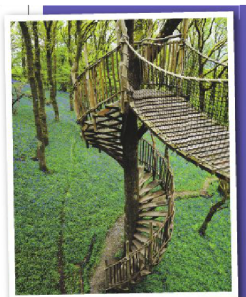


# The route to greener travel



North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty image: Diana Jarvis/Green Traveller

Hit the road for four great eco-friendly ways to enjoy the UK and Europe, says Richard Hammond



Living-room treehouses in Boreas, Mid Wales



significant treehouses, close to the Hornborge. Living-room, Powys, Mid Wales. While the modern treehouses are little more than cabins in the woods, these are the real deal. Deep in an oak and ash wood in the Dyfi Biosphere, you climb up from the woodland floor to the tree canopy via a sweeping spiral staircase. Inside, the Hobbit-esque rooms are neatly divided into living and sleeping quarters, with portholes and glass doors, wood-burners for cosy evenings, and Scandinavian-inspired beds and chairs. Richard Hammond

Living-room treehouses in Boreas, Mid Wales

water, another target community development and fairtrade practices. Check you're in the right place for you by looking for eco-certification, including by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council. A handy hotel comparison website that tells you their carbon footprint is BookDifferent — plus, 50% of the commission goes toward a charity of your choice.

## A taste of authenticity

Healthy, sustainable food isn't as easy to pinpoint when you're in a foreign country. But with over 40,000 listings, including reviews, HappyCow will help you find that perfect yoga retreat, vegetarian restaurant or health food store — supporting local economies.

## Cutting emissions

As well as using a bike or walking, buy carbon-offsetting credits certified by the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Gold Standard. For flights, carriers such as KLM, Qantas and United Airlines offer carbon-offset programmes, and according to Green America, Delta and Virgin America have the best recycling programmes.

## Helping hand

Choose travel companies that give educational, medical or infrastructural support to local communities.

Irene is the founder of Greenloons, a provider of eco-certified travel experiences. [greenloons.com](http://greenloons.com)

## Ethical & Green Innovations recommends:

### Leading the way in hospitality

#### Meliá Hotels International

During its 59-year history, Meliá Hotels International has upheld solid values that have enabled it to integrate into those communities where it has a presence and make a positive contribution to their economic and social development. This involves highlighting internal awareness and applying responsible management procedures across Meliá's value chain. The company's CSR strategy has become the backbone of its business, ensuring the balance between economic growth, sustainability and diversity, and it's convinced this approach will help the company to strengthen its leadership in a changing global environment. [meliá.com](http://meliá.com)

### Viennese building solutions

#### Wienerberger

Founded in Vienna in 1819, Wienerberger is today a leading provider of wall, roof and landscaping innovations. In the UK, Wienerberger has four showrooms, 14 factories and six distribution depots, with its head office in Cheadle, Cheshire. Offering in excess of 1,000 products, Wienerberger's range includes the Terca and Porotherm brands as part of its wall category, Sandtoft as part of its roof category, and Penter as part of its paving category, providing a wide range of building material solutions. Wienerberger's portfolio also includes Keymer, the 16th-century handmade roof tile brand. [wienerberger.co.uk](http://wienerberger.co.uk)

### Luxury, sustainable accommodation

#### LA VILLA

In a city where the lure of profit is endangering its architectural heritage, the creators of LA VILLA, in Pondicherry, deliberately embraced the challenges of sustainability: a limited number of rooms, the use of traditional building techniques, re-purposing architectural elements from demolished villas, employing local artisans to preserve their ageless craft, adapting the project to preserve trees hundreds of years old. These are just a few examples of the choices made to transform a hundred-year-old villa into a luxury, six-suite boutique hotel. The hotel stationery is even made from recycled cotton. All paper and bottles are recycled and proceeds are redistributed among staff. [lavillapondicherry.com](http://lavillapondicherry.com)

### Greener motoring

#### Citroën C-Zero

Commute to the city with ease or navigate around in a car that more than lives up to its name — zero emissions, zero company car tax, zero vehicle excise duty, and zero Congestion Charge when in London. Not only that, Citroën C-Zero owners get full eligibility for the government's Plug In Car Grant (PICG) plus an eight-year/60,000-miles battery warranty. Charging couldn't be easier. Plugging into standard UK wall sockets, gives a range of up to 93 miles per charge or rapid charge at municipal charging stations provides 80% charge in just 30 minutes. The spacious interior also offers heated seats and door mirrors for colder days. On the outside, metallic paint and 15in alloy wheels catch the eye. Just some of the other specifications include automatic digital air-conditioning, radio CD with Bluetooth, a USB socket, ESC and ABS, six airbags, and front fog lights with integrated daytime-running lights. [citroen.co.uk](http://citroen.co.uk)

### Transform your life

#### Quakers

Quakerism is a way of life rooted in a transforming experience of the Divine. From this we seek to live out our principles of truth, peace, simplicity and equality, recognising that of God in everyone. Quakers share a way of life, not a set of beliefs. They seek to experience God directly, within themselves and in their relationships with others and the world around them. Meetings offer a place of welcome, encounter and spiritual exploration. Quakers meet together for worship in local meetings, which are inclusive and open to all. To find out more about Quakers or find a meeting near you, visit [quaker.org.uk](http://quaker.org.uk)

City image: Diana Jarvis/Green Traveller

