Laguna Lodge Eco-Resort & Nature Reserve
Guatemala

Laguna Lodge Eco-Resort & Nature Reserve breaks a lot of the unwritten ‘rules’ of luxury hospitality. The Guatemalan ecolodge may have been voted one of the world’s 25 best lodges by *National Geographic Travel* in 2013. But what truly sets it apart is that, despite the fact that 95% of its guests are omnivores, Laguna doesn’t serve any meat or fish.

This dramatic move, along with many others, is part of its efforts to reduce carbon emissions. There are 180 solar panels producing 20Kw of continuous power. The website is hosted on a carbon neutral server. Wifi is provided by solar power. Even the clocks in the guest rooms are powered by water.

While reducing its own environmental impact, the lodge also ensures it has a positive footprint on the communities and environment around it. 100% of their staff is indigenous Mayan, of which 50% are women. All of them receive training in hospitality skills as well as a more general further education.

Laguna also donates stays at the lodge to health professionals in return for them providing consultations and treatments to members of the local community. The lodge provides transportation and after care for local people where necessary, and sends meals for the very ill/elderly.

While helping out its community, it also works hard to protect the Laguna Nature Reserve, home to many endemic and near-threatened species. Native seedlings are planted in the lodge grounds, and proceeds from admissions are put back into the reserve for the maintenance of trails, limiting invasive species, training of guides and protecting flora and fauna.

By showing such a thorough and systematic approach to sustainability, Laguna Lodge ensures that guests may not get to eat meat during their stay, but they will certainly go home with plenty of food for thought.

To learn more about Laguna Lodge Eco-Resort & Nature Reserve and the Tourism for Tomorrow Awards please visit: [http://www.wttc.org/tourism-for-tomorrow-awards/](http://www.wttc.org/tourism-for-tomorrow-awards/)