



# Methodology Report for www.travelandclimate.org

Version 3.0

The screenshot shows the 'TRAVEL & CLIMATE' website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a logo and the text 'TRAVEL & CLIMATE'. Below this, there are two tabs: 'Calculate trip footprint' (active) and 'Tourism & sustainability'. The main content area is a light blue box containing a form with the following text: 'We are 2 poeple going on a return trip from Gothenburg to Paris, France for a 4 night stay'. Below the form is a large button labeled 'CALCULATE ↓'.

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# 1 Background and introduction

Tourism is one of the fastest growing industries in the world. From having once been an activity for the rich and privileged, tourism and travel today are part of the everyday lives of the growing middle class in the world. Since the start of mass tourism in the 1960s, the number of tourists has doubled many times over. This rise in tourism has brought economic growth and positive social and cultural exchanges, but a number of sustainability challenges from tourism have also been highlighted in the media and by researchers: polluted seas, deforestation and soil erosion, littering, prostitution, displacement of local populations, and greenhouse gas emissions (Mowforth and Munt, 2015). The last challenge, in particular, has attracted increasing focus. The tourism industry is dependent on (air) travel. Flights account for 60-95% of the climate footprint of tourism, and growth in tourism goes hand in hand with more flights (Gössling et al., 2005). In 2017, air travel by Swedish residents had almost the same climate impact as all passenger vehicle traffic in Sweden (Kamb et al., 2018). The symbiotic relationship between air travel and tourism has created a clear goal conflict as destinations are investing more and more in trying to attract international tourists while there is simultaneous pressure on them to reduce their climate footprint.

The background to this report is the Travel and Climate initiative (in Swedish, *Klimatsmart semester*). Its aim is to help make tourism more sustainable by developing a digital platform with tools and knowledge content that can help people to holiday with a smaller climate footprint. It also aims to assist the tourism industry's sustainability efforts. The low carbon holidays and travel network is behind the initiative. This network brings together researchers, public sector organisations and tourism actors in Sweden to jointly address the contribution of tourism to climate change. The network is run by the Centre for Tourism at the University of Gothenburg. This initiative has received funding from Region Västra Götaland, the West Sweden Tourist Board, the City of Gothenburg, the Centre for Tourism at the University of Gothenburg, Chalmers University of Technology, Mistra Sustainable Consumption, and the Swedish Energy Agency.

As part of this initiative, a web-based tool for calculating the climate footprint of holiday trips has been developed: [www.klimatsmartsemester.se](http://www.klimatsmartsemester.se) and its counterpart in English [www.travelandclimate.org](http://www.travelandclimate.org). The trip calculator created in this project is unique in its kind as it calculates the environmental impact of different modes of transport (e.g., air/train/ferry/bus/different types of cars) and a range of accommodation choices. The calculations are based on scientifically produced data, including from our own previous studies, and on life-cycle analyses carried out by other researchers and organisations. The digital platform also provides tips on low carbon travel to inspire users to make more sustainable choices.

The principal for the initiative and the website is the Centre for Tourism at the University of Gothenburg, where Erik Lundberg is the project manager. Fredrik Warberg has been the project manager for the development work. The trip calculator was originally developed in 2018 and continues to be developed with the aim of being updated with the latest statistics and data from scientific analyses. Jörgen Larsson, docent in sustainable consumption and senior researcher at Chalmers University of Technology, and Anneli Kamb, doctoral student at KTH Royal Institute of Technology, chose the methodology and are responsible for the figures on which the calculator is based, and wrote this methodology report. Jonas Åkerman, Researcher at KTH, fact-checked

this report. Work on version 3.0 was funded by the Swedish Energy Agency (project Climate-smart holiday trips) and by the research programme Mistra Sustainable Consumption.

## 2 General assumptions and system boundaries

In order to calculate the climate footprint from different options, we have had to make many assumptions and choices with regard to system boundaries. The general assumptions that affect many the different modes of transport/accommodation choices are described below. Assumptions that only relate to one mode of transport/accommodation choice are described in their respective sections in the relevant chapter 3.

### 2.1 Emissions from fuels are included – but not from vehicles & infrastructure

The calculated emissions cover the emissions from the entire lifecycle of fuels, i.e., from the production, distribution and use of fuels, but not the emissions from the production and maintenance of vehicles (cars, trains, aircraft, etc.) nor from their infrastructure (roads, airports, railways, ports).

The markup for the production and distribution of fossil fuels for cars and buses is based on the Swedish Energy Agency's calculations; however the Agency does not provide specific figures for this (Energimyndigheten, 2021, page 19). In previous reports, they have reported the figure of 20% as the markup for fossil fuels (Energimyndigheten, 2018), which is at the same level as reported by Knörr and Hüttermann (2016) and Edwards et al. (2014). We have used a markup of 24% for the production and distribution of aviation fuel (SOU 2019:11)<sup>1</sup>.

Different calculations of the emissions from the production and distribution of fuel produce different results. Lifecycle analyses of fuel production in Sweden have shown lower emissions than the European average, the differences being due to how the refinery allocates emissions to its various products, assumptions about gas flaring, refinery technologies, and the choice of system boundaries, among other things (Eriksson and Ahlgren, 2013). The baseline for pure fossil fuel as reported by the European Commission (Energimyndigheten, 2018) is higher than the 20% that we assume, while other sources report figures below 20% (Gode et al., 2011).

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<sup>1</sup> However, different lifecycle analyses give different results depending on, for example, system boundaries and how the emissions from the refinery are allocated, where a Swedish approach typically results in lower emissions than a European approach (Eriksson & Ahlgren, 2013). An average of two Swedish refineries gave a markup of about 8.3% for the production and distribution of aviation fuel (Gode et al., 2011). A comparison of different allocation models for the emissions from an average European refinery (the one used in EU legislation), instead gave a 23–27% markup depending on the choice of model (Moretti et al., 2017). Unnasch and Riffel (2015) report similar figures based on a comparison between different studies. Since much of the fuel used in aircraft in which that Swedish residents travel in comes from refineries outside Sweden, we believe that 24% is a reasonable figure to use.

## 2.2 Climate footprint from electricity

Electricity is used for trains, electric cars and in accommodation, and we describe in this section how the calculations were made for the emissions caused by electricity based on where it is consumed.

Some companies buy green or eco-labelled electricity (e.g. some railway companies) and based on that they report very low emissions. However, we do not deem this to be reasonable, since paying extra for this does not have any effect on emissions in the real world. This view is also described in a report from the IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute (Gode et al., 2009, p 8) where they argue that the same mix of electricity sources will in fact be used, regardless of whether the customer made this choice or not. It is said that there is no additionality linked to the customer's active choices. This means that the purchase of renewable electricity does not entail any short-term real improvements in the environment, nor does it have any direct impact on the development of the electricity system. One reason for this is that the supply of hydropower in the Nordic energy market is much greater than the demand for green electricity. Another reason is that decisions on investments in new wind power, for example, are primarily influenced by trends in production costs and what the current policy instruments are.

Emissions from the electricity consumed are instead based on the average emissions for the Nordic electricity market as a whole. These emissions are calculated, according to a SMED report commissioned by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, at 90 gCO<sub>2e</sub>/kWh (Sandgren and Nilsson, 2021). This figure refers to average emissions from electricity consumed in the Nordic electricity market during 2017–2019, taking into account imports and exports of electricity from and to neighbouring countries. Emissions from electricity consumption in the rest of Europe are estimated at 301 gCO<sub>2e</sub>/kWh (Larsson et al., 2021, p 56). These figures refer to an average for emissions from different energy types within each geographical area, and also include upstream emissions as well as transmission losses.

## 2.3 Climate footprint from biofuels

There has been controversy for some time over the climate footprint that should be attributed to the use of biofuels, which is evident from the breadth of articles published in scientific journals and in the Swedish and international media, as well as in policy positions within the EU. One position is that biofuels have a very low climate impact and that they are a key part of the solution to the climate issue. The Swedish Energy Agency's annual report on fuels reflects this position (Energimyndigheten, 2021).

Another position is that a global switch to biofuels is neither possible nor desirable, and this position emphasises the potential threat to biodiversity and the questionable climate benefits. Analyses that include changes in land use have shown that crop-based biofuels can even have a greater impact on the climate than fossil fuels (Searchinger et al., 2018).

The climate impact of biofuels is affected not only by the choice of system boundaries (e.g., whether changes in land use are included or not) but also by the feedstocks used in the fuels analysed, such as whether they constitute residue flows or cultivated crops. The Swedish Energy Agency (2021) reports on the feedstocks used for producing the biofuels used in Sweden. For biodiesel, residue flows are mainly used (e.g., slaughterhouse waste accounts for 72% of the feedstock), but also a small proportion of palm oil/PFAD (10% of the feedstock). For

the production of ethanol, maize, wheat and sugar beet are mainly used. These figures refer to 2020 and change from year to year.

In the trip calculator on the Travel and Climate initiative website, we use figures from the Swedish Energy Agency's annual report on greenhouse gas emissions from different fuels, and these form the basis for calculating emissions from cars and buses (Energimyndigheten, 2021, pages 21-22). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the exhaust pipe are counted as zero and the emissions that are taken into account are those that occur in the production of biofuels. According to the Swedish Energy Agency, the climate impact is 56% lower for E85 than for standard petrol, and 73% lower for HVO100 compared to standard diesel.

### 3 Transport mode – calculations of emissions

In the holiday trip calculator, you can choose between several different modes of transport. By default, four options are presented for the user to choose from; train/bus, diesel car, electric car and air travel (see Figure 1). This figure shows what the emissions would be from each mode of transport to the chosen destination. These emissions are based on the default options for the size of vehicle or fuel used, for example. You can also make your own choices if you plan to make the trip in a different sized car or in a car that runs on biofuel. In addition, the “Custom” option allows you to create your own combination of different modes of transport for different legs of your trip.

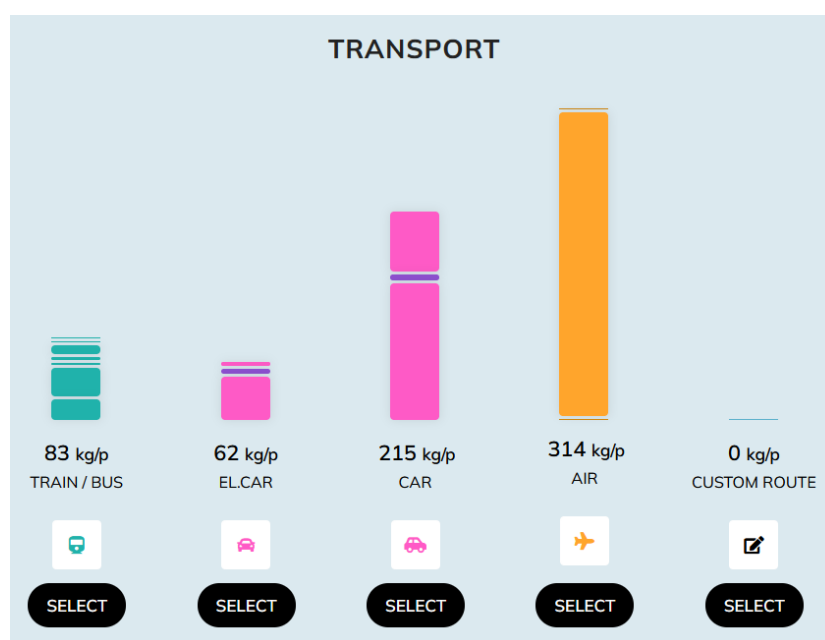


Figure 1 The different modes of transport in the holiday trip calculator.

Table 1 below summarises the most common emission factors used in the calculator. This is followed by a section for each mode of transport describing the method behind it and presenting more options for fuels (for example, there are a total of 32 options for cars).

*Table 1 Summary of emission factors for different modes of transport.  
Car emissions are divided by 3, which is the average number of persons for trips of over 30 km\**

Transport mode	gCO <sub>2</sub> e/pkm*	grams CO <sub>2</sub> /km/vehicle
Electric car (Nordic countries)	5	14
Electric car (Europe)	15	45
Petrol small car	42	127
Diesel car	46	137
Diesel big car	60	181
Camper/caravan diesel	89	268
Scheduled flight (Economy)	133	-
Charter (Economy)	118	-
Scheduled flight (Business)	298	-
Electric train (Nordic countries)	7	-
Electric train (Europe)	24	-
Diesel train	91	-
Bus, standard diesel	25	-
Bus biodiesel 100%	7	-
Ferry	226	-

\*Own calculations based on the Swedish National Travel Survey 2011-2016 (RVU 1116 Sweden) (Trafikanalys, 2017).

### 3.1 Car

The emissions per passenger km when you drive a car vary greatly depending on the size of the car, the fuel used and the number of people in the car. There are two bars that show emissions from cars in the trip calculator – one for electric cars and one for combustion engine cars, where the default choice is diesel. For both, a medium-sized vehicle is the default choice. The user can also fill in the number of people on the trip, which is then used to calculate the emissions per passenger km.

To be able to present emissions calculations that reflect as accurately as possible the holiday trip the user is planning, we have developed emission factors for a range of fuel and car size combinations. The emissions calculations use data from the Swedish Energy Agency's annual report "Fuels 2020" (Energimyndigheten, 2021) which updates well-to-wheel figures for all fuels annually. The figures include emissions from the extraction, production and distribution of the fuels, but not emissions from the production of vehicles and their infrastructure (see Section 2).

The emissions of a medium-sized diesel car are estimated at 137gCO<sub>2</sub>/km. This figure is derived from standardised driving cycles based on the new and more realistic metric known as Worldwide Harmonised Light Vehicles Test Procedure (WLTP) (Energimyndigheten, 2021, p

21), and not the previous New European Driving Cycle (NEDC), which greatly underestimated emissions in relation to actual driving (Trafikverket, 2021, p 5). Figures for other fuels are given in Table 2 below.

A markup of 34% has been applied for big cars as a weighted average for big petrol and diesel cars compared to medium-sized petrol and diesel cars. Small cars are almost always petrol cars. These are assumed to use an average of 24% less energy than medium-sized petrol cars. Campers/caravans are assumed to use 96% more fuel than a medium-sized car<sup>2</sup>.

*Table 2 Grams CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per vehicle per kilometre*

	Petrol	Diesel	Biodiesel/ HVO <sup>d)</sup>	Electric (Nordic) <sup>a)</sup>	Electric (Europe) <sup>a)</sup>	Natural gas <sup>b)</sup>	Biogas <sup>d)</sup>	Blend natural/ biogas <sup>c)</sup>	Ethanol E85 <sup>d)</sup>
Small car	127	104	28	11	34	137	19	20	56
Car	167	137	37	14	45	181	26	27	74
Big car/7 seater	220	181	49	18	60	238	34	36	98
Camper	327	267	72	27	88	353	50	53	145

<sup>a)</sup> For the calculation of emissions from electricity use, see Section 2.2.

<sup>b)</sup> The main fuel used abroad is natural gas (Source: [miljöfordon.se](http://miljöfordon.se))

<sup>c)</sup> Blend of biogas 95% and natural gas 5%, average for sold gas for cars in Sweden 2021. (Source: [Energigas Sverige](http://Energigas Sverige))

<sup>d)</sup> For the calculation of emissions from biofuels, see Section 2.3.

The emission factors in Table 2 are used in the holiday trip calculator, and these are divided by the number of persons entered for the planned trip. In cases where the number of persons exceeds five, it is assumed that the group will travel in more than one car. The number of cars is calculated by dividing the number of people by five and rounding up, i.e., if the group is six to ten people, they are assumed to be travelling in two cars, 11 to 15 people are assumed to be travelling in three cars, etc. If the user chooses a 7-seater car, the same method is used, but the calculation is based on seven people per car instead.

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<sup>2</sup> Data for our figures regarding car size were obtained from the IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute, which makes analyses based on the Handbook Emission Factors for Road Transport (HBEFA) model, which includes statistics for all road transport in Sweden. The figures were produced with the help of Martin Jerksjö of the IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute. In the statistics from the Swedish Energy Agency, the term "average car" is used for each fuel type. We have assumed that this is the same as a medium-sized car. Seven-seater cars are assumed to have the same emissions as other big cars. Campers are not included in the HBEFA model. This estimate is based on the average total weight of campers (later models) taken from the motor vehicle register and on vehicles with an equivalent weight in the HBEFA model. Caravans are also not included in the HBEFA model. The difference in emissions between a medium-sized car and a car with a caravan on the one hand, and a medium-sized car and a camper on the other, is roughly the same (Hammarström, 1999).



## 3.2 Train

Trains that run on electricity in Sweden and the rest of Europe generate considerably lower emissions than diesel trains. All of 80% of rail travel (pkm) in Europe is by electric train (IEA, 2019, p 50) and therefore this is the default choice in the holiday trip calculator. For travel in Sweden/Norway/Finland, the emission factor for trains is 7 grams CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents per passenger km (abbreviated throughout as g CO<sub>2</sub>e/pkm). The corresponding figure for the rest of Europe (including Denmark<sup>3</sup>) is 24 gCO<sub>2</sub>e/pkm. The calculation is based on an energy consumption of 81 Wh/pkm<sup>4</sup>. The fact that emissions are higher for electric trains in Europe compared to Sweden is related to how the electricity is produced (see Section 2.2). We do not take into account that some companies in Sweden and other countries use eco-labelled electricity (see Section 2.2.)

However, there are quite a number of diesel trains and if you know that a leg of your trip involves travel by diesel train, this type of train can be selected in the trip calculator. For diesel trains, an emission factor of 91 g CO<sub>2</sub>e/pkm is used (Knörr and Hüttermann, 2016). There are country-level statistics on the share of train travel (not the share of pkm) by diesel train: Sweden 4%, Finland 8% Norway 36%<sup>5</sup>, Denmark 58%, France 23%, Austria 32% and Italy 52% (Eurostat, 2017). For the rest of the world, it may be relevant to mention that the Trans-Siberian railway is electrified<sup>6</sup>. Non-electrified railway lines are mostly used for local trains (Bundesnetzagentur, 2019). For journeys that include a leg by train in Sweden/Norway/Finland as well as the rest of Europe, train legs that have either their origin or destination in the Nordic countries are counted as being by *Electric train (Nordic countries)*, while other train legs are counted as being by *Electric train (Europe)* in the calculator.

Table 3 Summary of emission factors for different types of trains.

Transport mode	gCO <sub>2</sub> /pkm
Electric train (Nordic countries)	7
Electric train (Europe) <sup>a)</sup>	24
Diesel train	91

<sup>a)</sup> Default choice in the calculator.

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<sup>3</sup> Trains operating between Copenhagen and Germany are currently diesel trains. DSB has stated, however, that due to their high occupancy rates and few stops, these trains (IC3) generate only 21 gCO<sub>2</sub>/pkm [www.dsb.dk/om-dsb/samfundsansvar/miljo/fakta-om-miljoet](http://www.dsb.dk/om-dsb/samfundsansvar/miljo/fakta-om-miljoet). We have therefore used the same emission factor for Denmark as for the rest of the EU.

<sup>4</sup> Based on SJ's average for its entire train fleet and with average occupancy. However, many holiday trips in Sweden and abroad are made in high-speed trains with high occupancy rates. For the X2000, SJ reports a lower energy consumption (50 Wh/pkm). For trains in Europe, the energy consumption data states from 38 to 52 Wh/pkm (Source: [Project FINE1](#), page 19). On the other hand, some holiday trips are made in night trains and these have a higher energy consumption per passenger because there are roughly half the number of places per carriage (Source: [European Parliament](#), page 25). We estimate that the figure of 81 Wh reflects well a reasonable average for holiday trips. It is also close to a figure for the European average of 87 Wh (Knörr and Hüttermann, 2016).

<sup>5</sup> There are two longer stretches of railway line in northern and eastern Norway that are not electrified (Source: [Wikipedia](#)).

<sup>6</sup> Emissions from electricity production in Russia are roughly as high as those in the EU. In 2020, they were 314 gCO<sub>2</sub>/kWh (Sources: [Climate transparency](#), [Wikipedia](#)).

### 3.3 Bus

The emissions per pkm for bus legs of a trip depend mainly on the occupancy rate of the bus and the fuel used. The default choice in the emissions calculator is that the bus runs on a blend of fossil and bio-based diesel in accordance with the reduction obligation, which for 2021 was that the emissions must be 26% lower than for fossil-based diesel (Source: Swedish Energy Agency 2021, p 21). The emissions calculation is based on the assumption that the average number of bus passengers is 28, and with an average fuel consumption of 26 litres per 100 km (Sveriges Bussföretag, 2022). This translates into emissions of 25 gCO<sub>2</sub>e/pkm.<sup>7</sup> In countries with no or lower biofuel blend-in mandates this emission factor is an underestimation. If you know that you will be travelling on a bus running on 100% biodiesel (HVO100) then you can choose this in the calculator. The emission factor for this is estimated at 7 gCO<sub>2</sub>/pkm (see Section 2.3).

### 3.4 Ferry

As with the other modes of transport, emissions per pkm may vary depending on many factors. One important factor is the speed of the ferry. High-speed ferries (used for some trips to Gotland, for example) use twice as much energy per pkm as conventional ferries (Åkerman et al., 2007). However, these high-speed ferries account for a small proportion of the total volume of ferry traffic in Swedish waters.

When calculating the emissions from ferry traffic, you need to choose a principle for allocating the total emissions between the two main types of services sold by ferry companies: transport of passengers and transport of goods (freight). Unfortunately, different ferry companies have chosen to use different principles, making it difficult to compare them

The principle that we use, which we find to be the most accurate, is *financial allocation*. Here, emissions are divided between passengers and freight based on their share of the ferry company's income from passengers and freight. The logic behind this is that it is the revenue of the ferry companies that drives their ongoing operations and that it is therefore reasonable that the proportions from their revenue are used to distribute the emissions. For example, if 70% of their revenue comes from passengers and 30% from freight, 70% of the emissions are allocated to passengers and 30% to freight.

As far as we know, financial allocation has not been applied in the past for Swedish ferry companies. We have therefore worked with Viking Line and Stena Line and calculated emissions per pkm for them based on the principle of financial allocation<sup>8</sup>. The results for each ferry line are in the range of 200–300 gCO<sub>2</sub>/pkm. A weighted average is 226 grams, and this is the figure used for all ferry travel in <https://www.travelandclimate.org>. The figure of 226 grams is an average for passengers travelling with a car and those not travelling with a car. This figure is not relevant for high-speed ferries as they generate much higher emissions.

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<sup>7</sup> The calculation is:  $(275 \cdot 10 \cdot 0,26) / 28 = 25$ ; 275 gCO<sub>2</sub>e/kWh diesel, 10 kWh/litre, 0.26 litres per km, 28 people on the bus.

<sup>8</sup> This information has been obtained through personal communications with Dani Lindberg at Viking Line and Dinis Oliveira at Stena Line.

Another allocation principle is the *area method*, where emissions are allocated between passengers and freight based on the space they take up on the ferry. This method is used in the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency's tool for measuring the climate footprint of travel (Wisell and Jivén, 2020)<sup>9</sup>. It reports average emissions for 7 different ferry lines (not high-speed ferries) as 274 gCO<sub>2</sub>/pkm<sup>10</sup>. Other estimates of emissions from ferries (which also use the area method) have been somewhat lower than in the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency's tool for measuring the climate footprint of travel<sup>11</sup> (Åkerman, 2012, Lenner, 1993). Gotlandsbolaget (a ferry company) instead uses the *weight method* for allocating emissions between passengers and freight. This allocation method results in comparatively very low emissions: 40 gCO<sub>2</sub>/pkm (excluding high-speed ferries)<sup>12</sup>.

### 3.5 Air travel

As with other modes of transport, the emissions of a flight depend on a number of factors. Emissions per pkm vary depending on the aircraft model, distance, flight altitude, number of seats in the aircraft and the occupancy rate, for example. We have taken some of these into account in the calculator by allowing the user to make a number of choices.

The default option is for a *Scheduled flight (Economy)* with emissions of approximately 133 gCO<sub>2</sub>e/pkm. This figure is based on a calculation of the global average for 2017 and it has then been assumed that the historical rate of reduction (through energy efficiencies and rising capacity utilisation in the plane) of 1.9% per year has continued (Kamb et al., 2018). The figure of 133 grams includes the combustion of aviation fuel (69 grams), high altitude effects (equivalent to 48 grams; see Section 2.2.1) and emissions from the extraction and refining of aviation fuel (16 grams; see Section 2.1). The figure of 133 gCO<sub>2</sub>e/pkm is also the basis for the flight emissions map illustration on [www.klimatsmartsemester.se](http://www.klimatsmartsemester.se) (which can also be found at [www.flightemissionmap.org](http://www.flightemissionmap.org)).

In the trip calculator, the user can choose between several different options. To start with, they can choose different types of flights. Charter companies typically have higher occupancy rates than other airlines, resulting in lower emissions. This is why the *Charter* option is available, and is based on average emissions of 118 gCO<sub>2</sub>/pkm (Economy class)<sup>13</sup> (Thomas Cook Airlines, 2019, TUI GROUP, 2017).

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<sup>9</sup> See page 21 of Wisell and Jivén, 2020. However, the figures themselves are not in the report, but in an Excel file "calculation tool for transport emissions" which is available on the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency [website](#).

<sup>10</sup> This does not include cars accompanying passengers on ferries. To include a car, according to their results, you need to add approximately 500 gCO<sub>2</sub>/km.

<sup>11</sup> In 1993, Lenner arrived at 200 gCO<sub>2</sub>/pkm, and in 2012 Åkerman estimated 170 grams.

<sup>12</sup> Nynäshamn – Visby 6.3 kg CO<sub>2</sub>. Source: [Destination Gotland](#).

<sup>13</sup> These two sources specify 67 g CO<sub>2</sub>/pkm for 2017, but this refers to per km of *actual distance travelled*, i.e., including holding patterns due to congestion in the airspace around airports, for example. The actual distance travelled by the flight is therefore longer than the great-circle distance and the emission factor is thus lower in this case than if the great-circle distance had been used. Since we have used the great-circle distance in other emission factors, we have adjusted the figure up by 3% to 69 gCO<sub>2</sub>/pkm so it can be compared with other emission factors.

In addition, emissions per pkm are significantly affected by the seat class chosen by the passenger (Miyoshi and Mason, 2009). Since premium economy and business class seats take up more floor space in an aircraft, fewer passengers can be carried on each flight. Therefore, premium economy and business class passengers should account for a larger share of emissions per passenger. In a review of ten standard airlines, we calculated that an average business seat takes up 2.2 times more space than an economy seat, and a premium economy seat takes up 1.2 times more space<sup>14</sup>. If we also take into account the distribution between the number of passengers in each class (Bofinger and Strand, 2013), we can adjust the emissions of each seat class compared to those of the average passenger, as shown in Tabell 4.

*Table 4 Seat Class Index.*

	Economy	Premium economy	Business
Scheduled	0.84 <sup>a)</sup>	1.0	1.9
Charter	0.97	1.2	-

<sup>a)</sup> Default choice in the calculator.

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The table below shows the outcome of the different flight options. It is clear here that the flight options chosen play a major role for emissions.

*Table 5 Emission factors for different flight options in gCO<sub>2</sub>e/pkm.*

Type	Seat class		
	Economy	Premium economy	Business
Scheduled	133 <sup>a)</sup>	162	298
Charter	118	144	-

<sup>a)</sup> Default choice in the calculator.

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The distance of the trip is calculated using the Google Maps API, which calculates the great-circle distance<sup>15</sup>. Emissions for the trip are then calculated by multiplying the distance by the selected emission factor. The emissions per trip will then be:

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Here, too, it has been assumed that the rate of reduction has continued at the historical rate of 1.9% per year, as well as markups for non-CO<sub>2</sub> effects and emissions from the extraction/refining of the fuel.

<sup>14</sup> Review of a number of aircraft models on [Seatguru](http://Seatguru) for the following airlines: Norwegian Air Shuttle, SAS, KLM, Swiss, Austrian, Brussels Airlines, United, American Airlines, Lufthansa and Thomas Cook Airlines.

<sup>15</sup> The Great-circle distance (GCD) is defined as the shortest distance between two points, using coordinates (lat1, long1) and (lat2, long2), on the surface of a sphere. The formula used is:  $GCD = R \cos^{-1}[\sin(\text{lat1})\sin(\text{lat2}) + \cos(\text{lat1})\cos(\text{lat2})\cos(\text{long1}-\text{long2})]$ , where R is the radius of the Earth. R = 6371.01 km. In some calculators, 50 km is used to take account of the holding patterns that aircraft fly around airports, for example, but since the global emission factor we apply is calculated based on the great-circle distance, we do not add any extra distance because the emissions of the trip would then be overestimated.

$$\begin{aligned}
U_{WTW}^{CO_2e}(x) &= u_{TTW}^{CO_2} (1 + HF + u_{WT}) \cdot k_i \cdot x \text{ [kg CO}_2\text{ekv]} \\
&= 1,94 \cdot u_{TTW}^{CO_2} \cdot k_i \cdot x \text{ [kg CO}_2\text{ekv]}
\end{aligned}$$

where:

$$u_{TTW}^{CO_2} = \begin{cases} 0,082 & (\text{reguljärt}) \\ 0,063 & (\text{charter}) \end{cases}, (\text{utsläpp vid förbränning, Tank to Wheel}) \left[ \frac{\text{kg CO}_2}{\text{pkm}} \right]$$

$$u_{WT} = 24\% \text{ (utsläpp från bränsleproduktion, Well to Tank)}$$

$$HF = 0,7 \text{ (höghöjdseffekter)} \left[ \frac{\text{kg CO}_2\text{ekv}}{\text{kg CO}_2} \right]$$

$$k_r = \begin{cases} 0,84 & (\text{economy}) \\ 1,0 & (\text{economy premium}) \\ 1,9 & (\text{reguljärt business}) \end{cases}, (\text{sätesklass reguljärt})$$

$$k_c = \begin{cases} 0,97 & (\text{economy}) \\ 1,2 & (\text{economy premium}) \end{cases}, (\text{sätesklass charter})$$

$$x = \text{storcirkelavståndet [km]}$$

The emissions for flights include transfers on the ground, i.e., the journey to the departure airport and from the arrival airport to the final destination. The distance to the airport is calculated based on the distance between the departure point (place of residence) and the nearest airport. Transfers from the arrival airport to the final destination are calculated in the same way. To make things simpler, a standard figure for emissions per kilometre has been used. The standard figure is 44 gCO<sub>2</sub>/pkm, which is an average between bus and car travel (counting two people in the car).

### 3.5.1 Climate impact from fuel production and from the non-CO<sub>2</sub> effects

Emissions arising from the production of the fuel used are included in all the modes of transport in the holiday trip calculator, including emissions from the production of electricity for trains and the production of petrol/diesel for cars. To also count this for aviation fuel, we used a markup of 24% on the emissions resulting from combustion (see Section 2.1).

Since our flight's emissions occur at high altitudes, there are climatic effects in addition to CO<sub>2</sub> to take into account, such as the contrails formed when warm, moisture-rich aircraft exhaust gases encounter the ambient cold air at high altitudes and form ice crystals (Azar and Johansson, 2012, Lee et al., 2021)<sup>16</sup>. Under certain conditions, the contrails from a flight can persist for several hours; under other conditions they disappear within a few minutes. Only the persistent ones are important to consider in terms of climate impact. In addition, the emissions of the flight can increase the formation of high cirrus clouds, mainly as a result of persistent contrails developing into cirrus clouds. In addition, there are other warming effects in the form of emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOX), for example. We can simply call all of these 'non-CO<sub>2</sub> effects'.

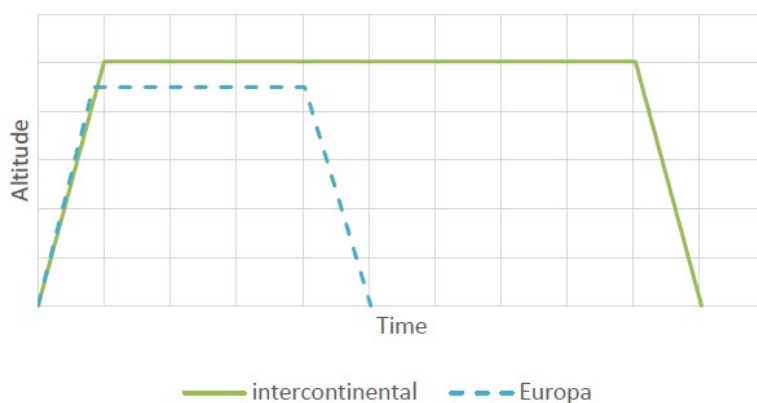
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<sup>16</sup> Greenhouse gas emissions other than CO<sub>2</sub> also result from other modes of transport, but these effects are on average considerably smaller than for aviation and therefore do not significantly affect the model PETERS, G. P., AAMAAS, B., T. LUND, M., SOLLI, C. & FUGLESTVEDT, J. S. 2011. Alternative "global warming" metrics in life cycle assessment: a case study with existing transportation data. *Environmental science & technology*, 45, 8633-8641..

There is uncertainty surrounding how great these non-CO<sub>2</sub> effects are, and the scientific understanding is different for each of the different mechanisms involved in non-CO<sub>2</sub> effects. We have not made our own evaluation of the state of the science in this area, but have relied on the assessments made by the IPCC (Boucher et al., 2013) and Lee, et al. (2021).

In a number of flight calculators, the Radiative Forcing Index (RFI) is used to take these non-CO<sub>2</sub> effects into account; usually the IPCC estimate for 1992 is used with an RFI of 2.7 (IPCC, 1999). The problem with the RFI is that it reflects current climate impacts from historical emissions rather than future climate impacts from current emissions, which is what we are interested in. Because of this, the use of RFI for aviation is, according to Fuglestvedt et al. (2010), wrong. They believe that Global Warming Potential (GWP) is a better index as it measures the future climate impact of current emissions. However, the IPCC does not report a figure for GWP. We have therefore chosen to use the most well-established scientific estimate which is, measured using GWP100<sup>17</sup>, that the aggregate climate effect is about 1.7 times higher than the effect of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions alone (Lee et al., 2021).

The non-CO<sub>2</sub> effects of a specific flight vary greatly depending on the length of the flight, the season, the weather conditions, and time of day for example, and can be both higher and lower than the markup of 1.7 that we have used. However, it can be said with certainty (Miljöförbundet Jordens Vänner, 1997) that for shorter flights it is on average lower, because the aircraft does not reach a sufficiently high altitude, or spends only a small proportion of the flight time there. This means that a markup of 1.7 is an overestimation for short flights (Fichter et al., 2005). Analogously, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions should have a higher markup for the longest flights for the global average to end up at 1.7. Of course, it would be desirable to at least consider the length of the flight when applying a markup from CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, but as far as we know there is no sound formula to do this. Figure 2 illustrates how two different flights might look, where the shorter European flight spends a smaller proportion of the time at high altitude compared to the intercontinental flight.



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<sup>17</sup> Global Warming Potential with 100-year horizon.

*Figure 2 Illustration of the altitude profiles of two flights.  
Note that this is an illustration and not based on actual altitude data.*

What is also particular for air travel, compared to other modes of transport, is that the take-off (the start of the trip) is more energy-intensive than flying at a constant altitude. As a result, emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> per pkm are typically higher for short flights, because the take-off represents a larger proportion of its total emissions. Thus, since emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> per pkm typically decrease with distance, and the effects of non-CO<sub>2</sub> emissions increase with distance, these two effects largely cancel each other out.

non-CO<sub>2</sub> effects come primarily from jet planes when they fly at the altitudes where these effects arise most frequently. Propeller (turboprop) planes typically do not fly at high enough altitudes to cause high altitude effects, as they are primarily used for distances below 500 km (Amizadeh et al., 2016). However, these short flights are likely to cause higher CO<sub>2</sub> emissions than the global average, as their energy-intensive take-offs increase their average fuel consumption for shorter distances.

### 3.5.2 Comparison of emissions calculators

In order to assess the outcome of the model used in [www.travelandclimate.org/](http://www.travelandclimate.org/), we have compared it to the carbon emissions calculator used by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)<sup>18</sup>. To compare the calculators, only carbon emissions during combustion are included; thus, we have excluded the climate footprint of fuel production and air travel's non-CO<sub>2</sub> effects, since the ICAO does not include these in its calculator.

The comparison was presented in its entirety in an earlier version of this methodology report (Larsson and Kamb 2019). To sum up, our model results in essentially the same levels of estimated emissions as the average obtained from the ICAO carbon emissions calculator. If the ICAO were to include the climate impact of fuel production and the non-CO<sub>2</sub> effects of flights, their average emissions would be roughly the same as the figures used in [www.travelandclimate.org](http://www.travelandclimate.org/).<sup>19</sup> However, emissions from the ICAO calculator vary considerably between routes, which is probably due, among other things, to the types of aircraft used and the distance of each route.

## 4 Accommodation – calculations of emissions

The impact of climate change per guest night (one overnight stay in accommodation by one person) depends on a variety of factors. It is easy to think that a large luxury hotel will always have a greater climate footprint and that a smaller establishment providing less fancy accommodation automatically has a smaller climate footprint. But that is not necessarily the case. While it is likely that accommodation with more surface area uses more energy per guest night, how the premises are heated, and the type of energy used often plays an even greater role

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<sup>18</sup> [ICAO](http://www.icao.int/) is a UN special body for civil aviation.

<sup>19</sup> The figures in the ICAO carbon emissions calculator for long-haul flights are very low, around 50 gCO<sub>2</sub>/pkm. However, in principle, the non-CO<sub>2</sub> effects are greater on long-haul flights, which means that the overall climate impact is about the same as for average flights.

for its climate footprint. For example, a more luxurious hotel can have a small climate footprint if they heat their establishment with biofuel-based district heating and produce their own solar power. Similarly, a youth hostel or rented cottage can have a big climate footprint if they are heated with an oil-fired boiler, for example.

In addition, the occupancy rate of the establishment affects the climate impact per guest night. For example, an establishment that only has guests during the summer season, but is heated even during the winter, will have a higher energy consumption and bigger climate footprint per guest night than one with many guests all year round.

The calculation of the emissions from accommodation in the holiday trip calculator includes the climate footprint of heating, the electricity used to power the building's always-on systems, hot water and laundry (whether it is done by the accommodation establishment itself or purchased as a service). These emissions normally account for more than half of the climate footprint of hotel establishments (Moberg et al., 2016). Important aspects that are not included are the climate footprint of the establishment's construction and repairs, and the climate footprint of the food served.

In the holiday calculator, we have chosen to include four categories of accommodation: *Climate neutral*, *Hostel etc.* and *Hotel* as well as *Known value* (see Figure 4). *Hostel* can also include low carbon hotels or basic hotels, as well as various forms of renting or sharing for apartments, etc.

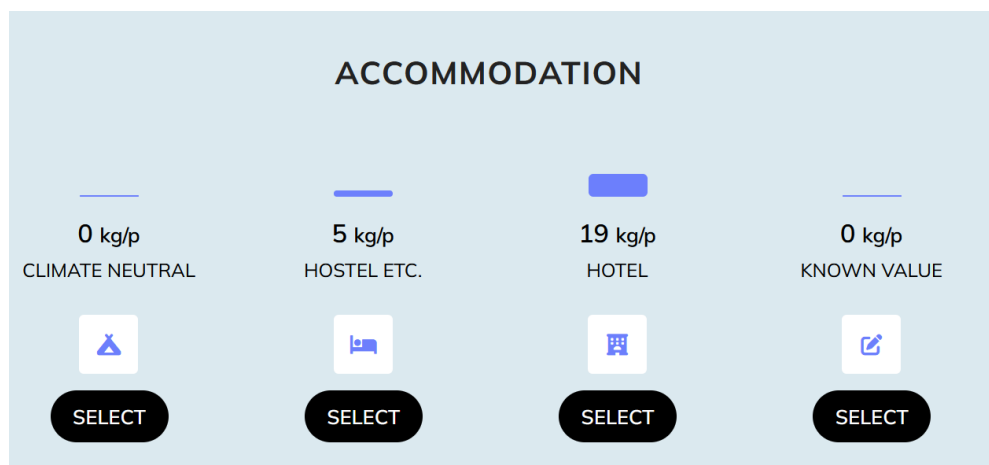


Figure 3 Different types of accommodation in the holiday trip calculator.

The figures for the climate footprint from hotels in different countries are based on self-reported and harmonised data from hotels around the world. These are compiled by an organisation called Greenview in what is known as the [Cornell Hotel Sustainability Benchmarking Index](#). The index is reported to be the largest compilation for the global hotel industry, covering as many as 18,000 hotels in 2020. We collected emissions data from the countries in which Swedish residents primarily spend their holidays (Vagabond, 2017). The differences between countries are due to the amount of energy used for heating and air-conditioning for example, and the types of energy used for electricity production. France, for example, has low figures because electricity in France comes largely from nuclear power stations.

However, it is important to emphasise that the figures have a high level of uncertainty. The figures from each country are of varying quality, as the number of hotels per country and the type of hotel reported in the data vary greatly. Tabell 6 shows the emissions per guest night in



each country and how many hotels were the basis for the calculation. For a country like the USA, the data is good because there are many hotels, and because both low-budget and luxury hotels have reported their data. For most other countries, only luxury hotels, or an undefined class of hotel, have reported their data. In the case of Thailand, for example, mainly luxury hotels have reported their data, which makes this figure high. If basic, low-budget hotels without air-conditioning had also reported their data for example, the figure for Thailand would probably have been significantly lower. This probably applies to most countries; however, to what extent it applies is difficult to determine. This should be borne in mind when interpreting these figures. However, this data set is the best we have been able to identify.

Data from Swedish hotels is unfortunately not included in the *Cornell Hotel Sustainability Benchmarking Index*. Instead, data from a comprehensive compilation produced by the IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute for the Legal, Financial and Administrative Services Agency, which (Moberg et al., 2016) in turn is based primarily on data from 41 hotels that the Swedish Energy Agency, has been analysed (Energimyndigheten, 2011). The figure for Sweden is 6.8 kg CO<sub>2</sub> per guest night<sup>20</sup>. Since data for the other Nordic countries (Denmark, Norway, Finland, and Iceland) are also missing from the *Cornell Hotel Sustainability Benchmarking Index*, the Swedish figure has also been used for these countries. We see this as an acceptable assumption since the Nordic countries have an interconnected electricity system and similar building standards.

The survey from IVL includes emissions per guest night, which in this context means a booked single-bed overnight stay. In the *Cornell Hotel Sustainability Benchmarking Index*, hotels report emissions per occupied room instead. Since it is the emissions per guest night that are interesting in this context, we have assumed that the hotel rooms on average are occupied by 1.5 people and therefore we have divided by 1.5. This assumption is based on our estimate that about half of the rooms are used by single guests, typically business travellers, and about half are used by couples, typically holiday travellers.

The difference in the climate footprint between *Hotel* and *Hostel etc.* is based on a study from Switzerland which showed that “tourist homes and youth hostels” had on average a 75% lower climate footprint per guest night than was the case for hotels (Sesartic and Stucki, 2007). The study is based on data from roughly 50 youth hostels that are members of the Swiss Youth Hostels organisation and 152 cabins that are part of the Swiss Alpine Clubs organisation, as well as number of studies of the climate footprint of hotels. Our calculations are based on the broad assumption that this relationship applies in all countries.

The last category, *Climate neutral*, includes accommodation with family or friends, renting a room via Airbnb for example, accommodation in a camper/caravan, tent, night train or ferry cabin. The additional climate impact from this accommodation category is negligible and is therefore assumed to be 0 kg per guest night. The user can also enter a *Known value* for the accommodation if they know how many kg of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions the accommodation causes per guest night.

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<sup>20</sup> This includes electricity, heating, hot water, electronics and laundry. The study assumes the Nordic countries' electricity mix with emissions of 84 gCO<sub>2</sub>/kWh. We have adjusted up to 90 gCO<sub>2</sub>/kWh (see Section 2.2).

Table 6. Kg CO<sub>2</sub> per guest night in common destination countries.

Country	Average hotel in the country [CO <sub>2</sub> /guest night]	Lower climate impact [CO <sub>2</sub> /guest night]	Carbon neutral [CO <sub>2</sub> /guest night]	Number of hotels
France	4.7	1.2	0	75
Spain	29	7.2	0	43
United Kingdom	9.3	2.3	0	439
Germany	11	2.8	0	89
Austria	9.3	2.3	0	15
Rest of the EU	13	3.2	0	– a)
Turkey	23	5.7	0	80
Thailand	34	8.5	0	245
USA	13	3.3	0	9301
Sweden	6.8	1.7	0	41
Norway	6.8	1.7	0	– b)
Denmark	6.8	1.7	0	– b)
Finland	6.8	1.7	0	– b)
Iceland	6.8	1.7	0	– b)
Rest of the world	27	6.7	0	– c)

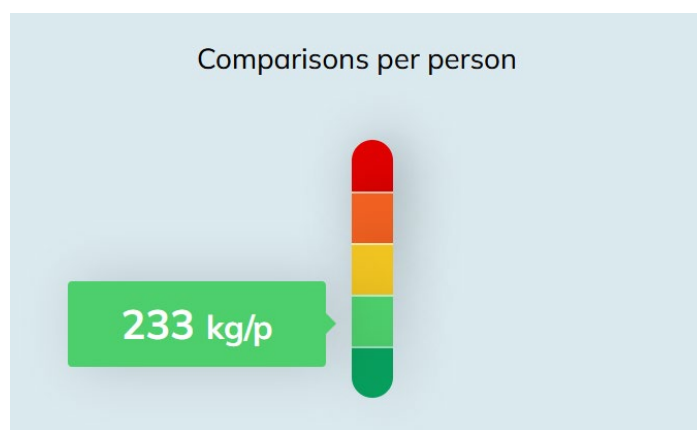
a) Rest of the EU is an average of the EU countries we have data for. This also includes Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino, Switzerland, and Vatican City.

b) Represented by Sweden

c) Based on Mexico, Russia, China, and Australia.

## 5 Thermometer

When the user has compared different modes of transport and accommodation for the selected destination, they select their preferred options in step 1. It is hoped that the user will choose more low carbon options. For many destinations, however, one can conclude that there are no low carbon transport options. It is therefore interesting to compare different holiday options, and even different destinations as well, and not just different modes of transport and accommodation choices. For this reason, the user is presented with a relative comparison of how their holiday compares to other holidays, and this is in the form of a thermometer (see Figure 6). The colour range goes from dark red for the holidays that have the highest emissions to dark green for the holidays that have the lowest emissions, accommodation and transport included.



*Figure 4 Thermometer showing the user a relative comparison of their holiday with others. The holidays that have the highest emissions are dark red and the holidays that have the lowest emissions are dark green, accommodation and transport included.*

The comparative framework used is the climate footprint of common holidays taken by Swedish residents. The categorisation is based on common holidays identified by Kamb (2015). Kamb identified these common holidays from a long-distance travel data set from the Swedish National Travel Survey conducted by the government agency Transport Analysis. The survey is based on telephone interviews where the respondents give an account of their holidays. Kamb identified the trips that were at least three days long and had as their main purpose *holidays* or *family and friends*. These trips were then scaled up to represent Sweden's population.

The climate footprint for these common holidays was then calculated using the holiday trip calculator described in this report. For all trips abroad, we have assumed that an average hotel in the country was used for accommodation. For travel within Sweden, we assumed that many people stay with family and friends, therefore accommodation with a smaller climate footprint is assumed in the calculation for an average of hotels and staying at the home of someone else.

The results and categorisation from dark red to dark green can be seen in Tabell 7. Dark-red holidays emit over 2000 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e for travel and accommodation in total. Furthermore, light red holidays emit 500–2000 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e, yellow 200–500 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e, light green 50–200 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e, and dark green below 50 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e per holiday. Based on this categorisation, dark-red holidays are typically to destinations on another continent which requires long-haul air travel, and light-red holidays are typically to destinations within and close countries in Europe by air.

*Table 7 Common holiday trips taken by the Swedish population categorised by emissions from travel and accommodation. Based on Kamb (2015) and updated with the accommodation and transport figures presented in this report. Emissions in kg CO<sub>2</sub>e.*

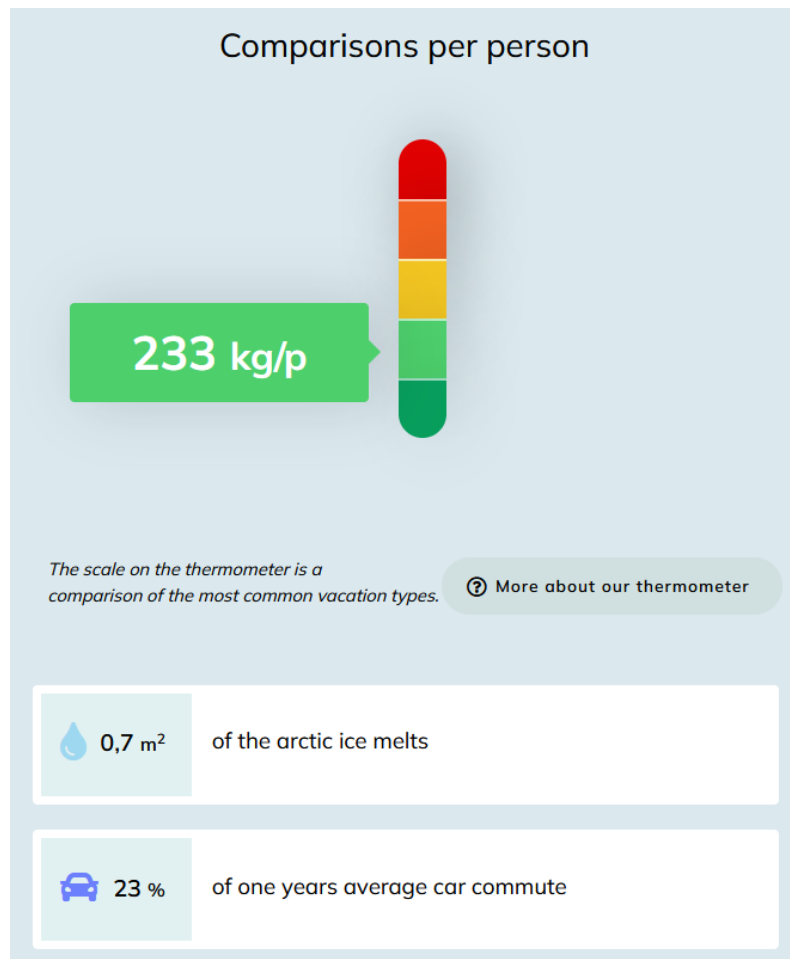
Category	Trip	Number of journeys	Number of days	Distance [km]	Emissions accommodation	Emissions travel	Emissions per trip [kg CO <sub>2</sub> e]
>2000 kg CO <sub>2</sub> e	Flight to Thailand	120,000	20	16,000	680	2,126	2,806
	Flight to USA	270,000	12	14,000	156	1,860	2,016
500-2000 kg CO <sub>2</sub> e	Flight to the Mediterranean/Canary Islands/Egypt	910,000	9	6,200	261	824	1,085
	Flight to European cities e.g., Gothenburg-Rome	1,700,000	7	3,500	91	465	556
200-500 kg CO <sub>2</sub> e	Flight in Sweden e.g., Gothenburg-Umeå	540,000	6	1,600	91	213	304
50-200 kg CO <sub>2</sub> e	Ferry to neighbouring country	320,000	4	800	34	185	219
	Bus to Europe	130,000	7	1,900	91	37	128
	Car to neighbouring country	610,000	7	1,100	48	50	98
<50 kg CO <sub>2</sub> e	Car in Sweden	7,300,000	4	600	6.8	27	34
	Bus in Sweden	310,000	5	540	9	11	19
	Train in Sweden	1,600,000	4	700	6.8	5.1	12

The differences in emissions are considerable – from 15 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e per holiday for a holiday by train in Sweden to over 2800 kg for a holiday by air to Thailand. The average value is 250 kg per holiday. It is interesting to note that transport causes 80%, and accommodation 20%, of the total emissions from Swedish residents’ holidays according to the above analysis. In other words, the greatest reduction in emissions can be achieved by changing mode of transport to one with a smaller climate load, or by choosing a closer destination.

## 5.1 Consequences and comparisons of holiday emissions

Since it is not easy to understand what the emissions figures for a holiday mean in a wider context, we have chosen to describe one consequence for the climate globally (ice sheet melting in the Arctic) and to compare these figures with an everyday source of emissions (average commute by car).

Figure 5 Illustration of comparisons.



### XX m<sup>2</sup> of the ice sheet in the Arctic melts

It is difficult to grasp what the effects of one's own emissions on the climate are. Researchers have analysed how carbon dioxide emissions affect the melting of the Arctic ice sheet. The analysis is based on calculations of the size of the ice sheet in September each year, and the aggregated carbon dioxide emissions at the same point in time. This allows you to calculate that every tonne of carbon dioxide emissions will reduce the size of the ice sheet by 3 m<sup>2</sup> ( $\pm 0,3\text{m}^2$ ). Since the calculations of the ice that would melt vary, we have used here a robust linear relationship between the average area of the ice sheet in September, which is when it is at its smallest during the year, and the cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Thus, with observed values we can predict what this means for the trend in the Arctic ice sheet size during the summer. Based on this linear relationship, the Arctic ice sheet in September will disappear entirely if we emit an additional 1000 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> (Notz and Stroeve, 2016).

### XX% of one year's average car commute

On average, commuting to work means about 10,000 km of driving each year, or just under 50 km per day (Transport Analysis, 2017b). If this commute is undertaken alone in a medium-sized diesel car, it causes approximately 1370 kg CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

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