



Green Vacation Tips

Easygoing Eco

- Fly airlines that have green initiatives. Some recycle the waste created when serving food and beverages. Southwest Airlines recycles all cabin waste and was the first to offer electronic-ticketing system wide. Virgin lets you book carbon offsets right with your reservation.
- Make it up to Mother Nature at ZeroFootprint.net—gives you easy ways to reduce your impact and connect with like-minded people for finding organic or vegetarian restaurants, ride sharing, and more.

Staying motivated to go green, lighten your footprint and cut carbon can be a challenge—there's enough information out there about being eco-friendly to fill a Prius. Preserving the natural appeal of places you visit doesn't have to be a drag. Even on vacation you can easily make a difference.

Smaller is Greener. An easy alternative to anonymous hotels and condos is a green vacation rental. You get bigger rooms and make a smaller impact on the environment by staying in a guest home instead of traditional lodgings and big-box resorts.

Let Someone Else Cut the Carbon. When booking a flight, car, meeting room, or lodging, ask if the vendor has a recycling, or energy/water saving program. If it's clear they don't make efforts to reduce their impact on the environment, ask why not. Or better yet, stay somewhere that does. Check out this website for an example of an ePolicy that shows "green" is more than just marketing hype: www.ecoLuxuryLodging.com.

Save at the Pump. Consider renting a car to reduce emissions and improve your gas mileage. Some Enterprise locations rent Prius hybrids and all the cars at EvRental.com are "efriendly."

Before You Leave Home

Save money, headaches and consumption with these easy steps:

- Turn your water heater to "Vacation" or the lowest setting.
- Turn off AC/heater or adjust the thermostat to the lowest level that still protects pipes and plants.
- Turn water off at outside connection. This prevents flooding if a pipe breaks while you're gone. When you return, turn on the water slowly and check for leaks.
- Unplug appliances or switch off surge protectors. TVs and cable converter boxes can draw or "leak" as much as 40 watts an hour even when switched off. This is also a good way to save on your electric bill when you're home.
- Turn icemaker off by lifting the wire. This can help avoid flooding if it breaks while you're away.



Easygoing Tips: Forget being a fanatic, just do one or two...



View from Cathedral Rock, Sedona

- Skip the linen change. Notify housekeeping they don't have to change your towels and sheets every day.
- If your unit has a garbage disposal, avoid using it—it's one of the biggest water wasters.
- When you leave the room, turn off the AC/heat, lights and TV. Closing window treatments cuts down on heat in the summer and insulates in the winter.
- Turn off exercise equipment, sauna, whirlpool, Jacuzzi, spa tubs, and gym or tennis court lights when you're done recreating.
- Instead of leaving bathroom lights and fans on all night, pack a night light to help you find your way when you wake up.
- Leave the driving to others and create less pollution. Ride share when sensible. Pick a destination that's walkable like Delray Beach, FL or Sedona, AZ. These cities rate tops in walkable, bike-able lists.
- Carry your own soap and shampoo. Leave the little bottles of shampoo if you don't use them.
- Pitch in by placing water bottles, cans, newspapers, magazines, and glass in bins marked for recycling.
- Keep bar soap wrappers and take home used bars of soap.
- Carry bottled water. Use and reuse an aluminum bottle instead of plastic bottles. Find them online at www.sigg.ch.
- Reuse, recycle, or eliminate plastic bags. The durable, five pack, reusable bags from www.envirosax.com make a hip alternative to the island of plastic the size of Texas that we've created in the ocean. We each use about



1,000 plastic bags a year. Each bag takes around 1,000 years to decompose. Plastics don't biodegrade they photo-degrade, breaking down into tiny toxic pieces that contaminate soil and water and harm wildlife. Some animals mistake plastic for a food

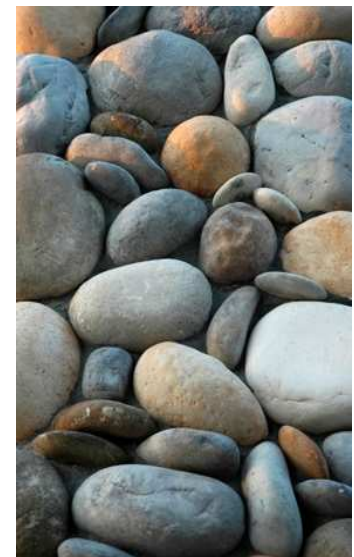


Photo by Laren Leonard © 2006

- source, which can be life-threatening.
- Avoid "go" cups. Carry your own cup or drink "in." While the verdict is still out on which is worse—Styrofoam that lasts 2,000 years but *doesn't* create toxins in production, or other materials like paper and plastic that *do*—we can agree the years in the landfill won't do any good.
- Take only the brochures or maps necessary.

Easygoing Green Vacation Tips



- Don't buy endangered species products such as tortoise shell, ivory, animal skins or feathers. Consider that trophies like star fish or turtle-shell related souvenirs are creatures that may have been put to death for the sake of a gift shop sale and some are endangered or from fragile environments. The U. S. Customs office offers a list of items which cannot be imported or brought into the country.
- Be gentle with any living creature other than pest insects or vicious animals. Use binoculars and cameras to "hunt" animals instead of taking trophies.
- Take only photographs home with you. Do not take "souvenirs" from natural areas, historical areas or your lodging.
- Take photos with a digital camera. Disposable cameras create landfill waste and can be expensive.
- Shoot digitally or buy rolls of film with 36 shots rather than 12 or 24. Packaging waste is reduced, and you'll save about 40% in costs.
- Write legibly on your film package. Kodak claims 400,000 rolls get discarded annually because the contact phone or address is illegible.
- Leave only footprints. Take everything out that you brought with you.
- Pick up at least one piece of litter every day-especially at national tourist locations which are vulnerable to huge tourist populations.
- Calculate the emissions from your flight or driving on your trip with a "carbon calculator." Offset your contribution to climate change with a donation—Google "carbon calculator" for a list of nonprofits with online calculators and make a contribution to one that is important to you.

Casita Colibrí ePolicy

ecoLuxury at the Sedona vacation rental, *Casita Colibrí* means solar-powered, high comfort, low impact lodging.

- **Hypoallergenic.** Natural cleaning products used—no synthetic fragrances, pet dander, or smoke to irritate respiratory problems.
- **Safe for some MCS** (Multiple Chemical Sensitivities). Free of chemical pesticides.
- **Plush, organic linens**, easy on your skin and lungs.
- **A Green Remodel.** Reclaimed or rapidly renewable building materials and fibers used in construction and furnishings. Local materials, artists and trades.
- **Low waste.** Recycled construction materials and ongoing recycling of paper, boxes, plastic, glass bottles, aluminum. *TIP:* Find out how to recycle appliances in your area at www.recycle-steel.org.
- **Low energy use.** Energy Star®, energy-efficient appliances, HVAC.
- **Low water use.** Low-volume toilet and showerhead.
- **Site maximizes** fresh air circulation and passive solar. And minimizes exposure to noise and EMFs.
- **Engage guests** in sharing ways to go green and enjoy luxury. For *16 Ways to Lower Your Impact* see <https://www.usgbc.org/ShowFile.aspx?DocumentID=2121>



View at sunrise from the balcony at the ecoLuxury vacation rental in St. Augustine, Florida. This eco haven is enjoyed by naturalists, birders, photographers, hikers, kayakers, and anyone looking for a quiet retreat.

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Casita Colibrí, Your Sedona Home Away from Home



Colibrí

Who says you can't have it all? This green vacation rental is loaded with romance, charm and luxuries. Big rooms, private patio and therapy spa tub. Plush king-sized bed, high-speed Internet, full-size, energy efficient appliances in a gourmet kitchen. Central and quiet location just three blocks to hiking trails, grocery stores, restaurants, spas, and more.

USA TODAY named Sedona "The Most Beautiful Place in America" for many reasons: the ideal temperatures of northern Arizona, the stunning beauty, and being a hikers' and honeymooners' paradise—to name a few. Casita Colibrí is an easy way to spend smart and live rich while you find your own reasons to love Sedona.



Casita Colibrí, an ecoLuxury Lodging property.