

**Tribunal of
Phnom Penh**

10 YEARS

**Court of
Costa Rica**

9 YEARS

**Tribunal
of Goa**

8 YEARS

**Criminal Court
of Paris**

7 YEARS

**Criminal Court
of Basel**

6 YEARS

**High Court
of The Hague**

5 YEARS



**SEXUAL TOURISM
HAVING SEXUAL RELATIONS
WITH A MINOR IS PUNISHABLE
BY IMPRISONMENT**



Club Med 

**For a tourism that
respects children...**

Since we share the same idea of holidays and travel, we are sure you will also share Club Med's commitment alongside ECPAT.

In an effort to prevent sex tourism involving children, Club Méditerranée decided to join, together with the French Tourism Ministry and other groups, ECPAT's information and awareness-raising campaign.

We include this among your travel documents because extending this campaign to you, our GM, is a way of supporting this cause.

Thierry Orsoni
Communications Director

For further information, contact:

ECPAT International
328 Phayathai Road, Rachathewi,
Bangkok, Thailand 10400
www.ecpat.net
info@ecpat.net

ECPAT USA
157, Montague St., Brooklyn,
New York 11201
www.ecpatusa.org
ecpat@ecpatusa.org

For a tourism that respects children

The mission of ECPAT is to combat child prostitution, child pornography and the trafficking of children for sexual purposes. It is an international organisation active in over 70 countries around the world. For many years, numerous tourism professionals have been working alongside ECPAT to fight the sexual exploitation of children in tourism.

A child is defined as any human being below the age of eighteen years.

(Article 1 of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child.)

There is no justification for the sexual exploitation of a child. It is always an intolerable violation of the rights of the child, regardless of where it takes place.

In many countries, children have become merchandise sold to travellers in order to satisfy their fantasies.

This form of child exploitation is not confined to a few tourist destinations, but is rife all over the world.

The young victims suffer extremely harsh living conditions, and are often prisoners of violent criminal networks. Even without any physical constraint, there is always an absence of choice with regard to the economic and social realities experienced by the children. The sexual exploitation which they suffer leaves permanent psychological and physical scars.

While it is clear that this exploitation is brought about partly by individuals who are sexually attracted to children, it is by no means confined to this group of people.

Many abusers are otherwise ordinary men and women who commit acts of this nature within the particular context of their trip.

Some of the key factors which lead to this kind of behaviour are as follows:

- the tourist's feeling of power over the local people because of his or her economic superiority;
- the desire for new experiences;
- anonymity and the absence of normal social rules, which tends to lower the individual's inhibitions and lead him or her to adopt more lax or even abusive behaviour;
- a feeling of impunity from being far from home;
- indifference to the partner;
- cultural ignorance resulting in false ideas about what is acceptable in the host country.

Many of these people justify their behaviour on the basis of received ideas often present in our societies, such as "it will help the child to live, or help his/her family to live", or "the morals in that country are different".

Today, child abuse is a crime punishable by law. It is no longer possible to act with impunity outside one's own country.

Most southern countries have passed extremely severe laws to punish those who pay for child prostitution, and have already sentenced Western nationals to harsh prison sentences for acts of this kind.

For their part, the home countries of sexual tourists have passed extra-territorial laws enabling them to pursue and prosecute their nationals and/or residents for sexual crimes committed against children abroad.

In France, acts of this kind are punishable by an average of 10 years in prison and 100,000 euros in fines. French courts have already sentenced a number of individuals for crimes of sexual tourism involving children.

What can I do to help with the fight?

Before your trip, learn about your destination. You will then be able to identify any places to be avoided. Help the tourism professionals dedicated to combating these crimes. If you witness any sexual exploitation of a child during your travels, talk to your guide, your hotel, your travel agent, your embassy, the police or child protection organisations. Don't hesitate to inform on any local service provider who may be involved in unlawful activities.

