

## Slow Food Travel

Q: Is it difficult to create a sustainable system with local producers and vendors with different interests, and how long does it take?

Q: How do you choose the providers to be part of the Slow Food Travel experiences? Do they first need to be trained?

Q: What are your criteria for farms, producers, local businesses to be part of Slow Food Travel experiences?

## [Slow Food Travel Guidelines](#)

## Cultural tourism

**Q: Mass tourism often does not bring economic benefits to local communities, except for entrance fees, transport costs, etc. How can we influence policies so more benefits stay locally?**

A: Stakeholders can advocate for policies that ensure tourism revenue stays within the local economies, for example, by supporting and promoting community-run services, implementing tax reforms that channel more benefits to local stakeholders, and prioritising small locally-owned businesses.

Here are some examples of destinations actively working to maximise local benefits:

- Visit South Greenland in their official DMO website [promotes](#) only local businesses, and works hard to highlight local players through media coverage, press trips, etc.
- Tribal Parks (Tofino, British Columbia, Canada) supports and strengthens local Indigenous stewardship of the land. Tourism organisations such as the local DMO Tourism Tofino DMO become “[Tribal Park Allies](#)” and contribute 1% of their revenue to the First Nation’s people.
- Visit Tallinn, the DMO for the Estonian city of Tallinn, plays a key role in promoting and preserving Estonian handicraft and its local production, through a partnership with the [Estonian Folk Art and Craft Union](#), which authenticates verified local products.

**Q: What can tourism industry players do, when local community members do not wish to engage in the promotion of their tangible and intangible culture, because they don’t see value in tourism and the attention it brings?**

A: As highlighted in our session, we must recognise that not all forms of culture and traditions are there to be shared with tourists. And it is the community members themselves who should decide not just HOW but also WHETHER any parts of their culture may be used for tourism.

Such a refusal is often a form of resistance, protecting what the community sees as invaluable or sacred from being transformed into a product. As such, policies should prioritise their autonomy and needs, not visibility or profit, offering help only when invited and on their terms.

On the other hand, it's also important to realise that communities that do want to engage with cultural tourism may not have all the relevant information about the potential negative impacts of sharing their cultural heritage through tourism. It is the responsibility of the tourism industry decision makers such as the DMOs to ensure local community stakeholders are well informed and have received fair and balanced information regarding the possible impacts of tourism.

**Q: Tourism stakeholders, especially in emerging economies, often prioritise economic advantages over socio-cultural sustainability. How can we educate local entrepreneurs about the need for sustainable visitor management?**

A: We can teach local entrepreneurs practical tools like setting visitor limits, creating community-run tours, and diversifying income sources, and help them understand that managing visitors well is about protecting their resources, so that their businesses can thrive over time.

The recent report by OECD on "[Building strong and resilient tourism destinations](#)" highlights this point. *"Diversified economies are better prepared to deal with external shocks and can foster more resilient and stable economic development. This highlights the importance of developing tourism as part of a diverse local economy, considering also wider policy objectives. A diversified tourism economy is also needed to avoid an over-reliance on a narrow range of markets, products, or seasons."*

Q: what to do if visitor management tactics do not help enough to reduce overtourism for example? I am thinking of Venice, Italy, which introduced a fee to enter the city for day visitors and people still come because they want to visit and see it.

A: When visitor management tactics aren't enough, cities like Venice need to combine measures—like stricter caps on daily visitors, timed entry, and dispersing tourism to lesser-known areas—while reinvesting tourism revenue into protecting local life and infrastructure.

Q: what about seasonal tourist sites like the World heritage site-The Victoria falls in Livingstone, Zambia. what would you recommend on visitor management

A: Setting a maximum number of visitors for the site per day can help protect it from overuse, as well as providing guided tours only.

Q: How can we, as tourists, critically assess whether the involvement of Indigenous or traditional communities in cultural or community-based tourism initiatives is genuinely participatory and

aligned with their own values and agency, rather than reproducing subtle forms of cultural appropriation or neo-colonial dynamics? And what can we look for, in practice, to choose tourism experiences that are truly respectful and community-driven?

A: We, as tourists, can choose tourism products, destinations and tourism businesses which are certified through sustainable tourism schemes (e.g. GSTC).

Q: I come from Bulgaria and Adina's presentation was close to home. It's sad to note however that a lot of our rural areas face depopulation and I think proper rural tourism is key to revitalise these areas. But for a lot of tourists the average rural region in these countries feels strange and underdeveloped but we know it's quite the authentic experience how do we still maintain that element while being presentable?

A: What seems underdeveloped for us, might be interesting to other people. For example, King Charles is a loyal visitor of Transylvanian villages from Romania. Just after his coronation in 2023, he spent his holiday in time-forgotten villages from Transylvania, where he bought old restored houses and appreciates local culture and food.

Q: How can we separate the idea of monetizing the ecosystems services value of protecting landscapes into that maintaining the sustainable tourism as it provides intangible benefits such as wellness, aesthetics and natural beauty abounding in flora and fauna as ecological important?

A: Monetizing ecosystem services through mechanisms like carbon credits helps fund conservation, while sustainable tourism generates income by showcasing nature's beauty, benefiting both the environment and local communities.

Q: One of the reasons fauna like big carnivores is returning to the mountains is the abandonment of the mountain areas. So, are there sustainable ways to allow the development and conservation of traditional Almen management while also improving the development of the natural mountain biodiversity? Is sustainable tourism compatible with nature conservation? Thank you very much for the interesting presentation!

Q: Could you share some examples of best practices in making cultural heritage more accessible for people with disabilities as we in Croatia face many challenges due to conservators' requirements?

A: For example, the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., provides tactile exhibits and detailed audio tours for people with disabilities. The Colosseum in Rome has improved accessibility with ramps and elevators for wheelchair users.

Here is a case study from Romania:

[https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/good-practice/caiac-smile\\_en](https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/good-practice/caiac-smile_en)

More details can be found here:

<https://www.rrn-pac.eu/en/good-practices/leader-good-practices/4168-caiac-smile-transforming-disabilities-into-abilities-an-innovative-vision-for-social-inclusion-and-overcoming-social-barriers.html>