

## **The Clock**

### **Holiday travel - greener, cheaper, healthier**

#### **August 2022**

With the holiday season in full swing, our thoughts turn to travelling; the dreaded traffic jams, lost baggage, delayed flights and strikes.

There is no doubt that travelling on holiday can be stressful and tedious not to mention expensive but, when planning a holiday, how many of us consider our impact on the environment?

In 2019, transport accounted for over a quarter of total emissions in the UK making it a vital area for change in order to address the global climate and ecological emergencies we are facing.

Transport is also the biggest source of air and noise pollution in the UK. In 2020, many areas of the UK failed to meet national air quality standards causing chronic conditions which reduce life expectancy.

Here are some ideas for travelling on holiday which tread more lightly on our environment, whilst often helping us to save money, improve our health and make the experience more enjoyable.

#### **Travelling to your holiday destination:**

##### ***Avoid flying, if possible, and certainly to nearby destinations***

- Emissions from flying have a huge impact; a return flight from London to San Francisco generates around 5.5 tonnes of carbon dioxide per person. This is more than twice the emissions produced by a family car in a year.
- If you do have to fly, choose an airline that uses the newest aircraft possible for your route. These typically tend to be more efficient than older models and so produce fewer emissions.
- Book an economy ticket (less space wasted), reduce luggage weight and choose direct flights without stopovers.

##### ***Take public transport***

- During covid, many of us (re)discovered the joys of holidaying in the UK and closer to home in Europe. Doing so opens opportunities to replace air travel with more sustainable modes of transportation.
- Buses and trains allow us to experience destinations in and beyond the UK with relative ease. Emissions may be cut by more than half (compared with car and plane travel) and fuel and road space is used more efficiently.
- Check out "The Man in Seat 61" website ([www.seat61.com](http://www.seat61.com)) which is treasure trove of helpful information on travelling on the continent by train.

##### ***By car***

- One of the big factors to consider is the **number of passengers** that will be in your vehicle. If you are traveling solo, driving a car may have a higher carbon footprint than flying; if you are traveling with the whole family, a good old fashioned road trip is likely the better choice.
- If several families/friends are going to the same destination, can you **share transport**?

## **Travelling around your holiday destination**

### ***Leave the car behind***

About one-fifth of all car emissions come from journeys of less than 5 miles. Instead of renting a car, consider the public transport options; ride the subway or tram; hop on a bus; take a tuk tuk or matatu.

### ***Bicycle or on foot***

If you are able, exploring by bicycle or on foot is the most environmentally friendly option and, in most cases, the cheapest, not to mention best for our health. Discovering places in this way can also lead to experiences that might have been missed from behind the glass window of a vehicle.

Don't forget that if the distances to be covered are too far (or hilly), you could use an electric bike.

### ***If the car is the only option***

Opt for a hybrid, electric, or smaller (more efficient) car instead of an SUV. SUVs produce an average of 25% more emissions than a medium sized car. For more information about the greenest cars to drive, the Green Car Guide ([www.greencarguide.co.uk](http://www.greencarguide.co.uk)) may help.

If you're stuck in a jam, switch the engine off if you expect to be there for more than a minute or two (cutting the engine will save fuel and reduce emissions) and, when driving, keep your maximum speed between 55 and 65 mph.

### ***Finally - offsetting***

It can be challenging to holiday in a completely carbon neutral or climate positive way. Consider offsetting your emissions whilst creating sustainable development benefits for communities. Be careful which companies you use though as not all are genuine. Have a look at the UN's Gold Standard certification for offset schemes: <https://marketplace.goldstandard.org/collections/projects>

### ***Happy Holidays!***

Colwall Greener meets approx. every quarter and the next meeting will be on **23<sup>rd</sup> August 2022 in the Colwall Village Garden Apple Packing Shed at 6.30pm**. Everyone is warmly welcome.

**\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\***

There will be a free **Colwall Greener Relaunch Event in the Village Hall on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2022** with lots of stands, talks and activities.