



TRAVEL SMARTER

ENROUTE'S BLOG

## **ECO-TRAVEL - IT'S EASY BEING GREEN, #8**

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# it's easy being green



Open top bus tours are so 2010. The new way to see London is from the ground up, with [Sock Mob's Unseen Tours of London](#). Led by none other than the city's homeless residents, the four tours, which cover the Brick Lane, Old Street, London Bridge and Temple areas, are a combination of historical facts and the guides' own stories and experiences, which I'll wager are pretty different than what you'll read about on the [Blue Plaques](#). Plus, two free places on each tour are set aside for anyone unable to pay or who is accompanying someone as a care-giver, and a "Merry Pub Trip" is always at the finish line. Chin chin!

A more hands-on experience can also be had right now in Sierra Leone, via a group called [Tribewanted](#). This industrious bunch set up a project where, for a minimum of one week, visitors can help construct a new building developed at Cal Earth called a "Superadobe", which will support sustainable development in the area. Plus, according to Tribewanted founding partner Ben Keene, "When you take part in the project you're not sacrificing your hard earned time-out for an intense volunteer program, nor are you replacing a much-needed beach holiday. Sunbathe, build, swim, cook, canoe up river, trek, fish, play beach football, share skills, teach, drum round bonfires, and eat great seafood."

There you go: you'll practically forget you're doing something nice for people! The program takes place John Obey Beach, about 20 miles south of Freetown, and will go on until the rainy season begins in June.

Quite a different eco-structure is in the works on the Singapore skyline, where the world's first [ArtScience Museum](#) will open on February 17<sup>th</sup>. Designed by super-starchitect [Moshe Safdie](#), the Museum's dish-like roof channels rainwater through the central atrium of the building, which is then recycled for use in the building's restrooms. Skip from your green loo to any of the 21 galleries contained in the lotus-shaped building, which will display works that merge all aspects of art and science, including technology, design and culture. A number of leaders in the field will be part of a speaking series at the museum over the coming months.

And I don't know about you, but I've always been tempted to spend those long haul flights in my pyjamas. That is, until I discovered Toronto-based [Miik](#) clothing. The line has taken comfy to a new level, creating soft bamboo classics with a modern edge. The pieces don't need ironing and many can be worn multiple ways – check out the Alexa cardi and the all-season Lily dress – and Miik minimizes their carbon footprint by designing, milling and crafting their goods all within the Greater Toronto Area. On the west coast? No problem! February brings Vancouver's [Eco Fashion Week](#), where Nicole Bridger's drapy, lush tops and dresses and Laura Presber's sweet, ladylike pieces will be heating up the catwalk. That's *my* kind of global warming, darlings. See you next month!



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