



## Press Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## 2017 SUSTAINABLE DESTINATIONS TOP 100

### 101 Destinations Win Global Sustainability Competition

The Sustainable Destinations Top 100 is unveiled for the third time on World Tourism Day 2017. The awards celebrate the efforts of tourism destinations' responsible and sustainable tourism initiatives.

The list is the result of open calls in newswires, social and business media. Destinations could be nominated by any interested party through a form that was available online.

Nominators had to provide extensive information on the destination and on its efforts to make itself and its stakeholders more sustainable for the benefit of visitors, its local communities and the world. Information had to be provided about the extent the destination complies with the 15 core criteria of the Green Destinations Standard (table). 155 nominations were received from 57 countries. All nominations were evaluated by experts of the Green Destinations Top 100 Team and by members of the special Top 100 Selection Panel, that included over 60 tourism sustainability experts.

The Top 100 initiative aims to recognise tourism destinations that have worked hard to make a difference and take sustainability seriously. Nevertheless, no destination is fully sustainable. In all selected destinations important issues remain to be solved.

Due to a lack of data, travellers carbon emission data are not currently taken into account in this competition. However, Green Destinations recommend travellers to avoid long haul travels and to compensate their carbon emission in a proper way.

The Award winners are presented to the participants of the Global Green Destinations Gala Dinner, 28 September 2017 in the Museum of the Presidency of the Republic, in Cascais (Palacio da Cidadela de Cascais).

The 2017 Top 100 selection will be available in: <http://greendestinations.org/2017-top-100/>

More info: <http://greendestinations.org/>

Leiden (NL) / Cascais (Portugal), 25 September 2017

---

15 Core criteria of the GSTC-Recognised Green Destinations Standard were used in the selection process. The Top 100 is an initiative of Green Destinations and six other leaders in sustainable tourism: **TravelMole's Vision for Sustainable Tourism, Destination Stewardship Center, Asian Ecotourism Network, Sustainable Travel International, QualityCoast, and Linking Tourism & Conservation (LT&C).**

<b>Green Destinations Standard – 15 Core Criteria</b>	
<b>Sustainability coordinator</b>	A person has been assigned the responsibility and authority for the adequate implementation and reporting of sustainable destination management.
<b>Tourism policy</b>	The destination has an up-to-date, publicly available, multi-year tourism policy or strategy addressing all important issues.
<b>Nature protection</b>	The protection of natural sites, habitats, species, and ecosystems is effectively addressed and enforced. Nature degradation is addressed.
<b>Animal Ethics</b>	The use of animals in tourism is effectively controlled in order to decrease the risk of unnecessary suffering, disease, and death.
<b>Landscape &amp; Scenery</b>	Natural and rural scenic views are protected and the sense of place is maintained; landscape degradation and urban sprawl is avoided.
<b>Waste water treatment</b>	Waste water treatment is adequately organised and relevant regulations are enforced, aimed to minimise impacts to people and the environment.
<b>Solid waste reduction</b>	Any solid waste is monitored, reduced, separated and recycled, and quantitative goals are set, especially regarding the reduction of plastic waste.
<b>Reduction fossil fuel dependency</b>	Adequate measures and incentives exist to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and to encourage renewable energy technologies.
<b>Cultural heritage conservation</b>	The conservation, authenticity and aesthetic presentation of cultural resources, sites and built heritage, is adequately organised and enforced.
<b>Intangible heritage</b>	Intangible cultural heritage and local life and culture, are adequately protected and respected.
<b>Protection of people</b>	The destination takes adequate measures to protect all people legally and effectively against commercial, sexual, or any other form of exploitation.
<b>Inhabitants involved in tourism</b>	Inhabitants are regularly involved in discussions on opportunities, challenges and sustainability of tourism development.
<b>Promoting local products</b>	The inclusion of local artisans, producers and service providers in the tourism value chain is supported; local and sustainable products are promoted.
<b>Health &amp; safety prevention</b>	Crime, safety, and health hazards are adequately prevented and addressed.
<b>Accessibility</b>	Access to tourism sites is supported for individuals with disabilities, where appropriate, whilst not harming the sites and their sense of place.

## **Sustainable Destinations Top 100 Competition Directors**

Albert Salman, president, Green Destinations foundation  
 Valere Tjolle, TravelMole's Vision for Sustainable Tourism  
 Jonathan Tourtellot, Destination Stewardship Center  
 Brian Mullis, founder, Sustainable Travel International  
 Geoff Bolan, CEO, Sustainable Travel International (STI)  
 Peter Prokosch, president, Linking Tourism & Conservation (LT&C).

<b>ARGENTINA</b>	<b>GREECE</b>	<b>REPUBLIC OF PALAU</b>
Tigre	Alonnisos, Sporades	Republic of Palau
<b>AUSTRIA</b>	Skyros, Sporades	<b>PORTUGAL</b>
Werfenweng	<b>ICELAND</b>	Azores
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	Reykjanes	Peneda-Gerês National Park
Red Centre: Uluru-Alice Springs	<b>INDIA</b>	Oeste (West region)
Red Centre: Tennant Creek	Khangchendzonga National Park	Torres Vedras
<b>BENIN</b>	<b>INDONESIA</b>	Serras do Socorro e Archeira
Ganvié	Bali Barat National Park	Cascais
<b>BHUTAN</b>	<b>IRELAND</b>	Sintra
Kingdom of Bhutan	Clonakilty	Lagos
<b>BOLIVIA</b>	<b>ITALY</b>	<b>ROMANIA</b>
Madidi National Park	Cogne, Valle d'Aosta	Bison Land-Vanatori Neamt NP
<b>BOTSWANA</b>	Moena, Trentino	<b>RWANDA</b>
Chobe, Makgadikgadi & Okavango Delta	Montepisano in Toscana	Volcanoes National Park
Selinda Reserve	Best of Romagna	<b>SLOVENIA</b>
<b>BRAZIL</b>	Santarcangelo di Romagna	Ljubljana
Ponta de Nossa Senhora	<b>JORDAN</b>	Podcetrtek
Fernando de Noronha	Sharhabil Bin Hassneh	Slovenia Green Destinations
<b>CANADA</b>	<b>KENYA</b>	<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b>
Niagara River, Falls and Parkway	Loisaba Conservancy	Cape Town
Great Bear Rainforest	<b>KOREA</b>	Grootbos Private Nature Reserve
Dehcho-Akaiicho regions	Dongbaekdongsan, Jeju	<b>SPAIN</b>
Mackenzie Delta - Beaufort Sea	<b>MALTA</b>	Atlantic Islands of Galicia NP
<b>COSTA RICA</b>	Gozo	Baiona, Galicia
Costa Rica	<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	Noja, Cantabria
<b>CHILE</b>	Ameland	Terres de l'Ebre, Catalunya
Isla Grande de Chiloe	Noordwijk	Torroella de Montgri-L'Estartit
Cape Horn Biosphere Reserve	Katwijk	<b>SWEDEN</b>
Huilo Huilo	Wassenaar	Sigtuna
<b>CHINA</b>	Hoek v Holland	Åre
Yi Xian (Yi County), Anhui Province	Westvoorne	<b>TAJIKISTAN</b>
Jiuzhaigou Scenic Area	Goeree	The High Pamirs
<b>COLOMBIA</b>	Schouwen-Duiveland	<b>TAIWAN</b>
Lake Tota	Veere	Northeast and Yilan Coast
Otun Quimbaya Sanctuary	Zuid-Limburg	Nanliao village Penghu
<b>CONGO, DEM. REP.</b>	<b>NETHERLANDS - CARIBBEAN</b>	<b>TANZANIA</b>
Malebo	Bonaire	Chumbe Island (Zanzibar)
Virunga National Park	Saba - St. Eustatius	<b>THAILAND</b>
<b>CROATIA</b>	<b>MEXICO</b>	Tung Dap Village
Town of Drniš	Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve	<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>
Town of Mali Lošinj	<b>NIGERIA</b>	Comrie, Scotland
<b>CYPRUS</b>	Cross River State	County Down, Northern Ireland
Paphos district	<b>NORWAY</b>	Lough Neagh, Northern Ireland
<b>ECUADOR</b>	Svalbard	<b>UNITED STATES</b>
Santa Cruz, Galapagos	Geilo	Jackson Hole & Yellowstone
<b>FRANCE</b>	Sognefjord	Town of Vail, Colorado
Bretagne	<b>PHILIPPINES</b>	<b>URUGUAY</b>
<b>GERMANY</b>	Lake Holon, Tboli	Punta del Este
Norderney	Lake Sebu, South Cotabato	<b>SPECIAL AWARD FOR PROGRESS</b>
Bliesgau, Saarpfaltz Kreis	Bojo, Aloguinsan, Cebu	Los Angeles, California, USA