

## Ethical Travel

Given our co-operative credentials you won't be surprised to hear that we are keen to support the ethical message within our Travel Group. We're finding this a really interesting area to discuss, and we've now reached a stage where we want to add your views into the debate.

So, where do you think we can promote the benefits of ethical travel more prominently to our customers and members? It will be really useful to have your thoughts.

We have prepared a list of various types of holidays below. And overleaf we have set out just some of the pros and cons in relation to each of these headings from an 'ethical' standpoint.

You'll see that it's a complex area, with lots of issues to consider. So it's all the more important that we add your thoughts into the debate.

With your input, we hope we can begin to settle on a list of the holidays we think we should do more to promote to our members and customers given their more ethical nature.

So please, come and let us know what you think and help take us forward in this very important area.

- UK holidays
  - by train
  - by self-drive
  - by coach
  - by air
  
- European holidays
  - by train
  - by self-drive
  - by coach
  - by air
  
- Cruises
  - UK departure cruises
  - fly cruises
  
- Long haul flying holidays

## 1. UK holidays by train

### For

- Lower carbon emissions than flying and driving within the UK. "If UK internal flights were to be made by train instead, by 2015 between 118,000 – 362,000 tons of carbon and 18,000 – 58,000 tons of nitrogen oxides emissions could be avoided" (Co-operative Holidays)
- Supports the domestic economy and local employment.
- Many train journeys to holiday destinations within the UK may be made in a short space of time, e.g. Birmingham to Exeter 2 hours 30 minutes

### Against

- Lack of a high quality infrastructure (high speed links, passenger capacity)
- More expensive and time consuming than flying to far reaches of the UK
- May not be suitable for certain groups e.g. young families

## 2. UK holidays by self-drive

### For

- Lower carbon emissions than flying, improved by the more passengers there are within the car
- Self-drive holidays allow economic benefits to be spread to multiple communities, rather than being based at one destination
- Increased flexibility of where to visit – economic benefit to communities not usually visited by tourists

### Against

- Carbon emissions created by driving damaging the environment
- Increased traffic levels on the UK road network – state of the roads, noise pollution

### 3. UK holidays by coach

#### For

- Lower carbon emissions than flying and self-drive – more passengers per coach than with a car
- For example, a passenger journey from London to Blackpool (385 km) in the UK will emit 11 kg CO<sub>2</sub> if done by coach, 23-25 kg if done by train, 44 kg if done by car and 68 kg if done by air (Bus & Coach)
- Less road congestion than the same amount of people driving



- Supports the domestic economy and local employment

#### Against

- Increased traffic levels on the road network (less than self-driving) – state of the roads, noise pollution
- May not be suitable for certain groups e.g. young families

### 4. UK holidays by air

#### For

- Carbon offsetting offered by some airlines to limit the environmental impact of flying
- Economic benefits of passengers visiting other parts of the UK they would not usually visit by alternative travel modes, as flying is generally quicker and cheaper
- Easing of traffic on the UK road network

**Against**

- Carbon emissions created by flying relatively short distances damaging the environment, with numerous alternatives available that are less harmful
- Increased flights clogging up UK air space

**5. European holidays by train**

**For**

- Lower carbon emissions than flying. According to Travel Weekly “Rail travel can reduce the climate footprint of a journey by up to 95% compared with flying”
- The Co-operative Group is a key company in the Overland Heaven initiative, making low-carbon overland travel across Europe mainstream
- Some train holidays may stop in multiple destinations along the way, spreading economic benefits to more communities

**Against**

- Lack of a high quality infrastructure across all of Europe (high speed links, passenger capacity)
- Environmental / financial cost to upgrade the current network
- Typically more expensive and time consuming than flying
- May not be suitable for certain groups e.g. young families

**6. European holidays by self-drive**

**For**

- Typically lower carbon emissions than flying, improved by the more passengers there are within the car.
- Self-drive holidays allow economic benefits to be spread to multiple communities
- Increased flexibility of where to visit – economic benefit to communities not usually visited by tourists

**Against**

- Carbon emissions created by driving damaging the environment
- Increased traffic levels on the road network – state of the roads, noise pollution

## 7. European holidays by coach

### For

- Lower carbon emissions than flying and self-drive – more passengers per coach than with a car
- Two independent studies in 2007 revealed that coach travel uses six times less energy than air travel, six times less energy than cars and two times less energy than trains (Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, Heidelberg for RDA; the International Coach Tourism Federation and the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Management for international coach operator Eurolines)
- Some coach holidays may stop in multiple destinations along the way, spreading economic benefits to more communities
- Less road congestion than the same amount of people driving

### Against

- Increased traffic levels on the road network (however less than self-driving) – state of the roads, noise pollution
- May not be suitable for certain groups e.g. young families

## 8. European holidays by air

### For

- Destinations that cannot be reached easily by alternative forms of transport from the UK. Economic and social benefits are spread to countries where tourism is a large proportion of their GDP. For example, ethical travel projects in less developed eastern European countries
- Alternative transport modes such as train to many destinations are more expensive and time consuming leading to less benefits to the destination
- Carbon offsetting offered by some airlines to limit the environmental impact of flying

### Against

- Carbon emissions created by flying damaging the environment
- Impact of low cost airlines with a trend towards multiple short holidays as opposed to less holidays but for longer durations
- Leakage – potential economic impact of all inclusive holidays – no money back into the local community

## 9. UK Departure Cruises

### For

- Closer departure ports resulting in less distance to travel = less carbon emissions
- Employment created on board the ship
- Economic benefit to destinations visited
- Cruise liners investing in new technologies to lower environmental impact

### Against

- Highest levels of carbon emissions per kilometre of all transport methods
- A large proportion of the economic benefit goes direct to the cruise operator as opposed to the destinations visited as time spent there may only be minimal
- Sewage waste produced that enters the ocean - on average, passengers on a cruise ship each account for 3.5 kilograms of rubbish daily - compared with the 0.8 kilograms each generated by local people on shore (One Planet)

## 10. Fly Cruises

### For

- Employment created on board the ship
- Economic benefit to destinations visited
- Cruise liners investing in new technologies to lower environmental impact

### Against

- Additional carbon emissions created by flight to far away port
- Highest levels of carbon emissions per kilometre of all transport methods
- A large proportion of the economic benefit goes direct to the cruise operator as opposed to the destinations visited as time spent there may only be minimal
- Sewage waste produced that enters the ocean - on average, passengers on a cruise ship each account for 3.5 kilograms of rubbish daily - compared with the 0.8 kilograms each generated by local people on shore (One Planet).

## 11. Long haul flying holidays

### For

- Economic and social benefits to destinations that depend on tourism for survival. 14 out of today's 20 top tourist countries are developing countries. For a third of these tourism is the main money earner and has helped them develop and prosper (Rough Guide)
- Promoting optional excursions which provide local employment
- Working with the Travel Foundation to produce a fairer deal for the host community
- Carbon offsetting offered by some airlines to limit the environmental impact of flying

### Against

- Carbon emissions created by flying damaging the environment
- Leakage – potential economic impact of all inclusive holidays – no money back into the local community