Darmstadt, October, 21, 2016. It is going to become winter. And winter means for many people winter sports. From an ecological point of view, the world of skiing sports is not really green. For many years, whole mountain forests felt prey to the construction of lift sites, ski pistes or wellness resorts. But slowly, tourism boards and hotel industry starts to rethink their strategies in regard to environment protection. Travelers prefer more and more ground autonomous and therefore environmentally friendly chairlifts. and even solar lifts, such as in Tenna, a little Town in Switzerland, are in operation. Sustainability means always also one's own initiative: From arrival, equipment to accommodation - a winter holiday can be organized more sustainable.
It starts with the arrival

You might believe it or not but 70 to 80 per cent of a ski resort’s CO2 emissions caused by driving to the slopes by car. For the journey to the winter sport locations there are more compatible alternatives. Public transport is accessible and convenient and for those that cannot resign, it is easy to build a carpool. A shuttle to and from the hotel is mostly provided or easy to organize. Some of the tourist regions convince with clever ideas: for example at the Austrian town Werfenwang, travelers who leave the car keys at the reception, does receive a special voucher for free usage of the ski busses or the horse-drawn carriages.

Take also care of your equipment

Arrived. But transport your skiing equipment by train? In most of the skiing regions, professional equipment can be rent. Another advantage: The equipment is up-to-date and mostly better serviced than the one at home. For the more excessive practitioners, it is important to select your brand in terms of sustainable production, like brands such as Atomic, Venture or Stöckli do. As of late, professional such as free riders Candide Thovex or Eric Pollard swear on skis with a kern made of the natural material flax. The Start-Up company "Bcomp" from German Freiburg invented it and counts so far 30 ski brands to its clients. And also preparing your skis and boards with environmentally friends wax without mineral oil is a little contribution to environment.
Environment compatible skiing fashion

Naturally, one wants to be on top at the Slope, fashion wise and functional. But lots of outdoor materials contain toxins such as PFC. An alternative is skiing fashion made of recycled material from brands such as Vaude or Zimtstern. The label Patagonia produces already since fleece tissue made of 100 per cent recycled plastic bottles. Natural materials also provide functional characteristics. Merino wool is very light, soft, breathable and stain resistant, and very important free of synthetics. This knowledge is used since years by companies from New Zealand such as the label Icebreaker and lately by the in Europe less established brand Kaipara. The wool production fulfills the highest NZ standards in terms of environment, animal protection and social responsibility. The material is converted in a small tailor in Southern Germany. And from a stylish point of view, the hipp clothes are state of the art.
Environmentally friendly accommodation

Also the hotel industry innovative. One of the most renowned green hotels in Europe is the Gradonna. Directed by the beauty of nature, even the wellness area is sustainable. The natural lake is solar heated, the heated outdoor pool and the hot water in the bath rooms are getting their temperature from heat recovery from the hotel owned wood chip. The Leithof in Southern Tyrol Südtirol, more precisely in the mountains of Pustertal was voted "Europe's Leading Green Hotel 2016". The energy concept convinced the jury 100 per cent. And the natural scenery does it too. At the HUBERTUS Alpin Lodge & Spa Zeitgeist meets libertine and this up to 1,044 meters height in the Alps of Allgäu, so called "Bavarian Siberia". The hotel is celebrating lived sustainability, authenticity and the love to the region in all aspects. The Bachgut, das Resort am Berg is also recognized as an environmentally friendly Ski resort. The location is trying to mostly avoid negative impacts on nature and environment and uses regenerative energy from Solar, an self-sufficient supply of water and a biomass power station. Those arriving by electro cars will receive a ten per cent discount for accommodation as well as for the gas station in front of the resort. The Berghotel Rehlegg beside regenerative energy and regional produce the hotel is counting on ancient medical plants and herbs. On the Alp meadow 70 different herbs were planted and building the essence of the own beauty line, of course under the highest ecological standards. The last tip is the vacation apartments Haidl Madl at the Bavarian forest, near the Bohemian border. At 1,333 Metern meters, the owners provides experiences such as an Iglu-workshop or a guided snowshoe walk under the stars. Sustainable and beside totally romantic.

The German Green Pearls GmbH with place of business in Darmstadt, Germany unifies international tourism companies that support environmental protection and demonstrate social commitment. Thereby, Green Pearls is the first holding company worldwide that consolidates sustainable hotels, a destination and restaurants in a global data source.
Among the criteria of admission to Green Pearls, are a sustainability plan on management level, sustainable architecture, comprehensive water, energy saving and waste recovery measures, the use of seasonal and regional ingredients in the kitchen, as well as a large commitment for the social balance in each of the vacation regions.

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