

# Table 7:

## Global Ecotourism

Craig Benson (Chemistry) and  
Greg Malveaux (English and  
Study Abroad)



2:30–3:30

Break-out Rooms with  
Table Topics

# Introductions

Craig Benson

Greg Malveaux





# What is ecotourism?

How does global ecotourism fit in with STEM and the humanities?



## Study Abroad

*Traditional* ecotourism involves traveling to another country, focusing specifically on the environment and sustainability.

Trips to Iceland (pictured) and Costa Rica (proposed) discussed renewable energy, benefits to the economy, and local geology and resources.

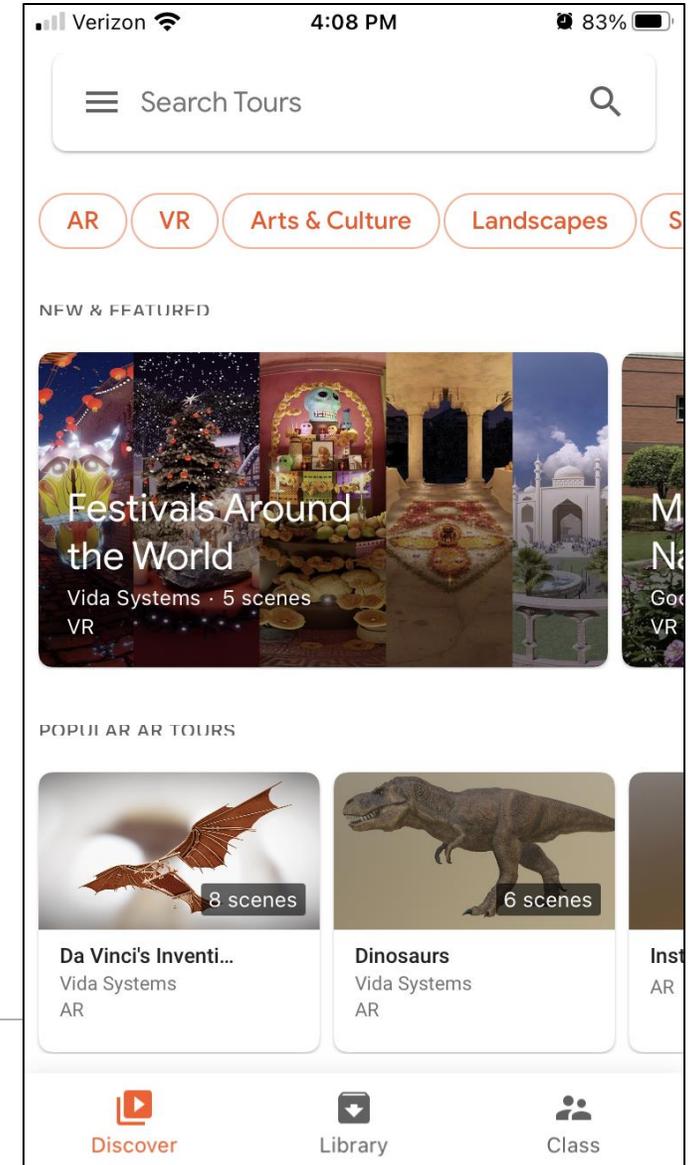
May not be feasible for all!



What could global ecotourism look like in a class, especially during remote instruction?

## Virtual visits: Google Expeditions

- VR tours that students can access with a Smartphone
- Works with Google Cardboard/Virtual Reality goggles
- Great for remote teaching!
- Content is also being migrated to [Google Arts and Culture](#)





## Local field trips

Can extrapolate to global themes from local observations

Examples: wastewater treatment facility, recycling center, Covanta Resource Recovery Facility (waste-to-energy; virtual tour [here](#))

How does our relationship with water, waste, energy, etc. differ from other nations?



## Stream and Park Cleanups

- Waste collected could otherwise have ended up in the oceans or eaten by wildlife
- Use the amount of plastic collected to highlight the fate of litter
- Plastic and climate change are linked; petroleum feedstocks used for plastic production

## Backyard Science and Observation

Students are invited to “host” their own eco-tour:

- What impacts can you notice that either cause climate change or result from climate change?
- How might this be different in other regions of the world?
- If someone from another country were taking an eco-tour of your neighborhood, what would they highlight?

# Virtual Resources for ecotourism

## Cultural Experiences

- EF (Education First) Tours' "Online Escapes" - Online cultural livestreamed experiences, by computer, phone, or tablet to connect with hosts and others around the world (<https://www.goaheadtours.com/online-escapes>)

## Global Internships

- Virtual CRCC Asia International Internships with companies in China, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, and the U.K. in a dozen fields; made up of 1, 2, or 3 month Internships (<https://www.ccisabroad.org/programs/china-virtual-crcc-asia-international-internships/>)
- IAU (Institute for American Universities) with companies in France, Spain, and Morocco in 13 fields/disciplines (<https://iau.edu/virtual/globalinternships>)



## Virtual Summer Study Abroad Programs

Locations: Trinidad and Wales

- Trinidad in coordination with Morgan State University
- Wales in coordination with Swansea University
- Both from a DOS grant, these are 2 week virtual summer programs planned for June/July 2021, linked to MC classes
- These global classrooms with Trinidad fall within the discipline of Business and Health Sciences. Wales classes fall under the Humanities.

What are your overall impressions of ecotourism?

Are the benefits to the students outweighed by the costs to the environment?

3:30–3:50

Large Group Report-Outs

3:50–4:00

Closing Remarks

