

Top tips: Fly less by holidaying in the UK



By Angela
Terry

THE rise of budget airlines has made flying affordable and easy.

Unfortunately, mile for mile, it is the most damaging way to travel for the climate.

A flight from Glasgow to London creates 5.5 times the emissions as the equivalent journey by train – and emissions from planes are rising.

Globally, they increased by 32 per cent between 2013 and 2018. While improving fuel efficiency is gradually reducing the emissions per passenger, it is not keeping up with the rapid rise in total passenger numbers, which are projected to double in the next 20 years.

There is also a lot of talk about sustainable aviation fuels, mainly biofuels made from agricultural crops and wastes. However, many scientists are concerned about the land-use implications for such fuels if they are scaled up – and what the vast areas of crops required will mean for deforestation.

The reality is that sustainable aviation fuels remain a long way away.

As a result of all this, many people are opting to cut their flights or stop them altogether.

It doesn't mean you can't holiday or travel. You can have a holiday in beautiful Scotland or elsewhere in the UK.

With London just four hours and 20 minutes from Edinburgh by train, you can then go on the Eurostar and be in the European continent within a day.

Angela Terry is an environmental scientist and the founder of One Home (onehome.org.uk)

in spirit – due to engagements as co-chairwoman of a coalition of subnational governments.

Her comments came as climate activist Greta Thunberg said COP26 was a “greenwash festival”.

She said the climate summit has been a “failure”.

Following a march of thousands of protesters from Kelvingrove Park to George Square, passing the COP26 venue at the SEC on the way, Ms Thunberg said world leaders are “fighting to maintain business as usual”.

She said: “This is no longer a climate conference.

“This is now a global north greenwash festival, a two-week long celebration of business as usual and blah blah blah.

“The most affected people in the most affected areas still remain unheard and the voices of future generations are drowning in their greenwash and empty words and promises.

“But the facts do not lie. And we know that our emperors are naked.”

Ms Thunberg added: “The question we must now ask ourselves is, what is it

German artist Arne Drosche, who walked inside it for more than three months to get to COP26.

He said: “In one way there is our Earth, in other ways it is about network – we are all connected all around the world with the same problems caused by climate change.”

People of all ages joined the youth-focused protest. Among them were a group of mothers from around the world, including Rosamund Adoo Kissi Debrah, whose daughter Ella died from an asthma attack as a result of severe air pollution.

The group will be handing in a letter at COP26 calling for an end to new fossil fuel financing for the sake of their

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Officers are there to maintain the safety of the public and participants, as well as to protect the rights of peaceful protesters

Sturgeon admits her undelivered climate targets are ‘meaningless’

NICOLA Sturgeon has admitted some of her own government's targets on tackling climate change are “meaningless” because they have not been met.

Earlier this week, the First Minister told the COP26 summit that although the Scottish Government had missed a series of carbon reduction targets, stretching goals were better than easy ones.

But addressing young people as part of Youth and Empowerment Day, she was far blunter.

Appearing on stage alongside COP26 President Alok Sharma, Ms Sturgeon promised she would lead by example as it was “make or break” time.

She said: “Scotland has already set the targets that are consistent with the Paris goals [on net zero].

“That's good, but that is not enough. Targets that are not delivered are meaningless. So our responsibility now is to meet those targets.

“So I promise you we will accelerate as far and as fast as we can that transition away from fossil fuels. In Scotland's case that is oil and gas, and prioritise investment in clean, green, renewable energy.

“There's no excuse. We have an abundance of renewable energy potential. We must make sure we fully utilise it.”

She added: “Young people across the globe are crying out for change. I pledge to do what I can to deliver that change, no matter how difficult that is.”

She also vowed to help decarbonise domestic heating, transport, food production, and to protect the environment.

She was applauded for ending: “Thank you for being the conscience of this summit. Thank you for raising your voice, and keep putting pressure on people like us to make sure that your voice is heard.”

Scotland has missed its greenhouse gas targets for the last three

years as it aims for net zero by 2045.

The latest reported target was a cut of 55 per cent by 2019, but only 51.5% was achieved.

Despite her pledge to do what she could, the FM later said that did not include pausing the fight for independence.

Asked by the media if she would defer the pursuit of constitutional change, given the limits in government to handle such a large project as well as climate change, she said: “No, I think that's a bit of a daft argument, with the greatest of respect, so I don't agree with it.”

On Monday, Ms Sturgeon appeared in SNP newspaper adverts aimed at world leaders that called Scotland a “nation in waiting” and “not yet” independent.

Opposition parties said the linking of independence and COP26 showed the SNP was obsessed by the constitution, even when the fate of humanity was on the line.

has already had a their learning”

A spokesman for said: “We do understand people feel so strongly about change, and we want that passion and energy to be harnessed.”

“That's exactly what we're doing – empowering them through virtual national education awards, and tools to put climate of the curriculum, and this up with our carbon footprint cut the carbon footprint buildings as well.”

Elsewhere, a group told Ms Sturgeon and Alok Sharma to step back from their climate demands.

Youth NGOs (Youth Organisations) world – published a urging government providing \$100 billion year to developing the impact of climate subsidies for fossil a paragraph on your agreement reached the summit.

Getting cures for

Analysis

By David Leask

NATURE is a victim of climate change – but is also its cure.

Today, COP26 delegates will look at ways to ensure biodiversity and sustainable land use and biodiversity are the heart of a clean, green recovery.

Scientists have long believed there are nature-based solutions to the global heating emergency – both in reducing its scale and mitigating its effects.

Many of the headlines about COP26 have focused on saving trees – because of the ability to suck carbon out of the atmosphere.

But Jaime Toney, professor of environmental and climate science at Glasgow University, thinks there are lots of other nature-based solutions, often tailored for local environments, that