

We are pleased to present you with the one of many newsletters gathering the best sustainability practices from Croatia, Greece, Poland, the Netherlands and Latvia.

Join us weekly in the discovery of new tips to meet with Travelife criteria!

Best of Travelife sustainability practices

Low energy equipment

Travelife criteria : **Internal management - Low energy equipment**



In November 2013, energy efficient personal computers of the latest technology have replaced all the old computers in the offices of Athens Express, as well as their peripherals. This resulted, among other, in a visible reduction in the number of cables in the office, as well as in an eco- and user-friendly working atmosphere.

Athens Express (Greece) in brief: Athens Express brings you the best of Greece. The company's services are designed to meet all your travel needs and make your Mediterranean holiday a memorable one. The company's extensive and knowledgeable staff can also take care of your worldwide travel requirements. Athens Express will surely provide you quality and reliable services.

www.athens-express.com



Buying local products

Travelife criteria: **Excursions – Supporting local communities**



Our guides will always draw your attention to the stores selling local homemade products that are worth buying or the little stands where locals sell their products. Guides inform the guests about the advantages of buying products in such places as opposed to the bigger stores. Guests are guided through every destination and informed about local specialities throughout the regions. An example of this is an Istrian truffle store (Motovun) where a guest can taste the products before he buys them... The same goes for the souvenirs made from wood (see souvenirs made from olive tree), rocks (exp. in Istria "kažuni") or others. In small places, these souvenirs are often sold by elderly people

who are very pleased when the guest recognises the quality, praises and ultimately buys their product. We have instructed our guides to make sure the guest does not wander off into a store with "pretty stuff" made in China.

M-G Express (Croatia) in brief: Established in 1994, M-G Express acts both as a tour operator and DMC with its head office based in the Istrian town of Kanfanar. They offer a range of services for both group and individual travel. Their travel programs are suitable for those who wish to discover all the secret beauties of Croatia and the neighbouring countries. M-G Express specializes in group travel, but pays attention equally to individual guests and family travel. They believe in the best quality for the best price and in making your dreams come true.



www.mgexpress.hr

Environment-friendly product development

Travelife criteria: **No excessive negative impact activities**



The company offers nature, hiking and cycling tours in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, on existing paths and road bases to avoid negative impact (soil erosion, disturbing of animals, trampling on plants, etc.). The tours are offered to clients only after being tested by the agency's employees. Each client is sent an e-mail with the route description and map, including "Green advice" for active travelling with boats, bicycles etc.

Baltic Country Holidays (Latvia) in brief: Baltic Country Holidays grew out of the Latvian Country Tourism Association in 1998 and is a small incoming operator. All the staff are passionate outdoor and nature enthusiasts and that is why routes and offers are tested by employees. The company focuses on small businesses providing a personal touch and detailed local expertise. The company designs tour routes for individual travellers and small groups – travel by bicycle, boat or bus, hiking, bird watching, visits to artisans and designers, etc. Various guidebooks and maps are also available.

<http://www.celotajs.lv/en/c/tour/tours?lang=en>

Culinary bike tours

Travelife criteria : **Transport - 5.7. Sustainable packages**

Excursions & Activities - 7.13 Supporting local communities



This tour includes a 4-day cross-country bicycle tour of the Mazury region which is famous for its unspoiled wildlife and nature. During the tour, groups stop at local inns where they are served local Polish specialties, i.e. the Polish rye soup and sausages, dumplings, delicious fishes from local lakes. Culinary workshops provided by locals are also one of the attractions of this tour.



Travel Agency Weiss (Poland) in brief: Travel Agency Weiss from Poznań, established in 1991, offers customized tours of Poland and the Baltics. The company offers tour programs focused on specialised themes which can be tailor-made to suit different tastes, such as visits to national parks, medieval tournaments, folklore performances and horse-drawn carriage rides, lectures about Polish history and culture given by expert local guides. They also focus on the delicious regional cuisine which is part of a rich Polish heritage.



www.weiss-travel.com

Tele-working

Travelife criteria: **Internal management – Transport reduction**



De Jong Intra Vakanties expands its team through teleworking. From their homes, the staff members have equal access possibilities to the companies' IT and information system. This enables the organisation to employ extra staff without

the need to physically extend the head office. It also enables part-timers to increase the number of work hours and, when staff change their residence, they can continue their employment for the organisation without spending too much time in traffic jams...



De Jong Intra Vakanties (The Netherlands) in brief: De Jong Intra Vakanties is an all-round tour operator offering numerous thematic, package and tailor-made travels to both European and long haul destinations. De Jong Intra Vakanties organises tours to more than 50 different countries each year. One of the specialties of De Jong Intra Vakanties are city breaks. A city tour by De Jong Intra Vakanties is an ideal opportunity for a superb weekend away.



www.dejongintra.nl

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Transfer of innovation

CSR TOUR „Corporate Social Responsibility Training and Certification in the Travel Sector“

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