

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.