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Some ideas for low impact holidays – thanks to all contributors

According to a report published last year, [tourism is responsible for around 8% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions](#), and international tourism is growing 3 – 5% per year... The problem with flying is not just the emissions associated with it but where we put them – up in the stratosphere – which creates an additional ‘radiative forcing’.

So here are some experiences of low impact holidays sent in by readers. If you have thoughts to contribute, please do get in touch.

1. Gwen has cycled round many countries in Europe. She has found that it is usually easy to take bikes on ferries and you don't have to book them on shorter crossings. You can also take them by Eurostar via Euro Despatch for a fee of £30. Some rail networks accept bikes on some trains, and generally bikes can be booked onto Flixbus coaches, which are cheaper than trains.

Gwen usually free camps but finds that each country has different rules – so it's worth researching where you are going. Denmark has a particularly good, mainly free, public/private shelter/camping ground network that is great for cyclists.

(Personally, I took a bike to Roscoff from Plymouth last year. It was incredibly easy – and nothing like escaping Calais or Cherbourg at the other end... After coffee and croissant in the lovely little town, it was minutes before we were on the cycle route. It was June – there was little traffic on the roads, the hedgerows were full of wild flowers and the white sand beaches were empty... I couldn't believe that this is on our doorstep...)

2. Sue visited Stuttgart and Vienna by train last year. She and her husband bought their tickets on the [Loco2 website](#) which they found really easy to use.

Katherine took trains to Sicily, with a couple of stop-offs overnight, booked in advance. It was certainly more expensive than flying, but she really enjoyed the travel and the opportunity to see a couple of cities she wouldn't have visited otherwise.

3. I spent a week with a friend on an [organic farm in Cusgarne](#), Cornwall. The accommodation was new and perfect, but what made it particularly interesting (apart from beaches and countryside) was getting a tour of the farm and being able to ask lots of questions about the farm management. There was a great farm shop too so good food for us and it felt as if we were supporting something good in terms of carbon management.
4. Nick had a week planting trees with [Trees for Life in Scotland](#) and came back very positive about the experience – the good company, accommodation and beautiful scenery.

Another alternative, slightly closer to home, that costs nothing, is to volunteer on the [Cambrian Wild Wood](#) project in west Wales. They have a list of volunteer days on their website and are closely aligned (as far as I understand) with the larger [Summit to Sea project](#).

5. For two years running I've rented homes in the west country in January – and really felt the benefit of taking breaks just after Xmas when everywhere is empty. In 2018 I stayed in Lamorna, just outside of Penzance, and this year near Hartland in Devon. The coastal walking was great and I really felt I got to know both areas really well. It was easy for friends to visit but I had plenty of time alone for reading, films and radio, and planning the new year.
6. As an alternative to long-distance holidays, Jan and Rhys have been exploring the 'Capital Ring', a walking route around London. It's a 78 mile well signposted route divided into 15 chunks, ranging from 3.5 to 7.7 miles. It links green spaces, parks, stretches of water, pleasant residential areas and many points of historic and cultural interest. The Capital Ring is part of the Walk London Network set up by Transport for London in 2005. The Network also includes the London Loop, Green

Chain Walk, Jubilee Greenway, Jubilee Walkway, Lea Valley Walk and the Thames Path within Greater London. You can find info on www.tfl.gov.uk/walking

Some suggestions:

<http://www.organicholidays.com/>

<https://www.responsibletravel.com/holidays/organic-farmstays>

<http://www.organicfarmholiday.co.uk/>

<https://www.woof.org.uk/>

<https://www.seat61.com/>

<https://loco2.com/>