

A Vacation for the Earth

If someone ruined one of my possessions, they would get in trouble, and maybe go to jail. But people do things to ruin the earth, which billions of people live on, and others turn a blind eye. The earth that we all live on and that humans have lived on for millions of years is treated like a trash can by many. How can we solve this problem? Enter sustainable travel, an environmentally, socially, and economically friendly form of travel. Sustainable travel is eco-friendly, reduces your carbon footprint, and is beneficial to the people living where you are going. On my vacation to Paradise Island in the Bahamas, I will travel in a sustainable way by using alternate transports, respecting the wildlife, staying at local hotels and eating at local restaurants, and connecting with citizens. I will make a positive impact there. When I go to the Bahamas, I will be a sustainable tourist.

One way that I can be sustainable is to be environmentally friendly. Reducing your carbon footprint is a huge part of sustainability, and there are many ways to do it. One way is alternate transports. On my vacation to the Bahamas, I will rent a bike for transport. If it is too far to bike, I will use local transport like buses and trains. I will also stay at a hotel that is eco-friendly, and uses solar energy. This reduces my carbon footprint because bikes don't use fuel, local transports are already running regardless, and solar energy doesn't have a carbon output. If we are too wasteful with energy, it will increase global warming. In fact, according to conserve-energy-future, the average global temperature has risen by 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit. And it is due to the fact that many people go on a vacation, make choices that greatly impact the environment negatively, and don't even consider the fact that when they leave, they leave others to clean up their mess. A quote by Terry Swearingen is "we are living on this planet as if we had another one to go." And it is true. Too many people treat the earth like we will get another one once this

Earth gets too polluted to use. But we won't. We have to sustain our planet. And reducing your carbon footprint is a big part of this. Another way to be eco-friendly is to respect the wildlife by not feeding animals, and not littering. Overall, being eco-friendly is one way I can be sustainable, and it will make the Bahamas better than before I came.

A second part of sustainability is being socially friendly. Connecting with the locals in the Bahamas can make my vacation better for them and for me. Part of a vacation is to feel like you are living there like people normally do. And when you talk with, learn things from, and even live with local people in an area, it makes you aware of how people live there, and makes your vacation even better. I plan to do all of these things. You get to learn about how life is in a different part of the world. It also benefits the people that you interact with. They learn about how you live where you are from. Altogether, socially interacting with citizens is beneficial for both sides, and is part of the second pillar of sustainability, being socially sustainable. It builds bridges of friendship between different cultures and places, making the earth stronger and more united. All you have to do is connect with people from different places, and you are making the world a better place. In the Bahamas, I will learn about Bahama culture, religions, and traditions, and the locals will learn about mine. Learning about life in a different place will make you care deeply about the diverse perfection of our world, and lead you to do all in your power to protect the earth and all the amazing cultures and traditions of its people. Therefore, connecting with local citizens of the Bahamas is another way that I will be a sustainable tourist on my vacation.

Thirdly, I can sustain the economy of the Bahamas. I can do this by spending my money on things that are exclusive to the Bahamas. For example, I will eat at restaurants that are exclusive to the Bahamas and are not chains. I will also stay at a Bahamas hotel and not a hotel that is a chain hotel. If I do this, then it will benefit the Bahamas, and when I leave, the Bahamas

will be better economically than before I came. If I bought products from and stayed at American chains, then it would benefit America, but not the Bahamas. I want to help the Bahamas, so I will spend my money on products of the Bahamas. This is how I can Economically sustain the Bahamas, and boost the Bahamas' economy.

Have you ever seen the movie "*The Lorax*, by Dr. Seuss?" In the movie, a man wants to cut down trees and turn a peaceful wildlife into a land of factories, a land filled with man-made inventions, without any nature. The Lorax, who is the guardian of the trees, warns him that this is not a good idea. He doesn't listen. Then, when the land becomes the city he thought he wanted, he realizes that nature is important. So don't make this movie a reality. Don't get so obsessed with your own wants that you realize that it is critical to protect nature when it is too late. On my vacation to the Bahamas, I will protect and sustain the environment, by being environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable. I won't repeat the mistakes made in *The Lorax*. Do you want your children, and their children, and all the generations to come, to live in a polluted, filthy world, and know that it is our fault? Or do you want to be the people that make a change, the people that save the Earth?