

Get Informed

To learn more about how you can actively minimize your carbon footprint while abroad, visit these great resources:



- Sustainable Travel International
www.sustainabletravelinternational.org
- North Carolina Center for Sustainable Tourism
www.ecu.edu/sustainabletourism
- United Nations Environment Programme
www.uneptie.org/scp
- World Travel & Tourism Council
www.wttc.org

Minimize Your Carbon Footprint Abroad

A carbon footprint is the amount of carbon dioxide that goes into the atmosphere as humans go about their daily lives. As carbon dioxide is the major man-made global warming greenhouse gas, it is extremely critical that we ALL work together to reduce our imprint on the world!



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East Carolina University

Office of International Affairs and the Center for Sustainable Tourism

Minimizing Your Carbon Footprint Abroad



Incorporating Environmental & Socio-cultural Sustainability into Study Abroad

Why Care?

Tourism, a \$2 trillion industry, is arguably the world's largest, generating roughly 10% of the total world GDP. Students account for a little more than 20% of international travelers each year.

Despite all the benefits the tourism industry brings, it also carries negative environmental and socio-cultural effects. Host communities are faced with resource and land conflicts, the loss of local traditions, and an overall threat to their cultural identity.



As members of the educated public, it is our responsibility to travel responsibly and sustainably!

Did You Know.....

- 60 million water bottles are thrown away each day in the US alone



- By traveling through Europe by train as opposed to by plane you can reduce carbon emissions by up to 90% (BBC)
- Air travel accounts for roughly 3.5% of the human contribution to global warming (*from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*)
- Aircraft emissions have about three times more global warming effect than the CO₂ emitted by cars and trucks from the same amount of fuel
- You can reduce your carbon footprint by 8 tons by flying directly from Raleigh to London, versus connecting in Atlanta
- The United States is one of the world leaders in carbon emissions. Every American averages an output of 22 tons of carbon dioxide emissions every year (*provided by the UN*)
- The above statistic contrasts starkly with the per person emission figures for the countries listed below (*provided by the UN*):
 - Sweden: 5.9 tons/person
 - Brazil: 1.8 tons/person
 - India: 1.2 tons/person

Ways to Minimize Your Carbon and Socio-Cultural Footprint Abroad

- Familiarize yourself with local recycling systems and locations
- Contribute to the local economy by eating local foods and visiting locally owned businesses
- Learn about environmental conditions in your host country, and be sensitive to the ways in which your actions may contribute to its sustainability
- Make an effort to ensure that souvenirs are authentic, not imported from another country



- Choose hotels with sustainability programs (recycling programs, linen reuse, water conservation, etc.)
- Familiarize yourself with the traditions, customs, and cultures of your host country
- Respect the local cultures (dress appropriately, use caution when taking photographs of people and places, use proper etiquette, etc.)
- Choose an airline with a carbon offsetting program and with the shortest route option
- Use public transportation when available; walk or ride a bike