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## Visit London What's New Travel Trade

7 March 2008

Welcome to the March 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.



## Partner Offers and News

### Dot2Dot

Dot2Dot, London's new airport door to door shuttle service is offering 20% off all bookings made in March 2008\*. Dot2Dot operates a custom made fleet of brand new executive shuttles between London and Heathrow and Gatwick airports. The shuttles use express bus lanes to avoid London traffic and each vehicle receives live traffic data to avoid any disruption. The vehicles are also fitted with state of the art route navigation equipment. Extra luggage space, child seats and assistance are also available upon request. For details on how to set up an account with Dot2Dot please email [agents@dot2.com](mailto:agents@dot2.com)

\*For travel before 1st November 2008.

### Madame Tussauds London introduces new celebrity

A wax figure of German Chancellor Angela Merkel was unveiled on the 5th of February in the Political Leaders Zone of Madame Tussauds London's famous World Stage. Guests to the attraction can experience what it feels like to deliver a keynote address in front of major political heavyweights, stepping up and joining Merkel on an adjoining podium which triggers audience applause and the flashing cameras of press photographers.

For more information phone +44 (0)870 400 3000 or email [csc@madame-tussauds.com](mailto:csc@madame-tussauds.com)

### 51 Buckingham Gate

51 Buckingham Gate's South Indian restaurant, Quilon has received the ultimate culinary accolade - a Michelin star. Quilon is one of five London restaurants to be awarded their first Michelin stars in the latest guide. It is only the fifth Indian restaurant in the capital to win such an honour and indeed the only South Indian restaurant in the UK to receive this award. For more information visit

[www.51-buckinghamgate.com](http://www.51-buckinghamgate.com)

### Peter Layton's Glassblowing

Peter Layton's London Glassblowing is a hot glass studio focused on the creation and display of contemporary glass art. The studio has a reputation as one of Europe's leading glassmaking workshops with a particular flair for the use of colour, form and texture. Visitors can see glassblowing demonstrations and view a collection of Studio Glass in the Glass Art Gallery, adjacent to the workshop. Please note that glassblowing demonstrations will stop between 1 - 2pm for lunch. Admission is free. We are open Monday to Friday, from 10 - 5pm. More information

[www.londonglassblowing.co.uk](http://www.londonglassblowing.co.uk)

### Save 20% on your Audio Visual

Take advantage of a 20% discount when you book your first production job with AV Projections. Specialists in the supply of Audio Visual & Production services to the conference industry, we can cater for all your conference, seminar or award ceremony needs. Offer valid from 01st Feb to 30th April 2008. For more information visit [www.avprojections.co.uk](http://www.avprojections.co.uk)

## Hotels

**Name change Hotel Victoria**

From the 1st of February 2008, Thistle Hotel Victoria has had a name change and is now called The Grosvenor. Providing hospitality to both domestic and international travellers since 1862, {we opened our doors in-time for the International Exhibition!} the Grand Lobby and stately elegance, reflecting this era, will remain key features in our future renovation plans. More information:

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

#### **New YHA London Central – ready for the rush**

Bookings are flooding in as YHA prepares to open the doors to its brand new £4.3million Youth Hostel in the heart of London's West End. The centre is fully accessible for people with disabilities and has a total of 294 beds spread around 59 rooms, almost all of which are en suite and sleep either four, six or eight people. There is a modern open-plan café bar on the ground floor serving drinks and snacks as well facilities for backpackers, including self-catering kitchen, internet access, luggage store and laundry. Prices at YHA London Central start at £18.95 for adults or £40.95 for a family of four. For more information and bookings log on to [www.yha.org.uk](http://www.yha.org.uk) or call 0870 770 6144.

#### **Brown's Hotel**

What better way to treat the family than to spend Easter together at Brown's Hotel, Mayfair. Book a deluxe room or suite and receive another room absolutely free. Easter Family Affair also includes a range of children goodies – each child also receives a personalised Easter Egg on Easter Sunday; two Continental breakfasts; children under three eat free, under 12 receive a 50% discount. Prices start from £499+VAT between 14th to 30th March 2008. For further information on the hotel visit [www.brownsotel.com](http://www.brownsotel.com) For further information on this package [click here](#)

#### **Gloucester Park apartments awarded five stars**

Gloucester Park luxury serviced apartments has been awarded five stars in the Visit Britain assessment scheme. Under the British Common Standard for Serviced Apartments, Gloucester Park achieved a Five Star rating for its outstanding facilities, on-site management, interior design, cleanliness and amenities. Gloucester Park, which is located in the heart of Kensington, has an excellent reputation for its discreet and efficient service. For more information visit

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

#### **Park Plaza County Hall**

The brand new design-led Park Plaza County Hall is located just minutes from Waterloo Station and features a variety of state of the art bedrooms, most with separate living and sleeping areas. The hotel also offers Spectrum Bar & Restaurant, Executive Lounge, 6 meeting rooms with natural day light and a fully-equipped Health Club with sauna, steam and massage room. More information: [www.parkplazacountyhall.com](http://www.parkplazacountyhall.com)

#### **Hyde Park Gate refurbishment**

Set within three imposing Victorian houses, Hyde Park Gate has just completed a multi-million pound refurbishment. Hyde Park Gate was built in 1864 and many of the original features have been retained over the years. The apartments are the most prestigious in the Capital, and in hotel terms equate with London's grandest five-star establishments. The new designs encompass this splendour and are elegant and classic, with a focus on creating timeless, traditional English surroundings. For more information visit [www.chevalgroup.com](http://www.chevalgroup.com)

#### **Four Seasons Hotel Park Lane**

Stay warm this winter at Four Seasons Hotel London, Park Lane with our special offer. Bedroom rates for groups starting from 7 rooms at £275.00 + VAT and Day Delegate Rate from £88.00 per person including VAT. Terms & Conditions apply. For more information visit

[www.fourseasons.com/london](http://www.fourseasons.com/london) call +44 (0)20 7907 5304 or e-mail [ines.forner@fourseasons.com](mailto:ines.forner@fourseasons.com)

#### **Shop till you drop at The Levin**

The Levin Hotel has created a special package for the shopaholics among us.

The package includes:

- Two nights at The Levin inclusive of continental breakfast
- A £100 shopping voucher for Harrods
- A £10 discount voucher per person on any Urban Retreat beauty treatment, based at Harrods
- Two course dinner at Le Metro Bar & Brasserie including a bottle of Levin Sauvignon and a bottle of mineral water on one of the evenings

Prices for this ultimate two night shopping package are from £649.00 Valid until the 31st of March 2008. For reservations please call +44 (0)20 7589 6286, or e-mail at

[reservations@thelevinhotel.co.uk](mailto:reservations@thelevinhotel.co.uk)

#### **Attractions**

##### **Yet another reason to come to Twickenham (Stadium)**

Twickenham Stadium is the biggest dedicated rugby stadium in the world, but it is also home to the biggest collection of rugby memorabilia in the world. Previously known as the Museum of Rugby,

the World Rugby Museum at Twickenham is open six days a week including match days. To find out more about the stadium, including full opening hours and more information about the current exhibition, please visit [www.rfu.com/museum](http://www.rfu.com/museum)

### London Eye

At 135 metres The London Eye offers an unrivalled perspective above it's famous capital city. For the perfect way to indulge your friends and family, why not hire your very own a Private Capsule and choose from a delicious selection of hospitality options including, canapés, finger foods, British cheeses and chilled Wine (Cabernet/Merlot and Chablis) or Laurent-Perrier Champagne. All would be served to you by your own host while you take in the unique views. Experience a touch of romance with a flight for two in a Cupid's Capsule and enjoy champagne and luxury Charbonnel et Walker chocolates. For bookings and information call 0870 220 2223 or visit:

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

### Exhibitions

#### **New Exhibition: Amazing Rare Things: The Art of Natural History in the Age of Discovery, Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace, 14 March to 28 September 2008**

This extraordinary exhibition has been selected from the collections in the Royal Library by Royal Collection curators in collaboration with the distinguished naturalist and broadcaster Sir David Attenborough. It brings together the works of four artists and a collector who have shaped our knowledge of the world around us: Leonardo da Vinci, Cassiano dal Pozzo, Alexander Marshal, Maria Sibylla Merian and Mark Catesby. All lived at a time when new species were being discovered around the world in ever increasing numbers. Many of the plants and animals represented in the exhibition were then barely known in Europe. Today some are commonplace, while others are extinct. Advance tickets from [www.royalcollection.org.uk](http://www.royalcollection.org.uk) or 020 7766 7301 (a booking fee applies). New group visit to Sir David Attenborough exhibition at Buckingham Palace followed by tour at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Explore the world of natural history with a combined visit to The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Begin with a tour of the exhibition Amazing Rare Things: The Art of Natural History in the Age of Discovery, which is co-curated by Sir David Attenborough. Then go on a special Plant Explorers tour at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Availability from 1 April to 28 September 2008. Telephone +44 (0)20 7766 7321 or visit

[www.royalcollection.org.uk](http://www.royalcollection.org.uk)

#### **Black pride, Gay pride in the capital**

On the 7th of February Outside Edge, an engaging display that looks at the history of the black LGBT community in London over the past 30 years, opened its doors. It's the first display of its kind at Museum in Docklands and coincides with our late event - there will be live music, a bar and Ajamu, curator and co-founder of rukus! Black LGBT archive will speak alongside Valerie Mason-John and Neil Young, Co-ordinator LGBT Communities at GLA to launch the small exhibition. If you would like to come along for a tour or to chat to the curator please let me know on 020 7814 5511 or [switter@museumindocklands.org.uk](mailto:museumindocklands.org.uk). Outside Edge runs from 7 February to 4 April 2008

[www.museumindocklands.org.uk/outsideedge](http://www.museumindocklands.org.uk/outsideedge)

#### **Exhibition 'Weather Permitting: London's Changing Climate'**

##### **Weather Permitting: London's Changing Climate**

**From 15 February to 15 June 2008**

Take shelter from the cold February air at a striking new display at Museum of London. Weather Permitting: London's Changing Climate looks at centuries of the capital's weather and reveals fascinating facts hidden in the history of London's climate. The display takes a quirky look at a topic which is something of a national obsession and showcases a range of objects that illustrate the ever changing nature of British weather. For more information visit

[www.museumoflondon.org.uk](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk)

#### **British International Motor Show**

Exhibiting space is being snapped up and thousands of tickets have already been sold for the multi award-winning British International Motor Show which takes place from 22rd July to 3rd August this Summer at Excel London. Building on the runaway success of 2006, which saw the Show return to London for the first time in 30 years, the two week extravaganza expects to attract over half a million people, making it the biggest show in the UK. For more information visit

[www.britishmotorshow.co.uk](http://www.britishmotorshow.co.uk)

### General Information

**Important information for coach operators:** London-wide Low Emission Zone introduced  
The London-wide Low Emission Zone started on Monday 4 February 2008. The Zone aims to cut harmful emissions from the most polluting lorries, coaches and buses and is in force 24 hours a day, seven days a week, every day of the year. Operators who drive into London are being urged

to make sure their vehicles meet a standard of Euro III for particulate matter to avoid having to pay a high daily charge or risk a substantial penalty charge. From 4 February, vehicles over 12 tonnes are affected and the scheme extends to Lorries over 3.5 tonnes, buses and coaches from 7 July 2008. Operators of vehicles registered outside of Great Britain that meet the Low Emission Zone standards, or qualify for an exemption or a 100 per cent discount, must register with Transport for London (TfL). Registration is free. Failing to register might cause operators to pay a £200 fee that could increase up to £1,000 per day to drive within the zone. An information leaflet and registration form can be obtained from [www.tfl.gov.uk/lezlondon](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/lezlondon) or by calling + 44 (0)207 310 8998.

**Tube closures**

The Victoria line will close from 22h00 on Monday to Thursday evenings from Monday 4 February until Thursday 20 November 2008 inclusive for line upgrade works. Two replacement bus services will operate. For more information about tube line closures, go to [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk)

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