

For 17 years, Inspired Adventures has been committed to offering responsible travel experiences.

As a proud [B Corp](#), we are publicly recognised as a forward-thinking company, using the power of business to solve social and environmental problems.

We have raised over \$1 Million for environmental and conservation charities, including the Australian Conservation Foundation, Climate Council, Greenpeace Australia, and the Australian Youth Council Coalition.

We're really proud of our continued efforts to travel and operate in a responsible, sustainable way, but...

**It's no longer enough.**

The climate emergency is the defining crisis of our time and it is happening more quickly than we feared. The effects of climate change have already begun triggering an economic crisis and racial justice crises far larger than the public health crisis that is the pandemic.

With our Sydney office filled with bushfire smoke in 2020 and fires ravaging the nearby countryside, the climate emergency is no longer hypothetical – it has reached our doorstep.

**But we refuse to be powerless. That's why we're joining other businesses in the tourism industry and are declaring a Climate Emergency.**

We've signed up to [Tourism Declares](#), an initiative that supports tourism businesses, organisations and individuals in taking purposeful action to reduce their carbon emissions.

By declaring a Climate Emergency, we're committing to:

1. Developing a 'Climate Emergency Plan' within the next 12 months, which sets out our intentions to reduce carbon emissions over the next decade.
2. Sharing an initial public declaration of our 'Climate Emergency Plan', and updating on our progress each year.
3. Reducing the carbon emissions that result from our operations and travel services in line with current advice from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which states the need to cut global carbon emissions to 55% below 2017 levels by 2030 in order to keep the planet within 1.5 degrees of warming.
4. Encouraging and supporting our suppliers and partners to declare a climate emergency and actively participating in the Tourism Declares community.
5. Advocating for change. We recognise the need for systemic change across the industry to accelerate a just transition towards carbon-free tourism, including zero carbon air travel.

We believe the decisions we make can have a real and lasting impact on the world. And as a business committed to the greater good, our impact and ability to promote positive change and preserve the planet for future generations is far-reaching.

We look forward to embarking on the next steps of this journey.

  
Justine Curtis.



# WHY INSPIRED ADVENTURES IS DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

COVID-19 has presented challenges we could never have dreamed of. But there have also been opportunities: to take stock of our decisions and take time to reset — both for ourselves and the planet.

With international borders closed for the foreseeable future and planes asleep in deserts, we're grateful for the opportunity to travel this new path with more vigour and determination than ever before. So, as a responsible business within an industry that traditionally has high carbon emissions and a significant impact on the environment, we're taking a stand.

We are declaring a Climate Emergency, as part of Tourism Declares. We're pledging to continue to move towards more local, slower travel (in 2019, nearly one third of our departures were already in Australia and New Zealand) as well as a range of other commitments that you can read about in detail below.

By going public with our 10-point action plan, we're committing to:

## **1. Increasing our domestic departures**

As an Australian and New Zealand based business, we're committing to at least 40% of our departures being domestic each year, in an effort to reduce carbon emissions. Not only will this reduce our reliance as a business on international air travel, but it will support local businesses to recover after the devastation of bushfires and the pandemic.

While international air travel pre-pandemic accounted for 2.5% of global carbon emissions, research shows that if action isn't taken, this number was trending towards aviation taking up a quarter of the world's carbon budget by 2050.

## **2. Small group travel**

We're committing to continuing our small group style of travel, and not increasing group sizes for our adventures. Small group travel minimises the impact on local communities we visit, as well as giving us the ability to stay and eat in smaller, locally run accommodation and restaurants.

We're also constantly looking for ways to improve our travel style, and doing things like planning group departures where everyone uses the same airport transfers, for example.

## **3. Slow travel**

We're loving the current slow travel trend, where the main focuses are the journey rather

than the destination, immersing yourself in local life and a conscious effort to protect the environment on your adventure.

In response, we're reducing the distances travelled on many of our trips and cutting down on the amount of high-emissions transport used (think more public transport, bikes or hiking, and less private vehicles or internal flights).

## **4. No single-use plastics**

We've always encouraged our travellers to leave nothing but footprints in the places we visit, but now we're taking it one step further and developing a new official policy about banning single-use plastics on our adventures where possible. Soon, we'll add



it to our Itinerary Development Guidelines for our ground teams and implement the new procedures across all departures. Where this is out of our control, we will request that our ground teams avoid single-use plastics where possible and encourage them to ban these products within their organisations too.

#### **5. Supporting local accommodation and restaurants**

While we already stay in and visit locally owned and run accommodation and restaurants on our trips where possible, we want to improve our commitment by auditing our current itineraries to make sure we're doing everything we can to support impactful local businesses in the places we visit.

#### **6. Facilitating \$100,000 per year for climate-based charities**

We're pleased to work with a range of partners across a lot of different worthy causes. In addition to our current partners, we'll now also actively seek new partnerships with charities working on climate change and environmental causes and facilitate raising at least \$100,000 per year for their initiatives.

#### **7. Partnership with Carbon Neutral**

Since 2020, we've been partnered with Carbon Neutral to help us

measure and reduce the carbon footprint of our business operations. We will be creating an initial report that will detail our current footprint, so we have an accurate baseline to measure against as we progress on our reduction journey.

#### **8. Becoming carbon neutral by 2025**

Moving forward, we pledge to measure, report on and reduce our carbon emissions even further, with a goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2025. We've already taken our first step on this journey, by using \$10 from every booking to purchase carbon offsets to support [Carbon Neutral's Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Corridor project](#), a tree-planting program that will assist in the recovery of ecosystems that have been degraded, damaged or destroyed. We'll keep stakeholders updated on our progress in our new annual newsletter (see below).

#### **9. Encourage our operators to declare too**

We recognise the important role we play in promoting responsible travel practices with our community. We consider this responsibility a privilege and take it very seriously. So, to show leadership and help keep momentum within the travel industry going, we will be sharing our declaration with our ground operators and encouraging and

supporting them to also declare a Climate Emergency and put their own plans in place.

#### **10. Publishing an annual climate newsletter**

It's very easy to make a bunch of plans and then be so busy working on them that you forget to update stakeholders on the progress being made! That's why we're going to start publishing an annual climate newsletter, where we can update all our stakeholders on the progress of this action plan and all our climate-conscious initiatives.

We always welcome the thoughts and feedback of our community on ways we can improve. Please email us at [info@inspiredadventures.com.au](mailto:info@inspiredadventures.com.au).