

10 BLUE ZONES® FOOD GUIDELINES

We distilled more than 150 dietary surveys of the world's longest-lived people to distill the average longevity diet. These 10 simple guidelines reflect how the world's longest-lived people ate for most of their lives. By adopting some of the healthy eating principles into your daily life, you too can live longer, better.



95/5 RULE

Eat Plants. 95 percent of your food should be fruits, vegetables, grains, greens, and beans. Use olive oil to sauté and spices flavor vegetables. Feel free to eat a cup (cooked) of whole grains daily.



LIMIT MEAT

Think of meat as a celebratory food. Portions should be no larger than a deck of cards, once or twice a week. Avoid processed meats such as hot dogs, bacon and sausages.



FISH IS FINE

Enjoy fish up to three times weekly. Wild-caught salmon or smaller fish like sardines, trout, snapper, cod, and anchovies are okay choices. Limit portion sizes to 3 ounces (about the size of the palm of your hand.)



DIMINISH DAIRY

Avoid dairy when possible. If cheese is a must, try ice-cube size portions of sheep (pecorino) or goat (feta) cheese to flavor foods. If you eat eggs, limit intake to 3/week.



DAILY DOSE OF BEANS

Eat a cup of beans daily spread out across breakfast, lunch or dinner. All beans count, including tofu. They contain high quality protein and fiber. If you buy canned beans, avoid added salt, sugar and chemicals.



SLASH SUGAR

Consume only 28 grams (7 teaspoons) of added sugar daily. Reserve cookies, cakes, and candies for special occasions. Read labels and avoid foods with more than 8 grams of sugar. Make honey your go-to sweetener.



SNACK ON NUTS

Eat a handful of nuts daily: almonds, pistachios, walnuts, hazelnuts, sunflower seeds, pumpkin seeds, Brazil nuts, and peanuts. Try different nuts so you don't tire of them. Avoid sugar-coated nuts.



SOUR ON BREAD

Eat only 100% whole grain breads or authentic sourdough bread made from live cultures. Limit bread to two slices daily. Choose whole grain corn tortillas over flour tortillas. Avoid white breads and wraps.



GO WHOLLY WHOLE

Try to eat only whole foods or processed foods with fewer than 5 ingredients: If it's manufactured in a plant, avoid it. If it comes from a plant, eat it.



DRINK MOSTLY WATER

Drink six glasses of water daily. Feel free to drink unsweetened teas and coffee. Enjoy Wine at 5 with friends or with Blue Zones inspired meals. Avoid all sugar-sweetened and diet sodas.