



Visit London What's New Travel Trade

Issue 26, May 2007

Welcome to the May 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.



Partner Offers and News

Bateaux London - Thames On Line.

The river Thames is the perfect way to experience London and Catamaran Cruisers and Bateaux London are the ideal trade partners now offering on line commissionable sales. Catamaran Cruisers offer hourly Circular Cruises with commentary in 9 languages alongside regular Hop-On Hop-Off services between Embankment, Waterloo / London Eye, Bankside / Tate Modern, Tower and Greenwich Piers. For those looking for a relaxing lunch or a magical dinner location, nothing better than a restaurant cruise on board Bateaux's glass-crowned Symphony. Contact International Sales Manager Andrew McIntyre on Andrew.mcintyre@bateauxlondon.com to apply for your personal Promotion Code and start earning commission today. www.bateauxlondon.com

City Inter-Rent

City Inter-Rent has just added the exciting Mercedes SL55 AMG and Bentley Continental GTC to our Fleet. Visitors can choose from our wide range of MPV, 4X4, Saloon and Performance cars, either for self drive or chauffeur drive and of course we provide a transfer service. Visitors to London and the UK can enjoy our cars which are not just beautiful to look at they are of the highest specification. City Inter-Rent strives to surpass our clients' expectations by being professional and courteous with that personal touch. For further information please contact: Denise Brennan on Tel: +44 (0)20 7727 6969, denise@cityinterrent.com or visit www.cityinterrent.com

e-voyages Ltd

Quality Westminster – 3* City Centre – Last Minute Offer. Validity: 22nd to 24th of June 2007. Cost: £ 39.50*. 1 night accommodation at the Quality Westminster: Walking distance from Buckingham Palace, St James Park, Green Park and Victoria. Including continental breakfast. Conditions for this offer: Price based on a minimum of 20 paying pax for 2 people sharing a twin, Single supplement: £ 26.00 per person per night, Offer available for a minimum of 2 nights subject to availability, 1 FOC in a ½ twin for 25 paying pax, No cancellation charges up to 32 days prior to departure, Supplement may apply for 1 night reservation. For more information please contact: Emmanuelle.Spriet@e-voyages.co.uk

Mix-Plan (UK) Ltd – Planned Tour Operation Services – UK

Summer Offers for Groups of 20 pax minimum – Special Package Weekend to London includes 2 Nights weekend (choose from Friday to Sunday incl.) in Hotel in Central London, Continental breakfast, visit to Buckingham Palace (no queues), a luxury Full English Tea in the afternoon after visiting The Palace with traditional Scones with cream & jam and a selection of patisseries, served in the restaurant of the 4 star Selfridge Hotel in Oxford Street and Transfers by Private Coach (Guide not included and on request). For prices and more information please contact +44 (0)20 8543 7014 or visit mix-plan.ltd@virgin.net

A Nous Deux Londres!

A Nous Deux Londres!, the specialists in French guided walks and tours in London, announce their first programme of special bookable visits, starting on 31 May. The include walks around Westminster, on The

"Pleasures" of Soho, the Da Vinci Code, and Secret Gardens of the City, and visits to the Tate Britain and the National Gallery. Details are on our website www.anousdeuxlondres.co.uk, and booking can be made by email to info@anousdeuxlondres.co.uk or by telephone: +44 (0)20 8876 0429.

Poissonnerie De L'Avenue

Check out the new Summer menu at this well established and always reliable fish and seafood restaurant which has become a favourite of London's fine dining crowds. A predominately French menu with Italian elements, a wide selection of both traditional and modern dishes can be enjoyed in an elegant ambience. Possibly the best fish and seafood restaurant in town. Evening Standard Magazine 2006. "France's finest fish right here in London. Elegant décor – mirrors and banquettes (so much more comfortable than chairs), gentle but precise service and a room containing people who seemed to be having fun." Contact us for more information on tel: +44 (0)20 7589 2457 & 5774.

Royal Air Force Museum – The Hendon Pageant Returns!

2-3 June 2007. Time: 1000 – 1800. Admission: Free. In the 1920's and '30's, thousands flocked to RAF Hendon to enjoy examples of aviation prowess and the latest in military aircraft technology. Now the Museum hosts a special weekend of events, hailing back to the glory years and history of this legendary site! Come and enjoy the Royal Air Force Museum's Hendon Pageant 2007, an open air living history experience demonstrating the story of the world's oldest independent air force. Meet costumed interpreters and watch them in action. Enjoy the sights and sounds of genuine historic equipment and vehicles and a wartime Spitfire. For more information please visit: www.rafmuseum.org

Royal Albert Hall - Specialist Tours

We're delighted to inform you that the Royal Albert Hall are now offering monthly specialist tours of the building in addition to the regular daytime tours programme. For June these will include both a Backstage Tour and our ignite brunch Tours. Backstage Tours - Monday 18 June 2007 - Enjoy a rare opportunity to see behind the scenes at the Royal Albert Hall. Tours will take 1 and a half hours, cost £12.50 per person and are available throughout the day. To book or find out more, please call the box office on +44 (0)20 7589 8212 or visit www.royalalberthall.com

Exhibitions and Events

Visitlondon.com - What's On

The "What's On" section of the website will give you the latest information on what on in London. Make sure you keep up-to-date with what's happening at visitlondon.com/whats_on/

Handel with Hamper Concert at Greenwich Alive

16-30 June 2007. Fifteen Days of Art, Music and Architecture . A highlight of Greenwich Alive fifteen days of art, music and architecture from 16 - 30 June, will be the Handel with Hamper concert in the beautiful Chapel at the Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich on Sunday 17 June performed by the Thomas Tallis Society Choir and Orchestra. The evening is amongst over forty events on offer at Greenwich Alive which will celebrate the vibrant cultural, contemporary and classical mix within this beautiful corner of south east London. It will also mark the tenth anniversary since Maritime Greenwich was awarded World Heritage Site status. Tickets priced at £22, £18 and £15 each can be booked for the Handel with Hamper event at the Greenwich Theatre box office on Tel: +44 (0)20 8858 7755 or online at www.greenwichtheatre.org.uk; the performance starting at 6.30pm. To view the full Greenwich Alive programme visit www.greenwichalive.com.

Hampton Court Palace

From the 28 of June 2007. King Henry VIII reigns at Hampton Court Palace in 2007. Highly educated, hugely athletic and a lucky catch for the ladies! Everyone knows the image of the older, fat Henry, notorious for wars and wives, but as a young man, Henry was one of the most desirable men in Europe! But who is the man versus the myth? In 2007 the flamboyant Hampton Court Palace has the answers. Visitors will have the chance to meet the real Henry VIII through a new permanent and free exhibition held in this extraordinary palace which he extended and developed in grand style after acquiring it from Cardinal Wolsey in the 1520s. For more information please visit www.hrp.org.uk or email: groupsandtraveltrade@org.uk

The London Symphony Orchestra

The London Symphony Orchestra performs over 90 concerts a year in its home in the Barbican, set in the heart of London. 2007 is an especially exciting time in the Orchestra's history as Valery Gergiev takes over as Principal Conductor. The huge selection of concerts means there is something to suit all tastes; from old favourites to popular film music and something for the more contemporary-classical music lovers too. With some fantastic group offers, the LSO are sure to have something that will appeal to all. Offers include a 20% discount on all ticket prices, free coffee vouchers, interval reception, talks and the fantastic opportunity to meet Orchestra players. For more information see

www.iso.co.uk

Somerset House

9 June to 27 August 2007. The name Seaman Schepps has long been synonymous with highly original jewellery design and craftsmanship. At the Gilbert Collection, Seaman Schepps (1881-1972): America's Court Jeweller will bring together some 150 pieces of his bold jewellery and will illustrate the aptness of his daughter Patricia Vail's comment: 'Daddy's jewellery was something outrageous.' Seaman Schepps flouted convention and his customers loved it. His designs entranced mid-20th century American high society, earning him the title 'America's Court Jeweller'. Somerset House and the collections are open daily 10.00 – 18.00 hours. Discounted group tickets for groups of 10+. Group visits may be enhanced by guided tours and a range of special packages. For more information please contact: Natasha Wallace, Group Visits Coordinator on tel. +44 (0)20 7420 9410 or email: groups@somersehouse.org.uk www.somersehouse.org.uk

TourEast London - Tour de France

In the much anticipated run up to the Tour de France coming to London this July, TourEast London will be running a cycling fam trip in June, enjoying views of the city along the Thames Path from London Bridge all the way to Maritime Greenwich. If you would like more information please contact: mary@visiteastlondon.co.uk

The Tour de France in London

6-8 July 2007. The Opening Ceremony, Prologue and start of Stage 1 of the historic race will all take place in the UK capital from 6-8 July 2007. The legendary cycling event will pass by some of London's most famous sights and attract more than 1 million people to locations throughout the city. The Tour de France weekend will be a fantastic festival of sport and entertainment with events and activities taking place all over the city from world class cycling and cycling stunts, to celebrations of French culture, carnivals and live music. Go to www.tourdefrancelondon.com for more information.

West End Live

23-24 June 2007. Come down to Leicester Square on Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th June and watch the West End come alive. Free for all the family, this spectacular event includes performances from top West End shows alongside a variety of other musical acts. There will be a host of interactive displays and exhibits for a fun-filled action packed day for all to enjoy. Event times 12 noon - 6.30pm both days. Performing at the event this year are some of the West End's most popular shows ever. We are delighted to be able to bring you Dirty Dancing - the show that has broken all box office records; The Lord of the Rings – this year's most eagerly awaited production, opening just a few days before West End Live; "monster hit" AVENUE Q; long-standing favourites Chicago, Mamma Mia! and Stomp; "funniest show on Broadway" The Drowsy Chaperone starring Elaine Paige, and, returning to the West End this summer, the classic musical Fame. Casts from each show will be performing a set of two or three numbers – see the website for full details www.westendlive.co.uk

Hotels

Jolly Hotels - "Wicked Jolly" Package

Rate per person in double room = £ 140.00. Enjoy a memorable theatre break for the new production "Wicked" at the Apollo Theatre in Victoria, a short walk from Jolly hotel St Ermin's. Best stall ticket, 1 night in double deluxe or suite accommodation, full breakfast, bottle of wine in the room and VIP lounge access. Cancellations: 7 days before arrival – Cancellations within the 7 days will be charged for the price of the full package. Applicable on Saturdays night and ticket for Saturday evening show. For bookings call +44 (0)20 7227 7770 - email reservations.uk@jollyhotels.com website; www.jollyhotels.com & special offers & other promotions.

Superbreak

Superbreak are offering exceptional value to London this summer with hotel prices starting from as little as £35 per person to include tax and full English breakfast. All hotel rooms are available with optional rail travel from any UK mainline station and a raft of optional extras such as a flight on the BA London Eye, a cruise down The River Thames or a days sightseeing by coach. To book simply call +44 (0)1904 679 999. Lines are open from 8am to 11pm daily - or book online at www.superbreak.com/agent

Theatre and Entertainment

Grease Is The Word!

The World's No 1 Greatest Musical and the perfect feel-good family show, returns to the West End at The Piccadilly Theatre this summer. Bringing with it the unforgettable hit songs from the movie including 'You're The One That I Want', 'Summer Nights' and 'Greased Lightnin''. This new production is cast through a talent search on ITV to find an undiscovered Danny and Sandy. Booking from 25th July 2007 to 23rd Feb 2008. Great Travel Trade rates direct from the theatre on +44 (0)20 7395 1412.

Superbreak

Superbreak already reports huge sales into packages of both "Joseph" and "Grease" even before the lead roles have been cast on Saturday night TV. Other top selling breaks include The Sound of Music at The London Palladium, Billy Elliott at The Victoria Palace and Dirty Dancing at The Aldwych. Agents are advised to book now for The First Emperor exhibition opening at The British Museum in September and Tutankhamen running from November 07 to August 08 at The O2. Rock and Pop fans will also find much to celebrate with Superbreak offering packages to live gigs to include Live Earth at Wembley Stadium, Prince at The O2 Arena and Status Quo at Wembley Arena. All Superbreak London hotel bookings, Theatre and Event packages are fully commissionable to agents. To book simply call +44 (0)1904 679 999. Lines are open from 8am to 11pm daily - or book online at www.superbreak.com/agent

The Society of London Theatre

To find out what's happening in the world of London theatre, download The Society of London Theatres newsletter [here](#).

General Information

Changing the Guard

The ceremony will take place at 11.30am DAILY from May - 31 July 2007.

Transport Disruptions

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

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