

# Sustainable tourism: challenges and best practices

**Tourism, as a vehicle for discovery and cultural sharing, is a powerful force capable of transcending borders and creating lasting bonds between individuals.**

However, the exponential growth of the tourism industry in recent decades has had significant consequences for our planet and its inhabitants. It is in this context that the concept of sustainable tourism has emerged as an essential response to preserving our natural, cultural, and socio-economic heritage.

*Sustainable tourism, also known as responsible tourism or ecotourism, goes far beyond the simple act of traveling. It is a holistic approach that incorporates ethical principles aimed at minimizing the negative impacts of tourism while maximizing benefits for local communities and environmental preservation. Faced with current environmental challenges and the imperative to promote fair economic practices, sustainable tourism positions itself as an enlightened guide to a future where travel no longer means compromising our planet.*

In the following sections, we will delve into the fundamentals of sustainable tourism, exploring its core principles, its various forms, and the significant impacts of tourism on our environment and societies. We will also highlight concrete solutions and best practices, offering a balanced view of the role everyone can play in transforming tourism into a force for good.

**Join us on this intellectual journey, where we will take a close look at sustainable tourism, uncovering its often overlooked facets and exploring together the path to travel that respects our planet and enriches our experiences.**

## Summary

### 1. The Challenges of Sustainable Tourism

- Environmental challenges linked to tourism (CO2 emissions, biodiversity, pollution)
- Examination of socio-economic impacts (cultural standardization, economic dependence)

### 2. Fundamental Principles of Sustainable Tourism

- Explanation of key principles, such as ecotourism, cultural preservation, and social responsibility;
- Highlighting the benefits of these principles for destinations and local communities.

### 3. The Different Forms of Tourism

- Exploration of the various types of tourism (national and international tourism, mass tourism, eco-tourism, local tourism, cultural tourism, business tourism, domestic tourism, urban tourism)
- Analysis of the environmental and social impacts specific to each form;

### 4. Environmental Impacts of Tourism

- Details of CO2 emissions by means of transport
- Analysis of the consequences on biodiversity and natural ecosystems

## 5. **Socio-economic Impacts of Tourism**

- Discussion on the standardization of cultures and soft power induced by tourism
- Examination of the problems of economic dependence in certain countries

## 6. **Adopt good tourism practices**

- Practical tips for sustainable travel
- Presentation of initiatives and organizations involved in sustainable tourism

## 7. **News and Developments in Sustainable Tourism**

- Regular updates on trends and new initiatives
- Announcements of recent initiatives and successes in sustainable tourism

## 8. **Conclusion**

- Summary of the main points
- Call for action and commitment to sustainable tourism practices

# 1. **The Challenges of Sustainable Tourism**

As more and more travelers explore our planet with increasing curiosity, the consequences of conventional tourism are becoming increasingly palpable. Popular destinations are seeing their fragile ecosystems suffer the consequences of the massive influx of visitors, creating complex challenges that urgently need to be addressed.

On the one hand, greenhouse gas emissions from the many modes of transportation used by travelers contribute significantly to climate change. Planes, cars, and ships, while facilitating our travel, also leave a considerable carbon footprint. On the other hand, biodiversity is threatened by rapid urbanization and the degradation of natural habitats caused by unregulated tourism development.

On a socio-economic level, tourism can also exert a negative cultural influence. Tourism globalization often leads to the standardization of local cultures to meet visitor expectations, thus compromising the richness and diversity of traditional heritage. Furthermore, the economic dependence of certain regions on the tourism industry can create imbalances and increased vulnerability to market fluctuations.

It is in this context that sustainable tourism emerges as a pressing necessity. By understanding the specific challenges facing tourist destinations, we are better equipped to explore innovative solutions and forge a future where travel no longer comes at the expense of our planet and its inhabitants. The next sections of this article will examine the fundamental principles of sustainable tourism and how they can positively reshape the way we travel.





## 2. Fundamental Principles of Sustainable Tourism

### Fundamental Principles of Sustainable Tourism

Sustainable tourism is based on ethical foundations that seek to transform travel into a positive force for both travelers and the destinations they visit. Understanding these fundamental principles is essential to grasping the complexity of this innovative approach.

1. **Responsible Ecotourism:** The heart of sustainable tourism lies in ecotourism, a practice that promotes the preservation of natural ecosystems, biodiversity, and respect for local communities. Travelers are encouraged to explore destinations without compromising their environment, minimizing their ecological footprint, and supporting conservation efforts.
2. **Cultural Preservation:** Sustainable tourism is committed to respecting and preserving the cultural diversity of destinations. It encourages travelers to adopt a respectful attitude toward local customs, traditions, and ways of life, thus fostering authentic and mutually beneficial interaction between visitors and host communities.
3. **Social Responsibility:** Sustainable tourism practitioners recognize the importance of contributing positively to local communities. This involves fair business practices, creating local employment opportunities, and investing in social projects that strengthen community resilience to tourism-induced changes.

4. **Minimizing Environmental Impact:** Sustainable tourism seeks to minimize its impact on the environment. This includes responsible waste management, efficient use of resources, promoting sustainable transportation, and preserving natural areas.
5. **Education and Awareness:** Education plays a key role in sustainable tourism. Travelers are encouraged to understand local and global issues, be aware of their impact, and actively contribute to the protection of the destinations they explore.

These principles form the foundation upon which sustainable tourism is built, providing an ethical framework for travelers, industry businesses, and governments. In the following sections, we will explore the different forms of tourism in detail, highlighting how these principles can be applied in practice to create enriching travel experiences that are respectful of the environment and cultures.

### **3. Different Forms of Tourism**

Tourism, in all its diversity, can take many forms, each with distinct implications for the environment, local cultures, and communities. By understanding these different facets, we are better able to understand the specific impact of each type of tourism.

#### **Traveling abroad?**

##### **Tourist nations**

The definition of tourism was forged in a context of organization between communities marked by the importance and role of nation-states, generally identified by a common language, history or culture. Historically, their structuring has also been the breeding ground for antagonisms and wars between neighboring countries and military alliances (see: world wars). Today, the prevalence of nation-states is being questioned both “from above” by supranational organizations (EU, UN, etc.) and “from below” by regionalist movements (Brittany, Corsica, Catalonia, etc.) who wish to strengthen their autonomy and independence from the state in order to move towards a federal model.

## International (external) tourism



### The World Tourism Organization

Its role is to support the definition and implementation of national tourism policies, particularly through the study and dissemination of information and recommendations on tourism practices.

### National (internal) tourism

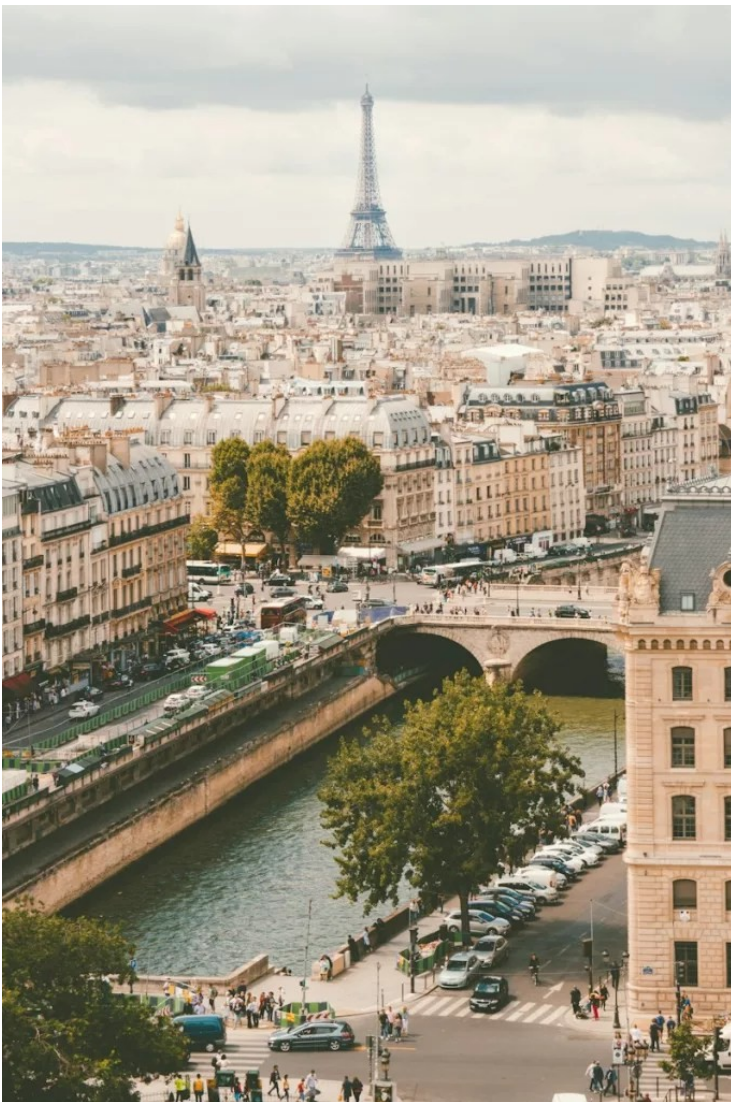
Domestic tourism focuses on exploring one's own nation. By promoting local destinations, this type of tourism can contribute to the economic development of less-visited regions while reducing the carbon footprint associated with international travel.

### In France, the difficulty of defining a tourism policy

Tourism policies in France have been under the responsibility of different ministries over time. Here is a timeline of the main ministries involved in managing tourism policies in France:

1. **Ministry of Trade and Industry:** Historically, tourism has often been associated with the trade and industry sector. Before the creation of a dedicated ministry, early tourism policies were often managed within the Ministry of Trade and Industry.
2. **Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Tourism:** In 1925, a ministry specifically dedicated to tourism was created under the name of Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Tourism. This was an important step in recognizing tourism as a distinct sector of activity requiring government attention.
3. **Ministry of National Economy and Tourism:** In 1932, the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Tourism was merged with the Ministry of National Economy, forming the Ministry of National Economy and Tourism. This structure lasted until 1938.
4. **Ministry of Trade and Industry:** For certain periods, tourism has returned to the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

5. **Ministry of Information and Tourism:** After World War II, in 1945, the Ministry of Information and Tourism was established. Its mission was to promote tourism and manage information-related aspects.
6. **Ministry of Foreign Affairs:** At certain times, responsibility for tourism has also been shared with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, particularly with regard to the promotion of tourism abroad.
7. **Ministry of Equipment and Tourism:** In 1966, a new ministerial structure emerged with the creation of the Ministry of Equipment and Tourism, emphasizing the importance of infrastructure in the development of tourism.
8. **Ministry of Foreign Trade, Tourism and French Nationals Abroad:** In 1974, a reorganization took place with the creation of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, Tourism and French Nationals Abroad, placing greater emphasis on promoting tourism abroad.
9. **Ministry of Economy, Industry and Digital Affairs:** In recent years, tourism has often been integrated into broader ministries, such as the Ministry of Economy, Industry and Digital Affairs.



France's tourism strategy is currently managed by the GIE [Atout France](#).

It is important to note that the ministerial structure may vary depending on government reorganizations and political changes. These changes also reflect the evolving perception of tourism as a major economic sector requiring specific attention.

## Travel to discover the world?

Tourist practices are generally promoted as allowing people to discover the world: intercultural encounters, circulation of knowledge, sharing of a common humanity... In practice, travel is also undertaken for other reasons: professional activities, family ties.

1. **Ecotourism:** In contrast to mass tourism, ecotourism focuses on exploring natural ecosystems in a respectful and balanced way. Travelers engaged in ecotourism seek to minimize their impact on the environment while contributing to the conservation of natural spaces and the well-being of local communities.
2. **Local Tourism:** Local tourism emphasizes authenticity and immersion in the daily lives of locals. It promotes direct interaction between travelers and local communities, encouraging cultural exchange and directly supporting the local economy.
3. **Cultural Tourism:** Focused on the discovery of cultural and heritage riches, cultural tourism emphasizes the preservation of traditions, historical monuments, and cultural practices. It seeks to offer educational and respectful experiences.
4. **Business Tourism:** Often overlooked in discussions about sustainable tourism, business tourism has significant potential to positively influence travel practices. Companies are encouraged to adopt sustainable travel policies, minimizing non-essential travel and promoting environmentally friendly conferences and events.
5. **Urban Tourism:** In the era of increasing urbanization, urban tourism explores urban centers. While this can boost the local economy, it can also lead to problems such as overpopulation, land pressure, and the deterioration of urban infrastructure.

Each form of tourism presents distinct opportunities and challenges for sustainability. In the following sections, we will examine the specific impacts of these forms of tourism on the environment and society, while highlighting examples of good practices and innovative initiatives.

## 4. Tourism & Environment

Tourism, while offering opportunities for discovery and cultural exchange, inevitably has repercussions on our environment. To fully understand the challenges of sustainable tourism, it is essential to explore the environmental impacts of this industry in detail.

1. **CO2 Emissions and Transportation:** Travel, particularly by air, is a significant contributor to carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions. International flights and long car journeys are among the main culprits. Sustainable tourism encourages the use of greener modes of transportation, such as public transit or electric vehicles, and the reduction of non-essential travel.
2. **Biodiversity and Natural Habitat:** Tourism development can lead to the destruction of fragile natural habitats, endangering local biodiversity. Infrastructure construction, landscape modifications, and unregulated tourism activities can disrupt natural ecosystems, endangering plant and animal species.

3. **Waste Management:** Tourist destinations, especially those attracting large numbers of visitors, often face waste management challenges. Plastic waste, excessive packaging, and non-biodegradable waste can pollute natural areas, beaches, and urban spaces.
4. **Water Consumption:** Tourism activities, particularly in arid areas, can put considerable strain on local water resources. Excessive water use for irrigation of golf courses, swimming pools, and other facilities can exacerbate water scarcity problems in some areas.
5. **Energy:** The energy needs of tourism infrastructure, such as hotels and resorts, can have significant environmental consequences. Overconsumption of energy, often from unsustainable sources, contributes to climate change.

Understanding these environmental impacts allows us to target specific solutions to mitigate the negative impacts of tourism. In the following section, we will explore innovative initiatives and best practices aimed at promoting environmentally friendly tourism.

## **Tourist transport**

There are two types of tourist transport:

- **Transportation to destination** : depending on the distance – car, train, boat, plane, etc.;
- **On-site transport** : generally a combination of soft modes (foot/bicycle), public transport and/or rental vehicles (car/motorcycle).

The impacts of different types of transport are very different.



## **Focus on: Tourist aviation**

Aviation allows us to...

However, he is responsible today for...

We will certainly be able to partially reduce the carbon impact of aviation, however the development of electric aircraft remains limited today by technical constraints such as the weight of the batteries, while kerosene has a much more concentrated energy ratio.

Historically, residents of wealthy industrial countries have flown more. Today, residents of developing industrial countries also want to fly: China and India, for example, are experiencing the rise of a middle class and together represent 3 billion people on the planet! Tomorrow, people around the world will want to enjoy the same right to fly that Europeans and Americans enjoyed over the past century.

The risk of no longer being able to fly equitably, the same right to fly for all the planet's inhabitants. If we want to continue to be able to fly in 2050, we should therefore plan uses by fairly distributing the carbon budget. According to the Shift Project's calculations, if we distributed the aviation carbon budget among 8 to 10 billion human beings, this would result in the establishment of a quota of 3 to 4 flights in a lifetime. This raises the question of how each person would best choose to use these quotas: once at age 20 to study, at age 40 to take a gap year, at age 60 to celebrate retirement? How would families reorganize themselves, whose intercontinental dispersion was made possible by the airplane in an era of energy abundance?

**Ultimately, while the impact of the aviation sector appears to be equivalent to that of other modes of transport, it remains by far the most unfair in terms of its uses and the small number of people, mainly from wealthy countries, who benefit from it across the world.**

## 5. Socio-economic impacts of tourism

As a global economic driver, tourism exerts significant influences on local societies and economies. However, these impacts are not uniform and can create significant disparities, particularly regarding the distribution of economic benefits. Let's explore these socioeconomic aspects, highlighting indicators such as the Gini coefficient, which measures income inequality within a population.

### **Tourism to support economic development?**

1. **Gini coefficient:** The Gini coefficient is a tool for measuring income inequality within a population. In the context of tourism, it can be used to assess how income generated by the industry is distributed. Significant economic inequality can arise if a small portion of the population or businesses benefit disproportionately from the economic benefits of tourism, leaving other segments of society less advantaged.
2. **Economic Dependence:** In some regions, overreliance on the tourism industry can leave communities vulnerable to market fluctuations. Destinations that do not diversify their revenue sources can be severely affected by crises such as epidemics, natural disasters, or global economic events.
3. **Precarious Employment:** Although tourism can generate employment, particularly in the service sector, these jobs can often be seasonal, precarious, and poorly paid. Tourism workers may find themselves in difficult working conditions without sufficient social security guarantees.



To mitigate these negative socio-economic impacts, it is crucial to adopt sustainable tourism practices that aim to maximize economic benefits while ensuring an equitable distribution of these benefits within host communities.

### **Tourism to discover other cultures?**

**Cultural Standardization and Soft Power:** The cultural influence exerted by tourism can lead to a standardization of tourism experiences and offerings, often in alignment with the preferences of international visitors. This standardization can sometimes lead to the loss of cultural authenticity and the commercialization of local traditions to meet tourist expectations. Although tourism has the potential to offer enriching cultural experiences, it does not always guarantee true cultural discovery. Several factors can influence this dynamic:

1. **Mass Tourism:** In popular tourist destinations, mass tourism can often lead to a standardized experience. Attractions, restaurants, and tourist activities may be tailored to the presumed expectations of international visitors, leading to a certain cultural uniformity. Visitors may find themselves surrounded by a generic ambiance designed to suit the tastes of a global clientele, rather than enjoying an authentic, local experience.
2. **Cultural Commercialization:** In an effort to meet tourism demand, cultural aspects can be over-commercialized. Traditional practices, festivals, and crafts can be exaggerated or distorted to attract visitors, leading to a loss of authenticity. Culture can be transformed into a commodity, alienating visitors from true understanding.
3. **Surface Tourism:** Some tourists may take a surface approach to their travel, venturing only into pre-established tourist areas and not truly engaging with the local population. The lack of meaningful interaction with local culture can limit a deep understanding of traditions, lifestyles, and cultural nuances.

4. **Economic Impact:** Tourism activities focused primarily on the consumption of goods and services can influence local culture by shaping it according to visitor preferences rather than preserving it. Businesses may adapt their offerings to maximize profits, sometimes at the expense of cultural preservation.
5. **Cultural Disconnect:** Cultural differences can create a mismatch between visitors' expectations and local reality. Cultural misunderstandings can lead to disappointing experiences, creating barriers to true cultural discovery;
6. **Superficial Tourism Practices:** Some travelers adopt superficial tourism practices, limiting themselves to iconic attractions and popular tourist areas. As a result, they may miss out on lesser-known, but equally culturally rich, aspects of a destination. The quest for selfies and photos can sometimes take precedence over in-depth exploration.
7. **Consumer-Driven Tourism:** When tourism is primarily focused on the consumption of goods and services, visitors can find themselves in a tourism bubble where the cultural experience is filtered through a commercial lens. Shopping malls, standardized restaurants, and mass-produced souvenirs can become the primary representations of local culture.
8. **Language and Cultural Barriers:** Language barriers can hinder true cultural immersion. Visitors who are not fluent in the local language may have limited interactions with locals, reducing their understanding of the culture. Similarly, cultural differences can create misunderstandings, making it difficult to navigate cultural nuances.
9. **Checklist Tourism:** Some travelers adopt a "checklist" approach, seeking to quickly tick off popular tourist sites without necessarily delving into the cultural significance or history behind them. This quest for checklists can create fleeting experiences that are disconnected from local reality.
10. **Impact of Globalization:** Globalization can also influence how tourist destinations present their culture. To attract a global audience, some destinations may emphasize elements that are perceived as universally appealing, while downplaying more local and specific aspects.

To foster authentic cultural discovery, it is essential to promote sustainable tourism approaches that encourage interaction with local communities, the preservation of traditions, and a deep understanding of cultural nuances. Travelers themselves must adopt an open, curious, and respectful attitude to truly immerse themselves in the culture of a destination.

To overcome these challenges and foster authentic cultural discovery, it is essential to encourage responsible travel practices, promote meaningful interactions with local communities, and adopt an open and respectful approach to the destination's culture. Sustainable tourism, with its commitment to cultural preservation and social responsibility, offers a path to deeper and more respectful discovery.



## 6. Develop good practices

Faced with the environmental challenges posed by tourism, it is imperative to explore concrete solutions and best practices to promote sustainable tourism. Here are some innovative initiatives and best practices that can positively transform the travel industry:

1. **Responsible Transportation:** Encourage the use of sustainable modes of transportation such as trains, electric buses, or shared vehicles. Favor airlines that implement eco-responsible practices and invest in carbon offset programs.
2. **Eco-Friendly Accommodations:** Promoting hotels and accommodations that implement eco-friendly practices, such as efficient water management, the use of renewable energy, and waste reduction.
3. **Community Tourism:** Support community tourism initiatives that allow travelers to immerse themselves in local life while directly contributing to the economic well-being of host communities.
4. **Travel Education:** Educate travelers about the impacts of their travel choices. Encourage advance research on destinations, cultures, and eco-friendly practices to encourage more responsible choices.
5. **Waste Reduction:** Promote waste reduction by encouraging the use of reusable products, discouraging unnecessary packaging, and implementing recycling programs in tourist areas.
6. **Conservation of Natural Sites:** Support initiatives to preserve natural sites by limiting access, educating visitors about the fragility of ecosystems, and promoting practices that respect flora and fauna.
7. **Labels and Certifications:** Encourage the adoption of sustainable tourism labels and certifications by companies in the sector, enabling travelers to make informed choices in favor of destinations and establishments committed to sustainable practices.

By combining these solutions, it becomes possible to transform tourism into a positive force that contributes to the protection of our planet and the well-being of local communities. In the following

section, we will explore how these principles can be applied specifically to international and domestic travel, with a particular focus on France.

## 7. News & Developments in Sustainable Tourism

The world of sustainable tourism is constantly evolving, driven by technological advances, social changes, and a growing awareness of the importance of preserving our planet. Here are some of the key news and developments in this dynamic field:

1. **Technology and Innovation:** The integration of technology into the sustainable tourism sector opens up new opportunities. Digital platforms enable travelers to make more informed decisions regarding sustainability by providing information on companies' environmental and social practices. The use of smart solutions also contributes to the efficient management of tourist flows.
2. **Rise of Local Tourism:** The global pandemic has accelerated the trend toward local tourism. Travelers are increasingly inclined to explore destinations close to home, supporting local economies and reducing their carbon footprint. Community-based tourism initiatives are gaining popularity, offering more authentic and beneficial experiences for locals.
3. **Strengthening Responsible Practices:** Consumers are increasingly demanding responsible practices from tourism companies. Hotels, airlines, and other industry players are shifting their strategies to reduce their environmental impact, promote cultural diversity, and contribute to the well-being of local communities.
4. **Post-Pandemic Tourism:** The COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly transformed the tourism landscape. The crisis has prompted reflection on the long-term sustainability of the sector. Efforts to rebuild tourism now emphasize resilience, cultural preservation, and minimizing environmental impacts.
5. **Ongoing Education and Awareness:** Ongoing education and awareness efforts play a key role in promoting sustainable tourism. Awareness campaigns highlight critical issues, educate travelers about sustainable practices, and encourage businesses to adopt responsible policies.
6. **New Forms of Tourism:** Innovative forms of tourism are emerging, such as regenerative tourism, which aims to leave a positive impact on the destinations visited. Travel focused on learning, conservation, and social contribution is becoming preferred choices for impact-conscious travelers.
7. **Collaborations and Partnerships:** Collaboration between industry stakeholders, governments, non-governmental organizations, and local communities is increasingly crucial. Partnerships aim to create holistic initiatives that support sustainable tourism globally and locally.

By staying informed about these news and developments, industry stakeholders and travelers can actively contribute to shaping a more sustainable, ethical, and balanced future for tourism. The next section will explore concrete examples of organizations and destinations that are standing out in promoting sustainable tourism.

### TOP 10 current tourism initiatives

1. **Hourrail & Interrail** : train travel platforms;

2. **Federation of Youth Hostels** : collective accommodation;
3. **GreenGo** : the French and responsible accommodation alternative;
4. **Birds of Passage** : local tourism platform;
5. **France Vélo Tourisme** : the cycle tourism platform;
6. **National Parks** : protected natural ecotourism areas;
7. **The Greeters** : a meeting platform for local guides;
8. **Wwoofing** : voluntourism on organic farms;
9. **Erasmus** : international student exchanges;
10. **Find A Crew** : The global community of sailing crews;



**Zoom on: [Hourrail](#) & [Interrail](#)**

These platforms allow you to plan long train journeys in Europe and around the world. They centralize information and offer affordable fares. They also provide information on overnight train travel options and legendary trains, and offer testimonials from train travelers.

**Hourrail** also provides route advice for train travel.

**Interrail** provides access to 33 European countries with a single pass available to everyone.



**Focus on: [Erasmus +](#)**

This program allows students in initial and continuing education to have lifelong access to an **international student exchange** opportunity within a partner educational establishment.

The European Commission has also set up an “ [Erasmus For Young Entrepreneurs](#) ” (EYE) program for people who wish to carry out an exchange with another entrepreneur in Europe.



**Focus on: [Find A Crew](#)**

This platform connects people who want to form a sailing crew together.

For a coastal experience or an offshore crossing.

There is also a French-speaking network called [La Bourse Aux Équipiers](#) and another platform called [Sail The World](#) ;

## **8. Conclusion: Towards a more sustainable Future of Travel**

Sustainable tourism is emerging as a key response to the contemporary challenges facing the travel industry. Throughout this exploration, we explored the fundamental principles of sustainable tourism, its various forms, its impacts on the environment and societies, and the current events and developments shaping it today.

It's clear that travel can be more than just a getaway, but rather a positive force for the world. Organizations and destinations committed to sustainable tourism demonstrate that authentic cultural discovery, environmental preservation, and support for local communities can coexist harmoniously with the joy of travel.

Travelers play a vital role in this transformation. By adopting responsible travel practices and choosing destinations and companies committed to sustainable development, travelers are becoming key players in the transition to a more sustainable future of travel.

Beyond the benefits for the environment and local communities, sustainable tourism also offers travelers richer and more authentic experiences. Connecting with nature, immersing yourself in

vibrant cultures, and making a positive contribution to the places you visit are becoming integral elements of the very essence of travel.

As we strive to rediscover the joys of travel, it is imperative to recognize that every choice we make as travelers has an impact. By embracing sustainable tourism, we are helping to forge a future of travel where the planet, its inhabitants, and future generations benefit from the world's bounty, preserved and shared ethically.

May every journey be a celebration of cultural diversity, an adventure in unspoiled nature, and a positive contribution to the places we are fortunate to visit. Together, as conscious travelers, we can shape a more sustainable future of travel, where every exploration is synonymous with respect, responsibility, and meaningful discovery.

### **And you, how do you imagine traveling tomorrow?**



### **Our tourism practices: traveling differently with Univoyage**

If the territories were to keep a trace of our passage, let us try to make it one of good memories and friendships forged. In other words, by avoiding leaving a negative imprint on the environment and mentalities. To this end, we ensure that generations after us can continue to travel to share knowledge, cultures, and stories.

The positive impact trip is reflected by taking into account criteria linked to the following themes:

#### **Transportation**

Traveling by bike reduces your carbon emissions!

Through its traveling training courses, Univoyage seeks to promote **cycling culture** . More specifically: ease of driving, proper use of the highway code, mastery of bicycle mechanics and free participation in cycling events (bike parades, races, etc.)

However, **soft mobility** also includes walking and public transport. And why not occasionally allow students to experience hiking, kayaking or sailing?

Furthermore, a single **vehicle** follows the group during training to transport our precious equipment. It includes books, computers, tents, and camping gear!

**Throughout the year** , our teams travel mainly by train, metro, tram or bus, as well as on foot and by bike (of course!), or they hitchhike and carpool.

## Food

Univoyage's training courses provide an opportunity to experience a balanced diet. It's in line with the physical and mental activity required during the cycling stages and training workshops. It also promotes the well-being of both individuals and the environment.

Local, seasonal, organic, and plant-based products are selected during the training sessions. Creativity is key to discovering a new, 100% gourmet and inclusive gastronomic culture!

Univoyage invites participants to create kitty pools for the one-time purchase of goods not provided by the cooperative: alcohol and cigarettes, tea and coffee, and non-plant-based food products. This distinction allows Univoyage to maintain an affordable price for its training courses while offering quality products essential to daily life.

## Responsible consumption

- Use complementary local currencies where they exist: La Gonette in Lyon, the Cairn in Grenoble, the Roue d'Avignon, etc.
- Favor short supply chains and reuse to remedy material obsolescence.
- **Use royalty-free** digital tools to address software and technological obsolescence.

## Energy

The **eco-web hosting** of our services is carried out by the Swiss internet provider Infomaniak on servers powered 100% by renewable energy.



L'UNIVERSITÉ POPULAIRE DU VOYAGE

Explorer, partager, s'engager