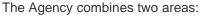
## ECO-AGROTOURS - A SPECIALIZED TRAVEL AGENCY FOR ECOLOGICAL AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN SPAIN

With its headquarters in a mountainous town of Huesca (Aragon Region), the Ecoagrotours Travel Agency is a proposal made by rural Spain to market agro-tourism and ecotourism as products based on the principles of sustainable development.



- Ecotourism intended as an environmentally responsible tourism practice, in order to enjoy, appreciate and observe natural attractions and any cultural manifestation of the present and the past with a view to their conservation. All this promoting the active participation of local populations within a model of sustainable development of the environment.
- Agrotourism based on receiving the travelers at the farms, even without the main need of accommodation, to show their daily activities and make them participate in the experiences of the rural world. The hospitality may include gastronomic activities based on local varieties that favor biodiversity and food sovereignty.

The Ecoagrotours Travel Agency was created in 2020 as a new operating company within the framework of the Ecotur Network of the Ecoagroturism Foundation, which has been promoting sustainable tourism experiences in Spain, Portugal and Colombia since 2005. The new Travel Agency aims to offer consolidated ecotourism and agrotourism proposals in line with new demands of responsible consumption, respectful of natural resources and local cultures.

The Foundation, member of the Spanish National Rural Network, is a partner of the new company Ecoagrotours. In particular, the Travel Agency enhances the results achieved by the collaboration between the Foundation and Eceat Internacional (European Centre for Ecological and Agricultural Tourism) to create the Ceres Ecotur Network, which associates houses for accommodation, companies and eco-gastronomic initiatives for the promotion of ecological tourism in rural areas. The Ceres-Ecotur certification requested to participate in the network takes as reference the ECEAT European ecological quality system, meeting sustainability criteria that measure the level of environmental, socio-cultural and economic commitment of the destinations.

The Ceres-Ecotur Certification project celebrates 10 years of promoting and adding value to the ecological rural tourism offered













in Spain. The website presents all the Spanish initiatives that have been approved by the *Ceres Ecotur/Ecolabel Eceat* certification process, meeting the parameters required for each item: sustainable agriculture and local economy, cultural heritage and rural traditions, natural resource management and nature protection. Through agreements with interested local actors, the *Ceres-Ecotur project* has also opened its activities in *Colombia* and *Portugal* to expand the network of rural and ecological tourism.

In Spain, the Ecoagrotours Travel Agency has established collaboration with the Spanish Ecotourism Club, to offer experiences in protected natural areas included in the Catalogue of 51 Escapadas de Ecoturismo 2020. All Getaways, organized by entrepreneurs committed to maintaining and diversifying the local economy, have been designed for the traveler to enjoy and discover wonderful natural environments and to live unique and unforgettable experiences in well-preserved spaces, while contributing to their conservation.

The proposals of the Travel Agency also offer eco-agrotourism experiences in the <u>Geoparque Mundial UNESCO Sobrarbe-Pirineos</u> (Aragón) and in the <u>Parque Natural, Reserva de la Biosfera, Red Natura 2000 Muliniellos-Fuentes del Narcea</u> in Asturias.

<u>In the website section dedicated to suppliers</u>, the Travel Agency invites establishments interested to market their tourism products under the ECOTUR brand, to fill out the membership form. In the form, suppliers must indicate that they meet at least six of the required quality criteria.

In the section <u>Lookin for the authentic</u> the user can find the wide range of high-quality ecotourism initiatives dealing with local cultures promoted by the Agency. They consist in innovative accommodations such as hostels and rural houses, pedagogical farms projects, didactic activities and a great variety of Natural Tourism proposals. All these initiatives support agriculture and animal husbandry of the communities by promoting their typical and ecological home-made products.

The Ecoagrotours Travel Agency is a replicable and effective service to ensure visibility for the local offers of sustainable tourism, providing national and international tourists an easy access to information for the organization of their trip. At the same time, by joining many local and often isolated experiences in an organic system, Ecoagrotours represents a strategic tool to enhance territorial development, contributing to preserve and disseminate the natural, cultural, economic and knowledge heritage of rural areas in the countries.

## To know more

Agencia de Viajes Ecoagrotours website

**Ecotur in Facebook** 











Seccion dedicada a los proveedores

<u>Club Ecoturismo de España – Escapadas 2020</u>

Certificación CERES

Fundación Ecoagroturismo

**ECEAT** website

<u>2017 International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development - Sharing stories</u>

<u>2017 International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development - Sharing knowledge</u>

2017 International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development - Sharing solutions









