

We are pleased to present you with 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

### Cleaning the world

Travelife criteria: **Internal management**



At the beginning of each camp, participants are acquainted with waste management rules at the campsite. The last day of their stay is traditionally the day of “cleaning the world”. Everybody receives a waste bag and takes part in collecting and segregating any waste found at the campsite and its surroundings: in the forest, at the beach, lakeshores, etc. The purpose of this activity is to protect biodiversity of natural areas at the destination and teach young people good habits for supporting environmental protection.

**Travel agency “Wonderlands” (Poland) in brief:** This travel company organizes various thematic summer and winter camps for children and youth:

- Sport & Adventure camps
- Survival Camps



[www.wonderlands.pl](http://www.wonderlands.pl)

### Maternity leave

Travelife criteria: **Destinations – support to biodiversity conservation**



The company offers schemes for pregnancy and maternity leaves for all its employees. The company ensures compliance with the Latvian legislation, which prescribes that 70 days before childbirth and 56 days after it, women should take prenatal vacation. After that period, the company ensures its employees' jobs, and they can return to work within 1.5 year.

**LTD “365 Brīvdienas” (Latvia) in brief:** LTD “365 Brīvdienas” opened their doors to customers for the first time in March 2005. The company moto – “Every day as a holiday” reflects their mission – provide an opportunity to relax every day. The company cooperates both with individual and corporate customers. They are mostly engaged in outbound tourism, but they also offer inbound tourism services on request. The company offers not only tour packages, but also, as a tour operator, organize their own trips offering their customers a wide range of travel options for every taste and budget options. “365 Brīvdienas” are experts in organizing exotic trips to Kenya, Mexico, Thailand, etc.



<http://www.365brivdienas.lv/?dir=content&id=13>

## Working with local communities

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



When booking some of our trips, clients bring the much-needed income to the people who are still recovering from the war-torn years, as these are some parts of Croatia, which were severely affected by the Homeland War. Our trips ensure that the local people benefit as much as possible through employment (we employ local guides and drivers) and accommodation provision (we use family owned hotels or homestays with local families). We also use local transfer services; buy food from the small farms and work on developing responsible waste management by stimulating

waste recycling. By buying local products, you are supporting this country's economy and helping Croatia to stand on her feet again! We consider it our responsibility to lead efforts to maintain and preserve the integrity of this fledgling sector by petitioning the introduction of tighter controls over the use of the country's natural resources. As a company, we support the local community by building camps in partnership with local families, building bridges and accesses to rivers. In order to preserve travertine barriers on Zrmanja River we have built wooden detour bridges. We also support an orphan bear shelter in Kuterevo. The Korana Village has less than a dozen houses and it is situated on both sides of a small river of the same name, at the end of a dead-end road in Plitvice Lakes National Park, an UNESCO World Heritage Site. Travel agencies or tour operators never showed interest in this place that cannot accommodate more than 20 tourists and whose road is too narrow for a tourist bus. Like in no other hotel room you have stayed in, these traditional houses are perched on the very edge of a riverbank. Hear first-hand how this village has managed to preserve their tradition and rebuild all family houses after it has been torn and burned down in the war. Our local guides are cooks and famous for their delicious cuisine. We keep a full stock of supplies and stop frequently at local shops to load up on fresh food supplies to ensure our meals are always healthy and nutritionally sufficient with a touch of tradition.

#### **Huck Finn (Croatia) in brief:**

Huck Finn is the leading Croatian adventure travel outfitter and operator. The company has pioneered rafting, canoeing, sea kayaking, biking and adventure sailing tours and excursions in the country in the past 20 years and has reached the highest level of quality and professionalism in service. Huck Finn operates over 20 original multi-day packages, as well as over 20 different one-day trips, guaranteed departures, available for individual bookings. Huck Finn has its own fleet of 9-seat passenger vans, two 4-cabin sailing catamaran yachts and over 500 canoes, kayaks, rafts and bicycles.



[www.huckfinncroatia.com](http://www.huckfinncroatia.com)

## Greenest Product

### Travelife criteria: **Internal management**



TUI NL offers an internal award for the "Greenest Product". It stimulates and motivates staff members to become involved in sustainability. It has already proven to be effective.

**TUI Nederland in brief:** As market leader in the Dutch travel industry, TUI Nederland feels jointly responsible for the future of our holiday destinations. For that reason, TUI Nederland has a proactive strategy and policy on sustainable tourism and corporate social responsibility.

[www.tui.nl](http://www.tui.nl)



Newsletter Supplement

*Sustainable practices of our suppliers*

**HORSE FARM KLAJUMI**

[www.klajumi.lv](http://www.klajumi.lv)



Rides in the cartage



Horseback rides “Daugavas lokos”



Horse farm “Klajumi”



Reconstructed carriage

The Klajumi Horse farm is located in the nature park “Daugavas loki”. Its location in the NATURA 2000 territory which is under special protection and the philosophy of action of its hostess, Ilze Stabulniece, has largely formed the tendencies of Klajumi in the direction of interaction between people and the nature at an individual (not massive) level. The farm has received the reward “Sējējs” awarded by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development and the Ministry of Agriculture in the nomination “Environmentally friendly management”.

The farm offers horseback rides (breeds of Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus) on the roads that pass through the neighbourhood forests down to the borderland of Belarus, acquainting the guests with the unique landscape of banks of the Daugava River, its fauna and flora. In Klajumi’s neighbourhood there is a trekking path marked with calorific marks on the trees, and near the farm, the visitors can walk down the “Odu taka” (mosquito path) equipped with info stands on the surrounding environment.

Children can play with friendly dogs, rabbits, hens and a cat. The horse festivity “Kumeļu rotaļas” (Games of the colts) has become an annual tradition that gathers people from all over Latvia. In order to maintain the landscape and the locally specific environment, the hostess has renovated four country estates – Klajumi, Ganiņi, Ķemeri and Krasti. The hostess collaborates with the local producers and offers food made of vegetables grown in Kaplava, fish from the Daugava River and mushrooms picked in the local forests. Moreover, the guests can buy products made by Latgale potters.

## VĒJAVAS SELF-CATERING COTTAGE

[www.vejavas.lv](http://www.vejavas.lv)



Sight of the farm



Tent area



Fireplace



Vējavas is located on the territory of the North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve, on the seashore of the Gulf of Riga, where the Svētupe River flows into the sea, in the former fisherman yard.

In the construction of the centre that consists of a self-catering cottage, tent area, fireplace, bathhouse and other household buildings, the existing environment was completely preserved, with old trees, a pine forest and the dune area that was bounded with stones in order to prevent travelling over the sands and dunes. The tent area is equipped with a tap with fresh water supply.

The guests can take part in coastal fishing (group of several people) by boat and with seining; they talk about tradition and introduce the guests to lamprey fishing in the weir of the Svētupe River that is specific to the Vidzeme coast. The hosts present the process of cooking of lampreys and fish soup.

The active tourists, the wanderers and Nordic walkers can enjoy the routes along the seashore. Check out the Vējavas' home page for cycling and boating routes, as well as a botany tour for plant watchers.

LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMME, LEONARDO DA VINCI

Transfer of innovation

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

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Lifelong Learning Programme



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Ministry of Tourism  
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Sustainability in Tourism