

# travel responsibly in the #weskus

Travellers are becoming aware of how tourism contributes to global warming, destruction of the environment, erosion of cultures and poverty. Travelling responsibly doesn't mean that you have to compromise on how enjoyable your travels are.

By choosing socially and environmentally responsible hospitality hosts you can ensure that your trip contributes to conservation efforts and the well-being of communities.

## **choose responsible tourism businesses**

A responsible tourism operator will have a promoted responsible tourism policy. Businesses that are certified by Fair Trade Tourism are also a good choice because they have met stringent conditions. When you travel to the West Coast, take a look at the [twitter.com/#GoGreenWeskus](https://twitter.com/#GoGreenWeskus) directory to choose responsible products.

## **be water and energy-wise**

Water is scarce in most parts of South Africa. Have a short shower instead of a bath, and close taps properly. Help to reduce the release of greenhouse gasses – switch off air-conditioners and lights when you leave your room, unplug cell phone and camera chargers when not in use, and ask your accommodation not to change or supply fresh towels daily. Walk or cycle to explore our towns.

## **support local artists and producers**

The West Coast is bursting with artistic talent, and whether it's a wire-animal from a street vendor or a painting from a modern art gallery. Purchases are mementos of your visit and support local artists. Buying ivory products is illegal in South Africa. The wineries, breweries, farm stalls and markets in our region offer fresh produce, preserves and honey, craft beer and wines, environmentally friendly cosmetics . . .

## **don't give money to beggars**

It's natural to feel compassion for beggars, vagrants and children living on the streets, but it's best not to give them money. If you really want to help, rather donate to dedicated organisations that provide meals, shelter and other services to the poor and homeless.

[www.capewestcoast.org/responsible-tourism](http://www.capewestcoast.org/responsible-tourism)

