



## **Press Release - embargo till 9/27/2016, 20CEST**

### **2016 SUSTAINABLE DESTINATIONS TOP 100**

## **100 Destinations Win Global Sustainability Competition**

The Sustainable Destinations Top 100 was unveiled for the second time on World Tourism Day and Green Destinations Day. 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.

Based on 15 core criteria of the Green Destinations Standard (table), nominators had to provide extensive information on the destination and on its efforts towards sustainability for the benefit of visitors, residents and the world.

Over 150 nominations were received. 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 sustainable for the full 100%. Also in the selected destinations important issues remain to be solved.

Due to a lack of data, carbon emission of travellers to arrive at the destination is not currently taken into account in this competition. However, Green Destinations recommend travellers to avoid long-haul travels, and to compensate their carbon emissions.

The Award winners were presented to the 350 participants of the Global Green Destinations Gala, 27 September 2016 in the Castle of Ljubljana (Slovenia), European Green Capital 2016.

The Top 100 selection will become available in: <http://greendestinations.info/top100-2016>. The sole responsibility for the destination descriptions and pictures lies with the destinations concerned.

More info: [info@greendestinations.info](mailto:info@greendestinations.info).  
Ljubljana, 25/27 September 2016

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GSTC Criteria were among the filters and guidelines used in the selection process, and GSTC has supported and participated in the process. The Top 100 is an initiative of Green Destinations and five other leaders in sustainable tourism: **TravelMole's Vision for Sustainable Tourism, Destination Stewardship Center, Asian Ecotourism Network, Sustainable Travel International, and QualityCoast.**

| <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, Green Destinations foundation  
 Valere Tjolle, TravelMole's Vision for Sustainable Tourism  
 Jonathan Tourtellot, Destination Stewardship Center  
 Masaru Takayama, Asian Ecotourism Network  
 Brian Mullis, Sustainable Travel International  
 Randy Durband, GSTC, Special Advisor

## Top 100 Selection Panel and Experts

Andrea Nicholas, Green Tourism  
Andrea Dixon, Algonquin College, Canada  
Andres Fellenberg van der Molen, Green Partner  
Anne-Kathrin Zschiegner, The Long Run  
Antonio Pezzano, DMI, Italy  
Arild Molstad, Destination Stewardship Center  
Bel Kambach, St. Cloud State University  
Edward Manning, Tourisk Inc.  
Fabricio Scarpeta, WWF Brazil  
Fabián Román, Fundación Plan21  
Glenn Jampol, Global Ecotourism Network, GEN  
Hamira Zamani-Farahani, Astaj TRCC, Iran  
Herbert Hamele, ECOTRANS; DestiNet  
Hitesh Mehta, HM Design, Florida  
Hugo de Jong, Green Destinations  
Jana Apih, GoodPlace, Slovenia  
Jim Sano, WWF USA  
José Maria de Juan Alonso, EARTH; Koan  
Julie Middleton, The Travel Foundation  
Karmen Mentil, Alpine Pearle  
Leana Paula Bernardi, Blue Flag, Brazil  
Lida Pet, PT Hatfield Indonesia  
Magdalena Muir, IEELS; Univ of Calgary, Canada  
Mario Hardy, Pacific Asia Travel Association, PATA  
Marion Hammerl, Global Nature Fund; Living Lakes  
Marloes Van de Goor, Earth Travel; IIAE  
Martha Honey, Center for Responsible Travel, CREST  
Mihee Kang, National University of Seoul, Korea  
Mike Robbins, The Tourism Company, Canada  
Monique Chen, Sustainable Travel Taiwan  
Muhammed Nahar, Minla Strategy  
Natalia Naranjo, University of Bogota, Colombia  
Natasha Ilijeva Acevska, NALAS  
Naut Kusters, ECEAT, Travelife  
Paul F. Wilkinson, York University, Ontario, Canada  
Patricio Diaz, ITR  
Patrizia Modica, European Tourism Indicator System  
Pekka Alhojarvi, Finland  
Peter Prokosch, Linking Tourism & Conservation  
Peter Richards, Thailand  
Ramunas Povilanskas, Klaipeda University, Lithuania  
Rachel Feng, Institute for Tourism, Shanghai, China  
Siegfried Manzel, Green Guides; Mantour, Germany  
Shannon Guihan, Bannikin; TreadRight Foundation  
Sue Beeton, William Angliss Institute, Australia  
Sonya Graci, Ryerson University, Canada  
Susan Santos de Cardenas, SSTDI  
Susana Inés Sandoval, Viajero Responsable  
Todd Comen, Johnson State College, Vermont, USA  
Uwe Sturmman, South Africa  
Xu Honggang, Sun Yat-Sen University, China

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|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| <b>ARGENTINA</b>                          | <b>GREECE</b>                           | <b>PHILIPPINES</b>                |
| Bariloche                                 | Alonnisos, Northern Sporades            | Lake Holon                        |
| Tigre                                     | <b>INDIA</b>                            | Lake Sebu, South Cotabato         |
| <b>AUSTRIA</b>                            | Khangchendzonga National Park           | Bojo, Aloguinsan, Cebu            |
| Werfenweng                                | Parambikulam Tiger Reserve              | <b>PORTUGAL</b>                   |
| <b>BHUTAN</b>                             | <b>INDONESIA</b>                        | Oeste (West region)               |
| Kingdom of Bhutan                         | Misool, Raja Ampat                      | Azores                            |
| <b>BOLIVIA</b>                            | Plataran L'Harmonie, West Bali Barat NP | Peneda-Gerês National Park        |
| Madidi National Park                      | <b>IRELAND</b>                          | Lagos                             |
| <b>BOTSWANA</b>                           | Clonakilty                              | Cascais                           |
| Chobe, Makgadikgadi & Okavango Delta      | <b>ITALY</b>                            | Sintra                            |
| Selinda Reserve                           | Best of Romagna                         | <b>RWANDA</b>                     |
| <b>BRAZIL</b>                             | Montepisano in Toscana                  | Volcanoes National Park           |
| Ponta de Nossa Senhora                    | Cogne (Valle d'Aosta)                   | <b>SLOVENIA</b>                   |
| Fernando de Noronha                       | <b>JORDAN</b>                           | Ljubljana                         |
| <b>CANADA</b>                             | Sharhabil Bin Hassneh                   | Slovenia Green Destinations       |
| Niagara River, Falls and Parkway          | <b>KENYA</b>                            | <b>SOUTH AFRICA</b>               |
| Great Bear Rainforest                     | Loisaba Conservancy                     | Cape Town                         |
| Dehcho-Akaiicho regions, Mackenzie Valley | Mara Naboisho Conservancy               | Grootbos Private Nature Reserve   |
| Mackenzie Delta - Beaufort Sea, NWT/YT    | <b>KOREA</b>                            | <b>SPAIN</b>                      |
| <b>COSTARICA</b>                          | Dongbaekdongsan                         | Atlantic Islands of Galicia NP    |
| Costa Rica including the Osa Peninsula    | Suncheon Bay Wetland                    | Terres de l'Ebre                  |
| <b>CHILE</b>                              | <b>LATVIA</b>                           | Baiona, Galicia                   |
| Isla Grande de Chiloe                     | Jūrmala                                 | Noja                              |
| Curacavi                                  | <b>MALTA</b>                            | <b>SWEDEN</b>                     |
| Cape Horn Biosphere Reserve               | Gozo - Comino                           | Sigtuna                           |
| Huilo Huilo                               | <b>MEXICO</b>                           | Åre                               |
| <b>CHINA</b>                              | Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve          | <b>TAJIKISTAN</b>                 |
| Yi Xian (Yi County), Anhui Province       | <b>NETHERLANDS</b>                      | Pamir Mountains                   |
| Mt. Huangshan                             | Ameland                                 | <b>TAIWAN</b>                     |
| Jiuzhaigou Scenic Area                    | Noordwijk                               | Northeast and Yilan Coast         |
| Sanqingshan World Heritage Site           | Katwijk - Wassenaar                     | Cihalaay Cultural Landscape Area  |
| <b>COLOMBIA</b>                           | Westvoorne - Hoek v Holland             | <b>TANZANIA</b>                   |
| Otun Quimbaya Fauna and Flora Sanctuary   | Goeree-Overflakkee                      | Chumbe Island (Zanzibar)          |
| <b>CROATIA</b>                            | Schouwen-Duiveland                      | <b>THAILAND</b>                   |
| Delnice                                   | Veere                                   | Tung Dap Village                  |
| Town of Drniš                             | Zuid-Limburg                            | <b>TIMOR LESTE</b>                |
| Town of Mali Lošinj                       | <b>NETHERLANDS - CARIBBEAN</b>          | Atauro Island                     |
| Gorski kotar                              | Bonaire                                 | <b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>             |
| Island Krk                                | Saba - St. Eustatius                    | The Broads National Park, England |
| Pula                                      | <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>FRANCE</b>                             | Svalbard                                | <b>UNITED STATES</b>              |
| Bretagne                                  | Geilo                                   | Jackson Hole & Yellowstone        |
| <b>GERMANY</b>                            | Sognefjord                              | Desert View Grand Canyon NP       |
| Norderney & Juist                         | <b>REPUBLIC OF PALAU</b>                | Vermont                           |
| Bliesgau Biosphere Reserve                | Republic of Palau                       | <b>URUGUAY</b>                    |
| Uckermark                                 |   | Punta del Este                    |