Greenhouse Gas Emissions Assessment of the tourism industry in *The Islands of Tahiti* in 2019

THE TOURISM INDUSTRY REPRESENTS:

1 675 ktCO2e
Total greenhouse gas emissions including international flights and imported goods

322 ktCO2e
Excluding international flights

180 ktCO2e
Excluding international flights and ***imported goods***

=

15%
share of tourism in The Islands of Tahiti's ***annual emissions***

vs

11%
share of tourism in France's annual emissions

8%
share of tourism in global annual emissions

2050 goal** : Carbon footprint per person

2 tCO2e*
per person and ***per year***

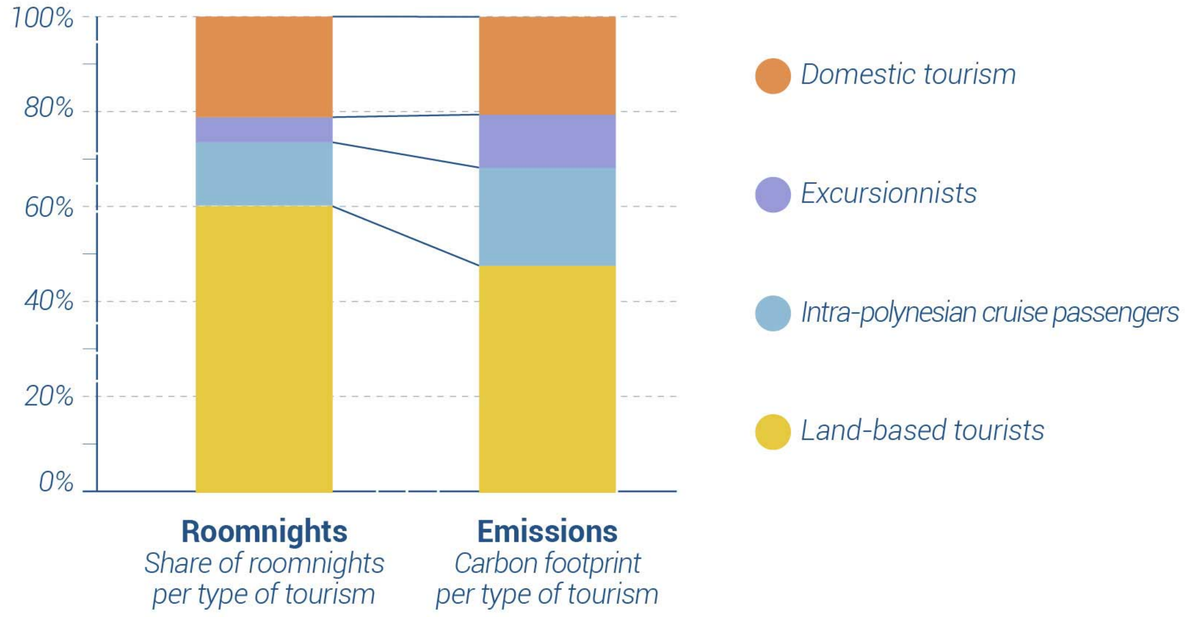
→

In 2019 : Average carbon footprint of a tourist in The Islands of Tahiti

860 kgCO2e*
per person and ***per year***

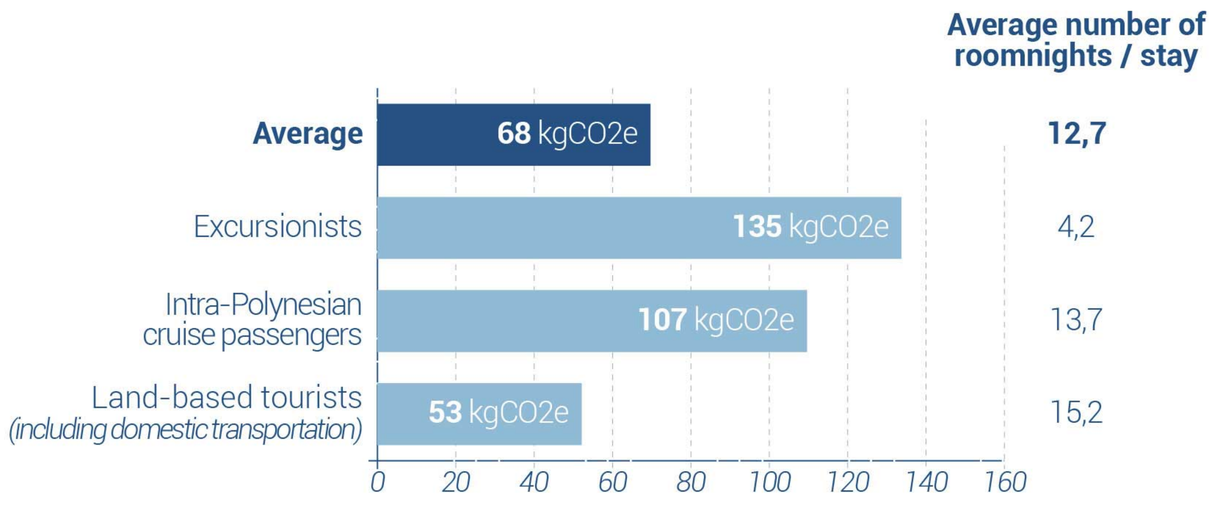
i.e. → **40%** *Tourism in The Islands of Tahiti*

EMISSIONS PER TYPE OF TOURISM



Key information

Land-based tourism accounts for the bulk of tourist overnight stays and emissions, but **Intra-Polynesian floating accommodation** but floating tourism has a higher carbon intensity (emissions per roomnight), although this can vary greatly depending on the **type of vessel**.

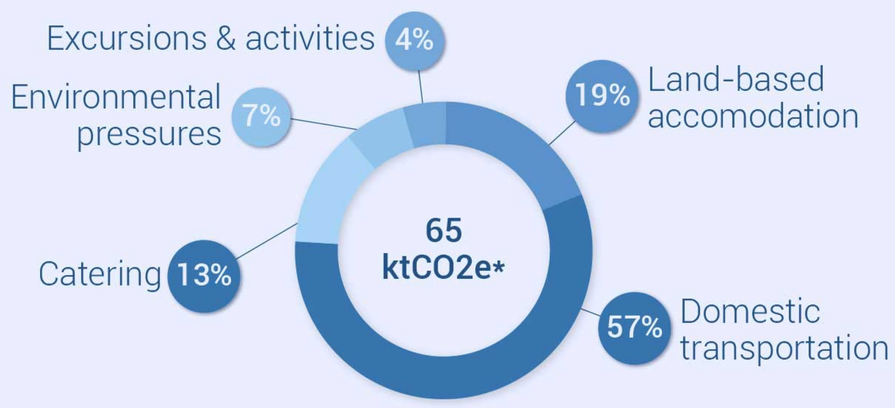


Key information

Land-based tourism's carbon intensity (emissions per roomnight) is 2 times lower than **intra-Polynesian cruise passengers** and 2.5 times lower than transpacific cruise passengers.

DOMESTIC TOURISM

Approximate data



Key information

With a high consumption of domestic air transportation, **the majority of emissions associated with domestic tourism are due to domestic transportation**.

Resident tourists are less likely to engage in floating tourism and are more likely to use **less emitting land-based accommodation** (staying at family or friends, tahitian guesthouses), which reduces the emissions associated with accommodation.

ktCO2e* = *Kilotons of CO2 emitted* **tCO2e*** = *Tons of CO2 emitted* **kgCO2e*** = *Kilograms of CO2 emitted* **2050 goal**** = *Paris Agreement*

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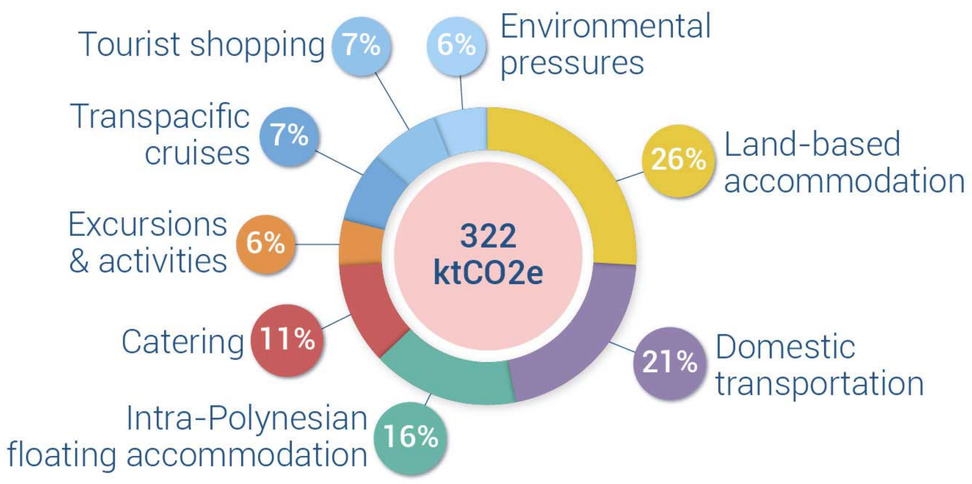
TOURISM EMISSIONS BY SECTOR

All tourist types

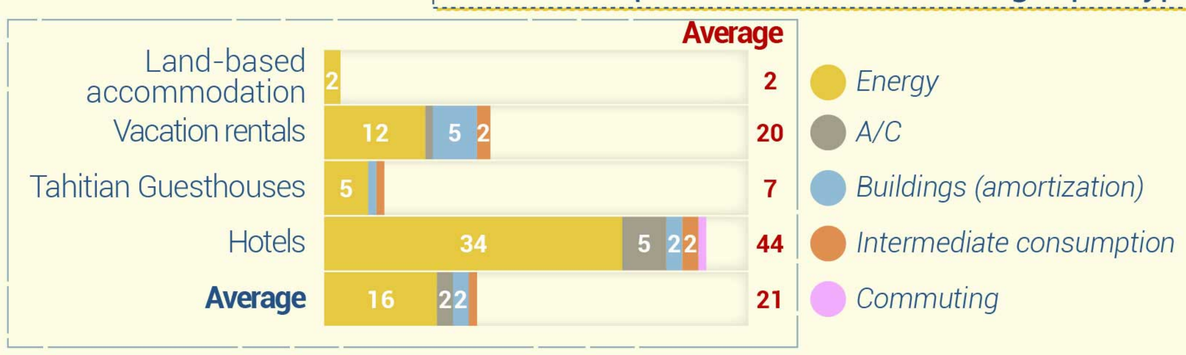


Key information

Land-based accommodation is the first emitting sector representing over a quarter of the total, followed by **domestic transportation** with mostly domestic flights then **intra-Polynesian floating accommodation**.

26% LAND-BASED ACCOMMODATION

Carbon footprint of a tourist roomnight per type of accommodation, in kgCO2e* per roomnight



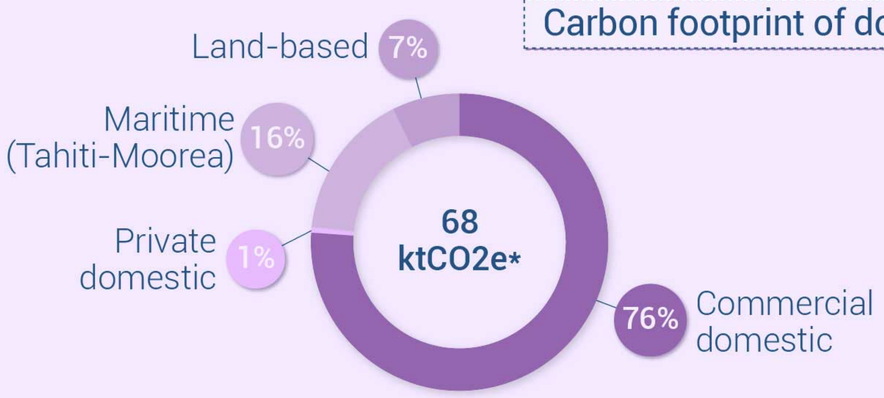
Key information

Hotels are the most carbon-intensive form of terrestrial accommodation, whereas **tahitian guesthouses and free accommodation** are the least carbon-intensive.

While **energy** (mainly electricity) is the **main source of emissions**, air-conditioning and construction (building amortization) also play a significant role.

21% DOMESTIC TRANSPORTATION

Carbon footprint of domestic transportation per type of transportation

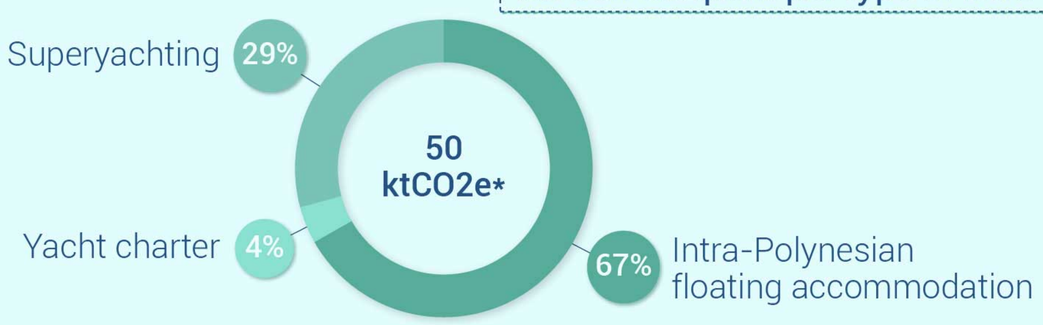


Key information

Domestic transportation accounts for **21%** of total emissions, with **domestic air transportation** accounting for **more than three-quarters**. While commercial air traffic accounts for the bulk of flows and emissions, **private flights** have emissions per flight and per passenger around 5 times higher than commercial flights.

16% INTRA-POLYNESIAN FLOATING ACCOMMODATION

Carbon footprint per type of intra-Polynesian floating accommodation

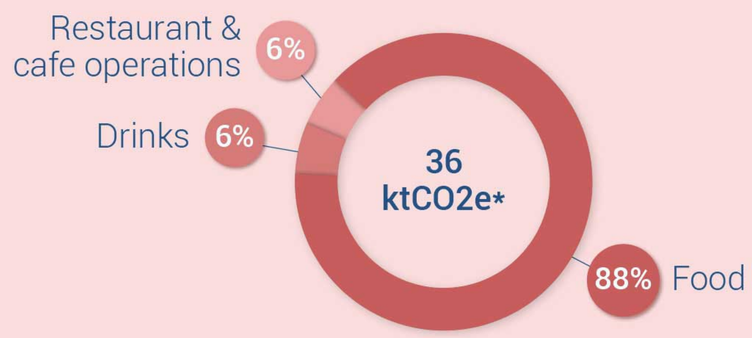


Key information

Carbon footprint varies greatly according to the type of vessel:
Yacht charter : Very low emissions
Cruise ships : Variable carbon intensity (the lowest being that of mixed cargo, with emissions split between freight and passengers)
Superyachts : High emissions

11% CATERING

Carbon footprint of catering



Key information

Emissions from **tourist catering** (11% of the total) are mainly due to the **food consumed** by tourists, which is often imported and meat products. The operation of restaurants and cafés (a specific part of the tourist clientele) represents emissions mainly linked to their intermediate consumption (goods and services) as well as the energy consumed in the buildings.

6% EXCURSIONS ET ACTIVITÉS

Participants & carbon footprint between types of activities and excursions

Key information

Each participant in a **nautical activity** has an impact of around 16 kgCO2e (particularly boat excursions).
Air activities are low in terms of participant volume, but have the highest carbon impact per participant (around 170 kgCO2e / participant / activity).
Land-based activities have a relatively low average impact (3 kgCO2e / participant / activity), although this varies according to the type of activity.

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CONCLUSIONS

Key figures

Tourism in *The Islands of Tahiti* accounts for around **322 000 tCO2e* excluding international transport** and including imported goods. It represents **15 %** of *The Islands of Tahiti*'s annual territorial emissions, excluding international transport and **imported goods** (i.e. **180 ktCO2e***).

Land-based accomodation is the leading emitting sector, accounting for a quarter of the total, followed by **local transportation**, mainly by air, and **intra-Polynesian cruises.**

On average, a visitor represents a carbon footprint of **860 kgCO2e*** for a roomnight on site, i.e. over 40% of the annual carbon footprint target per person defined under the Paris Agreements (2 tCO2e* per person per year).

As the **health crisis** has significantly reduced tourist flows, tourism emissions in 2021 are **half** those of 2019 (322 ktCO2e in 2019 vs. 125 ktCO2e* in 2021). This decrease is less marked than that in the number of visitors, which can be explained by longer stays.

Land-based tourism mainly accounts for the bulk of tourist flows and emissions, **floating tourism** has a higher **carbon intensity** (emissions per roomnights), although this can vary greatly depending on the type of vessel.

Among **floating accommodations**, transpacific cruise ships and superyachts appear to be the most carbon-intensive. Charters, on the other hand, are less carbon-intensive, due to their high reliance on sailing. Despite very short stays in Polynesian waters, **excursionists** have a significant carbon footprint.

Hotels are the most carbon-intensive form of land-based accommodation, while tahitian guesthouses and self-catering accommodation are the least carbon-intensive.

Ultra-luxury tourism (private aviation, superyachting) accounts for higher emissions than the average tourist.

Domestic tourism, not based on cruises and hotels which are the most emitting tourism modes, has an impact mainly linked to domestic air transportation.

With a target of 280,000 cruise tourists in 2027, and an **unchanged impact per tourist**, the associated emissions would **increase by 13%**, i.e. by around 40,000 tCO2e.

With a target of 600,000 tourists (visitors and residents combined), **and an unchanged impact per tourist, the increase could reach 71%.**

Emissions from tourism are based on many factors. If Polynesian tourism is to be part of a trajectory to lower emissions, all tourism sectors and emission sources must play their part. All have a role to play and levers to mobilize to make *The Islands of Tahiti* a more sustainable destination.

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Contact

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