

Travelling to eco-friendly countries

Tourism is one of the ways in which countries get money. If you want to support a country which takes care of its environment, why not visit one of the following?

In Europe:



Iceland is always at the top of eco-friendly countries. One of the reasons is that it uses its geothermal sources to make electricity and heating. It also keeps the ocean and the coast clean of rubbish, and makes sure that fishing does not harm the sea life.



Finland produces very small amounts of greenhouse gasses and uses renewable sources for its industry. Wind power is becoming more important because the country is trying to produce as little CO₂ as possible. It is also the country where people are the happiest in the world.



Slovenia was the first country to become a green tourist destination. It has protected over a half of its territory, which means a large part of the country will remain unpolluted and ecologically safe. It also takes good care of its many forests.

Around the world:



Several years ago, **Mauritius** had the most polluted cities. Today, it is among the top 10 ecologically aware countries. This small island off the east coast of Africa works hard to protect its harbours and environment.



Colombia in South America has a very high biodiversity: thanks to its rainforests, there are thousands of different kinds of plants and animals. It made new laws to protect them, and it is now working towards a more sustainable future.



Costa Rica also has strict laws against water and air pollution. It is currently trying to become the first carbon-neutral country. The scenery and landscape of this country in Central America are one of the greenest in the world.

Tasks:

- 1 Research the ecologically friendly steps mentioned in the article: using geothermal sources, reducing greenhouse gasses, using renewable sources, becoming carbon-neutral, having green policies, protecting the environment, having a high biodiversity, being ecologically aware.
- 2 Find out about each country's most interesting tourist destinations.
- 3 Make a presentation about another eco-friendly country: Sweden, Switzerland, France, Denmark, or Malta in Europe, and Cuba, New Zealand, Israel, Japan, Taiwan, or Canada from around the world.
- 4 Check: Are people who live in ecologically aware countries happier? Compare online maps for world happiness and world ecological performance.

Ideas: How to enjoy your summer holidays

Tamara and Jerome are making a video together about what they are planning to do during the summer holidays. Last year they both slept, played video games and were bored a lot of the time. This summer, they want to have more fun. Therefore, they've made a list which they are going to share with their viewers.

- Find a sports group. Tamara wants to go swimming, and Jerome will probably play basketball.
- Learn a new skill. Jerome can't cook, so he will find some cookbooks and ask his grandma for help. Tamara will try to create her own web-page.
- Volunteer. They will check with their local volunteer center to see where they can help. They haven't decided yet, but there are animal shelters and eco groups that need extra people over the summer.
- Plan one fun trip each week. They already have a bunch of places they want to visit: the zoo, the old part of the town (with a friend who knows more about the city past), the local lake with boats, a nearby mountain top they will hike to, and many others.
- Check for free activities (and books) at the library. Jerome already has a list of books he wants to read. Tamara will probably join a book club, because she doesn't like reading on her own.
- Go to the cinema. If there aren't any good films on, they will have a film night at Tamara's place.
- Organize game night. Jerome is more into computer games, and Tamara into board games. They will probably have one evening with each.
- Try out a new hobby. Tamara will try to learn to play the ukulele and Jerome to juggle.
- Declutter. Cleaning up their rooms and giving away things they don't need will relax them and give them a fresh start.

Answer the questions.

- 1 How do you usually spend your summer holidays?
- 2 Do you like it, or do you want to change something about it?
- 3 Is there anything on the list you would like to do?
- 4 Can you add more ideas of your own?