of all people and is a crucial ingredient of world peace and understanding and with that right, comes responsibilities. ASTA encourages the growth of socially responsible, sustainable tourism, and environmentally-friendly travel.

Source: (<http://www.asta.org/ELibrary/content.cfm?ItemNumber=4525>)

Ont. Catholic Graduate Expectation: A Responsible Citizen who:	10 Commandments of Eco-Tourism; Cut and Paste (or write) examples from the list for OCGE (where relevant)
acts morally and legally as a person formed in Catholic traditions	le.6. Leave only footprints. Take only photographs. No graffiti! No litter! Do not take away "souvenirs" from historical sites and natural areas.
accepts accountability for one's own actions	
seeks and grants forgiveness	
promotes the sacredness of life	
witnesses Catholic social teaching by promoting equality, democracy, and solidarity for a just, peaceful and compassionate society	
respects and affirms the diversity and interdependence of the world's peoples and cultures	
respects and understands the history, cultural heritage and pluralism of today's contemporary society	
exercises the rights and responsibilities of Canadian citizenship	
respects the environment and uses resources wisely	
contributes to the common good	

(Source: <http://www.st-clair.net/curriculum/cge.pdf>)

Opinion: *Are all good Catholics good environmentalists?* Share your thoughts in a paragraph written in the space below (50-75 words) (delete lines if typing)

----- **OR** -----

Opinion: What prevents people from adopting these Sustainable tourism principles?
In other words, why don't we do this? (50-75 words)
