

Intersection between Sustainable Tourism & Circular Economy

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1 The Tourism Industry

2 Key Principles of Circular Economy

3 Tourism & Travel & Circular Economy

4 Opportunities for the Tourism Sector

5 Practice Examples



Tourism Quick Facts



- Tourism accounts for **1 in 10 jobs** around the world- **330 million jobs**
- International tourism **ranks 4th** (after fuels, chemicals and automotive products) in **global exports**
- Tourism accounts for **30% of the world's exports of commercial services**
- **1.3 billion international tourist arrivals** were recorded in 2023 (UNWTO)
- In over **150 countries**, tourism is one of five top export earners
- Tourism is the **main source** of foreign exchange for **one-third of developing countries** and one-half of less economically developed countries (LEDCs)



Positive Impacts

- Job creator
- Strengthens the **local economy**
- Contributes to **local infrastructure** development
- Can help to **conserve the natural environment** and cultural assets and traditions
- and to **reduce poverty** and inequality,

Negative Impacts

- Pressure on **natural resources** through over-consumption
- Depletion of **local natural resources**
- Increased **pollution** (air, sea, water)
- Increased **waste production**
- Enormous **stress** on local land use
- Natural habitat loss
- Pressure on **endangered species**



Transportation

- Tourism involves travelling, mainly to long-distance destinations, which means the **emission of greenhouse gases**.
- Mainly produced by cruises and planes, producing **75% of CO2 emissions** in the tourism industry (source ecobnb.com)





The integration of **circular economy principles** can help to minimize negative environmental impacts of the tourism industry!

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3 Key Principles of Circular Economy



Remake



Reuse



Recycle



Scheme of Linear and Circular Economy



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Circular Economy in the Hospitality Sector

In **hospitality** or **hotels** in

- **Reduction of resource inputs** (e.g. raw material, energy, labour, physical equipment)
- **Outputs** (e.g., food waste, emissions),
- **Rethinking of service or operation processes** (e.g., waste management, purchase policies),
- **Long-lasting design** (e.g., building, interior design),
- **Maintenance, repair, reuse, refurbishing and recycling.**



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Opportunities



- **For tourism businesses**, the circular economy can bring **competitiveness**, not only in connection with opportunities for innovation, **differentiation** and the **diversification** of income streams, but also as government and investors are increasingly looking at ESG policies.



- **For tourism destinations**, the circular economy offers the opportunity to enhance the **sustainable development impacts** of tourism, **generating wellbeing for the local population** through the **creation of new jobs** and more inclusive **local value chains**, thus creating a virtuous circle between businesses and territories.



- **For tourists**, the circular economy brings an opportunity to leave a **positive footprint**, to travel with purpose, and can lead to multiplier effects when it comes to the transformation of the whole tourism ecosystem **through behaviour change**.



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Practice No.1 Hotel Group

Plastic reduction guidelines for hotels TUI Group

(<https://www.tuigroup.com/en-en/responsibility/sustainability/planet/circular-business>)

- TUI Group has set the target in 2018 to remove **250 million pieces of single-use plastic waste** by 2020 through the joint efforts across our **hotels, cruise ships, airlines**, destinations and offices.
- **'Plastic reduction guidelines'** for their hotels practical with advice and suggested alternatives.
- Additionally **Circular Economy** Self Declaration



Practice No. 2 Tour Operator

Climate Trek Nepal – forum anders reisen & local partners

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkrXVMDztHQ>)

- After the earthquake in 2015 – **20 eco comfort lodges** along **a 7 days hiking trail with 7 villages** were completely rebuild in cooperation with the local community.
- **New climate-friendly concept:**
 - Renewable Energy (photovoltaic, solar thermal)
 - Small-scale biogas systems
 - Efficient cooking and heating stoves (saving wood)
 - Isolated heating facilities
 - Grey water facilities & rainwater harvesting stations (saving 1000 litre water per day)
 - Drinking water filtration systems – avoiding the use of plastic bottles



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Practice No.3 Capacity Building

atingi. E-Academy Tourism and Hospitality

(<https://www.atingi.org/eacademy/>)

- The “**eAcademy** Tourism and Hospitality” on **atingi.org**, is a digital learning platform & capacity building platform for job seekers.
- **45 web-based learning courses** in tourism and hospitality in English and French.
- Course topics range from hygiene management to **entrepreneurship**, tour guiding, **marketing**, resilience and human rights.
- It also includes **sustainable hotel management**, touching upon topics of water management, energy efficiency, waste management and **circular economy** and sustainable food management in hospitality.



Practice No.4 Tourist

6 Easy ways to support Circular Economy as a traveller

- Choose **organic** and **km 0 Food** from local farms.
- Choose **sustainable accommodations** – applying CE principles (e.g. solar energy, wastewater recycling etc.)
- Choose **sustainable transportation** on site (train, hire bikes, electric cars, e-bikes)



6 Easy ways to support Circular Economy as a traveller

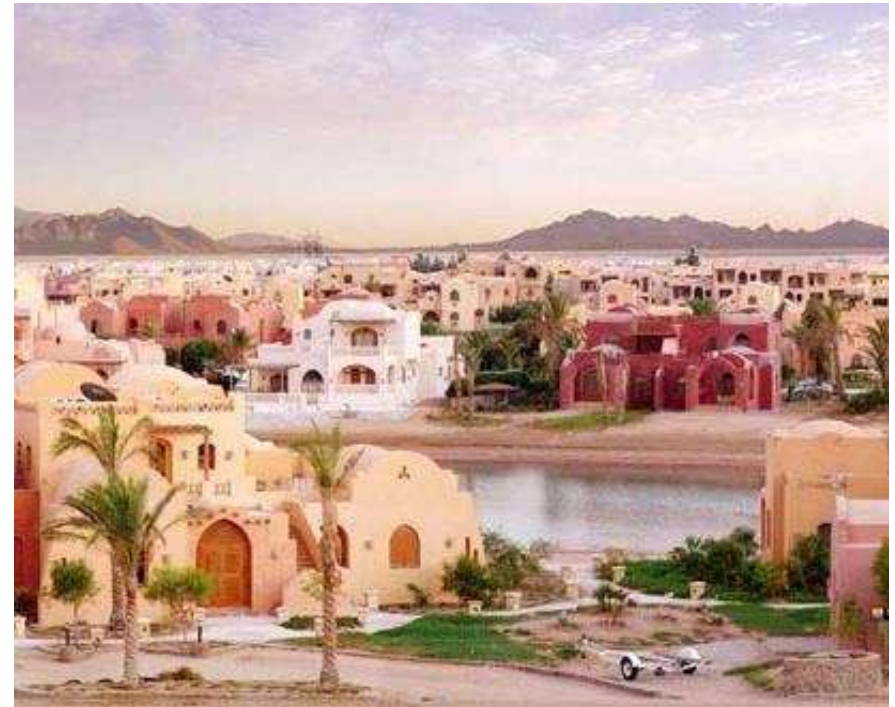
- Concept of **Recycling** and **Reuse**
- **Renewable energy, recover rainwater**
- **Recycle** wherever you are & use **accommodations** that recycle



Practice No. 5 Destination

El Gouna in Egypt – towards a Zero Waste destination

- Pilot Destination of the Green Star Hotel
- Hotels in El Gouna are certified
- Green City Award (2014)
- **Zero waste policy adapted**
- More than 85% of local waste is recycled
- Own recycling, composting station
- Greywater recycling (100% for irrigation)
- Renewable energy within the destination
- Solar Tukuks
- In property's drinking straws, stirrers, etc. are made of **recyclable materials**
- On site organic farming



<https://orascomhm.com/in-africa-el-gouna-is-at-the-forefront-in-terms-of-sustainability/>

www.greenstarhotel.org







In which **areas of tourism** could circular economy principles be introduced in **your destinations?**

Possible impact?