

## **Climate protection in tourism: Child and youth travel as a trailblazer for reducing GHG emissions**

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### **Abstract**

When we travel, we make an impact: on us, on others and on the environment. The organisation German Young Naturefriends has launched a new project to turn child and youth travel into a trailblazer for reducing GHG emissions. It highlights less impactful travel alternatives and points out how climate-friendly travel habits and political engagement can be sustained beyond the activity itself. The organisation has chosen child and youth travel to exemplify these new approaches for two reasons: a) because the trips they take allow young people to experience independent travel for the first time and b) because when they travel, young people are open to trying out new ways of doing things. The project focuses on the full range of aspects of climate-friendly travel, from means of transport and accommodation to food and activities on site. Support for planning climate-friendly child and youth trips is provided in the shape of training for youth leaders as well as through an app called “cliMATES”, which offers an integrated emissions calculator to help measure and compare the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions generated by a trip. In other words, the project seeks to identify a broad range of ways to reduce the CO<sub>2</sub> footprint of child and youth travel and make a forward-looking contribution towards Education for Sustainable Development.