Top 5 Sustainable Travel Destinations for You to Not Only Visit – But *Make a Difference* Traveling - in 2024

As an ecotourist committed to low-impact travel, you probably do not need much convincing about choosing sustainable travel destinations to address the ongoing climate crisis.

In fact, studies clearly show that <u>75% of global travelers are looking for more</u> sustainable travel. While there is still some delay between behavior meeting intentions, certain destinations are more than willing to bridge this gap by investing in sustainable initiatives, policies, and practices.

Here's a list of 5 such destinations for those who seek an immersive travel experience *and* want to come back enriched with a deeper connection with nature.

Valencia, Spain

Valencia - esteemed recipient of the 2024 European Green Capital Award - is, currently, one of the hottest destinations for sustainable travel. With 500 hectares of green space (including 120 sq. km of eco-friendly produce farms, the Huerta, that supplies local markets) and nearly 100% electricity generation from renewable sources, the city has transformed the quality of life for tourists *and residents*.

Pampering visits to its natural pools and the luxurious Parque Central aside, feel free to cycle your way around the 200 km of bike lanes and cocoon yourself in the grandeur of the famous national parks in the city.

Marrakech, Morocco

Morocco recently received a major setback to its economy - being at the receiving end of a brutal earthquake - that destroyed nearly 50,000 homes and dwindled hotel

bookings in Marrakech. The tragedy makes it one of the go-to destinations right now as you can make a life-changing impact on its tourism industry and help the old medina workshop artisans get back on track. The ultimate opportunity to give back to the world and its people!

(Indulge in the city's main attractions - the Saadian Tombs, Secret Garden, Bahai palaces, and the El Badi with our two new trips plus an adventure into the heart of its High Atlas Mountains - the Happy Valley.)

Saba, Dutch Caribbean

The beautiful island of Saba is making giant steps towards sustainable tourism, including a solar park, a marine park (with breathtaking diving), a hydroponics farm in Windwardside town, a water bottling plant, and a complete ban on plastics. These developments more than neutralize the carbon cost of traveling to the place (via ferry from St Maarten).

The Sabah Bank, named a Hope Spot by Mission Blue in 2023 considering its enormous significance for ocean health, is also the Atlantic Ocean's largest submarine atoll.

Scuba-diving and snorkeling enthusiasts! Get ready to explore schools of Nassau groupers.

Birders! The coastline - an identified Important Birding Area – is waiting for you with an open wing span.

Singapore

Singapore, probably one of the OG sustainable destinations, has lived true to its former Prime Minister's vision of the "city in a garden". With a Park Connector Network of more than 300 km of green corridors and clean-energy deployments

oriented towards the Singapore Green Plan 2030, this Southeast Asian nation epitomizes sustainable development.

Attractions for you include 13 newly enhanced southern parks, the 24 km Rail Corridor for hiking and biking, and new trails on the C2C Trail Network. But the biggest attraction of them all is the Pan Pacific Orchard (with a waste-to-water biodigester and breakthrough tech initiatives) offering guilt-free accommodations to visitors.

Belfast, UK

The city of Belfast in the UK has shocked the global sustainable tourism ecosystem by jumping from 47th place in the <u>Global Destination Sustainability Index</u> to 11th in less than two years. With three out of every four Belfast hotel rooms boasting a sustainability certificate and more than 90 other locations - including restaurants, attraction places, and hotels - committing to the Green Tourism program, the city has become a blueprint for excellence in sustainability.

Visit the Titanic Belfast Museum and the Titanic Hotel Belfast with the pride of staying at a place that targets zero-waste emissions by the end of this decade.

Belfast Bikes offers the convenience of green transport around the beautiful city.

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Love the idea of traveling to these lovely destinations - that promise a beyond-the-ordinary adventure and the fulfillment of making the world better? Luxury Ecotourism is here to move heaven and earth for you – literally.

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