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Editor

Picture yourself relaxing on a sunny Mediterranean beach in a few years' time. Will you have chosen to go in June, when the mercury's in the mid-20s, and the ice-cubes in your glass don't melt until you're half-way through your cocktail? Or will you be travelling with kids in August, when it's more than 30C, and the sand's so hot you can't walk down to the sea without your flip-flops on?

Whichever your preferred time, the temperatures in your favourite Mediterranean resorts may soon be far toastier than you're used to, with scientists predicting that, as early as 2070, the average global temperature may have increased by between four and six degrees.

Scientists have been giving this warning for some time, but what I hadn't appreciated, until a lively session at the Responsible Tourism in Destinations conference in Manchester last week, was that temperatures during a heat-wave in Europe could reach eight degrees more – making Greece as hot as 47C – surely too hot for comfort.

I'm planning on still being alive in 2070 (though I'll be too old for building sandcastles on the beach), and it's terrifying to think of the chaos the planet might be in.

But rather than simply debating the issues, the focus at this year's RTD conference was on the processes by which the travel industry could bring about change.

I was inspired to hear about Thomson Cruises' achievements in reducing its carbon emissions, and the work that the International Hotel Partnership has done on carbon reporting and human trafficking.

It was also interesting to hear VisitEngland's chief executive and the chair of Abta's UK Leisure and Tourism Group underline the importance of agents in promoting responsible holidays – whether selling more sustainable places to stay or supporting local heritage here in the UK.

You can read stories from the conference on pages 5, 8 and 9, and more on ttgdigital.com. And next time you sell a summer sun holiday, spare a thought for a time 50 years hence when those destinations might be unrecognisable – and ask yourself if you are playing your part in safeguarding holidays for the future.

It's easy to get in touch — you can email me **pjacks@ttgdigital.com** *— or tweet me at* **twitter.com/philippajacks**

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