

# 2023 Educare Learning Network Meeting

Before we gather, we encourage Network members to review and implement sustainable travel and event experience trips for the duration of our stay in New Orleans. We hope to leave this beautiful city and community better than we found it!

## Travel Tips

### **Do your homework**

Before traveling, please educate yourself on the city of New Orleans. This allows you to better immerse yourself in the local lifestyle and community.

### **Learn how to offset long-distance travel**

Long-distance travel, specifically air travel, can have a large carbon footprint. Carbon offsets can be purchased by buying credits that go toward organizations working to reduce emissions. We recommend researching offsets before purchasing. The Climate Action Reserve is a global offset registry, employing quality standards and ratings. We recommend using the ICAO Carbon Emissions Calculator to quantify air travel carbon emissions.

## Tourism & Event Tips

### **Share a ride**

Tourism transportation is one of the biggest contributors to the carbon footprint. Explore New Orleans using public transportation like streetcars, buses, ferries, shared cabs, bikes and walking. Share rides with your colleagues!

### **Leave behind single-use plastics when possible**

Single-use plastics are used for short amounts of time and take more than 1,000 years to degrade. Many people are making the switch to more sustainable options in their day-to-day lives. By choosing reusable water bottles and bags, you can contribute to less plastic waste in the environment.

### **Use less water**

The number of places experiencing water scarcity is growing and significantly impacts people of color in low-income communities. By choosing to conserve water, you are expressing your support for our most marginalized communities. Try skipping the daily change of sheets and towels during hotel stays!

### **Shop and eat local**

Buying local helps boost the local economy, support the community and reduce New Orleans' carbon footprint. Support local boutiques, restaurants and markets! Consider where products are made and purchase local/regional items and food choices when possible.

### **Use an ethical tour guide**

Tour operations involve people, vendors, transportation and much more. Be sure to support local vendors who prioritize the environment, use resources efficiently and respect local culture.

### **Don't feed the animals ...**

Sharing food with wildlife can increase the spreading of diseases (like the cold or flu) from humans to animals. Please refrain from sharing food with animals; their behaviors may be altered, causing them to become more dependent on people for survival.

### **... and don't eat them, either!**

Consuming endangered or exotic animals leads to an increase in the poaching, trafficking and exploitation of animals. This kind of dining can contribute to the extinction of animals already impacted by climate change or habitat loss. Keep this in mind when shopping and please steer clear of products made from endangered wildlife. (Also, avoiding the consumption/purchasing of animals is one of the easiest ways to reduce emissions!)

### **Visit parks and sanctuaries**

During your trip, take some time to explore nature and wildlife through national and local parks. We recommend visiting City Park and Audubon Park!

### **Do your best to leave no trace**

Let's strive to leave New Orleans better than we found it. Place garbage in the trash, don't remove or alter anything without permission, and please recycle!

### **Tell your friends**

Share with your fellow travelers, coworkers and friends about how being mindful and adopting sustainable travel and event experience practices can benefit local communities.

Now you're ready to travel for the 2023 Educare Learning Network Meeting — see you in New Orleans!

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Resources & recommended readings:

- [Be a more sustainable traveler](#)
- [Climate Action Reserve](#)
- [ICAO Carbon Emissions Calculator](#)