Five Eco-Tour Companies You Can Feel Good About Booking! Plus Their Benefits

If you're anything like me, the first time you traveled, it changed your life. It can have some of the most significant impacts on you. You experience new places, try new foods, and immerse yourself in new cultures.

You meet the most incredible people and have the most extraordinary adventures. You start to see the world through a different lens. One you could have *never imagined sitting in your childhood bedroom*.

It's something everyone should do in their lifetime.

But opening your mind and heart to the rest of the world can be intimidating. Today it can be incredibly daunting with reports of the <u>negative impacts of travel</u>.

You want to go and experience these places, but you don't want to have a negative effect on them.

Tourism *can* be a real problem but it doesn't *have* to be. As travelers, we're responsible for mitigating our impacts and doing what we can. One of the **best things we can do is choose the companies we support and work with.**

Doing research to choose eco-friendly and ethical companies is our responsibility. It's our job to make informed decisions. That's why I dedicate my newsletter to giving the top tips and deals on eco-tourism.

If we want these magical places to continue holding their magic, we need to intervene NOW.

Here's a list of some companies that help you travel sustainably. These companies actually *give back* to the places you go.

1. Intrepid Travel

This company is one of the first and hardest working companies in the world of eco-tourism. They have been carbon neutral since 2010 and are working to reverse the impacts of their tours. They offer trips to over 100 locations around the world with over 1,000 trips to choose from! Here are more reasons why Intrepid is always one of my first choices:

- They focus on climate impacts and on taking climate action.

- Their B Corp Certification measures Intrepid Travel's social and environmental impacts. It carries a global stamp of approval.
- They support and **give back to the communities** they travel in.
- They have <u>The Intrepid Foundation</u>. This is a not-for-profit since 2002. It has donated to more than 130 community organizations. The donations are reaching over AU \$12 million!

All in all, when choosing who to support and travel with, Intrepid is a choice you can reward yourself for taking. And with all their tour options, they'll have something that suits any trip you want.

2. Much Better Adventures

These guys offer outdoor adventures run by local guides. This company is also a member of the B Corp. Another fantastic example of getting global approval and appraisal. The ethical and conservative work they are doing meets and surpasses the criteria. Here are some more amazing tidbits about Much Better Adventures:

- They are **reducing their carbon footprint** through <u>rewilding</u>, <u>sustaining</u>, <u>and</u> <u>increasing biodiversity</u>.
- They are campaigning with environmentalists, NGOs, and activists to tackle urgent issues.
- They prioritize conservation by donating 5% of their revenue to their foundation.
- They **support local communities**, see how through their <u>case studies</u>.

Look into the trips and tours they offer and prepare for the trip of a lifetime (that you can **feel good** about taking). The trips they offer run across the globe. For all the thrill seekers out there, definitely check them out.

3. Pura Aventura

This tour company operates in Central and South America, Spain, Portugal, and Antarctica. Not only are they carbon neutral, but they offset their carbon imprint from any of their trips by 160%!

Here are some details about how they're changing the world:

- They have a **160% carbon offset policy**.
- They're **dedicated to positive travel** this benefits the planet, the locals, and *you*.

- Everything **you experience on your trips is local,** from the food to the people you spend time with.
- B Corp certified.

Disappointment is something you won't get with these guys. Their tours take you away from the crowds, providing more intimate experiences. Go see for yourself how fantastic they are.

4. Explore!

Now this company doesn't have the illustrious B Crop Certification – BUT they're still helping improve how tourism impacts the world. They hold a verification by Ethy, another sustainability standards organization that audits companies.

Explore! is committed to teaching travelers about what they do and how they're helping the world and people. Keeping their tour group sizes small doesn't mean you're limited, they offer over 500 tours! Here's some more information you need to know about Explore!:

- They have **developed an Animal Protection Policy**, working with <u>Wild Welfare</u> and <u>ANIMONDIAL</u>.
- **Employing local tour guides** to ensure money is going back to the communities.
- Using as many local resources as they can.
- **Committed to reducing carbon by 50%** by 2030 and tracking the carbon footprint of all their trips.

These guys have been around for 40 years and are doing what they can in every way. Their reaches are global and their efforts are endless.

5. Aracari

A South American company that offers bespoke luxury and private tours since 1996. These guys started their company with sustainability in mind. They have remained true to their goals over the last 25 years. Their main goal is to promote purposeful and <u>sustainable travel</u>. The kind that will leave you with all the good feelings you could ask for. Aracari is dedicated to:

- Using eco-friendly accommodations.
- Supporting regenerative tourism.
- Promoting and showcasing community-based tourism.

- Being involved in activism like speaking out against initiatives that can have environmental damage or threaten cultural heritage.
- Promoting the **preservation of natural and cultural heritage**.
- Having philanthropic ventures you can donate to. (<u>Plant Your Future</u>, Colegio <u>Sol Y Luna</u>, and Living Heart.)

If you're planning on visiting South America and want a more luxurious tour, definitely check these guys out. You won't be disappointed.

Travel Sustainably While Still Having Fun

To sum it up, these are just a few impactful companies. There are tons of choices to make when traveling sustainably (without losing the fun or luxury).

Remember, you can still have amazing trips and experiences without causing damage to the places that touch your heart. Keep the magic alive and help leave the world better than you found it. Each one of us can make a difference, and if it's as simple as choosing who to go on a tour with, make the switch now.

Sign up for my weekly newsletter to get awesome eco-friendly and sustainable travel tips, deals, hacks, and recommendations.