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## Visit London What's New Travel Trade

August 2007

Welcome to the August Travel Trade newsletter. Keep up to date with all that's happening in London by reading the latest travel trade updates.

If you need any further information about the news below or have a specific enquiry please email [trade@visitlondon.com](mailto:trade@visitlondon.com) or dial the travel trade helpline: +44 (0)20 7234 5821.



## Visit London News

### Visit London revamps website

Visit London has re-launched its English website as part of its preparations for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and commitment to providing the best information about the capital to visitors and Londoners. The new, fresh-look site has been designed to allow London's visitors to navigate information quicker and easier, run more powerful searches, and book a range of products and services.

More information: [www.visitlondon.com](http://www.visitlondon.com)

### New deal with Visit London and major UK travel operator makes Oyster even more convenient

Visit London, Transport for London (TfL), and UK short break specialist Superbreak have launched a new deal to enable visitors to buy and receive Visitor Oyster Cards before they arrive in the capital giving them quicker, easier journeys and more time to enjoy their trip. The agreement means that visitors are able to purchase a Visitor Oyster Card via Superbreak's website: [www.superbreak.com](http://www.superbreak.com) or Visit London's at [www.visitlondon.com](http://www.visitlondon.com) and it will be sent out with •10 worth of travel loaded onto the card. Click [here](#) for more information.

### New team member for Visit London International Marketing Team

Carola van Rijn has recently joined the International Marketing Team at Visit London. The passionate marketer, who has joined us from the Netherlands, has over six years experience in tourism, in both tour operating and communications. Carola is delighted to start in her new role, and will be working on all international leisure markets together with the other members of the team.

Contact: call +44 (0) 20 7234 5818 or email [cvanrijn@visitlondon.com](mailto:cvanrijn@visitlondon.com)

## Partner Offers and News

### **Bateaux London update**

Following a strategic review Bateaux London will be focusing on the growth of the restaurant cruise brand. This means that the sightseeing brand Catamaran Cruisers will cease on 30th September 2007. Bateaux London is delighted to advise that City Cruises will honour all Catamaran Cruisers rates from 1st October 2007 until 31st March 2008. For more information, visit: [www.bateauxlondon.com](http://www.bateauxlondon.com) or call +44 (0)20 7695 1800

### **New Quirky shopping guide celebrates east end creativity**

Discover the best in independent design and fashion, with the latest edition of the Quirky Shopping Guide. Produced by Tower Hamlets Council, the Guide lists over 150 independent boutiques, design, art and gift stores in and around East London - one of the capital's most productive areas for young creative talent. For more information click [here](#)

### **Four Hands - One Piano**

The Abbott O'Gorman Duo offer a light-hearted musical entertainment of four-handed piano virtuosity, sprinkled with witty and humorous anecdotes from the world of music. They cater for a wide variety of tastes from Baroque to Broadway and Grieg to Gershwin holding audiences spellbound! More information: [www.cubittmusic.co.uk](http://www.cubittmusic.co.uk)

### **Pre- and post- theatre menus at Imli restaurant**

Located in the heart of the theatre district of London, Imli restaurant offers a new concept in Indian cuisine. The restaurant now offers lightly spiced and delicious tapas style menus ideal for sharing in an environment ideal for pre- and post-theatre meals. And being close to all the main shows allows guests to dine in style knowing they can make the theatre in time. Contact and bookings: call +44 (0)72874243, e-mail [ishita@imli.co.uk](mailto:ishita@imli.co.uk) or visit [www.imli.co.uk](http://www.imli.co.uk)

### **Chelsea Millennium's revamp now completed**

The newest addition to the group, The Millennium & Copthorne Hotels at Chelsea Football Club has just completed a multi-million pound refurbishment of all bedrooms, bars, restaurants & public areas. New is the Club Lounge, an exclusive lounge available for guests to enjoy breakfast, all day tea & coffee & light snacks, evening cocktails & complimentary wi-fi access. For more information click [here](#)

### **Discover Bankside with new guide**

Better Bankside has produced a new guide to Bankside, one of London's riverside destinations stretching from Blackfriars Bridge to London Bridge. The guide provides a great insight to Bankside and its many unique activities and events on offer, the specialist shopping opportunities as well as including a map of the area. Contact and orders: call +44 (0)20 7401 5266 or visit [www.visitbankside.com](http://www.visitbankside.com) (site under construction)

## **Hotel Offers**

### **City Breaks at City Inn Westminster**

City Inn Westminster, combining a passion for modern design with contemporary living, is ideally located next to Tate Britain with the London Eye, Houses of Parliament, major shopping streets and West End theatres only a short walk away. Experience the critically-acclaimed City Caf•, with alfresco terrace, and the stylish Millbank Lounge Bar. For special offers click [here](#)

### **base2stay; London's alternative to boutique & budget hotels**

base2stay presents an exciting new approach to urban accommodation blending aspects

of boutique hotels with serviced apartments to provide a synthesis of what guests really need. By concentrating on stylish, comfortable rooms featuring state-of-the-art communications and kitchenettes, and editing out unnecessary extras, base2stay offers excellent standards of accommodation from just •89 per room.

Contact and bookings: [www.base2stay.com](http://www.base2stay.com)

## Exhibitions and Events

### **The First Emperor: China's Terracotta Army, 13 September 2007 - 6 April 2008**

This once-in-a-lifetime exhibition coming to the British Museum, London, in September this year will explore one of the greatest archaeological discoveries of the 20th century and provide an insight into China's first Emperor, Qin Shihungdi, and his legacy. Objects featured will also include the world-famous terracotta warriors from Xi'an, China which were buried alongside the First Emperor in readiness for the afterlife. Contact and bookings: 0870 066 1562 / +44 (0)20 7323 8181 or click [here](#)

### **Davis Cup Tennis back at Wimbledon, 21 September - 23 September 2007**

Watch world-class tennis on Wimbledon's number 1 Court in a Davis Cup World Group play-off next month, returning to the capital for the first time in seven years. Contact and bookings: 0870 145 1180 (individual tickets), 0870 1609 748 (group bookings), 0870 4000 750 (disabled bookings) or visit [www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk)

### **Maritime Greenwich Festival month, September 2007**

September is Festival Month in Maritime Greenwich when this beautiful corner of south east London comes alive with special events ranging from light classical music, jazz and street entertainment to a challenging 22-mile river Thames boat race. Contact: call +44 (0) 870 608 2000 or visit [www.greenwichwhs.org.uk](http://www.greenwichwhs.org.uk)

### **Diana, a Princess remembered - Kensington Palace, until January 2008**

Marking Diana's life as princess, mother, fashion icon and humanitarian, this celebration of the life of Diana, Princess of Wales features over two hundred photographs, alongside memorable film footage and interviews with people who knew the Princess personally.

For more information: [www.hrp.org.uk](http://www.hrp.org.uk)

### **Hermitage Rooms at Somerset House**

Stunning works of art collected by Napoleon's wife at her country retreat are displayed in France in Russia: Empress Josephine's Malmaison Collection at the Hermitage Rooms until 4 November 2007. Booking and contacts: Call +44 (0) 20 7420 9410, email

[groups@somersetshouse.org.uk](mailto:groups@somersetshouse.org.uk) or visit [www.somersetshouse.org.uk](http://www.somersetshouse.org.uk)

## Theatre and Entertainment

### **The MOBO Awards '07, O2 Arena, 19th September**

The prestigious MOBO Awards, in association with Western Union, return for their 12th annual ceremony in the state of the art O2 arena on the 19th of September. This will be the first star-studded Awards Show to be held at the impressive venue.

For more information, click [here](#)

### **Grease, Piccadilly Theatre, from 25 July**

The smash hit musical about high school love returns to London's West End to bring smiles to the faces of all wannabee T-Birds and Pink Ladies. For more information, click [here](#)

## General Information

### Transport disruptions

The Victoria line will be closing early Mondays to Thursdays from 23 July to 22 November to allow line upgrade works. For this and further information on travel in London go to: [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk)

### London goes traffic-free on the 23rd of September

On Sunday 23 September many of London's roads will be completely traffic-free and open only to cyclists. On this Day of the Bicycles, cyclists are able to cycle down the city's most famous roads, seeing sights like London Eye, Big Ben, Buckingham Palace and Tower Bridge. For more information, click [here](#)

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