



Green Holidays in South Tyrol

Living sustainability

“South Tyrol, Europe’s most sought-after sustainable environment.”

Now that’s what we call a strong statement. Does it apply to the future? To the here and now as well? It’s the attitude of the people and the province as a whole and is adapted each day anew.

On holiday, who wouldn't want unspoilt nature, clean air, beautiful scenery and a great place to stay that offers all-round recreational value? For this to be the case, however, guests, hosts and the holiday destination all need to adopt a distinctive approach. We’re talking about sustainability, of course.

Every aspect of sustainable tourism in South Tyrol is researched and analysed by the STOT (Sustainable Tourism Observatory South Tyrol) Observatory as part of Eurac Research in Bolzano/Bozen with the support of the UNWTO INSTO (World Tourism Organization International Network of Sustainable Tourism Observatories).

A sustainable holiday in South Tyrol starts with arriving in a sustainable manner: The train or the bus is the ideal way to get to your holiday destination relaxed and refreshed. From the bus or train station, proceed on to your chosen accommodation with Südtirol Transfer and book your transfer shuttle.

Are you keen to discover the entirety of South Tyrol without a car? With a Mobilcard or one of the other local guest cards in hand, take advantage of the railroads, cable cars and buses. The bikemobil Card enables you to take advantage of the bus+train+bike rental combinations, whilst the museumobil Card opens the doors to local museums. Current timetables are available online at any time.

Starting this year, an Electric Airport Shuttle Service will also be offered to take guests from Bolzano Airport to the Kronplatz holiday region and back.

The “Alpine Pearls” Network, which includes the South Tyrolean towns of Moos/Moso in the Passeiertal valley, Ratschings/Racines and Villnöss/Funes, offer environmentally friendly holidays in a natural manner. Meanwhile, you can enjoy an equally sustainable holiday in the “mountaineering villages” of Matsch/Mazia in the Vinschgau valley and Longiarù/Longiarù in the Val Badia valley, as well as in the two hiking villages of Truden/Trodèna and Altrei/Anterivo.

Next in the list of priorities is the sustainable accommodation, i.e. your environmentally friendly holiday home. Here you’ll be spoilt for choice:

- There are 8 certified organic Biohotels: Aqua Bad Cortina in Al Plan di Mareo/San Vigilio di Marebbe, Blasla Hof in Gsies/Valle di Casies, Bio- und Bikehotel Steineggerhof in Steinegg/Collepietra, Landhotel Anna & Reiterhof Vill

in Schlanders/Silandro, Tauber's Bio- Wander-Vitalhotel in St. Sigmund/San Sigismondo Pennhof in Barbian/Barbiano, Biorefugium Theiner's Garten in Gargazon/Gargazzone and Biohotel Panorama in Mals/Malles.

- The 28 hosts of Vitalpina Hotels South Tyrol agree: "We believe in sustainability!" Doing so means that "we avoid mountains of waste, prefer to buy locally rather than internationally, conserve resources, protect the environment, facilitate car-free holidays and offer tasty products from the farm and garden." Moreover, the Vitalpina hotels have decided to collectively join the Climate Neutrality Alliance in 2021. They are therefore the first hotel alliance to commit to having their own carbon footprint assessed and to become as climate neutral as possible.
- Ecolabel is a European certification for sustainability that has existed since 1992. Six hotels in South Tyrol have met the Ecolabel criteria: Vitalpina Hotel Icaro at the Seiser Alm high plateau, Hotel Kreuzbergpass in Sexten/Sesto, Vitalpina Hotel Dosses in S.Crestina Gherdëina/S.Cristina Val Gardena, Hotel Bergschlössl in Lüsen/Luson, Hotel Tratterhof in Meransen/Maranza and Familienalm Taser in Schenna/Scena.
- A total of 1.624 farms offer "Red Rooster" farm holidays. Holiday apartments as well as double or multi-bed rooms are offered with the possibility to "watch the production of genuine food at the farm." 110 have an organic production.
- 16 hotels, residences and farms have been designated as "KlimaHotels" by the Energy Agency South Tyrol - CasaClimafor their exceptionally sustainable construction methods: Vigilius Mountain Resort (the only hotel in Italy and just one of three in Europe to be awarded the 2021 Earth Check Label in Gold) at the Vigljoch mountain in Lana, Hotel Gitschberg in Meransen/Maranza, Sandwiesenhof in Gargazon/Gargazzone, Naturhotel Miraval in Badia/Alta Badia region, Cirna Gentle Luxury Lodges in Naturns/Naturno, Residence Nives in Brixen/Bressanone, Zallinger at the Seiser Alm high plateau San Luis Retreat Hotel & Lodges in Hafling/Avelengo, Refugium Theiner's Garten in Gargazon/Gargazzone, Adler Lodge Alpe at the Seiser Alm high plateau Mountain Design Hotel EdenSelva in Sëlva/Selva, Kiendlhof in Meran/Merano, Cyprianerhof Dolomit Resort in Tiers am Rosengarten/Tires al Catinaccio, Kräuterhotel Zischghof in Obereggen, Joas Natur Hotel B&B in Innichen/San Candido, Larix Lodges in La Ila/La Villa in Alta Badia.
- The Stilfser Joch National Park is home to more than just strictly protected areas. People also live, work and do business here. Here it is particularly important that all activities take place in harmony with nature. For this reason, the campaign "Tourist and agricultural development in the Stilfser Joch National Park" was launched. 11 businesses (hotels, residences and farm holidays) in the villages of Martell/Martello, Suldén/Solda and Prad am Stilfserjoch/Prato allo Stelvio received the designation.
- Some establishments are GSTC (Global Sustainable Tourism Council) certified: for example Berghotel in Sexten/Sesto, Leitlhof in Innichen/S.Candido, Hotel Union in Toblach/Dobbiaco, Vigilius Mountain Resort at the Vigljoch mountain in Lana, Hotel Pfösl in Deutschnofen/Nova Ponente, My Exelsior Dolomites Life Resort in San Vigilio di Marebbe/St. Vigil in Enneberg

- In addition to accommodation establishments, entire tourism destinations have also received GSTC certification: The Eggental and Alta Badia regions as well as Al Plan di Mareo/San Vigilio di Marebbe, which was one of the first destinations in the world to be certified according to the GSTC standards.
- The wheelchair-accessible Inklusions-Hotel Masatsch with restaurant reopened in Kaltern/Caldaro.

Any sophisticated and eventful holiday should also include relaxation, activities, enjoyment, experiences, etc.

- South Tyrol's female farmers have a lot to share with others and are happy to pass on their knowledge. In addition to cooking and baking courses, they offer farm and garden tours, as well as handicraft and decoration classes.
- Without a doubt, the most sustainable way to experience South Tyrol is hiking: Over 16,000 kilometres of sign-posted, natural hiking trails, including family-oriented hikes, themed trails, long-distance hiking trails, Alpine ridge-ways, etc., are available. The fun doesn't stop in winter thanks to snowshoe hikes on beautiful winter hiking trails.
- With a variety of valley cycle paths, trail parks and so much more, you can get around faster via bike or mountain bike. Bike holidaymakers are sure to find the right accommodation among the 31 BikeHotels Südtirol.
- Enjoying South Tyrol on horseback will afford you a completely different perspective.
- South Tyrol's 7 Nature Parks and the Stilfser Joch National Park offer extensive hiking and adventure programmes. Experiencing and understanding nature is not just for experts. Kids can also train to become Junior Rangers in the nature parks of the Dolomites.

Are you keen for enjoyable moments during a hike on the mountain or at sunset? How about in the middle of the forest? Or maybe whilst enjoying gourmet food at an award-winning restaurant? When it comes to food, sustainability stems from regionality, seasonality and special, local products.

- In 2023, the "Green Michelin Star" will be awarded to no fewer than five restaurants in South Tyrol (one female chef and four male chefs) for their sustainable cuisine:
Norbert Niederkofler, Restaurant St. Hubertus (San Ćiascian/San Cassiano in Alta Badia); J Heinrich Schneider, Restaurant Terra (Sarnthein/Sarentino); Stephan Zippl, Restaurant 1908 (Oberbozen/Soprabolzano-Ritten/Renon); Johannes Lerchner, Restaurant Lerchner's in Runggen/Ronchi (St. Lorenzen/San Lorenzo di Sebato); Maria Lutz, Landgasthof zum Hirschen (Jenesien/S. Genesio Atesino).
- At the forefront is the project "Cook the Mountain" by the only 3-star and certified "Green Michelin Star" chef Norbert Niederkofler at his AlpINN mountain restaurant at Kronplatz/Plan de Corones and at the award-winning St. Hubertus restaurant in San Ćiascian/San Cassiano in Alta Badia.
- With his project "Taste Nature", the cuisine of award-winning chef Theodor Falser (Johannesstube in Welschnofen/Nova Levante) is entirely devoted to the forest and nature. The focus here is on the harmony between

products made by young permaculture farmer Michael Pfeifer ([Eisathhof in Deutschnofen/Nova Ponente](#)), ingredients from the surrounding forest and traditional, natural production methods.

- The project "[LaFuGa](#)" (Laboratory for Future Gastronomy) in Bad Schörgau in the Sarntal valley focuses on innovative processing and preservation methods, waste avoidance and many other aspects of sustainability. Here, both Gregor Wenter and Chef Mattia Baroni are dedicated to exploring new culinary horizons.
- Enjoyment is more traditional in the 29 [South Tyrolean inns](#), which focus on authenticity and down-to-earth tastes. Here, high-quality, local and seasonal ingredients are used to make creative dishes according to age-old recipes.
- 8 inns in South Tyrol belong to the "Locande Slow Food" circle, which promotes small and practically forgotten agricultural products and models: Pitzock in Villnöss/Funes, Kürbishof in Altrei/Anterivo, Lamm Mitterwirt in St. Martin in Passeier/San Martino in Passiria, Durnwald in Pichl/Colle in the Gsiesertal valley, Waldruhe in Sexten/Sesto, Alter Fausthof in Völs am Schlern/Fiè allo Sciliar, Oberraut in Percha/Perca and Lerchner's in Runggen/Ronchi.

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