

Hostelworld Survey Reveals the Positive Impact Travelers Have as they Meet the World

Recent Survey Results from Hostelworld Show Travelers have a Greater Impact than they Realize, and that Impact Increases the More You Travel

Dublin, Ireland — April 17, 2017 — [Hostelworld](#), the world's largest hostel booking platform, today revealed the results from its quarterly consumer survey about the impact travelers have on the communities they visit. The company set out to uncover how United States citizens interact with other cultures when traveling and what the average traveler footprint — defined as the long term impact travelers have on a given community including everything from economic stimulation and monetary donations to lasting social connections and community service — looks like. While travel is often thought of as a quick getaway or a temporary escape from reality, survey results show it's so much more than that.

An overwhelming majority of survey respondents (79 percent) said they engage with communities that they have traveled to in some fashion after returning home, whether it be making return visits, encouraging others to travel to the location, keeping in touch with locals or making donations to local charities. Despite this fact, nearly half of respondents (44 percent) said they do not think they have an impact on the communities they visit. This suggests that many travelers do have a positive impact when traveling even if they don't realize it, and results show that the more you travel the greater the impact.

Additional findings include:

- **Power Travelers Have the Largest Impact** - Power travelers, respondents who take 10 or more trips per year, are more likely to engage with the people and places they visit in a meaningful way. The vast majority of power travelers (92 percent) make return visits to one or more destinations on a regular basis. Power travelers are most likely to make donations to some or all of the communities they visit — 25 percent of power travelers make donations compared to just 15 percent of those who travel less frequently. Additionally, the more respondents travel, the more likely they are to participate in community service projects while traveling — 23 percent of those that travel 1-3 times per year participate in community service projects, compared to 30 percent of those that travel 4-6 times per year, 35 percent of those who travel 7-9 times per year and 36 percent of those who travel 10 or more times per year.
- **Travel Results in Lasting Connections** - Just as travel experiences have a lasting impact on the traveler, the traveler often has a lasting impact on the communities they visit. Nearly half of all survey respondents (45 percent) said they make return visits to some or all of the communities they visit. What's more, 82 percent of US citizens said they have inspired or encourage others to travel to that destination and nearly a quarter (23 percent) keep in touch with locals from some or all of the communities they visit. Meanwhile, 36 percent of respondents said they have made lifelong friendships.
- **Rise of the Foodie** - Travelers are handing over their snorkel gear and foregoing museum tour tickets in favor of a foodie focused getaways. 63 percent of survey respondents said they spend the most money on "accommodations" while traveling, with "restaurants" coming in as a close second — that's above "experiences", "groceries", "transportation" and beyond. Nearly half (49 percent) of respondents spend extra funds dining out while on vacation, supporting local restaurants and tasting the local cuisine. Food is quickly becoming the most popular way to

experience a new location and that's good news for local businesses and the overall economy. Foodies are funneling funds into local establishments and creating an opportunity for new local restaurants to open up.

"We often talk about the benefits of travel — it's an opportunity to explore the world, learn about other cultures, meet new people, spark creativity, a chance to build lasting connections and much, much more," said Feargal Mooney, CEO of Hostelworld. "But there's a deeper side to the story. Travelers also have a hugely positive impact on the places they visit, whether they realize it or not. When we travel, we fuel the local economy, we make lifelong connections, we volunteer, we make donations, and we become champions for a given location, encouraging family and friends to make the same trek we have. The more we travel, the more opportunity we have to positively impact communities around the world. And in today's world, travel is more important than ever before."

Hostelworld conducted an online survey via SurveyMonkey of over 1,000 US citizens in March 2017. Respondents were between the ages of 18 and 100 and lived in the United States. To download a breakdown of the full results, [click here](#). For more information about Hostelworld, [click here](#).

About Hostelworld

[Hostelworld Group](#) is the leading global hostel-booking platform with Hostelworld, Hostelbookers and Hostels.com in its portfolio operating in 19 different languages. Connecting young travellers with hostels around the world, Hostelworld has over 8 million reviews across 33,000 properties in more than 170 countries. Hostelworld's customers aren't your average tourists; they crave experiences not souvenirs and want to be in the heart of the action. They want to Meet The World, and it's the social nature of hostels that facilitates their travel adventures.

The Hostelworld Group went public in November 2015, listing on the main London and Dublin stock exchanges. Hostelworld has offices around the world in Dublin, London, Shanghai, Sydney and Seoul, and was recently recognised as a Best Workplace for 2016 by the Great Place To Work Institute.

Contact Information

Molly Galler for Hostelworld

Phone: 617-945-1915

Email: hostelworld@launchsquad.com