



Help Us Conserve Bodrum's Precious Resources

Bodrum is blessed with amazing weather with very low humidity and six months of endless sunshine... without rain. As a result, our water supply is very precious. The Butterfly could well symbolize Bodrum's environment: a stunningly beautiful, natural wonder...yet so fragile.

Our Mission for Responsible Travel

- Our operations should maximize the positive effects of tourism on our host community. This includes the employment of local staff, using local suppliers and supporting sustainable businesses and resources.
- Actively work to minimize the negative effects of tourism.
- Provide opportunities for cultural exchange, where we share and learn from the local communities.
- Contribute towards host community welfare. Where possible we will engage in partnerships with local agencies to develop programs that can assist the host communities. This may include support for health, education or environmental protection issues.
- We strive to increase your knowledge of this area and culture in order to encourage appropriate behavior and minimize the cultural and environmental impact.

What We Are Doing

- Most of our hot water in the summer comes from solar energy.
- We recycle rainwater for use in the gardens and pool.
- We recycle aluminum, glass and plastic containers.
- Local and indigenous plantings in our gardens require less water and maintenance.
- We buy only local products to reduce transportation impact and pollution and to support the local economy.
- We employ local workers and use local materials for the same reasons.
- We use organic composting techniques.
- We have implemented a conservative linen change policy.
- We use low-energy lighting where possible.

We invite you to help us conserve even more. Your participation is strictly voluntary. However, please help conserve because it is the right thing to do. In addition to conserving water and energy consumption, you can help us by re-using towels whenever possible so fewer environmentally harmful detergents and chemicals require disposal.

How You Can Help

- Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily.
- Dispose of tissues and waste in the trash, not in the toilet.
- Re-use your towels, when possible.
- Don't let water run while shaving or washing your face.
- Turn off water while brushing teeth or brush your teeth while waiting for hot water, then wash or shave after filling the basin.
- In the shower, turn water on to get wet; turn off to lather; turn back on to rinse off. Repeat when washing your hair.
- Turn off TV and lights when you leave your room.
- Reduce the AC/heater when leaving the room.

A Few Words About Responsible Travel

(excerpted from lonelyplanet.com)

Responsible travel changes our travel habits and makes us think differently about how, where and why we travel. It means assessing our impact on the environment and local cultures and economies - and acting to make that impact as positive as possible.

Responsible travel is about minimizing your impact and maximizing your connection with people and the environment. It's about making a positive contribution and having the most rewarding and inspiring travel experiences of your life. Traveling responsibly is one of the most direct and personal ways you can make a difference to some of the biggest issues affecting our world.

Responsible tourism can be defined as travel that takes into consideration the issues of:

Environment - Minimize negative environmental impacts and, where possible, make positive contributions to the conservation of biodiversity, wilderness, natural and human heritage.

Social/Cultural - Respect culture and traditions and foster authentic interaction and greater understanding between travelers and hosts.

Economic - Contribute to the host community financially and operate on the principles of fair trade.

Make connections with people from different cultures in an authentic and mutually enjoyable way. Cultural sensitivity is a matter of respect: take your behavioral cues from the locals and, if in doubt, try to see things from the locals' point of view.

Go with the flow. Different cultures have very different concepts of time, personal space and socially acceptable behavior. You'll find it a lot less stressful and a lot more enlightening - if you just chill out. You might even reassess your own ideas.

Dress appropriately. Look at the locals to gauge what to wear. Particularly in conservative cultures, don't flaunt your flesh and do try to be neat and clean - it's only respectful. When bathing or swimming, consider the sensibilities of local people - both regarding what you wear and the fact that you're using 'their' water.

Be conservative with resources such as water, energy and other resources - you may be depriving local people or making a negative impact on their environment.

Buy locally made crafts and goods so your money goes directly to the community. Enjoy the ancient art of bargaining: It's as much about the social interaction as the final outcome. Make sure you know when bargaining is appropriate - and when it's not. Have fun with it and keep things in perspective - does haggling over that last dollar really make a difference to you, compared to the vendor?

For more information about how you can travel responsibly, please visit:
<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/responsibletravel/index.cfm>

For more information on the broader issue of sustainable tourism, please visit:
<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/sustainable/>



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