

Travelling light

If life's a journey and not a destination, says **Andy Stone** from **Stop Climate Chaos**, you might as well enjoy the view

● Travel may broaden the mind but it also broadens your carbon footprint. When it comes to travelling to and from your destination, www.transportdirect.info, the UK-based online journey planner, calculates that a 400-mile trip by train generates 38.8kg of CO₂ per person compared to 101.7kg for the same passage by plane. Over the same distance, a large car with two occupants will clock up 82.8 kg per passenger, and a coach 57.4 kg. It's easy to see which mode wins the low-carbon prize here.



Even travelling abroad need not put a dent in your carbon budget. Eurostar (www.eurostar.com) claims its high-speed train link from London to Paris is over 10 times more environmentally friendly than making the trip by air. A Europe-wide rail pass, for example, can be purchased from as little as £117 for five days through Rail Europe (www.raileurope.com/us) and there are several other flexible, cost-saving options. For the keen cyclist, European Bike Express (www.bike-express.co.uk) will whisk you and your bike from Britain by coach to numerous drop-off points across France and Spain, before picking you up again a week or two later. And with an overland bus route just launched from London to Sydney, even the furthest reaches of our planet are now accessible for those with itchy eco-feet (www.oz-bus.com).

But probably the most obvious way to holiday with a conscience is to holiday in your home country, and there are so many enjoyable ways of doing so. When looking for accommodation, a bit of research goes a long way. Most green-thinking hotels, B&Bs and campsites will publicise their eco-assets on their websites. Locally sourced produce and the use of only eco-friendly cleaning products are among the green traits to look out for. Some of the greenest places to stay, both in the UK and abroad, can be found on organicholidays.co.uk. The pictures alone will have you reaching for your rucksack...

Ffi: *Stop Climate Chaos is a coalition of environment and development groups, faith groups, humanitarian organisations, women's groups and trade unions campaigning to stop climate chaos. Web: www.stopclimatechaos.org*

Kensington High St, London W14 8QH. Tel: 020 7602 1574 Fax: 020 7602 5318 Email: info@marineconnection.org Web: www.marineconnection.org

MARINE CONSERVATION SOCIETY The UK's national charity dedicated to the protection of the marine environment and its wildlife. *Contact: Unit 3, Wolf Business Park, Alton Rd, Ross-on-Wye HR9 5NB. Tel: 01989 566017 Web: www.mcsuk.org*

NATIONAL TRUST Large and very active national charity. Aims to conserve places of historic interest and areas of great natural beauty. An independent charity, it relies on membership subscriptions to support its work. *Contact: The National Trust, Heelis, Kemble Drive, Swindon, SN2 2NA. Tel: 01793 817400 Email: enquiries@thenationaltrust.org.uk Web: www.nationaltrust.org.uk*

PESTICIDE ACTION NETWORK UK Independent body working to eliminate the hazards of pesticides. *Contact: PAN UK, Development House, 56-64 Leonard St, London EC2A 4JX. Tel: 020 7065 0905 Email: admin@pan-uk.org Web: www.pan-uk.org*

PLANTLIFE INTERNATIONAL Charity dedicated exclusively to conserving all forms of plant life in the UK, Europe and across the world in their natural habitats. *Contact: 14 Rolleston St, Salisbury SP1 1DX. Tel: 01722 342730 Email: enquiries@plantlife.org.uk Web: www.plantlife.org.uk*

SAFE PALM OIL: BORNEO ORANGUTAN SURVIVAL FOUNDATION If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, get in touch. *Contact: Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation UK, 68 Aston Abbots Rd, Weedon, Aylesbury HP22 4NH. Email: palmoil@savetheorangutan.info Web: safepalmoil.com To donate money for the rescue of orangutans from oil palm plantations: Web: www.savetheorangutan.org.uk*

SOIL ASSOCIATION WOODMARK PROGRAMME carries out Forest Stewardship Council (FSC, see above) certification on a range of products from well-managed forests. Look for the FSC Ticktree logo when purchasing timber and other non-wood forest products. *Contact: Soil Association Woodmark, South Plaza, Marlborough St, Bristol BS1 3NX. Tel: 0117 914 2345 Fax: 0117 314 5000 Email: wm@soilassociation.org Web: www.soilassociation.org/forestry*

SURFERS AGAINST SEWAGE (SAS) campaign for clean, safe recreational waters, free from sewage effluents, toxic chemicals and nuclear waste. Together with the Eden Project, SAS have developed an Eco Board to reduce the impact on the environment of toxic surfboards (www.homeblown.co.uk). *Contact: Unit 2, Wheel Kitty, St Agnes, Cornwall TR5 0RD. Tel: 01872 555950 Email: info@sas.org.uk Web: www.sas.org.uk*

TRAFFIC Their mission is to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to nature conservation. The trade in wild plants and animals and their derivatives is big business, estimated to be worth billions of dollars and involving hundreds of millions of plants and animals every year. Most of the trade is legal but a significant portion of it is not. *Contact: TRAFFIC Europe, Bd. Emile Jacqmain 90, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium Tel: +32 2 343 82 58 Fax: +32 2 343 25 65 Email: contact@traffic-europe.com Web: www.traffic.org*

Handy tips
to... Cut the
carbon

i count

EAT LESS MEAT. 22% of the planet's emissions of greenhouse gases come from agriculture. Livestock production accounts for nearly 80% of agricultural emissions (Lancet)

Contact: Jupiter House, 4th Floor, Station Rd, Cambridge CB1 2JD. Tel: 01223 571000 Fax: 01223 461481 Email: info@fauna-flora.org Web: www.fauna-flora.org

FOREST OF AVON One of 12 Community Forests in England and is part of the National Community Forest Partnership. It covers 221 square miles in and around Bristol and the plan is to plant 15 million more trees over the next 40 years. Visitor centre at Ashton Court. *Contact: Forest of Avon, Estate Office, Ashton Court Estate, Bristol BS41 9JN. Tel: 0117 953 2141 Email: info@forestofavon.org.uk Web: www.forestofavon.org.uk*

FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL allows consumers concerned about the environment to identify timber and wood products which come from well-managed forests - just look for the FSC logo on packaging. *Contact: FSC UK, 11-13 Great Oak St, Llanidloes, Powys SY18 6BU. Tel: 01686 413916 Fax: 01686 412176 Email: info@fsc-uk.org Web: www.fsc-uk.org*

GLOBAL ACTION PLAN UK aims to help individuals take practical environmental action in their homes, workplaces and communities. *Contact: Global Action Plan UK, South West Office, Clock Tower, County Hall, Exeter, EX2 4QD. Tel: 01392 382968 Email: southwest@globalactionplan.org.uk Web: www.globalactionplan.org.uk*

GLOBAL CANOPY PROGRAMME Alliance of 29 scientific institutions in 19 countries, which leads the world in forest canopy research, education and conservation, helping to develop policy and positive incentive mechanisms based on sound science to preserve these vital forest utilities for humanity. *Contact: John Krebs Field Station, Wytham, Oxford OX2 8QJ Tel: 01865 724 222 Fax: 01865 724 555 Email: a.hardingham@globalcanopy.org Web: www.globalcanopy.org*

GLOBAL ECOVILLAGE NETWORK (EUROPEAN OFFICE) *Contact: GEN-Europe, Rosa-Luxemburgstr. 89, D-14806 Belzig, Germany. Tel: +49 33841 44766 Fax: +49 33841 44766 Email: info@gen-europe.org Web: www.gen-europe.org*

GROUNDWORK UK Environmental regeneration charity with 44 local trusts which, through local partnerships, aim to bring about sustainable environmental improvements to encourage economic and social regeneration. *Contact: 1st Floor, Lyster Court, Queen Alexander Square, The Millfields, Plymouth PL1 3JB. Tel: 01752 217729 Email: info@groundwork.org.uk Web: www.groundwork-su.org.uk*

HORIZON SOUTH WEST Network of 35 environmental organisations providing support to business on environmental systems - waste minimisation, energy efficiency, cleaner technology and environmental management - which have proven commercial benefits. *Contact: Bevan Ashford, Curzon House, Southernhay West, Exeter EX1 1AB. Web: www.horizonsw.org.uk*

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENT & DEVELOPMENT (IIED) Independent NGO that seeks to change the world in partnership with others by providing leadership in researching and promoting sustainable development at all levels. Its goal is to shape a future that ends global poverty and sustains fair and sound management of the world's resources. *Contact: 3 Endsleigh St, London WC1H 0DD. Tel: 020 7388 2117 Email: info@iied.org Web: www.iied.org*

MARINE CONNECTION UK-based charity committed to working internationally for the care and protection of dolphins and whales. Through continuous education, campaigning and research, they contribute towards a world that understands and respects all cetaceans and their natural habitat. *Contact: 4th Floor, Charles House, 375*