



Environmental and sustainability strategy

Dear Guest

A warm welcome to the Hotel Belvedere in Grindelwald!

Time was when the glaciers once stretched all the way down to the valley and our guests could admire the Upper Grindelwald Glacier from the hotel. Sadly, this is no longer the case. Global warming is not the only threat facing today's modern world. Environmental pollution, and particularly the wasteful use of resources, is also a pressing problem.

Here in Grindelwald we live in a wonderful natural paradise, and because we want to keep it that way for future generations, we are committed to the ecological measures which are outlined in this brochure.

Toiletries

In the past, we have had to throw away tonnes of barely-used bars of soap and many other complementary toiletries, resulting in a mountain of unnecessary waste that then had to be disposed.

We have therefore opted not to provide individually packaged toiletries in hotel bathrooms. The liquid soap above basins can be used to wash hands or the body. You will find shower gel, shampoo and conditioner next to the bath tub.

If you have forgotten or lost anything, please contact the reception desk, which will gladly provide toiletry items free of charge (if available). For example, we can provide toothbrushes, toothpaste, body lotion, nail files, razors and personal hygiene articles.



Waste

We are committed to producing as little waste as possible. The following measures help us to minimise waste:

- ✓ Our organic waste is sent to a biogas plant.
- ✓ Paper and cardboard, as well as glass, PET bottles, drink cans and other metals, are separately collected for recycling. The bulk of our bottles and crates are returned to the supplier for re-use.
- ✓ Batteries, chemicals and other hazardous waste are taken to special recycling depots.
- ✓ Needless to say, as elsewhere in Switzerland, our waste water is transported to a water treatment plant, while clean water (rainwater) flows through separate channels directly into the Lütschine River.
- ✓ Wherever possible, food is purchased in bulk rather than in portions.

Energy

For the sake of the environment, the Hauser family is committed to carbon neutrality as soon as possible, which is why we endeavour to be as self-sufficient as possible in terms of power, and, of course, save energy wherever possible. To achieve this we have adopted the following measures:

- ✓ Every time renovations are carried out, we install new windows and doors with better insulation. Heat leaks are identified using heat cameras and are sealed off. A central switch in hotel rooms helps to save energy since no lights remain on when no-one is in the room. Energy-saving lamps and LED lighting is used wherever possible. Today's mini bars consume only a fraction of the electricity needed by their predecessors. Modern installations in the hotel kitchen use up significantly less power.
- ✓ Guests can decide themselves how often they need a change of bed linen and towels. This way we save on energy and water.
- ✓ To optimise heating performance in the winter months, rooms are aired briefly but intensively. We do this by leaving the windows fully open for around 5 minutes a day. If you find the room too warm, please turn down the heating rather than opening the windows when the heating is fully on.
- ✓ Heat recovery systems: the warm water produced by refrigeration motors is used to heat the indoor pool, and the warm air from the indoor pool and restaurant is used to heat incoming fresh air.



- ✓ Heat pumps: Water from a subterranean stream near the hotel, at a depth of 10 meters, is collected and fed to heat pumps. The energy generated in the process is used to heat the outdoor saltwater Jacuzzi and the indoor pool. It also covers part of our hot water supplies and is used to heat air for ventilation. Soon, water cooled by the heat pumps will be used to produce cool air for the air conditioning system in our hotel rooms.
- ✓ Wood-fired power plant: In 2010 Grindelwald built a wood-fired power plant which uses waste wood from sawmills and construction sites as well as storm-felled wood from the forests to generate energy. We will be connected to the plant in 2016, following which the oil burner will be used only in the event of a heat pump outage or a temporary plant shutdown.
- ✓ Solar energy: We are keeping a close eye on developments in this technology, so that we can add solar energy to our arsenal of eco-friendly power sources at the right moment. We also already purchase solar power from BKW, the Berne Power Plant Company.

Sourcing

We place great value on home-grown produce and always check the production method. Wherever possible, biodegradable cleaning products are used. Energy efficiency is a key requirement whenever we purchase new machinery and equipment.

For renovations, alterations and new purchases we contract local and regional companies wherever possible.

Travelife

Here is an extract of a press release from July 2010:

ABTA - founded in 1950, the British Travel Association today has 1'351 members and 5'000 travel agencies. The members are travel agencies, tour operators as well as large and small service companies.

The online directory www.travelifecollection.co.uk lists sustainable hotels across the world which can be booked through the UK's favourite tour operators - both mainstream and specialists. Big tour operators from other countries, such as Kuoni Switzerland and TUI Germany are continually signing up.

Travel auditors systematically check hotels to verify compliance with standardised social and environmental criteria. The results, in the form of Gold, Silver or Bronze award logos, are featured in tour operator brochures. Among the key criteria are regular dialogue with the local community and, above all, sustainable management of energy, water, chemicals and waste.



We are proud to be the first hotel in Switzerland to receive the Travelife Gold Award for outstanding efforts in the interests of sustainability. The award was renewed for another 3 years in 2012 and in 2015.

Grindelwald respects nature

As mentioned above, in 2010 Grindelwald built a wood-fired heat/power cogeneration plant which runs on waste wood from sawmills and construction sites as well as storm-felled wood from our forests. The idea was put forward by hotelier groups. Starting in summer 2011, the wood-fired plant has been running at its full capacity of 6'000 kilowatts, enabling annual savings of 1,6 million tonnes of heating oil and 4'300 tonnes of CO₂.

In summer 2009, Grindelwald and its neighbouring municipalities of Lauterbrunnen, Lüt-schental and Gündlischwand signed a climate charter for voluntary climate protection, to conserve the region's habitat and economic viability.

In this context, the «Jungfrau Climate Guide», consisting of seven climate trails and designed by the University of Berne, was inaugurated on Climate Day. Using a GPS iPhone, visitors can walk these hiking trails and learn all about climate change.

As a guest you can also play your part in conserving Grindelwald's nature:

In the Hotel:

- ✓ Please do not leave water running unnecessarily and reuse your towels whenever possible.
- ✓ Please do not leave the windows open with turned up heating.

Outside the Hotel:

- ✓ Please do not leave any waste lying around outside.
- ✓ Use the designated litter bins or take your waste back to the hotel and dispose of it here. We will make sure it is separated and disposed of accordingly.
- ✓ When hiking and skiing, please do not leave the designated paths and slopes and respect the specially-marked wildlife zones.

Help us to take care of our environment!

Many thanks for your cooperation
Urs-B. Hauser, family & co-hosts