

Artist Travel Case Study: Favouring trains over flights

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Overview:

At GDIF 2023, we had **16 International companies in total**, where **14 companies were from European countries**, and 2 were from New Zealand and United States of America.

GDIF 2023 was the first year in which **all European-based Artist personnel were offered train travel to the festival**, instead of flights, if they were willing to do so.

In previous years, this has been offered to selected artists, though cost has been prohibitive.

We particularly encouraged train travel for **Artists living within 10 hours of travel via land**, and where the price difference was less than 3 x times more expensive.

-On average, **taking the train to Europe is four times the cost of flying***

Out of the 14 Europe-based companies, **7 companies agreed to take trains** and some would only travel via train, although often it would be for part & not the whole company.

There are multiple reasons for flights being Artist preference, such as **access, cost and convenience / time**. In 2023, we found that time was the prevalent reason to take a flight due to extended travel hours and many companies having a tight touring schedule that would mean additional travel days on land would have been prohibitive.

**Source: Report from Greenpeace, "Tickets prices of planes vs trains – a Europe wide analysis", July 2023.*

Company name	No of persons touring	Total no of miles travelled by train	Actual CO2e from train travel	Equivalent CO2e via flights	Total CO2 saving
Cie Basinga (France)	8 people	4,552 miles	259.7kg CO2	1.3 tonnes CO2	1.04 tonnes CO2
L00maland (Berlin)	2 people	2,748 miles	156.8kg CO2	808.6kg CO2	651.8kg CO2
Gratte Ciel (France)	6 people	9,481 miles	541kg CO2	2.8 tonnes CO2	2.26 tonnes CO2

Findings:

We saved a total of 3.95 tonnes of CO2 across just these 3 companies: this is a snapshot of our broader work across international artist travel.

Freight was required for the above x3 companies, and emissions collected and measured separately. Freight was handled either internally (i.e. part of the company came with a truck / vehicle) or outsourced to a supplier.

International Artist Travel is the largest contributor to the environmental impact of our events, making up 71% of CO2 emissions, however we expect this to shift once we can measure Energy outputs more accurately and efficiently.