

Become Informed . . .

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



- Center for Sustainable Tourism
www.ecu.edu/sustainabletourism
- Sustainable Travel International
https://sustainabletravelinternational.org/documents/op_carboncalcs.html
- United Nations Environment Program
www.uneptie.org/scp
- World Travel & Tourism Council
www.wttc.org

Minimize Your Carbon Footprint While Abroad

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



East Carolina University
Office of International Affairs
306 East Ninth Street, Greenville, NC 27858
Phone: 252-328-4829
Email: studyabroad@ecu.edu
Web: www.studyabroad.ecu.edu

East Carolina University
Center for Sustainable Tourism
208 RW Rivers Building, Greenville, NC 27858
Phone: 252-328-4969
Email: sustainabletourism@ecu.edu
Web: www.sustainabletourism.org

East Carolina University

Office of International Affairs & the Center for Sustainable Tourism

Minimizing Your Carbon Footprint Abroad



Incorporating Environmental & Socio-cultural Sustainability into Study Abroad

Why Care?

Tourism, a \$3.5 trillion industry, is arguably the world's largest, generating roughly 10% of the total world GDP. And it is one of the most important employers, creating 200 million jobs worldwide.

For many parts of the world, tourism revenue is an essential part of protecting and persevering the environmental and local cultural heritage, providing communities with an economic incentive to protect the features that attract visitors.



Despite all the benefits that tourism brings, it can also have negative environmental and socio-cultural effects. Host communities can face resource and land conflicts, the loss of local traditions, and an overall threat to their cultural identity.

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 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 (*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 20 tons of carbon dioxide emissions every year (*UN statistic*).
- The above statistic contrasts starkly with the per person emission figures for the countries listed below (*UN statistic*):
 - Sweden: 5.4 tons/person
 - Brazil: 1.8 tons/person
 - India: 1.1 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 and not imported from another country;



- Choose hotels with sustainability programs (recycling, 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, and use proper etiquette);
- Choose an airline with a carbon offset program and with the shortest route option;
- Use public transportation when available or walk or ride a bike;
- Bring along your own water filtration and water bottle to eliminate plastic bottle usage