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Visit London What's New Travel Trade

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 or dial the travel trade helpline: +44 (0)20 7234 5821.



Visit London News

Low Emission Zone – advice for coach operators

The Low Emission Zone (LEZ) is now in operation in London as part of a programme to improve air quality in the capital. Information and advice about the LEZ, including vehicles affected, how to comply and details of how to pay the charge are available [here](#). Visit London will continue to work with coach tour operators and our partners to ensure that they get the best value from their visits to the capital. We look forward to continuing to welcome visitors looking to enjoy the spectacular and unique experiences offered by London – from iconic landmarks to world-famous parks and blockbuster exhibitions not available elsewhere in the UK.

Partner Offers and News

Walk Talk Tours

Walk Talk Tours have launched 5 new MP3 audio walking tours guiding visitors to London's top tourist attractions. With commentaries in English, French, German and Spanish they are ideal for individuals, groups and schools. Big discounts for parties. Download to iPods, MP3 players and mobile phones from the website www.walktalktour.com For information call: +44 (0) 789 026 8341.

New audio tour for the Royal Mews, Buckingham Palace

A new complimentary audio tour of the Royal Mews takes you behind the scenes at Buckingham Palace and provides a unique insight into the work of the Royal Household. A living part of Britain's heritage with roots back to the 14th century, the Royal Mews is one of the finest working stables in the world and houses the collection of royal coaches and carriages. To receive a copy of the Royal Collection's new Group Visits and Private Tours brochure, or to make a booking or for more information, please visit www.royalcollection.org.uk or call the Group and Specialist Sales team on +44 (0) 20 7766 7322.

London Thames and Royalty Gentle Cycling Tour

Leave central London by river boat as Henry VIII did 500 years ago and follow the route taken by generations of monarchs as they travelled along the Thames River to their palaces and grand houses in the country. 4 nights in central London, Richmond and Windsor in either B&B or 4 star hotels. Bike hire, luggage transfers and route directions included. For further details for the B&B tour please click [here](#). For the 4 star hotel tour please click [here](#). Telephone +44 (0) 20 8877 2120.

The Original Tour – Walking Tours

The Original Tour has just added an exciting new range of Walking Tours to its famous sightseeing experience. With just one 24-hour ticket you can now hop-on and hop-off over three exciting tour routes, enjoy a fantastic Free River Cruise and experience any of their entertaining Free Walks. The Original Changing of the Guard Walk, The Original Cool Britannia Walk and The Original Jack the Ripper Walk take approximately 90 minutes and are included free with an Original Tour ticket but can be purchased separately at £5 each. To learn more about their tours or to make a booking, please visit www.theoriginaltour.com

Jack the Ripper at the London Dungeon

Jack the Ripper is now at the London Dungeon and is a permanent feature. You're in 1898, and the fear rises inside you as you enter Jack the Ripper's Whitechapel. As you wander the stinking slums the true horror of his terrible crimes is revealed in bloody, graphic detail. And then a scream, the flash of a cloak and an evil smile as you come face to face with Jack the Ripper himself... will you survive? For more information visit www.thedungeons.com

Hotels**Renaissance London Heathrow Hotel**

Exciting details of the long awaited refurbishment to the hotel's public areas are now available. Work costing in excess of £1 million will commence on the 18th February 2008. To ensure that your stay with us is enjoyable and comfortable, it is our intention to keep any inconvenience to a minimum. We look forward to welcoming you and your guests to the hotel during this exciting time. For more information and to book please visit www.renaissancelondonheathrow.co.uk

Hilton London Kensington

Luxurious new facilities have been unveiled at the central London Hilton hotel as part of an £8m refurbishment. Hilton London Kensington has spent £2m relaunching its executive product, with a stylish new executive lounge overlooking Holland Park Avenue and 100 new executive bedrooms and suites. Standard room rates start at £99, subject to terms and conditions, with the executive upgrade available at an extra £50. For more information visit www.hilton.co.uk

Hyde Park Gate and Phoenix House

Hyde Park Gate and Phoenix House luxury serviced apartments have been awarded five stars in the Visit Britain assessment scheme. Under the British Common Standard for Serviced Apartments, the two properties achieved a Five Star rating for their outstanding facilities, on-site management, interior design, and highly personalised service. Hyde Park Gate and Phoenix House are part of The Cheval Group, London's market leader in luxury serviced apartments. For more information visit www.chevalgroup.com

Brown's Hotel

Brown's Hotel is delighted to welcome Lee Streeton, formerly from Daphne's, as the hotel's new Executive Chef. Lee has launched an exciting new menu of traditional British dishes, using only the finest seasonal ingredients, in The Grill and this is matched with new photography which adorns the walls. For further information or to make a reservation please call +44 (0) 20 7493 6020.

Marriott London Regents Park

March sees the opening of the new restaurant and bar at the Regents Park, part of the hotel's £10 million refurbishment. By the end of the year, the leisure club, balconies, pavement and gardens will also have been refurbished. For more information click [here](#)

Capital Hotels

Enjoy a luxurious weekend away in the Capital of theatre and musicals. Stay two nights in one of the luxury Executive double rooms, priced at £905.00 this "show-stopping" package is inclusive of English Breakfast, Two course pre theatre dinner at, Chauffeur driven car to and from the theatre, Two theatre tickets of your choice and Hair and Beauty treatments vouchers worth £30. For reservations please call the Reservation Manager, Nathalie Nyelenkeh on +44 (0) 20 7591 1200, or e-mail reservations@capitalhotel.co.uk

Exhibitions and Events**The British International Motor Show**

23 July – 3 August 2008. The multi award-winning British International Motor Show is back this summer and now there are even more great ways to see this fantastic motoring event. Groups can save up to 20% discount with adult admission tickets from just £8. Free coach parking (subject to availability) and free tickets for organizers and coach drivers. The Honda Theatre of Dreams - High octane stunt drama and F1 action in the purpose-built Dockside arena. Tickets just £5 each! VIP Preview Day - Be among the first to see the Show and taste the action before the masses. Get up close to all the new cars including those premiered on Press Day. Groups save £10 with VIP Preview Day tickets just £20. Call SEE tickets now to find out more and reserve your group tickets. Call +44 (0) 871 230 5588.

The Motor Show Music Festival

The entertainment continues as the sun goes down with live concerts in the atmospheric dockside arena. Each night of the Motor Show world famous artists will perform to over 6000 fans. Acts confirmed so far include Status Quo, Deep Purple, Jools Holland, UB40 and a taste of the 80s with the Here and Now night! Ticket prices range from £25 and £42 and, what's more, all concert ticket-holders get free admission to the Motor Show! With so much entertainment on offer and a number

of ways to enjoy the Show, make sure you are part of the action. Call SEE tickets now to find out more and reserve your group tickets. Call +44 (0) 871 230 5588.

Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum & Tour

Until 15 June 2008. The complete set of Chinese 'Terracotta' Tennis Warriors featuring the world's top eight male tennis players are 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. For more information visit www.wimbledon.org/museum or call +44 (0) 208 946 6131.

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). It 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 are available from £9.50 per ticket for groups of 8+ people booking in advance and subject to availability. Book now by calling +44 (0) 20 7323 8181 or go to www.britishmuseum.org/hadrian

The American Scene: Prints from Hopper to Pollock at the British Museum

10 April – 7 September. The American Scene features around 150 outstanding prints by 74 leading modern American artists, all from the British Museum's collection. The first half of the 20th century was a period of great change in America, and this exhibition examines American society and culture through the prints produced by some of the most important artists of the time. The exhibition begins with John Sloan's Ashcan School etchings of everyday New York life in the 1900s and concludes with Jackson Pollock and the triumph of Abstract Expressionism in the 1950s. Book now by calling +44 (0) 20 7323 8181 or go to www.britishmuseum.org

Design Museum – Richard Rogers & Architects, From the House to the City

24 April to 25 August 2008. One of the most influential British architects of our time, Richard Rogers has established himself and his practice at the forefront of today's architectural culture. The exhibition will present a detailed survey of Rogers' work. Doors open at 18.45, talk 19.15 to 20.30. Tickets are available in advance from tickets@designmuseum.org or call +44 (0) 20 7940 8783.

British Library - From East to West: Traditional Asian and contemporary European

Printing. 29 April - 17 August. The British Library's collections of fine printing from East Asia are amongst the best in the world, with the earliest examples of woodblock illustration dating back to 9th century China. Coloured woodblock illustration developed most spectacularly in 18th century Japan and the continuing tradition of exquisite printing in Korea, Japan and China is reflected in the Library's most recent acquisitions of artist's books, which includes works by European artists inspired by East Asian woodblock prints. For more information visit www.bl.uk

A Touch of Dutch at The Fan Museum

Until 25th May 2008. Royal Fans from the House of Orange-Nassau. The first opportunity to view this amazing collection outside the Netherlands. Displaying fans that have belonged to four generations of ruling monarchs, as well as intimate portrait miniatures and photographs, the exhibition is the result of international research, which has shed new light on these fascinating and visually stunning objects. The Fan Museum is the first museum in the world exclusively dedicated to fans. For more information visit www.fan-museum.org

Kensington Palace - Last Debutants: 1958 the Season of change

This summer Kensington Palace will mark the 50th anniversary of the last court presentations with a new temporary exhibition opening on 11 June 2008. Included in the ticket price the exhibition will take visitors on a journey into the glamorous and competitive world of the Debutante. The dizzying schedule of presentations, cocktail parties, dances and stunning gowns of some of the last deb's will be on display and photographs and personal reminiscences will combine to create an evocative multimedia experience, including the chance to be schooled in the art of the perfect curtsy. For more information visit www.hrp.org.uk or email groupsandtraveltrade@hrp.org.uk

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

24 April – 10 August 2008. In the last 25 years the separate worlds of architecture and fashion have become increasingly intertwined, creating intriguing connections. Skin+Bones demonstrates how this period has constituted fertile ground for many of today's greatest designers and architects. Somerset House brings this surprising exhibition to Europe, after successful showings in Los Angeles and Tokyo. For more information visit www.somersehouse.org.uk

Royal Academy of Arts – Byzantium 330 –1453

25 October 2008 – 22 March 2009. This autumn in partnership with the Benaki Museum in Athens the Royal Academy of Arts will be showing a ground-breaking exhibition on Byzantium art that will include around 300 fascinating objects drawn from collections around the world including icons,

wall paintings, mosaics, ivories, manuscripts, enamels and gold and silver metalwork, many of which will be shown in the UK for the first time. Special group rates available for advanced bookings, Group (10 or more) £9. For more details on this unique show or to make a booking please call +44 (0) 20 7300 8027 or email groupbookings@royalacademy.org.uk

Theatre and Entertainment

Theatre Breaks Ltd

Theatre Breaks Ltd, now offers commissionable hotel packages that include West End theatre tickets. There are also meal deals without the need to book a hotel - all packages can be booked online at www.theatrebreaks.com. There are over 60 central 3star to 5star hotels, 20 restaurants and many attractions available. For more information please email simon.harding@theatrebreaks.com or call +44 (0)1727 834422.

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

General Information

Changing the Guard

From April until July the guard change is scheduled to take place daily, however in certain months there are changes to this schedule so we recommend you check before you travel to ensure that the schedule matches your itinerary.

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

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