



## **IRU efforts to restore the 12 day rule.**

IATM welcomes moves to restore the 12 day rule for coach drivers. Tour Managers have had to change many working operations as Tour Operators have been forced to modify itineraries to suit the abolition of this rule. This has disadvantaged: travellers in terms of visits that are possible; Coach Drivers and Tour Managers in terms of income; and Tour Operators in added expense and contracting changes caused by the rule.

Regulations were due to be applied to heavy road haul vehicles, but were applied to touring coach operations where there is no social advantage for drivers on tour far from home.

The fine balance of tour operations, tuned over years to best suit the consumer, has been upset, the tour drivers are forced to waste time in places where there are often few facilities, and extra costs are incurred.

On a "day off", the driver is not allowed to travel on his coach as a passenger, and so is not able to partake of a complimentary meal. He loses rapport with passengers as he seems more of an extension of the steering wheel, and will suffer loss of income through reduced gratuities, a valuable addition to their wages.

Professional Tour Managers and Tour Guides will work well with their tour drivers, but this relationship does come under strain under difficult conditions as the drivers resent a relief driver in "their" coach.

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