### Sustainability: Ecotourism in Italy



#### What is Eco-tourism?

**Eco-tourism** is the main form of sustainable tourism. It is defined as

"Travel to destinations where the flora, the fauna and the cultural heritage are the main attractions".









Ecotourism includes programmes which decrease the negative effects of traditional tourism on the natural environment and educate tourists about the culture, customs and traditions of local people.



In Italy sustainable tourism mainly means eco-tourism.

Eco-tourism is considered sustainable as it improves the quality of life of the people and it does not damage the environment.



Nowadays the travel and tourism industry is increasingly aware of the importance of preserving the environment and consumers are becoming more aware of sustainable tourism issues and they are increasingly demanding eco-friendly products.



Sustainable tourism initiatives focus on the protection of geographic denominations, the preservation of local and cultural factors and the revival of traditions.



## Benefits of Eco-Tourism



# Sustainable Tourism in Italy

#### Eco-Tourism

Social

Economic

**Environmental** 



Many eco-tourism schemes fund community projects.

Eco-tourism creates jobs for local people which helps the local economy grow.

Local people not directly involved in tourism can make money selling their produce to the industry.

Money from eco-tourism is put into the local economy.

Local people have better and more stable incomes than in other jobs.

Local people are encouraged to conserve their environment.

Waste that tourists produce is disposed of carefully to prevent pollution.

It reduces poaching and hunting of endangered species since locals will benefit more from protecting them.

Eco-tourism projects try to reduce the use of fossil fuels-reduces global warming.

## Italian traditions, cultural heritage and history have been well- preserved thanks to sustainable tourism.



Italy's infrastructure has improved as a result of sustainable tourism. Better water and sewerage systems, good roads, telephones, public transport networks, electricity and much more have been created. This has contributed in improving the people's living standards.



In Italy most destinations have been renovated, and old materials have been recycled, and this has contributed so much in reducing pollution.



Tuscany plays an important role in the creation of a sustainable tourism.

The region offers numerous destinations, which are widely popular and, as a result, are particularly exposed to environmental risks.



It offers tourists a large selection of activities such as trekking in natural, protected areas and parks such as San Rossore Park, food and wine tours in protected areas, ecological, cultural or religious routes and hiking paths and trails including the Via Francigena ...

### San Rossore Park

San Rossore Park is an amazing place immersed in nature and a huge container of biodiversity and natural attractions.

It is part of Migliarino, San Rossore and Massaciuccoli Natural Park, which covers about 24,000 hectares in the provinces of Pisa and Lucca.



San Rossore Estate was a Medici game reserve, later owned by Italian kings and the President of the Italian Republic.



## This natural park is situated along the coast from Viareggio to Leghorn.



Here you can admire pinewoods, meadows, rivers, lakes, ponds and pathways leading to the beach and you can reach Marina di Vecchiano, a seaside resort in the province of Lucca.



#### The natural reserve of San Rossore-Migliarino Park features old trees and particular vegetation.

Wild animals such as wild boars, hares and owls live in the park.



## THE VIA FRANCIGENA







The pilgrimage routes are important in order to protect cultural and social aspects of today's society and, at the same time, to promote sustainable tourism and quality in Europe, particularly in rural areas and less known destinations.



Today the Via Francigena is a journey through the Italian landscape and makes modern pilgrims really understand the landscape, the past and the present.



The journey turns into a gradual immersion in the roots of our culture, in which changes in the landscape, small and great works of art, the people we meet along the road, make us understand the essence of our cultural heritage.





The official route is divided into 79 stages and begins in Canterbury, continues in France, Switzerland and Italy and ends in Rome.



It is 2,000 km long and crosses seven Italian regions - Valle d'Aosta, Piedmont, Lombardy, Emilia Romagna, Liguria, Tuscany and Lazio - and 140 municipalities, with a total of 44 stages in Italy.



Many people walk along the Via Francigena in Tuscany just to "slow down the times", enjoy life, discover unknown places and make new acquaintances.



## The Responsible Traveller's Golden Rules

- Learn as much as you can about the place you plan to visit and the local language.
- Use non-polluting forms of transport.
- Don't waste resources such as water, food and energy.

## • Respect the dignity and privacy of other people- for example, ask before taking photos.

- Dress appropriately and try to be neat and clean. This is simply respectful.
- Leave nothing behind and take nothing away but photos.



È un comportamento rispettoso verso l'ambiente? Colora il disegno e scegli la faccina.









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