

KUODA

The Local
Experience Curator

A COMPLETE GUIDE TO *RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL*



Part 2: Organizing Your Trip

Contents

Build Your Own Vacation	3
Excess of visitors	3
Tips For a Better Trip	4
Live your free time	4
Travel with meaning	4
Eat local	5
Plan to stay in places that are accessible	5
He who covers a lot enjoys little	6
Find out about places that need help for a volunteer day	6
Expand opportunities to engage with locals	7
Go where they wait for you	7
If you don't try it, you won't know	8
For altitude seekers	8
For the love of art	9
A surfer's paradise	9
A passion for history	10
Find a green place	11
Look for a local and, above all, ethical traveler company	12
Support Rating	13

Build Your Own Vacation

Remember that it is not only the destination but the route you choose to get there that you must consider in terms of reducing your impact on the place you visit. Building your own vacation is important for ensuring that your tastes and desires are satisfied, so ensure that you're looking within yourself for what you want to find on your journey. But to find the perfect balance between your needs and the needs of the environment and communities that you'll visit, you might enlist the help of an expert, such as a traveler advisory agent who will not only listen to your needs but will also have in-depth knowledge as to how to make this your dream trip.

Excess of visitors

Avoid visiting places that are plagued by over-tourism. There is no better traveler place than an empty place. This doesn't mean that world-famous destinations are completely excluded, but you should plan how to get there and the best time to arrive to avoid high traffic.



Tips For a Better Trip



Research traveler attractions

Each travel attraction has its own special magic and you can't compare one to the other. But, knowing that travelers attractions are often sites of over-tourism, consider traveling to a destination similar to the one you're looking at to avoid contributing to the problem. Life can bring you pleasant surprises.



Live your free time

Be a traveler who enjoys every moment of their time away, because you can't repeat these once in a lifetime experiences. Sure, the hotels are beautiful, but the details of the destination are more important.

Travel with meaning

Explore, ask, learn, enjoy, eat, drink! Do it all and do it with respect for yourself and the environment!

Eat local

Local tourism companies have the scoop on everything from typical restaurants and safe bars, to houses where homemade food is offered, and hotels and cozy lodgings that offer gourmet experiences. Peru has become a world-class culinary destination, with options ranging from haute cuisine to exotic but tasty flavors. Enjoy a local dish with a spectacular view or share the table with locals that make you feel part of the place.

Plan to stay in places that are accessible

A stay in the remote countryside is great for a few days but staying in a more accessible place will give you more time for enjoyment than time spent in the car or on the train. Go slowly and notice the details. Travel will leave you speechless and then turn you into a storyteller.





He who covers a lot enjoys little

When you have a minimal amount of time, find a journey company that can personalize your vacation for you. They'll take care of every detail and set you up on a vacation of perfect balance: where there are moments to close your eyes and moments to stop and look around. A personalized vacation allows you to immerse yourself in the best of the destination in the time that you have. Remember that "The wise traveler advances slower but watches more."



Find out about places that need help for a volunteer day

Apart from filling your spirit, volunteerism is a chance to collaborate with and learn from the local people.

Expand opportunities to engage with locals

A trip can also be an opportunity to engage with and learn from locals, but don't go in blindly. Research their history to gain a better understanding of where they come from and how they live now. You might even consider learning a few simple words of the local language to demonstrate respect, gratitude, and authentic interest.

Go where they wait for you

The pandemic caused the collapse of many local economies, especially in localities that depended on tourism. For some communities, that collapse was an opportunity to reinvent and improve, to modify and adapt to the new realities and modalities that govern our world today. In Peru and in many parts of the world, local communities have gradually been preparing for the return of tourism under this new paradigm, and it is now time for travelers to see how resilient we are.





If you don't try it, you won't know

Of course, the objective of every traveler is different, but most agree that they want their vacation to be something special, something memorable. So, when the opportunity to try something new comes along, allow yourself the chance to indulge.



For altitude seekers

There are those who seek destinations outside the hustle and bustle of city life, with nature and solitude, the ones who use their vacations to explore that feeling that they are an important part of creation. Peru is a megadiverse country that offers thousands of places where that connection can be felt. Consult with your travel expert and they can design a luxury vacation with many of these stops on your personalized itinerary.

For the love of art

If high art and culture are your idea of a dream vacation, we have places where you will feel highly satisfied. Choose from hundreds of modern museums and cultural sites where the smells and sounds of Peru then and now will permeate your senses. We also offer exclusive access to living museums, colonial walls, galleries in important neighborhoods of Cusco, and other dream places that you will remember forever.

A surfer's paradise

The north of Peru has a number of attractions that make it worth visiting, including some of the most famous beaches of the South Pacific, where the water is warm all year round. Piura and Tumbes have at least 50 beaches where the sun reigns supreme for 10 months a year – and if surfing is something you'd like to try, we also have some of the best and longest left hand waves in the world.





A passion for history

For many, the highlight of Peru is Machu Picchu. Thousands of visitors try to reach this wonder every day and, sometimes, if it's not programmed with care, that visit can be tiresome and frustrating. Truly experiencing Machu Picchu means working with a journey operator who knows how to get you there and when, so that you have the space and time to appreciate this incredible spectacle. And the best experience operators will know of the lesser-known but just as spectacular sites where you have room to breathe and interact with the space.

A morning walk through the ruins behind Ollantaytambo, for example, gives you the chance to experience ancient ruins while mingling with local people in their traditional clothing. If you're a lover of trekking, the Inca City of Pisac or a multi-day hike to Choquequirao might be something to include in your plans.

Find a green place

Taking steps to protect our planet and doing everything possible to improve it has become a very common practice among travelers. More and more are seeking accommodations that not only respect but also help improve the ecosystem in which they are situated.

Fortunately, there are many ways to investigate the ethics of eco-lodges and other environmentally-friendly accommodations. The internet contains innumerable articles ranking eco-friendly places all around the world, but the best way to make sure you've picked a good spot is through the reviews of people who have already visited them. You can also check for any eco-friendly certifications that may apply in the country in which you're visiting. Ethical and responsible tourism companies are also good alternatives for finding green stays.



Because eco-lodging is not a regulated concept, it can be used by just about any business, without following through on the practices most travelers would associate with the term. Although certifications exist, they differ across countries and organizations, as do the criteria. For these reasons, it may be necessary to investigate these businesses in more detail. You may look on their websites for items such as how they treat and dispose of their water, what their policy regarding plastic is, what type of energy they use, and if they dedicate a percentage of the money they earn to reinvestment in the environment and community.

Keep in mind that there are small hotels that cannot acquire accreditations or awards granted by large institutions, but still maintain a commitment to eco-friendliness. While responsible tourism awards and accreditations are important guides, they often overlook these smaller, local accommodation options that are, by nature, ecological. There are hundreds of ranches, small houses, and hostels that fit the description of ecological, so be sure not to miss them.

Look for a Local and, Above all, Ethical Traveler Company

"The world is very beautiful to travel only on the internet."

At this point in your travels, you probably already know what type of traveler you are: one who seeks to leave only a positive impact on the community and the environment. Of course, your personal enjoyment is a factor in all your traveling endeavors, but you do so while respecting and contributing.

A large percentage of tourists who hire a tourism agency do so because that agency has varied travel options. But the traveler described above also wants to know if that agency is fulfilling its social responsibility in terms of the conservation of nature as well as having a net positive impact on the places where it operates.

One of the reasons that travelers like you seek out and choose ethical agencies is that all of the aforementioned concerns regarding researching destinations, choosing green hotels, finding the best local food, and knowing the best times to visit certain sites, are taken care of for you.

These agencies are committed to ethical practices in terms of the people they employ, the third parties they work with, and the environments in which they operate.





Support Rating

You may find logos on the company's website or its letterheads that indicate that the business is affiliated with an association that certifies ethical practices. These practices may be anything from helping to safeguard wildlife to developing social aid. Whatever the case, this is another way to verify what companies are simply doing good and which are doing great.

So, how do you support companies that practice social responsibility?

Keep in mind that the number of ethical travelers and socially committed companies is growing quickly. The latter uses commercial strategies and guarantees that part of their earnings will be reinvested in social actions. The ethical traveler will surely feel much happier if they know that their visit can help people.