

E V U E

STAND
FOR
EARTH

A LETTER
FROM
GRETA
THUNBERG

WHY
JANE
FONDA
SPENT
THE NIGHT
IN JAIL



THIS
YEAR'S
GREEN
BEAUTY
STARS

SOPHIE
TURNER

ON LOVE,
FAME, AND THE
GROWING
JONAS FAMILY



Travel

Eco-Conscious Travel

Even those who regularly traverse the globe are making an effort to tread more lightly. A few commonsense strategies can make that quest a bit easier. By
Sarah Rowland



SUNSET AT THE AUBERGE MAUNA LANI'S EVA PARKER WOODS
COTTAGE IN KAMUELA, HAWAII.

When it comes to travel, one of the most important eco-conscious decisions you can make is also the most basic one: How do I get there? Increasingly, that means a process that doesn't involve a runway. With "flight shaming" on the rise in Sweden, the country's 10 busiest airports even saw a more than 5 percent drop in travel last summer, compared to 2018.

Of course, for farther-flung destinations, flying may be the only viable option. But for the determined traveler, more eco-conscious choices abound. For example, KLM, United, and Qantas all use aviation biofuel to reduce emissions. Tiffany Misrahi, vice president of policy for the World Travel & Tourism Council, recommends taking direct flights, flying economy over business, and choosing airports that produce less pollution, like Dallas/Fort Worth, the world's largest carbon-neutral airport. It's also worth investigating alternative methods of getting around, from *tuk tuks* in Bangkok to bicycles in Amsterdam to high-speed trains in Japan. The Eurostar from London to Paris produces 90 percent fewer greenhouse gas emissions than a flight between the two cities.

Choosing to forgo planes can have cultural benefits, too: Train travel reveals the true nature of a place, as author Monisha Rajesh explores in her book *Around the World in 80 Trains*. “Trains burrow deep into the guts of a city, laying bare its bones,” she says. “They bring us into close proximity with a cross-section of society that would otherwise be impossible to find. Chatting with fellow travelers [uncovers] far more detail about a city’s history, culture, restaurants, and sights than any guidebook could offer.” Via her globe-crossing rail journeys, she’s seen how the travel industry is evolving. “Climate change is one of the most frightening realities of our time, and we owe it to the planet and future generations to adjust our carbon footprint,” she says.

The destination can be just as crucial as the journey when traveling consciously. Where possible, choose lodging with a minimal-impact approach to its local ecosystem. Look for initiatives such as solar-powered electricity, rainwater harvesting, composting, and on-site recycling. “The greatest impact you’ll have as a traveler is in the hotels and experience providers you choose, so search for companies who take a position on these issues and make sure they have sustainability certifications,” says Brian Jones, cofounder of Kin Travel, a company that advocates for eco-conscious global travel by working with conservation leaders and local changemakers. “Travel is one of the most powerful economic and cultural forces in the world. At its best, it fuels local economies and protects the ecological and cultural heritage that we travel to experience. But with equal power, it can also degrade ecosystems and communities,” Jones says.

While eco-friendly travel may require putting in a bit more work at the outset, Misrahi says, it’s “only because [we’re] changing the ways we’re used to doing things. Once we’re accustomed to more sustainable methods, that will become the new normal.”



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