

Responsible Travel Update

Offsetting the harmful effects of flying - Carbon Offsetting

There is no longer a day that goes by without a newspaper article about the global warming effects of flying, but does this mean that we should stop travelling by air? The proponents of carbon offsetting think not. In essence, the principle of carbon offsetting is that the carbon dioxide produced by your flight can be reabsorbed by newly-planted trees which take carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and lock it away as they grow. The further the flight, the more trees are needed to compensate for the carbon emissions. Obviously, few of us have the time or land to plant more than a few trees, which is where carbon offsetting schemes come into their own. For a modest sum the planting can be undertaken on your behalf.

We have included Friends of Conservation (FOC) in our Charity Portfolio since we launched it in early 2005, so we are delighted to support their innovative carbon reduction programmes. FOC encourage the planting of indigenous trees by supplying thousands of seedlings to communities, as well as setting up demonstration tree nurseries and providing technical assistance and equipment. They use additional programmes to advocate more efficient use of fossil fuels and better stewardship of forests and other natural resources.

We offset all the flights taken by our specialists during their research trips and we have used this donation to support Friends of Conservation's activities in Ranthambhore National Park in India, a vital tiger conservation area. Here, the FOC are working with local partners to address the issue of deforestation caused by the severe overgrazing of cattle in the Park.

We encourage all our clients to offset their own flights through FOC, who undertake a variety of projects worldwide which aim to offset the effects of climate change (you can also choose where your donation goes). If you would like to learn more, please visit www.audleytravel.com/offset



Cambodian hotel wins top award

The Shinta Mani, one of our favourite hotels in Siem Reap, Cambodia, has won the British Guild of Travel Writers' Best Overseas Tourism Project Award. This is something that is awarded to the best overseas tourism project that particularly benefits the local community.

Shinta Mani is an 18-room hotel in Siem Reap, the gateway for visiting the famous temples of Angkor. While Cambodia's tourist industry is growing fast, there is still chronic poverty in the countryside, and much landmine-related suffering. Under its own initiative, Shinta Mani recently started an Institute of Hospitality that trains 'the poorest of the poor' to work in the local hotel industry.

Shinta Mani brings the benefits of tourism directly to local people who might otherwise remain marginalised, and guests have a chance to participate in this. Cambodia is a country that makes travellers want to give something back, and possible donations, via Shinta Mani, including £6 for a school uniform, £48 for a water well, or £522 for a brand new family home are most welcome.

Whilst staying there you can visit the villages in the local area that have benefited from recent support. For details please contact our Cambodia specialists on 01993 838 160.

