



tourism infocus

Autumn 2008

Tsunami aid

Sidelined for tourism development

Local voices

Goa in crisis

Dilemma

Cruising with a conscience



Julian Page

Children in the Langa township in South Africa where slum tours are becoming a popular tourist activity.

Slum tourism

I was very interested to read about the Langa Township under the headline 'Are slum visits tourism or voyeurism?'

Firstly I think we need to be careful about what we are calling a slum. The Langa Township has various regions to it, the new housing, the old housing and the shanty housing. So let's be a little more specific, please.

I have walked the amazing Langa Township and it was such an education that I would ask everyone to go there or to other areas like it. We have so many negative images of townships based on the images that came out of the apartheid struggle, combined

with the fear that the majority of the white population feel about the place. Yet once you see people living their lives, shopping, cooking and laughing, all those prejudices that have quietly built up are removed. It does not matter if it is tourism or voyeurism as long as it educates people and makes them understand what life is like for so many people. Wouldn't it be great to get the IMF, the World Bank or government leaders to experience this? Then they might actually try and solve real problems for real people rather than building football stadiums or putting money into military operations.

Julian Page, Livingstone Tanzania Trust

Supporting Burma

I wanted to congratulate you on your Burma campaign and thank you for all your efforts to raise the profile of Burma. I have myself actively participated in demonstrations, campaigns and lobbied politicians and tour operators. And there have been success stories: one popular travel company subsequently removed Burma from their marketing brochures and website.

Although I am a great advocate of people not visiting Burma and will do everything in my powers of persuasion to convince those I come into contact with why they should not go, I equally believe we should educate and not dictate. I don't agree with a blanket ban on travel guides to Burma but think that they should be more honest about the impact tourism has on the country. Anyone promoting Burma should do so honestly and phrases like 'Shangri-la' and 'undisturbed paradise' are false marketing ploys.

There can never be enough publicity on this situation and with the terrible devastation of the recent cyclone and the willingness of the military regime to watch hundreds of thousands die rather than face scrutiny in order to 'save face' just confirms what some of us have known for years. The fact that there are no longer headlines every day is a travesty. So it is doubly important that organisations like yours do their bit to raise the profile of the suffering in Burma.

Peter Mayhew, Beyond the Blue

Front cover pictures, clockwise: The Kayan or 'long-necks' are Burmese refugees confined to tourist villages in Northern Thailand because of their capacity to generate income. By selling miniature Kayan dolls to tourists and weaving handicrafts they make a little money to support themselves and their families. (Antonio Graceffo); In the Botswanan Kalahari, tourist lodges are to be built, which often use huge amounts of water, on lands where the Bushmen or San people have been denied access to water. Roy Sesana of the First People of the Kalahari is quoted in the Mmeg newspaper as saying, "Before government could think of those lodges, they should have first made sure that our issues are settled". (Stephen Corry/Survival www.survival-international.org); In Kerala, tsunami aid has been diverted into beautifying tourist amenities including building an artificial reef in Kovalam. This has met with anger from coastal communities who are really the ones footing the bill as their needs are being ignored. (Rachel Noble); In the Maldives, resort workers feel that they have been betrayed by the government which has passed an Employment Act excluding them from their rights. Even though the government has now overturned this decision, workers still lack finance, expertise and even free time to associate and form unions.

editorial

THE DOWNTURN IN THE ECONOMY COULD

be cited as a reason for a one percent decrease this year in UK residents' visiting abroad. But with the UK expenditure abroad still reaching £9.1 billion, it remains to be asked who is reaping these benefits?

In this edition of In Focus, the voices of host communities as varied as India, Botswana and Thailand all sing to the same tune: that they are the ones paying the price for our holidays which are dependant on their communities, cultures, environment and homes. With much of the global tourism activity taking place in poor countries and with 46 out of the 49 poorest countries in the world depending on tourism as their primary source of foreign exchange, it is clear that the economic benefits just aren't getting through to the most vulnerable.

On pages 4 and 5, we hear more from the tsunami-affected coastal communities being denied aid which is being utilised to improve beaches and tourism infrastructure.

In Goa, a former Portuguese colony with a population of 1.4 million, the majority of the money spent by package tourists goes to foreign hotel owners or European tour companies. On pages 8 and 9, a local small hotel owner tells us of her experiences whilst Ranjan Solomon of the Centre of Responsible Tourism explains how tourism has become mafia controlled and involves money laundering, drugs and the trafficking of women and children.

In response to these injustices, many communities are calling for a more sustainable tourism where they are included in the decision-making and financial gains. However, sustainable tourism is still being sidelined by the mainstream tourism industry. The World Travel Market, to be held in London in November, is a huge marketing and selling opportunity for tourism destinations, companies and operators, bringing together all the major influences in tourism - apart from the host communities. For only one day out of four at the World Travel Market 'World Responsible Tourism Day' is held. Is ethical tourism given any in-depth consideration in its workshops and seminars? Shouldn't the threads of responsible and community-based tourism be intertwined throughout the whole event and place communities at its heart?

Please do support these communities fighting for a fair deal and take action on at least one of the campaigns in this edition. And join our Campaigns Action Network to have your finger on the pulse of all our future campaigning activity.

Best wishes,

Kelly Haynes
Editor



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Tourism Concern wishes to state that the articles published in In Focus represent the individuals' opinions and do not necessarily represent the views of the organisation.

Tourism In Focus
Editor: Kelly Haynes
Managing editor: Tricia Barnett
Sub-editors: Ann Noon, Paul Smith
Design: Andrew Carton-Kelly
Print management: Lithosphere

Tourism Concern staff
Director: Tricia Barnett
Finance Officer: Alan Nguyen
Information: Siobhan Adeusi
Projects: Guyonne James
Fundraiser: Gillian Cooper
Campaigns: Rachel Noble

Riding the wave: but who benefits?

Tsunami-struck fishing communities in both India and Sri Lanka continue to lose out to tourism interests, their largely subsistence lifestyles an apparent ill-fit with wider government drives for economic development.

Rachel Noble, our campaigner, reports...

Kerala has allocated 1000 million rupees of Tsunami Rehabilitation Programme money (equivalent to £12.5 million) to the state tourism board, Kerala Tourism. This has led to angry demonstrations by coastal communities, furious that money meant for their rehabilitation is set to fund tourism developments which, paradoxically, will place their land, livelihoods and traditional way of life under renewed threat.

In direct contravention of government guidelines, the 20 project sites include areas that were not damaged by the tsunami. Posited by Kerala Tourism as 'coastal protection' schemes, the majority of projects largely involve beach beautification measures to attract tourists. Toilet blocks, kiosks, stone pergolas, and even an amphitheatre and flower pots are among the items to be funded. In the town of Kovalam, there are plans for an artificial reef with the aim of making it an international surfing destination. Local opposition groups say the reef will put 500 fishermen out of work. "How can the construction of walkways, provision of drinking water for tourists, toilet facilities and lighting be providing coastal protection and benefiting coastal communities?" asks Mr T. Peter, president of a local fish workers' union. "This is a clear diversion of tsunami funds for projects that are not beneficial to the coastal communities."

Life for Kerala's coastal population, many of whom are small-scale fisher folk, is still a struggle. Some communities have been relocated away from the sea, an important livelihood source, and there are severe water and hygiene issues. Fish catches are down and income levels are desperately suffering.

In an assessment of the impacts of the tsunami by the Indian government and major international donor agencies, Kerala's tourism infrastructure was not considered in need of funds. The state promoted itself as a 'safe option' thanks to the low impact of the tsunami on its beaches. However, Kerala Tourism argues that the developments will provide coastal protection while supplying large-scale employment to local people.

Local communities say they have not been consulted on the role of tourism in their rehabilitation or on the use of government funds for these purposes. The ongoing tourism boom means coastal land is in high demand and there is huge pressure on communities to sell up and move inland. Meanwhile, opportunities to become involved in the tourism sector continue to be limited to menial, low-paid jobs.

There are also concerns over the environmental damage the tourism developments will cause and questions over the level of coastal protection they will provide. Some of the structures, such as the Kovalam reef, could divert waves into adjacent areas causing sea erosion and infrastructure damage for neighbouring communities.

Kerala continues to market itself as a 'responsible tourism' destination to both domestic and international tourists, and received over half a million foreign visitors in 2007. But the question remains: who is reaping the benefits?

Take Action Now

Support Kerala's coastal communities by writing to the Minister for Tourism. Visit www.tourismconcern.org.uk for more details.

Sri-Lankan Resort threatens local communities

The Kalpitiya resort project in Sri Lanka has been called the 'Bali in Sri Lanka'. However, fishermen, including the 80 that live and work in nearby Kappaladi are under pressure to sell their lands and therefore their way of life for tourism development.



Jake Oolof

Our Sri-Lankan partners highlight the plight of the fishing community in Kalpitiya, a peninsula on the north-west coast of Sri Lanka. This important fishing harbour and relatively unspoilt region is now planned as the next big catch for tourism with huge impacts. **Jake Oolof**, researcher on our Tsunami and Displacement Project, reports...

The Kalpitiya Integrated Resort Project first appeared in the media in November 2005 when the Tourist Board of Sri Lanka (SLTB) announced plans to develop a 4000-acre area of land into an "upmarket tourist hotspot".

"The new tourist zone will include golf courses, hotels, luxury villa and a marina," announced Mr Nanayakkara, SLTB's chairman at the time, who also deemed that the area's location and abundance of natural resources made it perfect for tourism.

The fisher folk in Kalpitiya, scattered across a cluster of islands, meet a significant portion of the country's requirements of fish and dried fish but receive little assistance from the authorities and suffer without adequate health care, electricity and communication facilities.

Since late last year, the local community has started to feel the effects of the proposed tourism developments with the haphazard sale of land along the beaches dealing the fishermen a crippling blow. Harassment and bullying have allegedly been used as tactics to force them to move including in Kappaladi. Although Kappaladi was not affected by the tsunami, the government was reportedly

using the threat of another one in an attempt to scare fisher folk off their land. One particular case saw a businessman, thought to own at least two other hotels, allegedly posing as a fisherman to acquire a plot of land where fishermen operate their traditional boats and nets.

Kappaladi's beautiful beaches are integral in attracting foreign tourists and the battle with the hoteliers to take control of the beaches has begun. Since then two other cases of conflicts between the local communities and developers have surfaced.

W. Austin Pious Fernando, an 82-year-old fisherman, spoke of how he had arrived in the area in the 1940s and started fishing off these beaches: "At the time we owned just two small wooden dinghies". The community in Kappaladi now owns over twenty boats and ten dinghies and some 300 families depend on fishing as their main source of income.

"If we lose these beaches, it would mean the end of our livelihood. For most people here this is the only thing they know how to do," said Samantha, a fisherman and head of the fishing co-operative in Kappaladi.

campaigns

Disappearing act at the 'human zoo'



Antonio Gancello

A whole generation of Kayan have now grown up inside the tourist village environment where opportunities for an education and to leave the villages are extremely limited. One Kayan member was quoted in the Bangkok Post as saying "The tourists think we are a primitive people. The guides say they don't want to see good roads or clean villages or anything modern, so we have to live like this to please the tourists."

THREE BURMESE KAYAN (OR 'PADAUNG') REFUGEES have been charged with involvement in the trafficking of eight fellow Kayan in northern Thailand, according to local media.

Eleven refugees – including four children – disappeared from their village in Mae Hong Son province in July. It's alleged they were on their way to work as 'tourist attractions' in Chiang Mai.

Among those charged was the village headman. However, the village deputy claims that the group left the village, which is run as a tourist attraction by well-connected Thai businessmen, because they had not been paid for two months and wanted to find work elsewhere.

Further doubt was cast on the charges of human trafficking by the fines levied upon the supposedly trafficked adults. Each was charged 1800 baht (more than a month's wages) for travelling illegally outside the province, suggesting that they had left voluntarily.

A task-force was formed to find the

missing Kayan after Mae Hong Son's governor was alerted by local tourism businesses concerned about loss of revenue.

The Kayan women are a lucrative tourist attraction because of the brass rings they wear around their necks. Confined to one of three tourist villages – recently dubbed 'human zoos' by the United Nations – they receive a tiny cut of the money generated by visiting tourists.

A subset of the Burmese Karenni tribe, the Kayan have no rights of residence, employment or freedom of movement in Thailand. They cannot return to Burma because of the continued heavy fighting.

Take Action Now

Watch 'Human Zoo', a short independent film about the Kayan at: www.tourismconcern.org.uk

Join our Campaigns Action Network for up-to-date information. See the 'Get Involved' page of our website.

Water rights and wrongs

PLANS TO BUILD THE FIRST TOURIST LODGE

inside the Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR) in Botswana have reignited controversy over the rights of the Basawra Bushmen who live there.

The lodge, owned by The Safari & Adventure Company, part of the Wilderness group, will need to sink boreholes to obtain water for guests and staff. However, the Botswana government refuses to allow the Bushmen access to boreholes inside the reserve, forcing them to make a 400km round trip to fetch water.

Access to water and hunting permits has been withdrawn by the government in an attempt to evict the Basawra from the CKGR. Although a landmark High Court ruling in 2006 found this to be unconstitutional, these rights are yet to be restored. The Basawra previously used a borehole dug by a mining company which was prospecting in the area, but this has now been closed.

Ironically, the reserve was established to protect the way of life of the Bushmen.

According to local campaigning organisation, First People of the Kalahari, the Basawra have not been consulted about the new lodge despite repeated requests to the government for information. It's not clear how close the development will be to the area where the Bushmen live.

This first lodge is likely to be followed by others, the government having made its intentions to develop the CKGR for tourism clear. What this means for the future of the Bushmen is yet to be seen.

Take Action Now

For more information visit: www.iwant2gohome.org and www.survival-international.org

Join our Campaigns Action Network.



Stephen Corty/Survival www.survival-international.org

"Government cannot stop us opening our own boreholes, refuse to open its own boreholes and then continue to give licences to businesses inside the park. These people will obviously dig their own boreholes inside the CKGR, exactly where the Basawra are not allowed to dig their own boreholes. What is democratic about that?"

Quote from Bushman

Government legislation: **A fair deal for tourism workers?**

Over the past few months there have been marked improvements within the tourism and hospitality industry in both the Maldives and the UK which should mean that workers will be getting a fairer deal. But are these empty gestures for some of the 220 million global tourism workers and is the tourism industry being left behind by other industries in relation to workers' rights?



With 25,000 employees in the Maldives' lucrative tourism industry currently being excluded from new rights in the government's flagship Employment Act, tourism employees are putting pressure on the government to amend the legislation by 1st October by threatening strike action.

MALDIVES

IN THE MALDIVES, TOURISM CAMPAIGNERS HAVE pressurised the government to overturn their decision to exclude tourism employees from the new Employment Act, which included laws on maximum working hours. Workers are now threatening strikes, including at the sole airport in the Maldives to ensure that the legislation gets passed before 1st October.

Tourism, one of the biggest industries in the Maldives, employs over 25,000 workers. Despite the current constitution stating industrial action is unlawful, a petition has been signed by 1/5 of all tourism workers stating they are prepared to strike. In reaction to this, the government sent amendments to parliament retracting the exclusion of tourism workers.

Tourism workers should then be entitled to the same rights as all other workers including receiving

employment contracts, a maximum working week of 48 hours and overtime rates.

However, there is speculation as to whether the new amendments will be approved. The Secretary General of the Maldives Association of Tourism Industry (MATI) has argued that the economy will be "affected adversely" by the new laws, and that MPs with stakes in tourism may choose not to support the legislation.

Friends Of Maldives (FOM), an NGO promoting human rights for Maldivians, is concerned that this attempt to improve workers' rights will be ignored as previous efforts to form associations with the hope of transforming them into unions have been subverted by employers. FOM states: "The Maldivian parliament is strongly influenced by businessmen from the tourism industry which could compromise any positive legislation for tourism workers."

Tourism Concern fights exploitation. This is because we recognise that our holidays are other people's homes. Our holidays should be as good for the people in the destinations we are visiting as they are for ourselves.

We frequently get harassed by locals without realising that it's often because they're not getting any real benefits from our holidays. On the contrary, those living in popular tourist destinations often suffer when precious resources, such as water, are diverted from agriculture into hotel swimming pools. People even get thrown out of their homes for new developments.

Tourism generates huge wealth and can be a force for good for millions living at destinations, but they receive little, with most of our money never reaching them.

Please join us to fight exploitation.

Your actions make changes happen!

UK

AFTER A CAMPAIGN IN THE UK BY TRADE UNIONS

including the GMB, ministers have announced that it will now be illegal for restaurants to deny staff the minimum wage on the grounds that tips or service charges take them over the £5.52p hourly rate.

The government agreed to close a loophole that allows tips processed through the employer's payroll to count towards the minimum wage. Concern was expressed about workers being paid as little as £3 or £4 an hour, on the grounds that tips would take them over the minimum.

However ministers do not intend to legislate over the issue of all restaurants operating a transparent policy for distributing service charges and tips to their staff, although they urge them to adopt "clear and fair" tipping policies. Will this mean that other methods will be found 'behind the scenes' to ensure tourism workers lose out?



In the mid-eighties, charter flights brought a new breed of tourist who had money and demanded western amenities. But most of the money spent by package tourists goes to foreign hotel owners or the European tour companies who arrange the holidays. Many locals are opposed to unsustainable tourism and have been fighting to prevent major hotel projects, such as the proposed Japanese village at Morjim.

Goa

Our coast is not for sale

For the two million visitors who land on its shores each year, Goa offers a great beach holiday. But facts show that those who really make the tourism industry work are not the ones who benefit.

Ranjan Solomon from The Centre for Responsible Tourism highlights the issues concerning tourism in Goa.

Tourism is one of the biggest earners for the Government of Goa but is rife with the exploitation of workers, children, coastal communities and the environment. The Centre for Responsible Tourism, based in Goa, strongly believes that sustainable responsible tourism development is needed with an emphasis on small and medium enterprises for the benefit of our communities.

Discontent from locals, rising inequality and poverty are beginning to take their toll. Crime levels are rising, as are greed and corruption. Worse, the people are beginning to see their common land usurped by rich hoteliers and resort owners who have illegally privatized the beaches and other tourist spots.

Child sex tourism and mafia-controlled tourism are part of the darker side of life in Goa's tropical paradise. Many young children are lured away from their villages by vice rings, often with the connivance of poor parents.

The environmental impacts of tourism are also massive. Swimming pools and golf courses use a huge amount of water and locals often have to put up with shortages and live in danger of the water table dropping. This has had fatal consequences on Goan agriculture with 57 percent of farming households in Assagao and 50 percent in Arpora and Parra leaving their lands to lie without tending them. With huge numbers of tourists flocking to the beaches each year the sand dune habitats and mangroves have been severely degraded.

local voices

"Workers rights are constantly violated. Hotels used to have 60 per cent permanent workers but now this ratio have gone down to 20 to 25 per cent as costs incurred on a permanent worker are much higher than on a temporary worker. The management do not then need to invest in things like over-time or holiday entitlement."

John Rego, General Secretary of the workers union, Cidade de Goa

Ranjan Solomon



Goa: No 'party' for local businesses

I am a small entrepreneur from the south of Goa. I live in a village called Benaulim with a population of some 5,000 persons. But in the tourist season, the number of tourists easily matches Goans.

In the sixties, Goa opened up to tourism in a big way. The hippies arrived with sex, drugs and nudism. Today they are replaced by backpackers: low spenders, big bargainers, who create social havoc with their attitudes and behaviour. The hippies went home in the sixties and announced Goa to be a cheap destination, inaugurating the pattern of mass tourism in Goa. When you think of the costs of infrastructure expenditure in tourism areas, and add to that the social, environmental, and cultural costs, our losses are massive.

Our coastal vegetation and dunes were destroyed just to make the view better for the tourist, and traditional communities (farmers and fisher folk) were displaced to make way for tourism enterprises. Beaches I played on while I was a child are now the private property of hotels and resorts!

My story perhaps illustrates how the system works against

the small entrepreneur and weighs heavily in favour of big business. I got a loan amounting to 7 lakhs of Rupees (£8,830) and although I calculated that I would earn Rs 300 (£3.80) from each room on a daily basis during the high season, the facts were different. Tourists are told in guide-books that you must BARGAIN BARGAIN BARGAIN. I often give my rooms at Rs 150 (£1.90) simply because my competitor will take my business otherwise. I ended up making a much lower profit than expected and sometimes even a loss.

Because I offer my rooms at more than Rs 100 (£1.25) I must pay a luxury tax, a Panchayat (local council) tax, a room tax, a house tax, tourism licenses, restaurant licenses, bar licenses, etc. The benefits are all for big businesses – the concessions, rebates, cheap land, easy and quick terms of credit and access to the best places on the coast.

Tourism must be about the communities hosting the visitors, not five-star hotels who violate our culture, coast, children, women, and workers. They do not represent us - the Goans. They represent profit and capital; in short greed and exploitation.

Geraldine Fernandes

A 'White Paper' geared to highlight the problems of the small and medium hotels and guesthouse owners was prepared and submitted to the government by the Centre for Responsible Tourism.

The Centre for Responsible Tourism

The Centre for Responsible Tourism has established a programme of work in 18 coastal villages and tourism hubs. Within each village a group works on multiple issues ranging from women and child rights to protecting coastal ecology. A charter of demands now in the hands of the government seeks to address some pressing issues concerning how local people can be given a fair share of the benefits of tourism.

The Centre has also worked with the shack operators to develop a policy for the licensing of shacks on the Goan coastline. The government has, for the first time, taken up the proposals contained in the policy and is currently implementing them.

Massive rallies and village level protests have been cornerstones of the work. These have served to demonstrate that there is now an active and alert citizenry who will not sit back and 'watch helplessly' as the government sells off their coast! The government has opted for dialogue as the first step to initiate policy change.

'The farmer prays for rain at the same time when the traveller prays for good weather'. The challenge for the Centre for Responsible Tourism in Goa may be to reconcile these two contrasting and contradictory interests.



The cruise industry is the fastest-growing category in the leisure travel market. Since 1980, the industry has experienced an average annual passenger growth rate of over 8.1% compared to the UNWTO's estimated 4.8% tourism growth per annum. The CLIA, (Cruise Lines International Association) forecasts 12.8 million passengers will travel in 2008, a 1.6% increase from 2007. As the size of the cruise ship industry continues to increase, so does the industry's potential for causing adverse environmental impacts with cruise ships visiting environmentally fragile places such as the Antarctic and the Galapagos Islands.

Many of these cruise ships are the size of small towns but are not subject to the same environmental standards as land-based industries. They generate significant quantities of waste that the industry disposes of with little regulation.

Cruise ship tourism generates revenue for a location, through port docking fees, passenger spending, and per-person head taxes. Gross passenger spending is estimated at between US\$75-100 per day (PricewaterhouseCoopers, 2003). However cruise passengers often bring their own food and beverages and live onboard, so local spending is minimal, while their visits leave significant 'footprints' in the locality.

Cruising with a conscience

Given the environmental, economic, social and cultural impacts of cruising, is there a way we can be ethical cruisers?

Shirley Eber spent four months lecturing onboard a study-at-sea ship, where programmes had been pre-arranged with local partners in each port. She discusses her experiences...

ALTHOUGH THIS WASN'T YOUR TYPICAL CRUISE AND MY ROLE WAS AS A LECTURER TEACHING 'GLOBAL ISSUES' TO STUDENTS ON BOARD 'The Scholar Ship', the trip did raise issues common to cruising as a whole. However and wherever we travel, we affect the living-standards of people we visit, as well as their cultures and environment.

On the environmental front, we passengers were assured that waste disposal facilities were in place to minimise our impact on sea and land, although there was no way of investigating this. But with the ship's engines running even when we were stationary for a week at a time in order to keep the lighting and air-conditioning going, the environmental impact must have been considerable.

The 'invisible' aspects of the voyage also caused me concern. In common with most tourists, few of the staff or students had ever considered their impacts. Also, as the main emphasis was on forming a community within the ship, our impacts on the countries and communities we visited were underplayed. We largely disembarked as groups, and headed for our destinations en masse...

'Fraternising' with the crew from the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Latin America was forbidden. The crew worked long hours to support their families back home, and told me that their living conditions were cramped cabins with four to six others. Whenever we jaunted off to visit the sites, they would be onboard, unable to do anything that cost money.

I initiated workshops for the cruise participants to feed back some of the dilemmas they encountered. We all agreed that ethical tourism practices could not only benefit our hosts but also enhance our own experiences. By the end of the voyage, we formulated some guidelines which are summarised below.

1. When travelling, leave stereotypes behind. Look for the positive in the people you meet, their cultures and country.
2. Appreciate cultural differences as well as similarities. Try to learn something about a place before going there.
3. Observe appropriate dress and standards of behaviour. Make a conscious effort to understand peoples' values, norms and laws.
4. Be respectful and ask permission before taking pictures.
5. Respect the privacy of local people, and their sacred and private spaces. Be environmentally responsible and avoid littering.
6. Just because we have paid for a holiday does not entitle us to do or have anything we like. Local people are not there solely to guide us, clean up after us or provide us with luxury.
7. Consider buying local goods and using local services. Observe tipping and paying conventions; bargaining may be part of the local culture, but avoid bargaining unnecessarily. Avoid 'flaunting stuff' or exhibiting wealth.
8. Accept that when we travel we may not find the same standards as exist in our own country, for example, living conditions, food or working standards.
9. Learn some words, greetings or phrases in the local language. Local people are the best source of knowledge, immerse ourselves rather than just observing.
10. Remember we are only temporary "guests" in their area. They will have to deal with the environmental, social and cultural impacts of our visit long after we have moved on.

supporters' area

Race for TC!

When I decided it was time to get fit and raise some money for charity, I immediately thought of Tourism Concern. I had known about the organisation from when I studied tourism at North London University many years ago and, coupled with my passion for travelling, have always followed their extremely worthwhile work. I was very alarmed last year when I received letters to say that they needed money urgently or would possibly go out of business which is why I knew I would raise money for them – who else is going to fight for those exploited workers in tourism?

The British 10k London Run looked ideal as it was located in central London, around major icons like Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament and Buckingham Palace. I had completed a couple of runs before but not for at least two years. I set up my fundraising web page with an original target of £150 but had to keep increasing it as I pestered everyone I knew for money due to the worthy cause!

On race day I couldn't believe that there were 25,000 people there. Despite the rain I kept running all the way (there was music played including Chariots of Fire to keep you motivated around the course!) and even managed a sprint finish. My finish time was 63 minutes but more importantly, I raised £410 in total, felt great and lots fitter. Why don't you give it a go? It's easier than you think!

Linda Hartley

If you would like to raise money for Tourism Concern, please contact Siobhan at: info@tourismconcern.org.uk or 020 7133 3330



What's On...

- World Day for Decent Work on Tuesday 7 October. A organised day of activities organised by the TUC at Congress House, London, including workshops, films, exhibitions and stalls manned by UK charities, trade unions and ethical trade organisations. www.tuc.org.uk
- ETI's tenth anniversary conference, Ethical Trade: The next decade, Novotel Hammersmith, London, on 23 October 2008. www.eticonference.org
- 2008 Travellers' Philanthropy Conference in Arusha, Tanzania, 3-5 December 2008, organised by the Center on Ecotourism and Sustainable Development (CESD). www.travelersphilanthropy.org
- For World Tourism Day 2008, Responding to Climate Change: The challenge of adaptation and mitigation for Thai Tourism organized by the Ecumenical Coalition On Tourism, 25 September in Bangkok. To book, contact: rungrote@ecotonline.org

book review

Transforming Re-forming Tourism Perspectives on justice and humanity in tourism

Edited by Caesar
D'Mello, ECOT 2008,
246 pages, £12.99

ISBN: 978-974-05-9719-3

Produced by ECOT (the Ecumenical Coalition on Tourism) this book is introduced as 'Consisting of a series of papers written by different experts in their field' and includes a contribution by Tourism Concern's director Tricia Barnett. The book contains insightful accounts relating to ethically responsible tourism, world faiths and developing destinations.

A unique feature of the book is the inclusion of poignant verse between sections. The majority of case studies are based in Asia and include eye-witness accounts relating to the aftermath of the tsunami and displacement of local communities.

Not surprisingly (given the production 'team'), the theme of faith runs through the book and it's interesting to come across a series of articles where tourism is considered as being intricately related with the platform of world faiths and religion.

This book would be of particular interest to people whose travel has taken them to Asia and who have had some involvement with communities and their beliefs. It could also form a useful reference text for universities and colleges where a particular module may focus on tourism and religion.

The book, however, is very readable in its own right and the contributions are generally thought-provoking, personal and sincere. In our world where tourism always touches communities, perhaps this should be recommended reading for anyone engaging in tourism in developing countries.

*Sarah Upfield
The Gale Foundation*

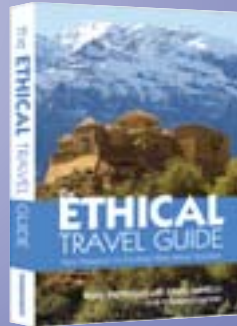




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