

Calling upon Tour Operators

In order to travel fairly, I need clear information on the products and services, and on the situation in the destination. I expect my tour operator to provide me with tangible information that will help me decide on my holiday and to answer my questions:

Which product and services benefit the population in the destination to the best possible extent? Who owns the facilities in the destination and who provides the services? Is it local people, whole communities, members of disadvantaged groups of the population? Does the broad population participate in decision-making processes and in the benefits from tourism? Where do I get local products? Do the conditions under which people work in tourism correspond to internationally applicable standards? Do women and ethnic minorities get a fair chance in tourism? Are children being protected from exploitation?

Do I get the opportunity to get to know the various facets of the host country and the lifestyles of its inhabitants? Who are the local business partners? Do they include members of different groups of the population? Do I get sufficient information on the situation and the realities of life of the population in the destination, so that I can prepare well for the encounter with my host?

How can I make sure that my holiday contributes to the protection of the environment in order to sustain the livelihoods of the host population and that the global environment does not get overly polluted? What do service providers and communities do in order to reduce environmental damage and the consumption of land, natural resources, water and energy, to prevent producing waste in the destination and to handle it in an environmentally friendly manner? Which concrete recommendations do I get in order for me to act in an environmentally friendly manner during my journey and in the destination?