

TRAVEL ADVENTURES

Planning A Greener Vacation

(NAPSA)—Finding ways to make vacations greener—while being sure they still deliver plenty of fun—has become a top priority for many family travelers.

In fact, more than 55 million Americans are interested in sustainable travel, according to the Travel Industry Association of America. If you're among them, the following tips can help:

Greener Transportation

Those driving to their destinations can take steps to get the maximum fuel efficiency from their vehicles. Be certain tires are properly inflated, that the engine is well tuned and that you are not carrying any unnecessary weight. Also, map out a direct route to your destination to help save gas.

If you are flying to your vacation spot, you might consider airlines that offer CO₂ offsets. The offsets can be purchased to help fund green projects—such as building solar panels or tree planting—as a way to reduce the total amount of carbon in the atmosphere, and your vacation's carbon footprint.

Greener Destinations

Check out vacation spots that are certified as eco friendly. For instance, Travel Green Wisconsin is a voluntary program that reviews, certifies and recognizes tourism businesses and organizations that have made a commitment to reducing their environmental impact.



Increasingly, travelers are choosing to go green.

The program's fun, affordable and green getaways include trips to inns, activities and must-sees at Bayfield and Madeline Island. The picturesque small town serves as a gateway to the stunning Apostle Islands National Lakeshore with 21 gemlike coastal islands that are home to lighthouses, sea caves, hiking trails and blue-water sailing. Eco-conscious lodgers can stay at the Pinehurst Inn at Pike's Creek and the Bayfield Inn, or a number of other certified-green venues as they shop and eat at Earth-friendly boutiques, restaurants and cafes.

There's even the green Living Adventure company that offers would-be sea kayakers rentals, paddling instruction and guided excursions—including fully outfitted overnight trips.

Similarly, Wisconsin's Door County offers a variety of eco-

tourism options. The area itself provides vacationers with a wonderland of towering bluffs that emerge steeply out of the deep Green Bay waters or gently dip beneath the surface of Lake Michigan. There's also a variety of lush green vegetation and abundant wildlife, as well as a selection of year-round, green activities.

Vacationers can check out Door County Kayak Tours to explore the region's waterways, the Art & Nature Center or The Jacobsen Museum at Washington Island, or enjoy a naturalist-guided hike at Ridges Sanctuary. Rock Island State Park, an untouched wilderness, is so pristine that cars and even bikes are not allowed on its shores.

There's also a "Scenic Overlooks" tour that lets visitors take in some of the peninsula's most amazing panoramic views as they get a crash course in the geology of Door County.

Green accommodations include the Blacksmith Inn on the Shore, White Pines Victorian Lodge, and Quiet Cottage Bed and Breakfast on the Lake.

The state's other green getaways include the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest—located in Wisconsin's Northwoods and covering over a million and a half acres.

For a complete list of green getaways and tips, visit the Web site www.travelgreenwisconsin.com.