

ALL INCLUSIVE HOLIDAYS – GOOD FOR TOURISTS, NOT SO GOOD FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES, SURVEY FINDS

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According to a Tourism Concern survey of over 1700 holidaymakers the majority (55%) thought that the shift towards all-inclusive holidays is a negative development. However most of the sample believed that tourists benefited from all-inclusive holidays, but at the same time thought local communities were made worse.

A new report, *The perceived impacts of all-inclusive package holidays on host destinations – A Consumer Survey* by the campaigning charity Tourism Concern, to be launched on 7th February 2015 in London presents the findings of a recent survey of over 1700 holidaymakers into the perceived impacts of all-inclusive package holidays.

It is the latest publication relating to Tourism Concern's ongoing critique of the all-inclusive model, and follows their 2014 report: *'The impacts of all-inclusive hotels on working conditions and labour rights'*, and the 2012 briefing: *'All-inclusive holidays – excluding local people in tourist destinations'*.

The survey was carried out between 2012 and 2014 via an online market research platform with a membership of over 500,000 holidaymakers. Almost 1,750 responses were received and almost 70% had been on an all inclusive holiday – the key findings were:

- 55% of survey participants believe the shift towards all-inclusive holidays is a negative development. Nonetheless, 42% of the survey sample are likely to go on an all-inclusive holiday in the next two years.
- Of those survey participants who have been on an all-inclusive holiday, 32.8% never left the resort to visit a local restaurant, and 34.47% never went on an excursion outside the resort.
- 87% of the sample believed that tourists benefit from all-inclusive holidays. At the same time, 65.25% responded that local communities are in some way made worse off by the establishment of all-inclusive resorts.

Mark Watson, Executive Director at Tourism Concern stated, *"It is clear from the survey results and the views of participants that, while there is continuing demand for the advantages that the all-inclusive model offers to some holiday makers, there is also an increasing awareness of the model's negative impacts, even among those who enjoy the all-inclusive experience. And tellingly, there is evidence that these holidaymakers too want a fairer deal for local communities. This is something the industry must begin to take on board."*

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