



## 4 | ARRIVALS

ESCAPE | The Observer 25.10.09

### Charity that fights exploitation in tourism struggles

The only UK charity to monitor the impact of tourism on local people across the globe is under threat because its funding has dried up. Tourism Concern, which has been fighting exploitation in the travel industry for 20 years, needs an emergency injection of £40,000 to survive.

Director Tricia Barnett says grants from government agencies and trusts used to meet its running costs, but these have now disappeared.

So what would Tourism Concern's closure mean for the industry? "The charity is unique in what it does, and without £40,000 we will have to close the door to people all over the world who come to us for help and support," says Barnett. "For example, we're currently working with local people in India and Sri Lanka to campaign against major post-tsunami tourism developments that are driving people, especially fishermen, from their homes and lands. Without us, these people won't have a voice."

Next month, Tourism Concern will release its human rights report, *Putting Tourism to Rights*, highlighting cases of villagers deprived of water by new hotels and golf courses, exploited children, and lack of working rights for hotel staff.

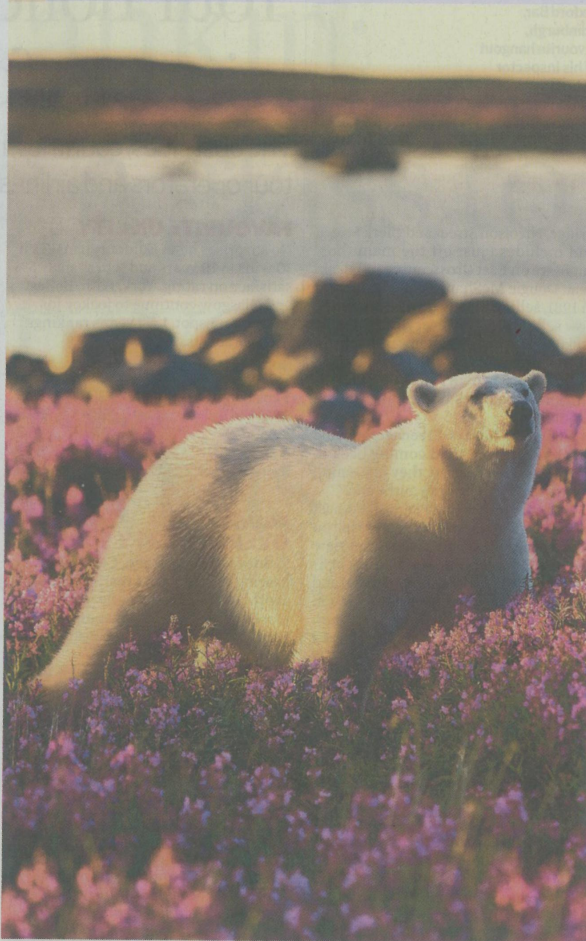
"The industry needs a strong, independent lobby group such as Tourism Concern to drive forward these issues," says Richard Hammond, founder of Greentraveller.co.uk. "If it were to close, I'm not sure who would take over these campaigns."

Ed Gillespie, co-founder of the Futerra agency which advises companies on their eco-policies, says: "Tourism Concern needs a more public voice, so the general public recognises what it does. It could introduce public membership to help funding. Let's get people saying 'I'm a responsible traveller, I'm a member of Tourism Concern.'"

See [tourismconcern.org.uk](http://tourismconcern.org.uk) for more information about the charity's campaigns.

Nicola Iseard

### THE BIG PICTURE



From polar bears among purple fireweed and dramatic multicoloured icebergs to huge black-browed albatrosses soaring through the sky, Michael Poliza's latest coffee table epic, *ANTARCTIC - A Tribute to Life in the Polar Regions* (teNeues, £85), is filled with 180 stunning colour photographs taken during his journey to the polar regions.

### IN BRIEF

#### NO-FRILLS TO TEL AVIV

Easyjet ([easyjet.com](http://easyjet.com)) is launching a new service between Luton and Israel's second-largest city, Tel Aviv, on 2 November. The airline, which will become the first no-frills carrier to fly between the British capital and Tel Aviv, will run services every day except Friday, with fares from £71.98 one way. The airline will also start running twice-weekly (Wednesday and Sunday) flights from Gatwick to Agadir in Morocco on 4 November, with prices from £32.99 one way.

#### COOK'S 2012 TOURS

More than a century after it escorted British travellers to the first modern Olympic Games - in Athens in 1896 - Thomas Cook is gearing up to support the London Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012. The tour operator will provide a range of short-break packages, including accommodation, transport and tickets. Sports fans will have a while to wait to get their hands on these packages, though - they won't go on sale until 2011, but you can register at [thomascook.com](http://thomascook.com) so you can keep up to date with all the details.

#### AN EYEFUL IN PARIS

Heading to Paris in the next three months? You're in luck: you'll see the Eiffel Tower as it's never been seen before, lit up with 400 LED spotlights. To celebrate 120 years of the Eiffel Tower, a 12-minute light show - one minute for each decade the Iron Lady has stood in the heart of Paris - takes place on its Trocadero facade every night at 8pm, 9pm, 10pm and 11pm from now until 31 December. You're promised "a dynamic light sequence evoking the extraordinary construction site of the Tower". For more information see [tour-eiffel.fr](http://tour-eiffel.fr).

#### CUP AND CAPE

If you're heading to the World Cup in South Africa next June, and thinking about making a trip of it, you may be interested in a new boutique travel company, based in Cape Town. Run by a previously London-based couple, Cape Active (00 27 28 272 9723; [capeactive.com](http://capeactive.com)) will help you not only with self-catering



Easyjet is launching flights to Tel Aviv - and its legendary nightlife.

accommodation during the tournament, but also with packages in the Western Cape before or afterwards. For example, a package including seven nights' B&B accommodation, a guided tour of Cape Town and Table Mountain, wine tastings at the Stellenbosch vineyards and an overnight safari stay in a lion sanctuary costs from £575, including transfers but not flights.

#### LIVING FOR THE WEEKEND

If you're stuck for ideas for your next weekend away, visit [101shortbreaks.co.uk](http://101shortbreaks.co.uk). This new website features lots of ideas for short trips worldwide, from one to four nights. Try wine tasting in Gloucestershire, a weekend on a working farm near Calais or a yoga retreat in Morocco's Atlas Mountains. A tour operator is recommended for each trip.

#### LONDON BY IPHONE

Whether you're after a hip coffee shop, farmers' market, library or hotel, if you're an iPhone owner planning a weekend in London you can get insiders' tips with the new iPhone App "Not For Tourists London 2010" ([notfortourists.com](http://notfortourists.com)). Featuring 140 neighbourhoods, 4,500 listings, and dozens of interactive maps, it costs just £2.99, from iPhone App stores.

Watch Everton star Stephen Pienaar play for South Africa.

