

Duke^{ALUMNI} TRAVELS

Educational | Sustainable | Global



Duke Alumni Travels: Spearheading **SUSTAINABILITY**

Prepared by



Samantha Burch
Courtney McCorstin
Annabelle Mercer

Objective

According to the UNWTO, sustainable tourism is defined as "tourism that takes full account of its current and future environmental, economic, and social impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment, and host communities." Many institutions, in the interest of their educational mission and commitments to sustainability, are eager to inform travelers about their practices.

In line with Duke University's overarching sustainability goals, Duke Alumni Travels (DAT) is leading a sustainability movement by transforming how the travel industry approaches and measures its environmental impact.

DAT has partnered with a graduate team from the Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment to develop a framework for benchmarking sustainability practices of its Operators.

OUR TEAM



Samantha Burch

Master of Environmental
Management Candidate



Courtney McCorstin

Master of Environmental
Management Candidate



Annabelle Mercer

Master of Environmental
Management Candidate

Project Description

This framework for benchmarking sustainability practices will highlight the current environmental, economic, and socio-cultural achievements of each of DAT's Operators.

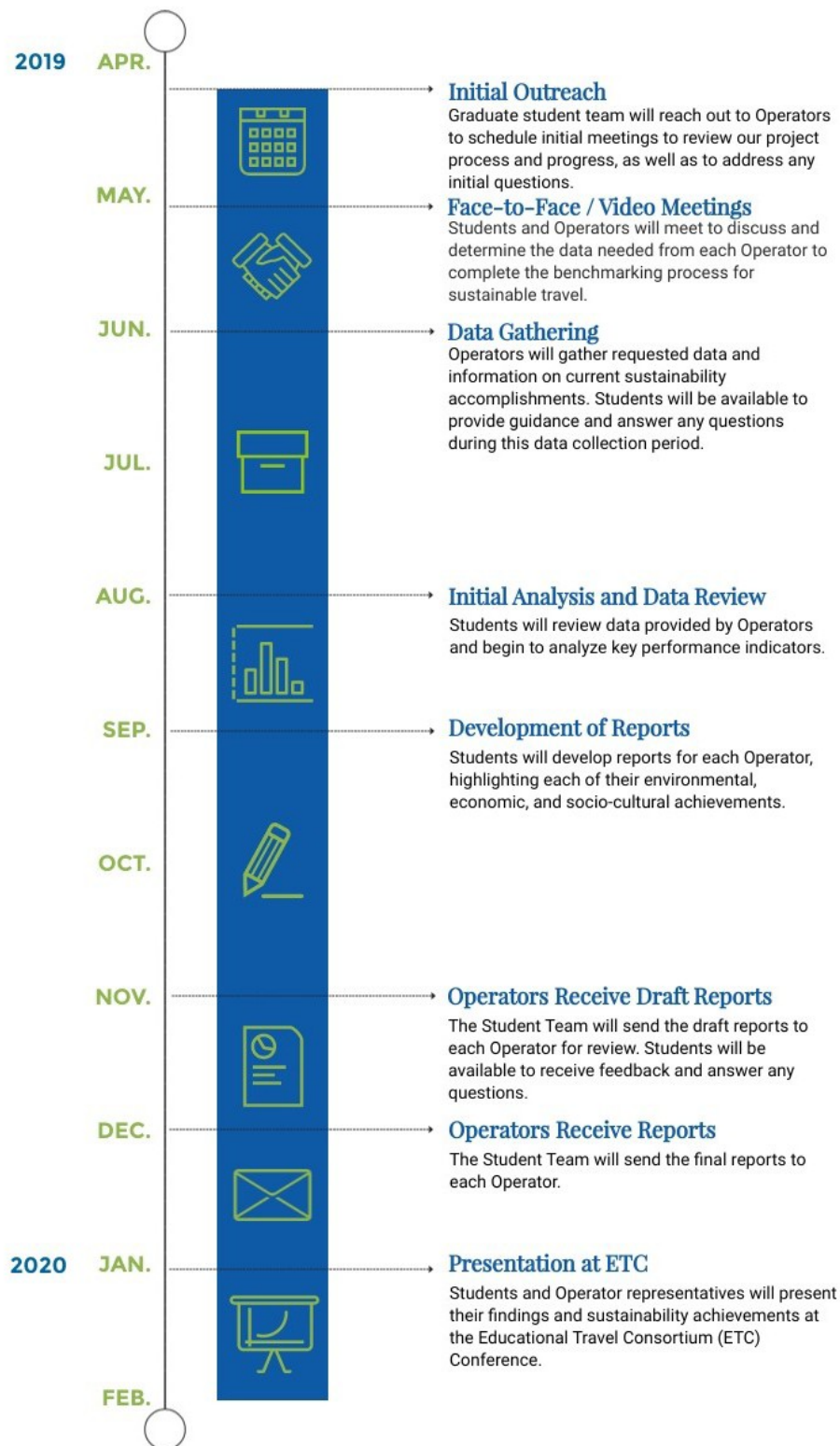
The Graduate Team's first step will be to collaborate with each of DAT's Operators to collect data around these achievements. The Team will investigate how Operators have been successful across key performance indicators. This data will inform the Team's final report, where the reviewed results will be published on the DAT website and ultimately presented at the Educational Travel Consortium conference in January 2020. Operators will have a chance to review results and reports before any publication. As participants in this project, Operators have an opportunity to guide future sustainability metrics in the travel industry.

Duke Alumni Travels is an active member of the Educational Travel Consortium. The conference in January 2020 will serve as a platform for both DAT and its Operators to present the project's results and lead the discussion around the future of sustainable travel. This is an opportunity for Operators to serve as leaders in helping the industry establish best practices.

Partners



Timeline



To learn more, please contact Beth Ray-Schroeder. We look forward to hearing from you!



Beth Ray-Schroeder

Director, Duke Alumni Travels,
Duke University



1.919.684.3046



beth.ray-schroeder@daa.duke.edu