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## Visit London What's New Travel Trade

23 January 2008

Welcome to the January 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 at the Great Days Out Fair 2008

Widely recognised as the largest group travel organiser's event in the country, Great Days Out Fair will once again take place at Bolton's Reebok Stadium. The event will be held on Saturday 2nd February and promises to be bigger and better than ever. Visit London will be at the show with the 2008 London for Groups Guide and the latest Travel Trade Guide. For further information on the show visit [www.greatdaysout.com](http://www.greatdaysout.com)

#### Partner Offers and News

##### 'Terracotta' Tennis Warriors Parade at Wimbledon

The complete set of Chinese 'Terracotta' Tennis Warriors featuring the world's top eight male tennis players are now on parade at the All England Club, Wimbledon, home of the multi-award winning Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum. The Museum's Wimbledon Tour which already offers a fascinating insight into life behind the scenes at the world's premier tennis event, now also gives visitors a last opportunity to see all eight of the impressive seven-foot statues in one place. The statues, including Roger Federer, Andy Roddick and David Ferrer are scheduled to be on display at the Club until March 2008. Thereafter they will be given to each respective player. For up-to-date information visit [www.wimbledon.org/museum](http://www.wimbledon.org/museum) or call + 44 (0)20 8946 6131.

##### Bateaux London

Girl Power started over 1500 years ago with St Bridgit, allowing women to propose to their men every Leap Year on 29th February. Bateaux London is one of the Capital's most popular places to propose (and celebrate) and continues the tradition of Girl Power with romantic dinner cruises on the 29th of February 2008 and throughout the year. Bookings can be made on line (5% discount) [www.bateauxlondon.com](http://www.bateauxlondon.com) or by calling +44 (0)20 7695 1800 (with commission to agents).

##### Salman Khan at Madame Tussauds

Award-winning Bollywood hero Salman Khan will officially unveil his wax figure at Madame Tussauds London. Khan, currently up on the 'big screen' in major new Bollywood movie Saawariya, beat nine other Indian mega stars including Madhuri Dixit and Abhishek Bachchan to be immortalized at the world famous attraction after a public poll conducted this summer. For more information, visit [www.madame-tussauds.co.uk](http://www.madame-tussauds.co.uk)

##### Pearl Restaurant introduces Gourmet beer and food tasting menu

Pearl, one of London's most glamorous fine dining restaurants, has developed an exquisite new Tasting Menu designed specifically for beer-loving gastronomes. Guests at Pearl can now enjoy a sommelier's selection of gourmet beers, which have been expertly paired to each individual dish on the Beer and Food Tasting Menu. The five-course Tasting Menu costs £75.00 per person, including a specially selected beer with each course. For more information visit [www.pearl-restaurant.com](http://www.pearl-restaurant.com)

##### The Original Tour

Walking tours are now a free inclusion to the Original Tour ticket. There is a Changing of the Guard Walk and our 'Classic Walk', a 40-minute tour exploring the hidden treasures of Trafalgar Square and central London. The walks run daily from our newly opened London Visitor Centre on Cockspur St and are guided in English by one of our experienced and entertaining guides. There are also 2 new routes - Station Connector service which links-in with the new Eurostar terminal at St Pancras International and then includes Euston, Marylebone and Paddington stations, before joining our two main tour routes at Marble Arch. For more information please visit

[www.theoriginaltour.com](http://www.theoriginaltour.com)

#### **Greenwich Observation Wheel**

The Greenwich Foundation and PWR events are delighted to announce a new addition to the landscape of Greenwich for summer 2008 – an Observation Wheel that stands taller than Nelson's Column! At 55 metres from the ground visitors will take in panoramic views beyond St Paul's Cathedral and the Tower of London to the west, across the river and past Canary Wharf to the heights of Hampstead Heath, and east to the Olympic site in the Lea Valley. In the foreground, the Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site will be laid out in a rare perspective. For more information contact Laura Wilkinson, Greenwich Foundation for the Old Royal Naval College on +44 (0)20 8269 4763 [lwilkinson@greenwichfoundation.org.uk](mailto:lwilkinson@greenwichfoundation.org.uk)

#### **Walking Tours in 2008**

Explore Theatreland and find out more about this famous district with Blue Badge guide Diane Burstein. This year's Sunday walking tours are held on 27 April, 25 May, 29 June, 27 July, 31 August, 28 September and 19 October. To find out more and book, email

[walkingtours@soltma.co.uk](mailto:walkingtours@soltma.co.uk)

#### **Jack the Ripper and the East End - May - November 2008**

In May 2008 Museum in Docklands is returning to the scene of London's most infamous crimes, with its major new exhibition, Jack the Ripper and the East End. Bypassing the salacious speculation and whodunit sleuthing that has long crowded this terrain, the exhibition will open a new path by looking at the human stories behind the penny-dreadful accounts. Bringing together the surviving original documents for the first time, including police files, photographs, and letters from the public, For more information please visit [www.museumindocklands.org.uk](http://www.museumindocklands.org.uk) or contact +44 (0)870 444 3856.

#### **Discover London's Waterways, Groups and Travel Trade guide 2008**

Discover London's Waterways, the Groups and Travel Trade guide produced by British Waterways will be available from February 2008. The fully updated version of this comprehensive guide to days-out on the rivers and canals across the capital is an essential resource for all those with an interest in exploring some of London's most unforgettable landmarks or discovering its hidden gems. Discover London's Waterways Groups and Travel Trade guide is available FREE from British Waterways. For more information on this and BW other resources, as well as BW's work throughout London and across the UK visit [www.waterscape.co.uk](http://www.waterscape.co.uk) or call +44 (0)20 7985 7200.

#### **Hotels**

##### **Murder Mystery Dinner at the Holiday Inn London Elstree**

Friday 21st March 2008 just £50 Per Person. Give your clients a night of intrigue and suspense at the Holiday Inn London Elstree accompanied by a delicious three course dinner as they use their detective skills to follow the clues and unravel the mystery. Or they can make a weekend of it with a murder mystery dinner and overnight accommodation for just £50 per person. For further information or should you wish to book please call +44 (0)870 4431271.

##### **Charing Cross Restores its Victorian Glamour**

The historic Charing Cross hotel is set to re-establish its reputation as one of London's most elegant and charming hotels thanks to a £6m investment by Guoman Hotels.

Following an initial spend of £1m last year the hotel now opens its doors as 'Charing Cross', part of the exclusive collection of Guoman hotels in London which includes The Cumberland at the top of Park Lane. Guoman Hotels is a unique collection of deluxe hotels each with their own distinctive look and feel, which is set apart by the location, architecture, design and heritage. For more information [click here](#)

##### **Luxury Valentines Break at Buckingham Gate Luxury Suites and Apartments**

Be spoiled with dinner at Bistro 51, Champagne on arrival, savoury bites in-room, premium chocolates, and complimentary use of spa facilities at the Spa at Fifty-One. From £350 per night.

Terms and conditions apply. [www.51-buckinghamgate.com](http://www.51-buckinghamgate.com)

[reservation@51buckinghamgate.co.uk](mailto:reservation@51buckinghamgate.co.uk)

#### **Exhibitions and Events**

**Spring and Summer Private Guided Tours of Buckingham Palace**

Book now for a Private Guided Tour of Buckingham Palace when the Palace is closed to the general public. With an expert guide, explore the State Rooms regularly used by The Queen for State ceremonies and official entertaining. The tour ends with a glass of Buckingham Palace champagne in the Grand Entrance, where the Royal Family's guests arrive. Telephone +44 (0)20 7766 7321 (very limited availability).

**'For Your Eyes Only' at the Imperial War Museum**

To celebrate the centenary of Ian Fleming's birth, Imperial War Museum London is producing the first major exhibition devoted to the life and work of the man who created the world's most famous secret agent, James Bond. Featuring fascinating material, much on public display for the first time, For Your Eyes Only will look at the author and his fictional character in their historical context and examine how much of the Bond novels were imaginary and how far they were based on real people and events. Groups of ten or more people can benefit from the special group rate of £7 per person and fast-track entrance when booking in advance on +44 (0)20 7416 5439 or visit [www.iwm.org.uk](http://www.iwm.org.uk) for more information.

**Royal Academy of Arts - From Russia: French and Russian Master Paintings 1870 – 1925 from Moscow and St Petersburg**

This landmark exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts presents modern masterpieces drawn from Russia's principal collections: the Pushkin State Museum of Fine Art and the State Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow and the State Hermitage Museum and the State Russian Museum in St. Petersburg. For the first time, works from these museums have been gathered for a single exhibition. Over 120 paintings by Russian and French artists working between 1870 and 1925 will be displayed together in an exhibition which surveys the main directions of modern art from Realism and Impressionism to Non-Objective painting. Special rate for advanced group bookings on +44 (0)20 7300 8027. More details on this exhibition and online tickets on [www.royalacademy.org.uk](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk)

**Hadrian: Empire and Conflict at the British Museum**

24 July – 26 October 2008. This special exhibition will explore the life, love and legacy of Rome's most enigmatic emperor, Hadrian (reigned AD 117–138). This unprecedented exhibition will provide fresh insight into the sharp contradictions of Hadrian's character and challenges faced during his reign. Objects from 31 museums worldwide and finds from recent excavations will be shown together for the first time to reassess his legacy, which remains strikingly relevant today. SPECIAL GROUP RATES AVAILABLE from £9.50\* per ticket. BOOKING LINE - +44 (0)20 7323 8181 [www.britishmuseum.org/hadrian](http://www.britishmuseum.org/hadrian)

**Skin+Bones: Parallel Practices in Fashion and Architecture at Somerset House**

The first major international exhibition devoted to the relationship between fashion and architecture, SKIN+BONES: Parallel Practices in Fashion and Architecture will open in an installation designed by Eva Jiricna at Somerset House, running from 24 April – 10 August 2008. SKIN+BONES focuses on the visual and conceptual ideas that unite fashion and architecture, dating from the 1980s to the present day. The show features around 200 works by over 40 internationally-renowned architects and designers. For more information and tickets please visit [www.somersetshouse.org.uk](http://www.somersetshouse.org.uk)

**Theatre and Entertainment****Access London Theatre brochure**

If you are ever asked about what theatre can do for disabled people, why not subscribe to the Access London Theatre brochure. This lists all audio-described; captioned and sign language interpreted performances in London theatres throughout the year (about 350 in all) and helps people who can't see or hear very well enjoy the theatre as they once would have been able to. Available FREE from Reception at the Society of London Theatre email: [enquiries@soltma.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@soltma.co.uk) or call +44 (0)20 7557 6700. Available in print; large print; Braille or tape version.

**Shakespeare's Globe**

In 2008 Shakespeare's Globe introduces two new plays. Ché Walker's The Frontline is an ultra-modern, wild and panoramic look at London on a Saturday night, whilst Glyn Maxwell's beautiful and engaging new play, Liberty, takes us to Paris during the French Revolution. Visit [www.shakespeares-globe.org](http://www.shakespeares-globe.org) for more details about the season, including national tours, and the visit of Footsbarn's Shakespeare Party.

**Oliver!**

The BBC has announced another televised talent search for a West End star. Andrew Lloyd Webber and Cameron Mackintosh are teaming up to cast Nancy and the title role in the musical Oliver!, due to open in the West End later in 2008.

**Gone With The Wind**

US actress Jill Paice has been cast as Scarlett O'Hara in Trevor Nunn's new stage musical adaptation of Margaret Mitchell's epic novel *Gone With The Wind*. The musical opens at the New London on 22 April (previews from 5 April).

**Marguerite**

*Marguerite*, a new musical from the writers of *Les Miserables* and *Miss Saigon*, opens at the Haymarket in May to finish the year-long season of works produced by the Theatre Royal Haymarket Company.

**Donmar West End**

Donmar West End, is a star-studded yearlong season of plays produced by acclaimed off-West End venue the Donmar Warehouse at the Wyndham's theatre. Kenneth Branagh stars in the title role of Ivanov in the first production in September 2008, followed by Derek Jacobi in *Twelfth Night* in December, Judi Dench in *Madame De Sade* in March 2009 and Jude Law as Hamlet, directed by Branagh, ending the season in May 2009.

**The Theatre List**

If you're involved in planning London theatre trips for groups or need to know what shows are coming to the West End then you can get access to the latest theatre news, press night details and theatre manager, press and PR contacts for every show in Theatreland by subscribing to The Theatre List! For more information please visit [www.officiallondontheatre.co.uk/publications](http://www.officiallondontheatre.co.uk/publications).

For more information on new shows and other events visit [www.officiallondontheatre.co.uk](http://www.officiallondontheatre.co.uk)

**General Information****Changing the Guard**

The ceremony will take place at 11.30am on even days in December (i.e. 2nd, 4th, 6th, 8th, 10th, 12th, 14th, 16th, 18th, 20th, 22nd, 24th, 26th, 28th, 30th).

**Transport Disruptions**

A list of planned station closures and track closures for the next six months is available in PDF format. For this and further information on travel in London go to: [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk)

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