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## WTM – transport 2009

World Travel Market has secured a Transport for London (TfL) problem solving Travel Hub to help improve the transport experience of delegates during the four-day event (fingers and toes crossed)

The 'Hub', which will be situated at Canning Town Station, assesses the wider issues on the transport network which may affect routes to and from WTM. The Travel Hub alongside a whole host of other travel initiatives and improvements will ease transport congestion to WTM this year.

Travel Initiatives and improvements include;

- A coach transfer services from eight key London hotels
- WTM's bus transfer operation between Canning Town Station and ExCeL London being expanded with Bendy Buses to enable more passengers aboard
- The Docklands Light Railway (DLR) has promised to increase the frequency of peak trains for the four days of the WTM to every 3 minutes

- The re-opening of Tower Gateway Station will help to ease congestion at Canning Town Station
- River Thames commuter boat operator Thames Clippers is also increasing the frequency of its catamarans to Canary Wharf where buses will take people to WTM
- Transport information will be displayed on screens in ExCeL-London's Central Boulevard to help WTM participants plan their journey
- Custom House Station staff will use a public address system to improve communication with commuters.
- WTM is introducing a clearly signposted walking route from Canning Town Station to give visitors an alternative route to and from ExCeL-London

For more information see the full WTM Transport Press release. For information on on travel and transport at WTM go to [www.wtmlondon.com/travel](http://www.wtmlondon.com/travel)

## Europe must offer better value says EU Commission

The European Commission has admitted that Europe is losing ground in world tourism and says it needs to offer better value for money to attract more inbound leisure visitors.

Speaking at the annual European Tourism Forum in Brussels last week, EU Commission Vice President Günther Verheugen said tourism was an economic sector of growing importance to Europe but most of the one billion recorded tourists each year were from European countries.

"When it comes to attracting a growing number of non-EU incoming tourists, it seems that the EU has not yet been able to take full advantage of the opportunities of an ever globalising world," he said. "Whereas more and more EU citizens tend to spend their holidays outside the EU, the EU is not as suc-

cessful in attracting non-EU tourists to come to Europe."

Vice President Verheugen is also the European Commissioner in charge of Enterprise and Industry, which includes the tourism sector. He said a key challenge for European tourism was the changing behaviour of travellers during the global economic downturn, and most were looking for shorter breaks and greater value for money.

He said about half of EU citizens who went or will go on holiday in 2009 spent their main vacation in their own country - an increase of ten per cent compared to 2008. Various surveys had shown that almost half of the tourists decreased the budget allocated to their 2009 holidays compared to a year ago, mainly by reducing the length of their stay and also by relying on last-minute offers.

## APD Increase

The UK's controversial tax on air travel, Air Passenger Duty (APD), will increase when a new banding structure is introduced to peg charges to distances travelled. The European Tour Operator's Association (ETOA), say that the Government has resisted appeals from the tourism sector to abandon the tax increases, which are part of a stepped hike over the next two years that will mean APD is doubled on fares to the most distant destinations. Only the Caribbean is likely to benefit from a concession yet to be announced.

During Questions in the House of Lords the Financial Services minister, Lord Myners, admitted that APD is a tax revenue generating measure that has little to do with environmental protection.

He said, "The purpose of the air pas-

senger duty is primarily fiscal but gives a strong nudge towards environmental considerations and will, we believe, lead to a reduction of some 0.6 million tonnes of carbon per annum as a result of the increase in the rates that is proposed with effect from 1 November," he said. "However, it is primarily a fiscal strategy and that, of course, is why it was introduced by the Conservative Government in 1994."

Sunday November 1st, travellers between the UK and the USA will pay £45 in APD, £50 on Caribbean flights and £55 to Australia and New Zealand. These rates are due to rise again in November 2010 to £60, £75 and £85 respectively. At present, a family of four returning economy to Australia pay £160 in tax, this will more than double in November 2010 to £340.



### The Pan European Advent and Christmas Markets website

Highlights details of 100's of Advent and Christmas markets and Festive events from Aarhus to Zurich and beyond

[www.christmas-markets.org](http://www.christmas-markets.org)

You can also identify many benefits on offer during the festive season to make your itinerary even more appealing

Photo: Christmas Market - Tallinn Town Square by Toomas Volmer

# On The Road

ETOA/WTM edition 2009

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A directory of Companies throughout Europe that specialise in working with leisure and business escorted groups

## Dear Reader,

The 48th IATM Convention in February is the one you really should not miss!

Aside from the Convention delivering extensive opportunity to both network and meet up with old friends and colleagues, to many minds the destination in itself is almost peerless.

Istanbul - the only city in the world that straddles two continents. Turkey enjoys an immensely rich history spanning not just thousands of years, but also many distinctive cultures. It is the birthplace of characters as diverse as Herodotus, King Midas, the Christian Apostle Paul and Santa Claus.

It is home to world-famous archaeological sites such as Ephesus and Troy, yet it is also blessed with some of the world's most beautiful natural sites, from the 'frozen waterfall' of Pamukkale to the gorgeous Aegean and Mediterranean coastlines.

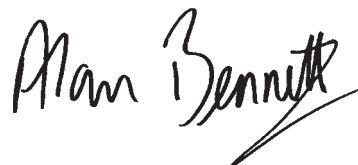
The 48th IATM meeting from 12-15 February 2009 will be held at the luxury Marmara Taksim Hotel (<http://www.themarmarahotels.com/the-marmara-istanbul/index.asp>) and the programme will include visits to the sumptuous Topkapi Palace, Hagia Sophia Blue Mosque, the amazing Grand Bazaar, and more.

Following the Convention there is an optional 8-day classic tour of Turkey. The price for the Convention is from only €430 and the tour is priced as little as €750 (twin share). Visit the IATM website at <http://www.iatm.co.uk/images/stories/pdfs/turkey2010.pdf> for further information and a booking form.

And there is much more, but why not join IATM in Turkey to see and experience this fascinating country for yourself?"

Have fun

Alan Bennett  
Editing Publisher



blue-mosque



The frozen silent waterfall of Pamukkale

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# Mair Mair

G.m.b.H.  
S.r.l.

## Herzlich Willkommen

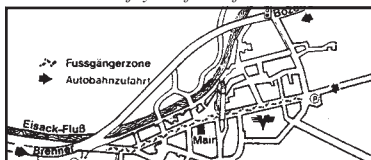
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# Dazzling shopping experience



A new shopping highlight is set to give Vienna's Kärntner Strasse even more sparkle from December 2nd 2009 when Swarovski opens its new crystal-themed store.

Swarovski Wien wants to surprise its visitors with a new retailing concept and intends to create inspirational perception between design, everyday culture and a crystalline shopping landscape. With its innovative blend of sophisticated artwork and spellbinding product displays, Swarovski Wien promises to be both a unique and experimental fusion of buying and thought provoking entertainment.

Tyrolean crystal maker Swarovski will be presenting its broad product range including jewellery, fashion, accessories, designer goods, optics and world-famous figurines on a total of 1,200 square meters of sales space spanning three floors. Visitors to Swarovski Vienna can look forward to exhibits by artists and designers, as well as a **Crystallized™ Store**, as previously seen in London, New York, Shanghai and the Swarovski Kristallwelten in Wattens, Tyrol.

Lovers of handicrafts will enter a world adorned with crystal elements in every conceivable

colour and shape. It is a place brimming with beads and gems ready to be crafted into a unique piece of jewellery. There is much more to the new Swarovski store at Kärntner Strasse 24 than just an impressive interior. The facade is equally spectacular – LED crystal light modules are a real eye-catcher among the shop fronts that line one of the best known shopping streets in Vienna.

Art installations are presented in glass cubes that protrude right into the street. The architectural concept was dreamt up by Tyrolean architects Hanno Schlögl and Daniel Süß. The artistic design comes from the hand of André Heller who was behind the Kristallwelten in Wattens.

## A refuge for group organisers

As in Wattens and Innsbruck there will be a Business Lounge for Tour Managers at the new store in Vienna, where you can relax - away from your group.

Swarovski are pleased to offer refreshments together with telephone and Internet access available for your convenience in order to help you in planning and organising your tours.

*by Patrick Vickers*

**From December 2, 2009:**

**d. swarovski tourism services gmbh**

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# PEOPLE UPDATE.....

## ANTO

Oskar Hinteregger, veteran representative of the Austrian National Tourist Office in Great Britain has moved to become responsible for the German market covering Germany, Austria and Switzerland. The reins are being handed over to highly respected Herwig Kolzer of the French operation, based in Paris.

"Herwig is one of the most experienced leaders in his field and as such, fully understands and can perfectly predict the requirements of the partners with whom he works. We are delighted that he will now be taking this wealth of expertise to London," comments Dr. Petra Stolba, CEO of the Austrian National Tourist Office network. [www.austriatourism.com](http://www.austriatourism.com)

## German National Tourist Office UK & Ireland

The German National Tourist Office (GNTO) has announced that Nicole Neumeister has been appointed as the new press officer.

Prior to the new position she has worked on major marketing communications and re-branding campaigns at Arup and in other communications and project management positions in Germany and the Middle East. T. 020 7317 0904 [nicole.neumeister@d-z-t.com](mailto:nicole.neumeister@d-z-t.com)

## UK Government

UK Tourism minister Barbara Follett is to stand down at the next election in the wake of the MPs' expenses scandal. Follett, 66, the MP for Stevenage, said on her website that she was standing down to spend more time with her large family. She is currently the minister for culture, creative industries and tourism, and minister for the east of England.

Follett, who is married to author Ken Follett, who has an estimated annual income of £13 million, claimed more

than £25,000 over four years on parliamentary expenses for security patrols outside her home because she said she did not feel safe living in London. They own properties in Cape Town, Antigua, Hertfordshire and central London.

## Venere.com

European online hotel reservations specialist, Venere.com, has appointed Mirko Behnert to lead its commercial department and Mark Brophy to head up its e-commerce department. The company, recently acquired by Expedia Inc, has already announced the appointment of Arthur Hoffman as Managing Director and Philippe Vimard as Chief Technology Officer.

## Worldhotels

The international group for independent hotels, WORLDHOTELS, has announced the promotion of Robert Hornman, currently Vice President EMEA & Worldwide Sales, Marketing and Distribution, to Managing Director. He will take over all responsibilities from Michael Ball, who after eight years as CEO will move to the Supervisory Board and continue his role as Managing Director of I.H.S., the parent company of WORLDHOTELS. Also promoted to the Management Board was Sven Larsen, the company's CFO.

Robert van der Graaf has been appointed as Head of Global Marketing Services. Robert was previously Director Hotel Development. Before this, he spent seven years with Hilton in various corporate roles, including working on the group's re-branding and corporate identity.

Leonie Ameringer has joined as head of the group's new global e-marketing department.

Before joining WORLDHOTELS, Ameringer was in charge of all online distribution activities for Hilton in Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

The Sunday Times Travel Magazine Awards are assigned to the best of the best in travel voted by its readers who compile a questionnaire every year.

## Sweden

The inauguration of Sweden's first marine national park, Kosterhavet ('Koster sea'), centred on this archipelago north of Gothenburg and close to the border with Norway. With cars banned on the islands (only little tricycle mopeds called 'flakmoppe' help with goods deliveries. King Carl-Gustav ring the bell marking the official opening. All very feudal!!

The Koster Islands themselves have long been nature reserves, but now the unique sea life around the archipelago has been officially recognised and protected with restrictions on fishing, fuel type and anchoring, as well as a speed limit of five knots to discourage commercial shipping. At stake is the welfare of 6,000 different marine species, including 200 found nowhere else on the Swedish coast - notably reefs of 'lophelia

## Unknown master Portrait discovered

Look at the portrait to the right and ask yourself, "Where have I seen that enigmatic smile before?"

The Antique's Trade Gazette reports that the ghost of a fingerprint in the top left corner of the work appears to have confirmed a fantastic art discovery.

The 33 x 23cm (13 x 9in) picture, in chalk, pen and ink, appeared at auction at Christie's, New York, in 1998, catalogued as 'German school, early 19thC'. It sold for \$19,000 to Kate Ganz, a New York art dealer. In 2007 Ms Ganz sold it on for a similar sum to Europe-based art connoisseur, Peter Silverman.

Now a growing number of leading art experts agree that it is almost certainly by Leonardo da Vinci and worth anything up to a £100 million.

Carbon dating and infrared analysis of the artist's technique are consistent with such a conclusion, but the most compelling evidence is that fragment of a fingerprint.

Peter Paul Biro, a Montreal-based forensic expert, found it while examining images captured by the revolutionary multispectral camera.

Mr Biro has pioneered the use of fingerprint technology to help to resolve art authentication disputes. The fingerprint corresponds to the tip of the index or middle finger, and is "highly comparable" to one on Leonardo's 'St Jerome' in the Vatican. Importantly, St Jerome is an early work from a time when Leonardo was not known to have employed assistants, making it likely that it is his fingerprint. Furthermore this painting was painted by a left-handed artist - as was Leonardo!

The picture has been named 'La Bella Principessa' after a Leonardo expert, Professor Kemp of Oxford University, identified her 'by a process of elimination, as Bianca Sforza, daughter of Ludovico Sforza, Duke of Milan (1452-1508), and his mistress Bernardina de Corradis. If it is by Leonardo, it would be the only known work by the Leonardo on vellum although Professor Kemp points out that Leonardo quizzed the French court painter, Jean Perreal, about the technique of using coloured chalks on vellum in 1494.

When Mr Silverman first saw it, in a drawer, "my heart started to beat a million times a minute," he said. "I immediately thought this could be a Florentine artist. The idea of Leonardo came to me in a flash."

Carbon-14 analysis of the vellum gave a date range of 1440-1650. Infrared analysis revealed stylistic parallels to Leonardo's other works, including a palm print in the chalk on the sitter's neck "consistent to Leonardo's use of his hands in creating texture and shading", according to Mr Biro.

The portrait is due to go on show in Sweden next year.

by Anne Bradbury-Pratt



The new masterpiece



Isabella D Este drawing in the Louvre

pertusa' cold-water coral.

## Rome

A 'rotating room' built by Roman Emperor Nero to please his dinner guests has been unearthed, Italian archaeologists say. Excavations in the Domus Aurea ('Golden House') on the Palatine Hill have revealed remains of a room experts think is the one described by the ancient historian Suetonius in his Lives of the Caesars.

The room contained a wooden platform, Suetonius said, which rotated day and night to follow the movement of the Earth. It was one of the many attractions of the pleasure

dome of the ill-famed emperor who reigned from 54 to 68 AD.

"This discovery has no equal among ancient Roman architectural finds," said the superintendent of work on the Palatine, Maria Antonietta Tomei. Tomei is overseeing a project to shore up the hill that houses the villas of ancient Rome's great.

Recent work has shown that the Domus Aurea is even bigger than previously thought and takes up a huge chunk of the Palatine as well as spilling over onto the Oppian Hill across from the Colosseum. The only part of the immense structure that has been opened up is a series of

continued on page 5...

# PLACES...

## Italy

Italy is once again a winner in the preferences of British tourists this year. Italy was already awarded first place in the Conde' Nast Traveller Travel Awards 2009 as 'Favourite country in the world' last month.

Now Italy has won top place at the prestigious Sunday Times Travel Magazine Travel Awards 2009 in the category 'Favourite European Country for a longer holiday', with Greece and Spain in 2nd and 3rd place respectively.

"Food! Fashion! Culture! Scenery! In truth this was a runaway victory for la bella donna. With its mix of the best sights, smells...and designer bags" "you know there is a holiday for everyone in Italy", this was the fitting comment of the magazine.

To complete Italy's success, Rome was 3rd in the category "Favourite Short Break City Outside the UK"

...continued from page 4

underground halls on the Oppian. But they have been opened and closed several times over the last few decades as restorers and structural engineers struggle to keep the mighty complex from collapsing.

## RUHR.2010

(Essen/Germany) The Ruhr, representing 53 cities and 5.3 million inhabitants is the European Capital of Culture in 2010. Located in the heart of Europe, the region is the third largest urban agglomeration in Western Europe and will soon be proudly presenting its unique cultural heritage and the change it is undergoing to a larger international audience. The Ruhr was dominated by the coal and steel industry for more than a century, but has now successfully transformed itself into an attractive and dynamic polycentric metropolis, defined by the cultural diversity of residents from over 170 nations, its growing creative and service sectors, internationally renowned cultural facilities, spectacular industrial monuments and a huge variety of recreation areas. In 2006, the city of Essen was selected as the European Capital of Culture 2010 on behalf of the whole region. This was in recognition of the Ruhr's cultural strength that has determined the region's unique change. The accolade now gives the region a matchless opportunity to present itself as a European role model of an innovative and offbeat metropolis. To do this, it will be staging more than 300 cultural projects and 2,500 events throughout the year 2010. To see the highlights visit [www.ruhr2010.de/en/](http://www.ruhr2010.de/en/)

## Slovenia and Italy

The 2009/2010 ski season will see the opening of a new cable car and ski piste linking Slovenia's Kanin resort and Italy's Sella Nevea resort. The ski area will be accessible with one lift pass, allowing skiers from both the Slovenian and the Italian sides of the mountain to enjoy the slopes at both resorts. The internationally connected ski centre will be the first of its kind in an area where, for most of the previous century, there was a strict border divide between the two countries.

The connected ski centre is expected to be called Kanin-Canin and will be one of the largest ski areas in Slovenia. Kanin is Slovenia's only resort with slopes over 2,000m and the high altitude means its season often lasts into early May. The resort has a good mixture of advanced, intermediate, beginner and cross-country trails. The link to Sella Nevea will provide an even greater choice of runs, particularly for beginner skiers. visit [www.boveckanin.si](http://www.boveckanin.si)

## And.....

Slovenia is working directly with its neighbouring regions in Austria and Italy to encourage travellers in each country to extend their trips and explore beyond the borders.

The Italian region of Friuli Venezia Giulia, the federal state of Carinthia in Austria and the whole of Slovenia have teamed up in a 'triple borderlessness' initiative under the banner

of 'Playing Together', outlining a number of different touring itineraries and packages to suit travellers with different interests.

The Playing Together scheme highlights the geographical closeness of the three countries, even suggesting the ultimate 'dine around' day where travellers enjoy breakfast in Slovenia, lunch in Italy and dinner in Austria.

With easy border crossings between Slovenia, Italy and Austria, touring travellers can – in just one day – hear three different languages and experience three different cultures; or enjoy views of mountain peaks, the Mediterranean sea and a cosmopolitan city.

Examples of water-based activities, golfing, hiking, cultural experiences, gastronomy and winter activities in each of the three countries are listed on the Playing Together website, along with an offers page of available packages. Visit [www.playing-together.com](http://www.playing-together.com)

## The Algarve

The Algarve is investing in the medical tourism sector to offer world-class treatments with a new private hospital, Hospital Internacional do Algarve due to open in Montechoro, Albufeira in the first quarter of 2010. Costing a total of €22 million the six storey building will provide a variety of services for patients such as dentistry, eye surgery, and cosmetic surgery.

Health and wellness is also the focus at the new Longevity Wellness Resort Monchique to open in 2010. The Resort will offer both hotel accommodation and a hassle-free property ownership opportunity with five star wellness amenities including: an anti-ageing medical Spa, esthetic centre, meditation room, and personalised wellness programmes. [www.trofasaude.com](http://www.trofasaude.com)

## And..

Nature and eco-tourism is also high on the agenda and one project, Aldeia da Pedralva near Vila do Bispo in the Costa Vicentina, the Algarve's secret west coast, has transformed an abandoned village into an active village offering tourism and training within fully restored buildings. Twenty-two of the thirty-two traditional village houses have been restored as well as an old grocery store, and a new restaurant. This area of the Algarve is perfect for nature and active tourism such as surfing, kite-surfing, bike-riding, trekking, fishing as well as relaxing in the countryside. [www.aldeiadapedralva.com](http://www.aldeiadapedralva.com)

## Turkey

The recent report 'Emerging Medical Tourism in Turkey' states that Turkey is becoming an increasingly popular destination for medical tourism, especially among European tourists. In 2008, the country received around 200,000 foreign medical tourists, an impressive 40% increase from 2007.

Tourists from Europe prefer Turkey not just for lower medical costs, but also for its better healthcare infrastructure. In Turkey, fees for treatments range from one-half to as little as one-fifth of the price in the Europe and other developed countries. Surgeries, on average, cost

£3,600 in Europe while in Turkey the average cost for such surgeries is between £365 and £670, with the same technology being used in Turkey as in Europe.

To address these needs, the Turkey Health Tourism Platform was launched in June. The platform aims to determine the current situation of health tourism in Turkey and plan a strategy for future development.

## VisitEngland

Figures released by VisitEngland from the United Kingdom Tourism Survey show that holiday trips taken by UK residents in England in the first six months of 2009 are up by 14%, while outbound travel saw a 17% drop.

That amounts to 2.6 million more holiday trips and more than 9.1 million extra nights holiday taken from January to June 2009 over the same period of 2008.

Though the total amount spent on overnight travel since January is down by 1% when including visiting friends and family and business travel – a sector that continues to suffer – leisure travel in England shows definite signs of consumer optimism, with an increase in spend

of 5% - confirming 2009 as the summer of 'holidaying at home'.

## Carbon emissions plunge

It would appear that the recession has its silver linings. According to a forthcoming report by the International Energy Agency, sluggish trade, dwindling industrial output and greener government policies have put global carbon dioxide emissions on track to drop 2.6% in 2009, the largest slide in 40 years. Analysts hope the dip will bolster efforts to reach a new climate pact in Copenhagen in December. But so far, despite repeated calls for action, world leaders have made scant progress toward replacing the Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2012.

## Euro zone

Recent analysis of July stats of the 16 countries in the Euro Zone have seen a 10-year high for unemployment in July '09 reaching 9.5% although the pace of increase has slackened since earlier this year.

Spain has been battered by the crunch, nearly 1 in 5 adults and

*continued on page 6...*

## Basilicata

One of the lesser known regions of Southern Italy, Basilicata is famed for its two coastlines and for the UNESCO World Heritage Site and ancient hill-top city of Matera, known for its cave dwellings and which was used as a backdrop for Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*.

Nestled into the instep of Italy's 'boot', is situated between two seas – the Ionian and the Tyrrhenian – and offers national parks, timeless villages clinging to limestone plateaus, and a wealth of culture, history and traditional food. The investment and new interest in this region has seen many luxury boutique hotels and restaurants opening.

The region boasts a UNESCO world heritage site in the ancient city of Matera. Close to the border with Puglia and easily reached from Bari airport, Matera is a thriving city, home to the Sassi cave districts, which for millennia were used as dwellings. Matera comes to life at night when the caves, many beautifully restored and now home to chic bars and restaurants, cast their lights across the hills.

At Metaponto on the Ionian coast, the land shelves gently into the sea and it is a perfect resort for families with children. The Tyrrhenian coast to the west is more dramatic, and Maratea, an understated, chic and elegant resort increasingly popular with Italians, is as spectacular, although far less well known and visited, than the tourist meccas of the Amalfi coast to the north.

Sailing, diving and exploring the sea caves are all popular activities here. Between the coasts lie the 'Lucanean Dolomites' – a mountain range offering opportunities for walking, climbing, and even flying - the 'Volo dell'Angelo' (The Flight of the Angels, [www.volodellangelo.com](http://www.volodellangelo.com)) lets the more adventurous take an exhilarating flight across two mountain peaks, strapped to a zipwire!

Food is traditional and robust and almost always locally sourced with fish a speciality on the coasts and further inland, local specialities include the famous Basilicata bread, Mischiglio pasta, Salami and the excellent red wine Aglianico del Vulture. [www.discoverbasilicata.com/uk](http://www.discoverbasilicata.com/uk)



Basilicata - Italy

by Claire Moore

...continued from page 5

38.4% of citizens under the age of 25, are jobless - while the Netherlands has weathered the downturn nicely, with just 3.4% of its residents out of work. Analysts say the figures underscore the growing gap between more economically stable Euro using countries, such as France and Germany, and more vulnerable members, like Italy and Ireland. Europe's highest unemployment

rates were Spain, followed by Latvia, Lithuania, Ireland and Slovenia.

## // were a mistake!

What is the point of the two forward slashes that sit directly in front of the "www" in every Internet website address?

The answer, according to the British scientist who created the World Wide

Web, is, that there isn't one.

Sir Tim Berners-Lee, who wrote the code that transformed a private computer network into the web has finally come clean about the infuriating // that Internet surfers have cursed so frequently.

The physicist admitted that if he had his time again, he might have made a change, or more specifically, two.

"Really, if you think about it, it doesn't need the //. I could have designed it not to have the //", he said, speaking at a symposium on the future of technology.

Sir Tim ruefully explained that when he started devising the network, almost 30 years ago, he could not have predicted the hassle that has been caused by his small error in thinking about the way a web address is written.

Showing the audience his index finger he added: "People are having to use that finger too much."

Nowadays web browsers such as Explorer usually fill in the slashes if you start the address with "www". But Sir Tim's colleagues at the CERN Institute in Geneva say the // error is characteristic of a restless man with big ideas that he wanted to implement quickly - they even had to ask him to speak in French instead of English in the hope of slowing down his torrent of words. If he had eased up a little, maybe he would have spotted his error in thinking. Although he acknowledges the mistake, he addresses it with a shrug of the shoulders.

"There you go, it seemed like a good idea at the time," he said.



Sir Tim

## Tourist killed in rockslide

On Monday Nov.2nd a British tourist was killed after being buried under tonnes of falling rocks on a popular beach in the Canary Islands.

Marion O'Hara, 57, died instantly after part of the cliff towering above Los Gigantes beach on Tenerife collapsed at about 4pm local time. Spanish police said another local woman also died.

A spokesman for the Tenerife Civil Guard said, "The rockslide was limited to a small area of around 300sq ft. The rocks fell from a height of around 200ft. Hundreds of people were on the beach in the west of the island in the afternoon sunshine when the cliff gave way."

Witnesses spoke of seeing people running for their lives as a shower of rocks up to 15ft in diameter cascaded down from the cliffs on to the sand. Rescuers working with their bare hands, picks and shovels tried to uncover the two buried women, one local, but they were

dead by the time that they were found.

According to local reports, the beach had been cordoned off after a similar landslide on October 7th. No one was hurt on that occasion.

## USA

The US Department of Commerce says that international travel to the United States will regain its footing by 2010 following its first forecasted year of decline (2009) since 2003. Reflective of the current global economic environment, visitors to the US are set to decline by 8% this year followed by a 3% increase in 2010 and 5% through 2013. In 2009 22 of the top 25 arrival markets will post declines. The largest is from Taiwan (-17%), Ireland (-14%), Sweden (-13%), Mexico (-12%), and Netherlands (-10%). These declines come after the United States hosted a record 58m international visitors in 2008. The UK is projected to post a 12% decline in 2009. Germany, France and Italy are the next largest arrivals markets within the region with declines of 8%, 1% and 6% respectively. www.tinet.ita.doc.gov

## Finland

Finland has announced plans to ensure that its 5.3 million citizens have access to a 1-megabit-per-second broadband connection by July 2010 and a 100-megabit-per-second connection by 2015. Government officials say Finland is the first nation to make broadband access a legal right.

## Croatia

Croatia has ended a ban on smoking in bars and cafes after bar owners said the restriction had halved their profits and forced many of them to close because a prohibition that began on April 1st on indoor smoking in all public places.

The government announced that it would allow spacious cafes and bars to have separate smoking areas, while smaller ones could decide whether to allow smoking or not. Smoking places must have extensive ventilation systems, and owners have been given six months to adapt.

## Ayers Rock

Meanwhile local experts in Australia claim that the new Uluru viewing platform, which has opened at a cost of £12m, has been built in the wrong place. "Talinguru Nyakunytjaku", which means, "place to look from the sand dune", in Aboriginal, was billed as the perfect spot to catch the dramatic sunrise over one of Aussie's most famous icons. However, its position two miles to the south the rock means it sees Uluru cloaked in shadow at dawn during the popular winter season.

In 'The Sunday Times', veteran landscape photographer, Ken Duncan, said, "It's a second rate location at its best. To call it a sunrise viewing area is laughable!"



Ayers Rock

## Second Pantheon unearthed

Several major archaeological discoveries have been made at the site of one of Rome's ancient harbours.

An oval amphitheatre, a 90m canal as well as many smaller objects (including marble statues) have emerged during excavations of Portus, the second port of ancient Rome, about two miles north of its better-known counterpart, Ostia Antica (which once sat on the estuary of the Tiber - Ostia means mouth).

The amphitheatre is of a similar size to the Pantheon in Rome and was discovered inside the grounds of a large imperial palace close to the runway at Rome's, Fiumicino International airport.

This is the first time that a large scale dig has taken place at the site, known as Portus, which was first discovered in the 16thC. Because of the fall in sea levels in the Mediterranean and silting the port is now sited two miles inland; it would have been twice the size of a port such as Southampton and an important gateway between Rome and the Mediterranean.

It is possible that 2ndC emperors frequented the amphitheatre, which could have held up to 2,000 spectators.

Professor Simon Keay from Southampton University, the project director, said, "The amphitheatre's design, using luxurious materials and substantial colonnades, suggests it was used by a high-status official, possibly even the emperor himself. The activities that took place there were strictly private: it could have been games or gladiatorial combat, wild beast baiting or the staging of mock sea battles."

Archaeologists also discovered a well-preserved Roman toilet in a room made of marble near the outside wall of the amphitheatre. It is still possible to sit on the toilet, which was built to be used by three people at a time and had holes in the front so that users could clean themselves with a brush.

Rose Ferraby, from Cambridge, who helped with the discovery, said: "We are taking out the dirt from the toilet, which is basically ancient human waste, and sampling it to find seeds and even parasites so we can build a picture of the life style and diet of the people who were here."

"Toilets also bring up good finds because people tend to lose things down them, such as rings, and they are not keen to recover them."

Although Ostia is what we now think of as the ancient port of Rome - in fact during much of the imperial period Portus was the principal harbour. Building work began on the hexagonal harbour of Portus in the first century AD - during the reign of Claudius - it was completed by Nero, and then enlarged by Trajan. It received most of the capital's food supplies as well as imported materials such as marble and glass from Rome's provinces. The ceramic containers found during excavations of the site provide evidence of the variety of trade that was done at Portus. It is ironic then that the smaller port of Ostia is far better known today.

Professor Keay added, "This is possibly one of the most important archaeological sites in the world. Certainly it should be rated alongside such wonders as Stonehenge and Angkor Wat in Cambodia."



Portus lantern photo by Southampton University

by Katherine Riddell



Portus marble head photo by Southampton University

# EUROPEAN ECCENTRICS

## Lighten up

Valerie Hemsley-Flint is hoarding a lifetimes supply of 100 watt light bulbs, she spent £500 to buy the 1,000 bulbs whose sales were banned in EU countries from September. She suffers from photosensitive epilepsy, meaning she cannot have any flickering lights.

"I worked out that if I live as long as my aunts did - into their nineties. I would need another 30 years worth of the old style light bulbs" said the retired teacher from Kent.

## No more spotted dick

There'll be no more sniggering when anyone orders a large portion of the famous British pud in the Flintshire council's canteen. The staff have changed the name of the traditional dish to spotted Richard.

A council official explained "Because of immature comments from some customers, catering staff have renamed the dish. They acted to put an end to unwelcome and childish comments"

## Computer boob

A burglar who used Facebook on a victim's computer has been arrested after police traced his e-mail. The man, 26, logged onto the social network during a break-in at a small town outside Rome and sent messages to friends. Computer experts traced him and police found items from the robbery which have been returned to the 52-year-old owner.

## Brutish biscuit

Nearly half of the British population has suffered a biscuit related injury a survey has claimed. About 25m adults have had injuries ranging from scalding while dunking to breaking a tooth or choking. 7% said they were bitten by a pet or "other wild animals" whilst fetching biscuits according to the Biscuit Injury Threat Evaluation carried out by the researchers Mindlab International.

Custard creams are apparently the most dangerous and Jaffa the safest.

## J4Mes you bad boy

James Snell and his brother Wayne, robbed a Halifax Building Society in Cardiff of £30,000 in cash. However all was not well for the pair who drove away in James's BMW. Witnesses easily remembered his registration plate J4MES and police caught them with the cash.

## Preventative 'medicine'

Buses in the Swedish city of Osterund have been disrupted because drivers have started to use alcohol based hand gels to ward off swine flu. Vapours from the gel triggers ignition locks to prevent drink driving.

## Hot bloods best

A survey by OnePoll.com asked 50,000 women in 20 countries to rate their partners. Englishmen are amongst the world's worst lovers according to the survey. English women say their men are too lazy, whilst the Germans are too smelly.

Swedish men are too quick, Dutch too bossy and Russians too hairy. The best lovers are the Spanish, Brazilians and Italians

## For sale

A 10 year old Zoe Pemberton advertised her grandmother Marion Goodall for sale on eBay. Zoe described granny as cuddly but annoying and she liked crosswords.

Several bids were offered before the advert was removed by the web site because it breached its rules on human trafficking. A spokesman said "Obviously we have rules about the selling of people"

## Caught 'bang to rights'

A cheating Croatian husband was caught out when his wife arranged a live telephone call from his favourite radio presenter as a birthday treat. Oavor Ivanovic was meant to be alone on a business trip to Zagreb, when DJ Barbara Kolar rang his hotel room. But a woman answered the telephone and said he was in the shower. When he came to the phone he tried to claim that the woman had been his wife, to the fury of his real wife, Jasna, who could be heard in the background screaming, "Who are you with?"

Mr Ivanovic hung up the phone.

## Glaswegian interpreters wanted

Recruitment advertisement published in a Glasgow newspaper read:

"Translation company seeks speakers of 'Glaswegian English' with knowledge of vocabulary, accent, nuances, to meet interpreting needs of clients who find it an unexpected challenge." 'Today Translations', who are based in London, told the Times newspaper that it had placed the advert in response to requests from visitors and foreign businessmen. The company said that Glasgow was the only city in the UK for which it had sought interpreters, although Liverpool and Newcastle were possibly, next on the list.

## Twits

The British government issued guidelines for civil servants using Twitter. To explain the service, which transmits messages of no more than 140 characters, the government published a 20-page document. Source: IATM N. America

## Reptilian Man

Customs officials in Norway arrested

## Property for sale:

Detached Fisherman's Cottage set in approx. half an acre, Dungeness National Nature Reserve

Price: £247,000

Bedrooms: 3. Master bedroom includes double glazed window to the rear, built-in wardrobes and fireplace

Kitchen: 11 foot by 11 foot, central island with gas hob and wine rack

Conservatory: 11 foot by 9 foot, with double-glazing and door to dining room

It's a property that has everything for a holiday or family home: a fisherman's cottage a mere five minutes from the sea, with a private driveway, half an acre of garden and sweeping views across some of the most beautiful coastal landscape England has to offer.

No mention of two of the largest nuclear power stations in Europe! - Dungeness A and Dungeness B stations - the outer perimeter literally being a stones throw away from the property's back garden.

But you would not mention towering nuclear plants in the estate agents advertising copy, nor from the agents photograph of the property which only shows the cottage and the nature reserve that is Romsey Marsh - omitting the gargantuan power plants altogether.

A spokesman for the agents, Geering and Coley based in nearby New Romney told the Daily Telegraph, "The thing is that anywhere on Dungeness is close to the nuclear power station - it's a place you either love or hate - people can always go to Google Earth and check it out." Hmmm, what ever happened to honesty is the best policy?



Estate Agents cottage



The real cottage

by Phil McAvity

a man who tried to illegally import 14 snakes and 10 lizards by taping them to his body.

The non-venomous king pythons were rolled up in socks and taped to his torso. Geckos were found in small boxes attached to his legs. The unnamed man was arrested in the southern town of Kristiansand after leaving a ferry from Denmark.

"He told us he was crazy about reptiles," Helge Breilid, the head of the local Customs office, said. A body search was carried out after officials found a tarantula in the man's luggage.

## Talent costs pensioner

Fred Bowers, 74, of Sutton Bonnington, Leicestershire will have to repay £3,000 of disability allowance after he was spotted 'break dancing' on the television show 'Britain's got talent'.

## Brief encounter

A 22-year-old ticket-less young man in Berlin was mooning at railway staff who were on a train when he got his trousers caught on a door and was dragged half naked off the platform

- only his pride was seriously hurt!

## Ooooooh!

The chief executive of the no-frills airline 'Germanwings' has sparked a slugging match with Ryanair by predicting that the Irish giant would go out of business.

Thomas Winkelmann, quoted in The Sunday Times at the launch of Germanwings' new Manchester-to-Bonn flight: "The Ryanair model is coming to an end ... travellers do not want to fly from nowhere to nowhere".

Asked for a response, Ryanair told the paper, "We only reply to airlines that have a significant market share. Germanwings is the fly on the arse of the airline industry, so we're not going to bother."

## Lighten the load

The Japanese airline ANA is asking passengers to visit the loo before boarding in an experimental effort to cut fuel costs. The combined urinary and faecal deposits of 200 passengers add up, weight-wise, and the airline thinks that if everyone went before leaving the terminal, the plane would be lighter and it could save money. The trial is expected to last four weeks.

# CRUISE NEWS

## Romance of the Danube for singles

Viking's winter season programme has something special for singles: the single occupancy surcharge will be waived for cabin classes E and D, and reduced by 25% for all other cabin categories. Single contingents are still available for the pre-Christmas cruises departing 14 December (four-day, Passau-Nuremberg) and 17 December (5-day, Nuremberg-Passau), as well as for Christmas cruises.

www.VikingFlusskreuzfahrten.de

## Cruise and rail debut

For the first time AMAWATERWAYS, is offering a new series of escorted European rail-cruise holidays in partnership with York-based Great Rail Journeys. The five itineraries combine First Class rail travel from St Pancras International with the leisurely pace of a river cruise. Itineraries include; Rhine Cruise; Europe's Heartland Cruise; Danube Cruise; Waterways of the Tsars and Rhône & Provence Cruise.

Each AMAWATERWAYS cruise includes all meals on board (breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, dinner), unlimited wine with dinner, a daily sightseeing programme, on board folklore and musical performances, bicycles for use in port and free internet access. First Class rail travel is included wherever possible, as well

as four- or five-star hotels en route and the services of a friendly and professional Tour Manager. www.amawaterways.com

## Irish Ferries

Increased demand has prompted maintaining Irish Ferries twice-daily Dublin Swift return sailings (crossing time one hour 49 minutes) between Holyhead and Dublin through until 5 January 2010.

This move makes Irish Ferries the only operator offering twice-daily fast ferry crossings on this route, with departures at 12 noon and 17.15. The Dublin Swift service operates alongside two return sailings each day by the cruise ferry Ulysses (crossing time three hours, 15 minutes). www.irishferries.com or 08717 300 400.

## Stena - expanded fleet

Stena Line has a new addition to its northern corridor fleet. From early November they will introduce a third ship, the Stena Navigator, on its Stranraer to Belfast route. The vessel will cater for both passenger and freight traffic with a capacity of up to 1,500 passengers and up to 280 cars or 50 lorries. The addition of the vessel and an onboard upgrade programme that's currently under way in Belfast Port represents a total investment in the route of over £6m.

Stena Navigator will be substantially upgraded and creates an opportu-

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## CLOCKS & GIFTS REGENSBURG



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## Oasis of the Seas

She started life 5 years ago as 'Project Genesis', her growth cost her owners \$800 million, but now she has metamorphosed into 'Oasis of the Seas' - the largest ocean liner ever built - and her sister 'Allure of the Seas' will be arriving in 2010.

As you will probably have guessed, this latest addition to the Royal Caribbean fleet is not a 'run of the mill' cruise ship - at 220,000 tonnes, nearly a quarter of a mile in length and towering 65 metres above the water line - she is said to be 50% bigger than any other liner afloat!

Under the watchful eye of Kai Levander, a Finnish naval architect, Oasis was built in a dockyard in Turku, Finland. Her specification includes alfresco dining, an aqua-theatre with a 6,000 sq ft stage, and a 610m running track - that is over 50% longer than an Olympic-size track! There is even a zip-wire that allows passengers to shoot along a line suspended nine storeys above the ship's boardwalk deck below with its enormous, living-growing, Central Park. Oasis also has accommodation for 5,400 passengers and 2,000 crew.

But for the world's second-largest cruise operator, costs did not stop with the building this colossus - the Panama Canal cannot cater for Oasis - it's too small, but nor could cruise ports in Jamaica, Mexico and the US Virgin Islands - these harbours had to be reinforced and revamped in time to receive Oasis's for the first of seven-night cruises commencing in November.

But in a market sector in which it would appear there is already too much capacity, does Royal Caribbean expect to fill these extra berths - particularly in today's economic climate?

Mr Adam M. Goldstein, President and CEO of Royal Caribbean International said, "At the moment we are trying to build momentum in China. It is a potentially a vast market that is in its absolute infancy. We have opened offices in China and have our own people on the ground. It's not much compared to the maturity of markets such as the US and UK, but we've had wonderful support from emerging markets, which makes us very optimistic about the business."

But he said if revenues were to bounce back to the heady days before the recession, the cruise marketers would have to look beyond the silver-haired and attract a younger crowd. He also added that although the stereotype persists, Royal Caribbean had defied that stereotype for years.



Oasis of the Seas

Mr Goldstein, 49, said. "The average age of our passengers is 42 or 43, and now that I'm on the senior side of that dividing line, I'm hardly going to refer to it as a mature group. People who already knew the value of the cruise experience are coming back and we believe we're pulling some new people into the sector, attracted by facilities such as rock-climbing walls, surf simulators, and the enormous outdoor "Central Park" and Boardwalk, on board Oasis will add to that attraction."

Mr Goldstein admitted that the credit crunch has squeezed the sector very severely. "The downturn has been very painful. We haven't been seeing the profits to which we aspire. It has been a very challenging time for us and we've needed to discount our pricing, leading to a 13% year-on-year decline in revenue yields, the most significant decline we have experienced as a company.

The recession has presented Royal Caribbean with a dilemma, a choice between price and occupancy. "We would love to have been able to charge higher prices," Mr Goldstein said, "but we need to discount our pricing to keep the ships full. The onboard revenue spend of the guests is beneficial to the shareholders, so it's better to have guests on board. The ambience of the ship is more positive for the guests if the ship is full and the energy level is higher and the activities come off better.

"And when the ship is full, the percentage of our on-board workforce who primarily earn their living from gratuities is happier."

by Ross Cod



### Regular cruises in the Valley of the Loreley

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nity to introduce a new 'cruise ferry' concept, with substantial passenger areas and expanded free wifi and free films.

## New river cruise operator

ES SELECT Flussreisen is a new tour operator specialising in cruises on the Rhine, Moselle, Main and Danube with superior quality ships. A detailed brochure with the cruise programme for next year is imminent. n.leonhard@select-flussreisen.de, www.select-flussreisen.de

## Lüftner's new flagship

The new MS Amadeus Elegant sets sail on its maiden voyage in early May 2010 on a fifteen-day cruise from Amsterdam to Budapest via Vienna and Bratislava.

Catering for 150 guests aboard the liner, in sixty-eight cabins (standard, 15 sq. metres) and eight Amadeus suites (22 sq. m.). 80% of the cabins and all eight suites feature large panorama windows and French balconies. Elevators serve all decks.

Sports enthusiasts have fitness room and putting-green. Passengers can indulge in wellness at the ship's Vital Club and beauty salon. lueftner@lueftner-cruises.com, www.lueftner-cruises.com

## Budapest - sightseeing with a twist

With RiverRide's amphibian vehicle visitors to Budapest can take in the sights of the Hungarian capital in a unique way—on land and water, with commentary in English and

German. The tour lasts about two hours and begins and ends beneath Roosevelt tér 7-8. Tours are run five times daily in the high season and four times a day during the period between December and March. www.hungarytourism.hu

## DFDS award

Cruise ferry operator, DFDS Seaways, is celebrating after winning the Oscar of the travel industry for the third successive year – Europe's Leading Long Sea Ferry Operator 2009 – at the World Travel Awards.

## Lisbon by water

Between April and October, tours along the Tejo depart from Cais da Princesa near Torre de Belem to Cais do Sodre twice a day, Tuesday through Sundays. Visitors take in the beautiful historic sites and tiled-roof neighbourhoods of the city from the relaxing comfort of a deck chair. Visitors see the city by day under a cool awning or cruise at night, enjoying an evening of dinner, dancing and enjoying the vista of the City lights. LVT also host corporate events Email geral@lvt.pt T +351 21 391 30

## Seabourn abandons Indian Ocean

The up-market cruise operator 'Yachts of Seabourn', have announced they will join Fred Olsen and MSC Cruises in pulling out of the Indian Ocean.

Seabourn's President, Pamela Conover said the situation in the Indian Ocean was regrettable and that, "While the shore side destinations remain safe for visitors, the high-seas routes between them are currently vulnerable to incidents of piracy".

# FAITH BASED TOURISM

## New Passion Play website

With the 41st Passion Play fast approaching, a new website has been launched dedicated to the unique event taking place again from May to October 2010.

The site contains detailed information on the play and its history including pictures and a video plus tour operator details offering packages to visit the Passion Play www.oberammergau-passion.com

## Erfurt's Old Synagogue

With its well-preserved Old Town the city of Erfurt in Thuringia is one of the most popular travel destinations within Germany. Erfurt's Old Synagogue is the oldest in Central Europe, with some parts of the building dating back to the 11th century. Since 1998, the building has been sensitively refurbished, and from October an extraordinary museum is open, displaying a series of medieval artifacts that were found during renovations.

The Jewish Treasure - discovered on site in 1998 during archaeological investigations - comprises of several

thousand silver coins, silver bars, and more than six hundred individual items of Gothic goldsmiths' work of which the Jewish Wedding Ring is the most remarkable item. After having been on temporary shows in Paris, New York and London, the treasure will now be on permanent display together with medieval manuscripts reflecting the highly developed intellectual life of Erfurt's Jewish community which was of outstanding significance in Europe during the Middle Ages. www.erfurt-tourismus.de

## Pope's Turin visit

Pope Benedict XVI will visit Turin next May to view the Shroud of Turin which will be on display next spring for the first time since 2000.

Benedict gave his personal approval to displaying the Shroud in 2010, 15 years ahead of its previously scheduled viewing for the Catholic Church's 2025 Jubilee.

## New flights on Buddhist circuit

Leisure travellers now benefit from a new twice weekly airline service linking two important Indian cities on the Buddhist pilgrimage circuit,

## Wales

International Passenger Survey statistics indicate that 4% of visitors to Britain polled indicate the primary reason for their trip is visiting religious sites or religious places of interest.

And Wales is uniquely positioned as an attractive religious tourism destination combining Christian significance with both St. David and St. Patrick reputedly born in Wales, and an intriguing Celtic heritage encompassing Neolithic sites throughout the country. There are dedicated spiritual and religious tours offered by local tour companies.

So important was Wales' patron saint — St. David — to the spread of Christianity, that in 1220, Pope Calistus II declared that two pilgrimages to St. David's equalled one to Rome. Following in the footsteps of St. David has been a tradition for centuries, with the English Kings William I and Henry II among the early pilgrims.

With cathedrals in St. David's, Llandaff (Cardiff) and St. Asaph (reputedly Britain's smallest), historic religious sites such as the sacred Bardsey Island off the Llyn Peninsula and St. Illtyd's Church in Llantwit Major with its important collection of ancient Celtic stones, A 'Factfile of Religious Tourism' is available from www.travelwales.org/religious. Specialist tour operators include www.cambrianroutes.com/saints-stones and www.pilgrimtravel.com



St David's Cathedral

Varanasi, and Gaya, with the Thai capital of Bangkok. Varanasi is one of the oldest cities in the world and Gaya is home to the famed Mahabodhi temple, a UNESCO heritage site where, according to Buddhist traditions, Buddha attained enlightenment.

Jet Airlines operate the twice weekly services on Tuesdays and Fridays, routing Bangkok-Gaya-Varanasi-Bangkok.

## Worries in Saudi

Officials in Saudi Arabia are taking steps to head off an explosion of swine flu following the annual pilgrimage to Mecca in late November.

The pilgrimage, or hajj, is one of the largest gatherings on the planet; as many as 2.5 million people from 160 countries crowd into the small city for five days. The Saudi authorities are asking the most vulnerable not to come, stockpiling generic Tamiflu and staffing and expanding dozens of health centres. There have been several outbreaks of meningitis in Mecca since 1987, and in 2004, pilgrims spread polio after returning home.

## Building a faith based travel program

USA Tour Operators and Travel agents will discover how to develop a thriving and diverse faith-based travel program centred on the great religious itineraries stretching across these ancient and biblically-rich lands such as Turkey, Armenia, Greece, Cyprus, Israel, Jordan, Palestine, and much more. Attendees will return home equipped with the

much-needed knowledge and strategies to immediately impact their faith-based travel program, no matter whether they are new to religious tourism or a long-term expert.

Qualified Operators, Agents and Journalists who register to attend The International Destination Expo (IDE) will also receive free accommodation for the four nights of the conference, April 19-22, in Istanbul. Moderator: Kevin J. Wright, President - World Religious Travel Association. Panellists will include leading tourism representatives from Middle Eastern Destinations. www.ASTA.org/expo to register for IDE and see which hotels are available. For more information or to register, go to ASTA.org/events.

## Five new saints

On the 11th October at a ceremony held in St. Peter's, Pope Benedict held a canonisation mass for five new saints.

Belgium's King Albert and Queen Paola, Polish President Lech Kaczynski, French Prime Minister Francois Fillon and Spain's Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, attended the ceremony to celebrate the new saints from their countries.

The new saints are Sister Jeanne



The Pope canonising 5 new saints

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Jugan, who founded the Little Sisters of the Poor; Damien de Veuster, a Belgian missionary, member of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts who worked with lepers; Archbishop Zygmunt Szczesny Feli ski of Warsaw,

founder of the Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters of the Family of Mary; Spanish man Francisco Coll y Guitart founder of Congregation of the Dominican Sisters of the Annunciation of the Blessed and Priest Rafael Arnaiz Baron.

## TRANSPORT

### Liège Station

After over a decade of construction work the Belgian city of Liège saw the opening in late September of its renovated Liège-Guillemins TGV High Speed Railway Station.

Wallonia's most used station will now provide shorter travel times to London, Brussels, Paris, Frankfurt, Cologne and Aachen, as well as to certain parts of Southern Europe, with trains able to arrive at the station at 100 kms/hour. The renovation of Liège-Guillemins TGV station is the first in a series of developments planned to regenerate the city.

### Knock Airport expands

Ireland West Airport formerly known as Knock, has opened a new terminal which can handle up to 1.5m passengers per year. The terminal is part of an €11.5m expansion of the airport's facilities. The airport is 34 miles south of Sligo and 50 miles north of Galway.

Currently Aer Arran, Aer Lingus, bmibaby and Ryanair operate out of the airport. Knock was opened 22 years ago and currently has an annual throughput of more than 600,000 passengers a year. The airport authority says numbers have grown by 13% over the past two years. [www.irelandwestairport.com](http://www.irelandwestairport.com)

### Olympic Air

Is the new name for the reincarnated Olympic Airways, purchased by the Marfin Investment Group, a Dubai-backed Greek investment holding company which paid €177.2m for the assets of the former state-controlled airline. The new carrier plans to operate a fleet of 16 Airbus A319s and A320s on European and near routes, together with 15 Bombardier Q400 aircraft to be used on domestic and island services. As things stand the long haul North American operations have been dropped but code-sharing agreements with Delta Air Lines and Etihad Airways will give Olympic Air passengers access to US and Gulf destinations. [www.olympicair.com](http://www.olympicair.com)

### Ryanair..again

Travellers departing from Scotland will now need passports if they wish to fly on Ryanair to England. The same goes from Northern Ireland to both England and Scotland. From England you do not escape because you also need a passport. That is the latest ruse (for which there is no charge) by the Irish airline in the determined attempts to defeat logic.

People wishing to fly must be in possession of a valid passport or a government issued National Identity card which has been issued solely for the purpose of identification (ie driver's licence, electoral register cards etc are not included). Clients

who arrive at an airport without a valid form of identification, as advised and agreed to at the time of their booking, will not be able to travel.

The UK government will be pleased with this move as everyone travelling on the routes will require an (expensive) passport. [www.ryanair.com](http://www.ryanair.com)

### Speeding

British motorists caught speeding in Europe can be pursued for traffic fines after they arrive home under new legislation passed by the EU. The new law allows the Ministry of Justice to demand payment of fines of Euro 70 (£64) or more incurred overseas in exactly the same way it would peruse payment for offences in the UK.

Formerly only Piza pursued transgressors by selling the fine to a debt collecting agencies. Now 13 of the 23 EU states have signed the framework decision on financial penalties, including Austria, France, Holland, Spain, Portugal and the UK.

### Securely nude

Manchester Airport has introduced a body scanner. These sometimes controversial pieces of equipment are being used more and more around the world, and predictably have provoked outcries from modest customers. Security staff at the airport have been banned from using the new equipment whilst legal advice is being sought regarding the scanning of minors. Hopefully the legal fraternity will pronounce that the responsible use of 'see through' apparatus will not create fears of paedophilia. [www.manchesterairport.co.uk](http://www.manchesterairport.co.uk)

### United - baggage package

United Airlines has launched a new scheme to allow passengers to pay \$249 a year to check in bags for domestic and international flights. The Chicago-based airline said the Premier Baggage deal would allow travellers to check in up to two bags for each flight without having to pay each time at check in. [www.united.com](http://www.united.com)

### Gatwick Airport

Has been sold by Ferrovial, its Spanish owner, to Global Infrastructure Partners (GIP), an independent \$5.64bn investment fund, which already owns London City Airport. It would seem that BAA has rushed the deal through in order to announce it as the Competition Commission is considering an appeal following its March ruling that it must sell Gatwick, Stansted and either Edinburgh or Glasgow airports. The thinking must be with the South London operation disposed of the Commission may go lightly on them.

## Flight plan

**Air Astana** is to expand its Asian network with a new service to Kuala Lumpur from the beginning of the winter season (31 October). The weekly service will be operated every Saturday. [www.airastana.com](http://www.airastana.com)

**Aer Lingus** now fly to Warsaw from London Gatwick on a daily basis.

**British Airways'** all-business class London City to New York JFK service launched in early October now flies twice daily. A second late afternoon service departs London City at 1600 and arrives in New York at 2025. A second return flight leaves New York at 2150 to arrives back in London at 1025 the following morning.

They now offer a new flight London Heathrow T5 to Pisa, (twice daily). This flight substitutes the London Gatwick-Pisa flight which will be re-introduced with the summer 2010 schedule, as from 28 March 2010. There are now more flights between London Heathrow T5 and Milan [www.ba.com](http://www.ba.com)

**Continental Airlines** launched a new connection between Germany and the United States flying daily from Houston, Texas, to Frankfurt.

**Delta Air Lines** is to suspend its Manchester to New York JFK flights from January 7 2010 before re-launching the service on May 2. A spokesperson for the airline cited peak traffic around the festive winter and summer seasons as the reason for the timings.

**Eastern Airways** has expanded its Norwegian network with two new services out of Newcastle and Aberdeen. The UK regional airline now flies daily from both UK cities to Bergen.

**easyJet** plans to expand its services to Düsseldorf, with a new daily service from London Gatwick and daily service from Rome Fiumicino, starting on 2 and 1 February 2010, respectively. They also start a twice daily service between Luton and Belfast City Airport from January. The route was previously operated out of Belfast International Airport. The carrier said the reason for the change was to see if passengers preferred an airport nearer the city centre on the short route.

**Etihad Airways** of Abu Dhabi is to resume flights to Colombo starting in January 2010. The airline will operate four services a week. [www.etihadairways.com](http://www.etihadairways.com)

**FLYDUBAI** has Doha as its first destination when the airline took off in mid October. The twice daily low cost flights will compete head on with those of Emirates and Qatar Airways. The new service now offer seven destinations from Dubai, the others being Beirut Amman, Aleppo and Damascus, Alexandria and Djibouti (Republic of Djibouti in the Horn of Africa). [www.flydubai.com](http://www.flydubai.com)

**Flyniki** the low cost carrier will link Belgrade with Vienna from 1 February 2010.

**GARUDA INDONESIA** is to resurrect its once very popular Amsterdam to Jakarta service. From 1 June 2010, Garuda will re-open the service operating on a daily basis via Dubai. Garuda Indonesia is represented in the UK by Gatwick-based Flight Directors. [www.garuda](http://www.garuda)

**Gulf Air** now has connecting services from London to Najaf and Erbil (Iraq) Erbil is Iraq's third largest city as well as the capital of the Kurdistan region and an important commercial centre. The holy city of Najaf is a site of great religious significance to Muslims and a centre of pilgrimage. [www.gulfair.com](http://www.gulfair.com)

**Iceland Express** the low fare airline announces new flight schedule to New York City. Starting June 2010, will fly out four times a week from Reykjavik's Keflavik International Airport to New York City's Newark International Airport.

**Isrotel** will operate dedicated charter return flights from Luton to Eilat. Twelve flights will run between December 13 and April 12, 2010 using Isrotel Sun Express. Currently, UK travellers wanting to holiday in Eilat have to connect in Tel Aviv.

**Jet2.com**. Flights to Dubrovnik and Faro are being introduced for next summer from Edinburgh. Weekly flights to the Croatian city, which begin on May 2. Faro flights start on May 20.

**Monarch** has strengthening its network from Birmingham, London Gatwick, London Luton and Manchester airports with new routes to the Canary Islands of Fuerteventura and Gran Canaria [www.monarch.co.uk](http://www.monarch.co.uk)

**Oman Air** has launched non-stop scheduled services between Muscat, capital of the Sultanate, to both Frankfurt and Munich. For the winter season there will be flights on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday to Frankfurt and on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays to Munich.

**Ryanair** announced four new routes to/from Bordeaux starting 17 December 2009. The four new routes are Bologna, Brussels (Charleroi), Edinburgh and Porto to Bordeaux.

**SWISS** is to launch a twice weekly direct service between Geneva and Manchester from December 20.

**Thai Airlines** has stepped up international flights from Bangkok to Brisbane and Perth, Oslo, Moscow and Los Angeles from the start of the winter season. New is a five times per week service to Brisbane, and Perth is doubled to four times per week. Oslo becomes daily and so does LA from 1 December, whilst Moscow increases to four times per week. [www.thaiair.com](http://www.thaiair.com)

**transavia.com** offers new direct flights from London Gatwick to Rotterdam. The Dutch airline will operate the route from November 2. Flights will run twice daily on weekdays and once daily at the weekends, replacing the existing route from London Luton

**Windjet** now operate flights from London-Gatwick to Forlì in Emilia-Romagna with excellent connections to Catania and Palermo in Sicily (every Thursday and Sunday) [www.volawindjet.it](http://www.volawindjet.it)

# TRAVEL INDUSTRY NEWS

## actb 24-26 January 2010

The actb – Austrian and central European travel business – is a further development of the atb into a Central European specialist tourism fair that is based on the cooperation agreements between the national tourism organisations of the countries Austria, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovenia and Slovakia and 'Die Donau-Danube Tourist Commission' with their member countries Austria, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Croatia and the Republic of Moldova.

As in the previous years, the focus will be on offers from the Alpine region as well as offers from the Danube region. For Tour Operators wishing to attend next year's show which will again be held in Vienna go to [www.actb.eu](http://www.actb.eu) for full information.

## Excursions 2010

Visitors from outside London attending Excursions 2010, the UK's premier one-day group travel show at Alexandra Palace, North London on Saturday, 16 January, are being offered free coach travel by members of the Confederation of Passenger Transport UK's Coach Marque quality scheme.

There will be seven coaches with departures from twenty-two major towns plus six central London main line railway stations.

Routes now include pick-ups at train stations to integrate road and rail travel. Coaches will plan to arrive at Excursions around 11.30am with departures for the homeward journey at 3.30pm.

Although the coach travel is free, it is essential to pre-book a seat. Pick-up times and bookings can be taken by telephone on 0845 226 7542; or by email via the website, [www.excursions.org.uk](http://www.excursions.org.uk), where full details will be given. Bookings will be taken from the beginning of November and each vehicle will also carry a Blue Badge Guide to provide interesting facts on the journey.

## Transocean Tours bankrupt

The Bremen-based tour operator Transocean Tours has filed for bankruptcy. Both ocean and river cruises scheduled for the current season will continue as planned however. [www.transocean.de](http://www.transocean.de)

## Which? winner

Insurefor's Premium Annual Travel insurance policies have been voted a 'Best Buy' by consumer advice magazine Which? The magazine, which is an authority for consumer confidence, recently completed an audit of travel insurance providers and policies where it found Insurefor to be one of the best suppliers of low cost, high quality travel insurance.

Insurefor's annual travel insurance policies are among the most competitive on the market, offering a

high level of cover and low levels of excess with the maximum individual excess payment not exceeding £50 or clients can even opt for a zero excess policy.

[www.insurefor.com](http://www.insurefor.com) or call 0844 482 0662.

## NTS offer

The National Trust for Scotland has just announced that it is holding its advertised 2009 travel trade prices until 31 December 2010 with no price increase adjustment for the anticipated 17.5% VAT rate (due to come into effect from January 2010). Group Rates and flexible multi-day Discover Tickets will be even more attractive, saving coach and tour operators, and their clients, an extra 2.5% on every admission ticket purchased.

The National Trust for Scotland offers a wealth of 4 star and 5 star visitor attractions including world-famous gardens, battlefields, industrial heritage sites, castles, palaces, mansion-houses, collections and interiors. Many venues also offer excellent coach parking, catering facilities and exclusive gift shops. For a price list, and all bookings and enquiries, email [traveltrade@nts.org.uk](mailto:traveltrade@nts.org.uk), telephone 0844 493 2104 (+44 131 243 9304 from outside the UK) or visit [www.nts.org.uk/TravelTrade/](http://www.nts.org.uk/TravelTrade/)

## Ski holiday web site

easyJet has launched a new ski holiday website which enables customers to book ski hotel and apartment accommodation, ski transfers, ski equipment hire and lift passes online via [www.easyjet.com](http://www.easyjet.com)

The new ski holiday booking service is provided by B2Bski.com, the Dublin based B2B ski holiday wholesaler, who has signed a three year contract with easyJet to be the sole provider of all easyJet ski holidays and accessories through the airline's website.

## Arnie Weissmann Will Reveal Latest US Market Intelligence at ETOA Conference

ETOA has secured Arnie Weissmann, editor-in-chief of Travel Weekly, as a keynote speaker at ETOA's annual conference in November. Weissmann is a world class analyst of travel and tourism and an expert on the US travel market. Weissmann has been involved in every aspect of travel journalism and publishing for the past 25 years. He created Weissmann Travel Reports, the destination information service which was sold to Reed Elsevier, and was a web pioneer in the travel sector, creating the first core destination content for America Online, licensing web content to Apple, Time, CNN, Marriott International and other outlets. He sits on many advisory boards, including the UN Foundation's Steering Committee for the Partnership for Global Sustainable Tourism Criteria.

## Tesco enters travel market

The British supermarket retailer has said that it's to start selling holidays in partnership with Teletext Holidays. About 20 in-store travel agencies are planned, with the first opening in Pitsea, Essex, in December.

## Qantas celebration flights

The carrier is celebrating the 75th anniversary of the first scheduled flights between London and Syd-

ney with a pair of commemorative journeys aboard a vintage Conqair CV580. The westbound flight, leaving on March 18, takes 22 days, closely following the original route, via Singapore, India, the Middle East and Paris; the eastbound sector, out of Biggin Hill on April 8 for 21 days, stops in Armenia and Uzbekistan before flying over the Himalayas and heading down via Vietnam and Indonesia to Sydney. Each ticket includes a return flight on an A380; the prices are £21,900 and £20,390 respectively, through Qantas Holidays [www.qantasholidays.co.uk](http://www.qantasholidays.co.uk)

## QUOTE UNQUOTE:

- "To work out how to operate a television set, you practically have to learn how to make love to the thing," Prince Philip, the 88-year-old British royal, complaining about the difficulty of using modern remote controls.



Queen Elizabeth & Prince Philip

- "We completely understand the concern about futuristic robots feeding on the human population - but that is not our mission," Harry Schoell, CEO of Cyclone Power Technologies, attempting to dispel the American public's fear regarding the company's plans to produce steam powered, biomass-eating robots, commissioned by the Pentagon.
- "We didn't sleep a wink," Patrizia D'addario, former actress and escort, bragging during a recorded phone call about her alleged night with the Italian Prime Minister, Silvio Berlusconi.
- "We're basically on the path to a banana-republic style of econ-

omy," Judd Gregg, Republican Senator from New Hampshire, on the US Federal Government's projected \$1.4 trillion deficit for 2009.

- "It hasn't been a great year for democracy in Africa," Reed Brody, an officer at Human Rights Watch, on the Mo Ibrahim Foundation's decision not to award its annual \$5 million prize-the world's largest-for good governance on the continent
- "She's not a trouble maker - she's gay", Veronica Rodriguez, of Jackson, Miss. US, referring to her 17-year-old daughter Ceara Sturgis, whose high school will not allow her graduation picture to appear in its yearbook because she was photographed wearing a tuxedo.
- "I didn't betray him - he betrayed me!" "He betrayed thousands of us who suffered!" Juanita Castro, the younger sister of former Cuban President, Fidel Castro, revealing in a new memoir that she worked undercover for the CIA during the 1960s
- "Popularity is fleeting - it's not real," In his first motivational speech since leaving office, George W. Bush, explains how he battled low approval ratings during his second term as U.S. President.

## MICE NEWS....

### BSI consolidates under one brand

UK online hotel booking agency BSI is to consolidate its various services under one brand. The new grouping will include the hotel booking business, its meetings procurement service and Olive 360, its event management business. The new company will be called BSI Meetings and Event Management Service with specialist offices in London and Cheshire. [www.bsi.co.uk](http://www.bsi.co.uk)

### Tallinn debut

A new 1,830-delegate conference centre in the Estonian capital Tallinn has opened its doors ahead of its first international event next year. The Nokia Concert Hall-branded Solaris

centre is set to host the European Film Academy Awards in 2010.

The new centre features a main hall with space for 1,830 delegates, state-of-the-art 20x10m video screens and an interpreter's balcony. There are also 12 seminar rooms. Solaris hopes the centre will host 200 events a year [www.solaris.ee](http://www.solaris.ee)

### Hamburg upgrade

The 556-room Radisson Blu Hamburg, the largest hotel in the city, has completed an extensive renovation estimated to cost £42.5 million. The upgrades include the addition of a 23,000-square foot conference centre and ballroom. The hotel is managed by the Rezidor Hotel Group.

# HOSPITALITY

## Accor sale

Accor Group has raised €272m through the sale of 158 properties operating under its French budget brand hotelF1. The hotel group said the cash raised would reduce its net debt by around €187m this year, €130m of which would be added to its cash reserves.

The sale is also expected to have a "positive impact" of around €5m on the group's pre-tax profit. "In a difficult economic environment, the transaction confirms the renewed interest of investors for hotel real estate, and particularly for the low-cost segment," Accor said in a statement.

## And...all seasons UK launch

A hotel which promises to 'reinvent hotel service and value' has opened in London. This ambitious undertaking comes from all seasons - the new international budget hotel brand being pioneered by Accor.

There are already 73 all seasons hotels in France, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, Thailand and Indonesia. They are medium sized properties in central urban locations with WIFI access is free and unlimited in all public areas.

The all seasons London Southwark Rose hotel near London Bridge will be the first all seasons branded hotel in the UK, following the acquisition by Accor of the operating company of the Southwark Rose. The hotel originally opened in 2003 as an independent property and is currently trading with 84 bedrooms. An additional 21-bedroom extension is planned as part of the all seasons rebrand. Room rates start at £95 per night, including continental buffet breakfast. The hotel is just opposite the city on the south of the river and also within easy striking distance of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, the Tate Modern and Tower Bridge. [www.all-seasons-hotels.com](http://www.all-seasons-hotels.com).

## Amalfi

The luxury 5\* NH Grand Hotel Convento di Amalfi opened in September in a 12th century monastery. Part of the hotel are also the Norman-Arab cloister of the 13th-century and its magnificent "loggia" and the "Passeggiata dei Monaci" with its spectacular views over the Gulf of Salerno, a panorama probably among the most painted in the world.

The hotel, totally refurbished, offers: a panoramic restaurant, infinity swimming pool, wellness centre, a

gym, a restored private chapel, private parking, and 53 rooms and suites, most have balconies or terraces with breathtaking sea views. [www.ghconventodiamalfi.com](http://www.ghconventodiamalfi.com)

## Amsterdam

Crowne Plaza City Centre located in the heart of the city close by the central station, has re-opened following a seven-month renovation. Essentially the 270-room hotel has been gutted in order to bring it up to the latest international standards including a media hub, wi-fi and wired internet, flat screen TVs and a laptop safe in every room. Facilities include Club Lounge with complementary refreshments and continental breakfast, work stations and private check-in service. Crown Plaza hotels include a coffee/tea maker and ironing board in every room. [www.crowneplaza.com](http://www.crowneplaza.com)

## Antwerp

The Paon Royal café near the Antwerp Zoo and Queen Elisabeth Hall has been refurbished and is open to the public again. Antwerp's Grand Café has been completely renovated to its original design. Six exclusive themed evenings will be organised to commemorate the refurbishment. [www.zooantwerpen.be](http://www.zooantwerpen.be)

## Barcelona

The stunning 27-storey high W Hotel has opened on a site overlooking the main harbour area. Featuring 473 guest rooms, 67 suites, two WOW suites and one Extreme WOW suite the sail shaped building is capped by the rooftop Eclipse bar offering fabulous views over Barcelona. The hotel also features SWEAT state-of-the-art fitness facility and various lounges and quality restaurants. [www.whotels.com/barcelona](http://www.whotels.com/barcelona)

## Bocairent (Valencia)

Paco Morales and Rut Cotroneo, head chefs and co-owners of Hotel Ferrero with tennis player Juan Carlos Ferrero, are running a series of culinary courses to teach guests the secrets of fine Spanish cuisine. Guests will learn how to cook traditional and contemporary recipes and how to choose the perfect wine for the occasion. The package includes accommodation, meals, use of the spa and health club. Tennis lessons are also available at the hotel's Juan Carlos Ferrero Tennis academy. [www.hotelferrero.com](http://www.hotelferrero.com)

## Hilton

Hilton Hotels Corp. has changed its name to Hilton Worldwide. Hilton Worldwide's portfolio of 10 brands

## Tipping changes

New laws in the UK have come into force making it illegal for bars, restaurants and hotels to use tips to make up employees minimum pay and Bob Cotton, the CEO of the British Hospitality Association, believes individuals working in the industry would also be worse off through having to pay national insurance on more of their wages.

The government has claimed the change will promote "fairness" for staff, despite claims it will cost the hospitality industry an estimated £100 million and thousands of jobs. The BHA estimates that 5,000 jobs could go. UK Business Secretary Lord Mandelson says "Tips are meant as a bonus, not a tool to boost pay to the basic minimum."

## Museum quality food

Most museum food is – unmemorable. Claire Bennie of IATM North America reviews 3 outstanding European museum restaurants:

### VIENNA – MAK Museum

On the ground floor of Vienna's Museum of Applied Arts (MAK) set up by the highly talented Austrian chef Helmut Osterreicher, is worth exploring for "new interpretations" and traditional Viennese cuisine. It has two rooms, one elegant and elaborate with an intricately designed ceiling and spectacular chandelier and a smaller, glass-encased room. There's an attractive garden for warmer days. [www.oesterreicherim-mak.at](http://www.oesterreicherim-mak.at)

### BILBAO – Restaurante Guggenheim

The restaurant set within Bilbao's avant-garde Guggenheim has a spacious dining area, created with glass and steel, offers glorious views of the Urumea River and the Bay of Biscay. The freshest local produce is carefully selected to create gastronomic delights. Try roasted red endives or Iberian pork stew. [www.restauranteguggenheim.com](http://www.restauranteguggenheim.com)

### EDINBURGH – Tower Restaurant

The Witchery in Edinburgh, this restaurant atop the Museum of Scotland is a firm favourite with celebrities including Sean Connery and Catherine Zeta-Jones. In a light and airy space, it has a bird's-eye view over the rooftops of the capital.

The two-course light lunch is a steal at €12.95 while the dishes like rabbit saltimbocca and duck confit wouldn't look out of place in a Michelin-starred restaurant. [www.tower-restaurant.com](http://www.tower-restaurant.com)

comprises more than 3,300 hotels in 77 countries around the world. The company will open more than 300 hotels this year.

## And...

According to The Times, the American hotel giant, Hilton Worldwide, could face criminal charges of corporate spying, on top of a civil case brought by its rival, Starwood Hotels & Resorts.

A grand jury is investigating the company and several of its executives over claims that they engaged in the, "wholesale looting of confidential documents in order to help launch a rival brand to Starwood's, W Hotels." The investigation is being conducted as part of a Department of Justice inquiry into allegations made in a civil case in April.

## Istanbul

Opening December, Turkey is set to welcome its first 7\* hotel, at the same time the first of Marriott's new series of Edition hotels. With 80 rooms, all suites, the hotel will be located in the renovated former HSBC building.

## Lisbon

The city council of Lisbon, in partnership with Lisbon Tourism, will place a total of six palaces and other buildings of significant architectural values up for sale to be turned into hotels. The development project is an effort to preserve the historical heritage of the city while expanding public access to its significant sites. Príncipe Real to Bairro Alto, Madragoa to Olivais, Braamcamp, Pancas Palha, Machadinho, Benagazil and Visconde do Rio Seco and the building known as Passo da Procissão do Senhor dos Passos da Graça will all be up for sale to be transformed into sophisticated boutique hotels, for a total of 150 rooms when all is complete

## Milan

The 5\* Boscolo Exedra Milan has opened. It is located in the heart of the city, right by the famous shopping rectangle amid Via Monte

Napoleone and Piazza San Babila, a few steps from Teatro della Scala and the Duomo.

It offers 154 guest rooms and luxury suites. The impressive Hall, the reception and the elegant restaurant are designed as a single large space, which ensures the continuity of their visual different functions. The hotel also has 4 meeting rooms that can accommodate from 10 up to 170 and a Spa with Sauna, Turkish bath and indoor heated swimming pool. [www.boscolohotels.com](http://www.boscolohotels.com)

## Porto

With the support of the city of Porto the Baroque masterpiece 1750 Palácio do Freixo Freixo has been transformed into an elegant Pousada due east of the historic district. The rooms are in the adjacent historic mill complex called Moagens Harmonia, which offers the spa, gym, pool, restaurants, and a river dock and 75 rooms. The former noble palace has sweeping views of the river Douro as well as extensive gardens. The historic palace will be used for events and tours. The gardens have also been restored and are open to the public as is the riverfront quay. [www.pousadas.com](http://www.pousadas.com) or [www.portoturismo.pt](http://www.portoturismo.pt)

## Reykjavik

Iceland's two McDonald's restaurants are to close because of rising costs brought on by the country's economic collapse, the fast-food chain announced.

Supplies for the McDonald's restaurants, including packaging, meat, vegetables and cheese, had to be imported from Germany, as Iceland was too small to produce the goods.

But costs had doubled because of the falling krona, which has dropped almost 80% against the euro since March 2008.

Sadly the two McDonald's restaurants had never been so busy before - at the same time, profits have never been lower. McDonald's said it is

*continued on page 13...*

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unlikely it would reopen in Iceland once the economy improved.

## Venice

The 5\*Centurion Palace Hotel (Sina Hotels) has just opened. The Centurion Palace is located within an old Venetian palace, Palazzo Genovese, now totally restored in the Dorsoduro

area of Venice, near the Basilica of Santa Maria della Salute and the Peggy Guggenheim Collection.

The hotel has 50 rooms, including 12 Junior Suites and 4 Suites, all decorated in a contemporary style. The hotel also has a gourmet restaurant and bar overlooking the Grand Canal, a meeting room and fitness centre. [www.sinahotels.it](http://www.sinahotels.it)

# GROUP OPTIONS/ ATTRACTIONS

## Rotterdam re-opening

The 10th December sees the re-opening of The World Arts Museum (Wereldmuseum) in Rotterdam. The museum houses a permanent collection showcasing 1,800 exceptional pieces from across the globe. The museum also organises themed exhibitions every year, publishes a free magazine and has a contemporary café with a sunny terrace beside the Maas River, serving international cuisine.

Other activities include entertainment for all ages, presented in the theatre, including a variety of different film, lecture, dance, music and theatrical programmes. The museum shop offers an international assortment of products and visitors can even book holidays at the travel agency, choosing from a great variety of cultural holidays. [www.wereldmuseum.rotterdam.nl](http://www.wereldmuseum.rotterdam.nl)

## 19th Saxon Mozart Festival – Netzwerk II

In 2010, the Saxon Mozart Association is staging a multi-week festival presenting outstanding soloists and ensembles. The chosen venues are the city triangle of Chemnitz, Leipzig

and Dresden offer an excellent starting-point for discovering Saxony's wealth of culture.

These venues include the Semper Opera in Dresden, the Villa Esche and the Holy Cross Church in Chemnitz but also the romantic fortresses, castles and palaces of Saxony. In May 2010 (7th -24th) the programme includes the Magic Flute and concerts with J. Ingolfsson and V. Stoupele, the Leipzig String Quartet and Christine Schornsheim and Andreas Staier. Tel. +49 371 / 69 49 444

[info@mozart-sachsen.de](mailto:info@mozart-sachsen.de) [www.mozart-sachsen.de](http://www.mozart-sachsen.de) (German only)

## Robert Schumann Haus

Robert Schumann, composer of immortal works such as the Spring Symphony, the Scenes from Childhood, Poet's Love, the Piano Concerto op. 54, Genoveva or the Album for the Young, was born in Zwickau, Germany in 1810. With its permanent exhibition in eight rooms and the world's largest collection of Schumann documents, his birthplace at the historic market square in the centre of Zwickau today is a major point of attraction for tourists, music lovers and musicologists from all over the world. Tel. +49 375 / 215 269

## General and arts patron

'Prince Eugene – Military Commander, Philosopher'. Feb 12-Jun 6, 2010 Lower Belvedere and Orangery, Vienna

Vienna's Belvedere Palace was built at the start of the 18th century by Lucas von Hildebrandt as a summer residence for Prince Eugene of Savoy. Now it will serve as a venue for an exhibition on the prince as a military commander, statesman, and patron of the arts and sciences.

Prince Eugene of Savoy (1663-1736) was born in France of Italian descent. Following his meteoric rise to power and his brilliant career as a military commander he became one of the most influential men in Austria. He left an indelible mark on both the country and its artistic and cultural heritage. As a diplomat and confidant of Emperors Leopold I, Josef I, and Karl VI, Prince Eugene of Savoy went from one battlefield to the other all over Europe, playing a pivotal role in securing the future of the House of Habsburg.

Throughout his life he also dedicated himself to assembling an extensive collection of paintings, etchings, incunabula, illuminated manuscripts and books to be displayed in his Viennese palace. From various battlefields Prince Eugene corresponded with artists and artisans, landscape architects, master builders and the leading minds of his day. His acquisitions rewrote Austrian artistic and cultural history, even resulting in the forced transfer of works from the collection of French King Louis XIV to Vienna. The prince's interest in natural science, guided by his acquaintance with the philosopher and scientist Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, is reflected in his large collection of exotic plants and animals.

The exposition will include works from his art collection, presented against the backdrop of the Belvedere's original furnishings and décor [www.belvedere.at](http://www.belvedere.at)

## Enough to make Eco warriors turn green

Dozens of rail enthusiasts turned out to see the first new mainline steam locomotive to be built in Britain in almost 50 years.

Tornado, a Peppercorn A1 Pacific, with its passenger train The Waverley, set out from Doncaster to travel on the 72-mile, Settle to Carlisle line.

Built in Darlington, Tornado cost £3m and took nearly two decades to build before finally moving under its own power a year ago. It picked up passengers at York before arriving at Leeds where delighted steam train enthusiasts met it.

Mark Allatt, chairman of the A1 Steam Locomotive Trust, said Tornado's journey through Yorkshire to Cumbria had attracted massive support."



Tornado

## National Trust 2010

Some highlights for next year are :

- 350th anniversary exhibition at Woolsthorpe Manor in Lincolnshire: Visit the home of Sir Isaac Newton, former president of the Royal Society, which celebrates its 350th year in 2010. Groups can see the new Science Centre and a special exhibition to mark the anniversary.
- Tune in to a Musical House Tour at The Argory: By special request groups can enjoy the wonderful sounds of the cabinet barrel organ echo around the mansion in Co. Armagh as they learn about four generations of McGeough family treasures.
- Ham House & Garden: Celebrate 400 years of history at this exquisite 17th-century place on the Thames. New ways to explore the house and all its treasures and tales through the Discovery Room.
- Get on top of things at Tyntesfield in North Somerset: Take your group to the top of the viewing tower to witness conservation in action as works to the roof continue, before enjoying a tour of the grounds or kitchen garden.

For full information [traveltrade@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:traveltrade@nationaltrust.org.uk)

## Encore's new package

Sunday performances of London's West End shows are now so popular that Encore Tickets has launched a new Sunday lunch and show tickets package for coach tour operators at World Travel Market. 'The Roast With The Most' packages combine great group rates at top shows together with a traditional carvery Sunday lunch at the Strand Palace hotel. Prices start at just £34.50 for a top price ticket and a 2 course lunch.

A host of favourite West End shows are featured in the new Roast With The Most package including Stomp,

Legally Blonde, Hairspray. The package also includes the award winning Jersey Boys at £60p. Coach tour operators can also offer a complete day out by combining the theatre tickets with trips to attractions such as the London Eye, all bookable through Encore.

All coach operators taking advantage of the 'Roast With The Most' packages will also be covered by Encore Tickets' unique ticket indemnity programme which offers a full refund on unsold tickets on agreed bookings up to one month before the performance. This eliminates the most common risk for coach companies of having unsold tickets on their hands. [www.encoretickets.co.uk](http://www.encoretickets.co.uk)

## Scampston Hall 2010

Groups visiting Scampston Hall and Walled Garden in North Yorkshire have a range of new packages to take advantage of for 2010.

"Group organisers have told us that they would like to offer a full day out to their groups and we have developed a number of options to meet this need" say Lady Legard, of Scampston Hall. "Organisers will be able to use a single booking contact to arrange their choice of several packages."

For garden loving groups a package combining the acclaimed, contemporary Walled Garden at Scampston and nearby more traditional Jackson's Wold, groups will be met by the owner and the team and complementary tea and biscuits are also available.

Historic House connoisseurs are offered a package in conjunction with Lord Middleton of Birdsall House. Birdsall, just a few miles from Scampston - a private house rarely seen. A unique opportunity to see these two remarkable houses, with outstanding collections, and to learn about the families who live in them. [info@scampston.co.uk](mailto:info@scampston.co.uk), or see [www.scampston.co.uk](http://www.scampston.co.uk). Group Rates [vail-scampston.co.uk](mailto:vail-scampston.co.uk)

continued on page 14...

...continued from page 13

able to pre booked parties of 15 or more start at £4.50 per person

## Hendrick Avercamp: The Little Ice Age

The Rijksmuseum presents the first exhibition ever devoted to Hendrick Avercamp, the foremost painter of Dutch winter landscapes in the 17th century. Avercamp was the first Dutch artist to specialise in paintings of winter landscapes featuring people enjoying the ice. 400 years on, our image of life in the harsh winters of the Golden Age is still dominated by Avercamp's ice scenes. Their splendid narrative details of couples skating, children pelting each other with snowballs and unwary individuals falling through the ice. In addition to twenty of his finest paintings, the exhibition features twenty-five of his best drawings from museums and private collections throughout the world. Exhibition 20th Nov - 15th Feb 2010.

www.rijksmuseum.nl

## Euromast – group option

Any group visit to Rotterdam must include a visit to Euromast. Your group can stop off for a coffee break, lunch or dinner. Opened in 1960 in honour of the Floriade, the world's biggest flower exhibition.

The 3 panorama platforms are always open for a spectacular view of Rotterdam centre, the port area and nearby cities. Elevator capacity: 600 persons in 30 minutes.

The Euroscope, a cabin which turns slowly to the top; meanwhile you listen to information about Rotterdam and the view. Euroscope capacity: 27 persons per ride for 6,5 minute: 120 persons per 30 minutes.

Next to the Euromast there bus parking (at the moment free of charge). Per group (of at least 20 persons) the driver and guide will be free of charges for entrance and meals. Special group rates apply with additional retrospective discounts available. T+31 (0) 10 – 436 48 11 sales@euromast.nl www.euromast.nl

## London 2012

Now really beginning to take shape with the outline structure of the main Olympic stadium virtually complete and the shell of the impressive swimming pool complex at a very interesting stage, a massive structural steel skeleton ready for cladding and completion.

The site has now been opened for a series of one hour free tours on a Saturday and Sunday. T0300 2012 001 www.london2012.org.uk

## Longleat - New VIP tours

Following last years success with its winter VIP Tours, Longleat House in Wiltshire/Wessex will offer a variety of 'behind the scenes' tours from November to March 2010. Visitors get a chance to see rooms corridors and cupboards not normally seen by the public. Tours include a two course lunch, plus 10% discount in Lady Bath Shop. Pre booking essential, for information T 01985 845420 - Ruth Charles.

## Neues Museum rises from the ashes

"After 66-years the Neues Museum has finally awoken from its coma," said Berlin's Mayor, Klaus Wowereit. "This is a great day for world culture!"

On October 16th the Neues Museum 'rejoined' the great institutions on Berlin's Museum Island, that collectively make up Germany's State Museum.

The Neues Museum, built 1855, closed to the public during WWII when the main staircase-hall was bombed out in 1943, and later the South East dome and the North West wing were destroyed at the end of the war. Most of the surviving 'applied art' subsequently suffered further deterioration by being exposed to the elements. Fortunately the Nazis had removed the collections from the Island's museums to safety.

In 1997, David Chipperfield Architects, in collaboration with Julian Harrap Architects, were commissioned by the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin to turn the Neues Museum back into an active 'museum for art treasures of international reputation'. The project has cost €233 million and taken five years.

The Neues Museum thus 'rejoins' the four other great institutions on Berlin's Museum Island - the Altes, Bode, Pergamon and the National Gallery and, says Professor Wemhoff, the first director of the restored museum, this has created a "new quality of museums".

He said, "We can team up with other great institutes such as the British Museum and the Louvre to arrange exchanges and plan joint exhibitions."

The new Egyptian galleries in the Neues will contain some of the world's most important collections of ancient art, statues and papyruses, mostly taken from the time of King Akhenaten (1340BC) and starring the bust of Queen Nefertiti. The museum will also exhibit one of the largest collections of artefacts from pre-historic and early Europe.

by Dominique Faure



Berlin's most treasured museum exhibit -- the bust of Egyptian Queen Nefertiti.

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## And...

Group organisers wishing to receive group offers or special events news at Longleat via email can now do so. Call 01985 844328 for details of how to register.

## Lisbon – behind the scenes

Lisbon's historic National Theater D. Maria II is offering behind the scenes tours every Monday at 11:30 a.m. to the public. Step on the stage, and explore the historic building. The tour is conducted in Portuguese, English, French, Spanish, German and Italian and is a one hour journey into the secret stories of the National Theatre. visitasguiadas@teatro-dmaria.pt or Tel. +351 21 325 08 28

## The New Bear Park

At the end of October, the heraldic animal of Bern was released into his new freedom on the beautiful slope to the Aare river. The creators of the new, bear-friendly Bear Park have built a landscape where the bears Björk and Finn can climb, fish and play.

On paths throughout the park to the Aare riverside visitors get a great insight into the lives of the bears. The 6000sqm area goes from today's Bear Pit down to the edge of the Aare river. Small forests, bushes, caves and a generous pool near the Aare

river will allow the bears to live a real bear life. Visits are free of charge www.baerenpark-bern.ch

## McDonald's in the Louvre

Parisian 'haute bourgeoisie' and the staff of the Louvre Museum have been infuriated by the announcement that Macdonald's is to take up residence in the home of the Mona Lisa.

One French art historian told the Daily Telegraph, "This is the last straw, this is the pinnacle of exhausting consumerism, deficient gastronomy and very unpleasant odours in the context of a museum."

But art lovers visiting the Louvre should not be too concerned - the fast food outlet will be cited with an existing 'Star Bucks' in an underground food hall in the 'Carrousel du Louvre' that is attached to the Museum.

But it would appear that the people of France do have a liking for 'Le Big Mac' – France is McDonald's biggest market outside of the USA!

## Thirst dwindles for Oktoberfest

The number of revellers at Munich's beer festival, the Oktoberfest, has fallen. This year there were only 5.7 million drinkers compared with 6 million last year. The recession and threats by extremists are believed to have dampened spirits.

# Welcome to Rotterdam



Rotterdam is a true metropolis thanks to its position as the second largest city in the Netherlands with a population of nearly 600,000. Its skyline showcasing distinctive landmarks including the Erasmus Bridge and the Euromast can be seen from miles away. Rotterdam is an extraordinarily dynamic city featuring modern architecture, festivals, sporting events, unique shops and boutiques and cutting-edge art and culture. It is a fantastic destination for a city break, a part of a tour or a business incentive trip.

## Architecture

More than a century of architecture can be seen within just a few square kilometres in Rotterdam's city centre. You only have to walk for five minutes to discover a new side of Rotterdam featuring an entirely different look and ambience. Rotterdam receives widespread international acclaim as an architectural city thanks to its numerous innovative building and rich architectural climate. Examples of striking

pre-war buildings that were spared during the bombardment include the City Hall, the former post office and Het Witte Huis (The White House). The post-Second World War era has been characterised by innovative and groundbreaking periods of construction that are reflected in architectural masterpieces such as the Cube Houses, the Groothandelsgebouw (Wholesale Building) and Schouwburgplein (Theatre Square). The 'Architecture in Rotterdam' map is available free of charge and provides interesting information about exceptional buildings and areas in Rotterdam that are well worth a visit.

## Art and culture

Art and culture have grown and flourished in Rotterdam, particularly over the past twenty years. The city's broad spectrum of organisations, stages and activities in the field of art and culture ensure a continuous offering of innovative and high-quality performances and events. Excellent venues including De Doelen, Rotterdamse Schouwburg and Luxor Theatre and world-class resident companies provide a constant flow of first-rate artistic and cultural offerings. Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen has an exceptionally impressive collection of old and new art from artists ranging from Bruegel and Rembrandt to Van Gogh and Dalí. Kunsthal Rotterdam is located nearby and presents dozens of prominent exhibitions each year. National organisations such as the Netherlands Fotomuseum (Dutch Photography Museum) and the Netherlands Architecture Institute (NAi) have also chosen to locate in Rotterdam.

## Rotterdam Art City

The programmes of ten leading museums in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague and Utrecht will focus on the theme of 'Holland Art Cities' until mid-2011. The four largest cities in the Netherlands collectively have the world's highest concentration of art and cultural activities per square kilometre. Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen and Kunsthal Rotterdam have joined forces to compose a versatile Rotterdam programme entitled Rotterdam Art City. Kunsthal Rotterdam will present the 'Don't Mention the War' exhibition in early 2010 within the context of the programme. Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen will showcase a number of exhibitions including a retrospective exhibition of the works of Rotterdam artist Kees van Dongen.

## List of events

### Events in 2010 (selection)

Wed 27 Jan – Sun 7 Feb  
**39th INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ROTTERDAM**  
Various locations

Sun 6 Feb – Sun 6 June  
**DON'T MENTION THE WAR**  
Kunsthal Rotterdam

Thu 1, Sat 3 and Sun 4 July  
**GRAND DÉPART ROTTERDAM 2010: New Energy – TOUR DE FRANCE**  
Various locations

Fri 9 – Sun 11 July  
**NORTH SEA JAZZ FESTIVAL**  
Ahoy Rotterdam

Fri 30 and Sat 31 July  
**ORTEL ZOMERCARNAVAL**  
Centre of Rotterdam

Sat 14 August (tbc)  
**FIT FOR FREE DANCE PARADE**  
Centre of Rotterdam

Sun 15 August (tbc)  
**BAVARIA CITY RACING**  
Centre of Rotterdam

Fri 3 – Sun 5 Sept  
**WERELDHAVENDAGEN (WORLD PORT DAYS)**  
Up and around the river Maas

Fri 3 – Sun 12 Sept  
**GERGIEV FESTIVAL**  
Concert- en congresgebouw De Doelen

September (details to follow)  
**THE SCHOUWBURG'S INTERNATIONAL CHOICE**  
Rotterdamse Schouwburg

Fall 2010 (details to follow)  
**KEES VAN DONGEN**  
Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen

Rotterdam will also include the International Architecture Biennial, the International Film Festival Rotterdam, Art Rotterdam and the Gergiev Festival within the programming. The free 'Rotterdam Art City' brochure provides an overview of Rotterdam's vast and varied art and cultural offering.

By Karen Kelly Moore

### Images:

Top left: Rotterdam's skyline by night  
Top Right: Westelijk Handelsterrein, old warehouses with restaurant & bars  
Bottom Left: Harbour cafe society

## Rotterdam Marketing – the right service

The tourism board of Rotterdam is there to help you.

One of the spearheads of Rotterdam Marketing is to provide information and to support the travel industry, offering free services, such as:

- Organising site inspections
- Providing information, mediation and tours of Rotterdam hotels, attractions etc.
- Helping to arrange hotel accommodation in and around the city of Rotterdam
- The use of promotional materials (promotional film, photos, RZine, a map of the city, walking routes etc.)

Of course, Rotterdam Marketing can also offer you some suggestions for a Rotterdam city break programme, a partner programme, an incentive programme or a day programme.

When you have questions or need assistance, please contact our account managers Leisure, Anouk Bänffer or Nicole Daamen at leisure@rotterdam-marketing.nl or +31-10 205 1500

For more information:  
www.rotterdam.info



# The Doll's House Museum Basel presents....

## Fans - holders of secrets

A special exhibition of a unique fan collection until 5 April 2010

Anyone who hears the word fan and thinks only of Spain and flamenco is underestimating the significant role that fans have played in the social life of different eras over the centuries. They have reflected the prevailing trends in art as well as the intellectual and cultural climate. Fans have been considered a status symbol and an essential fashion accessory. They have served as an advertising medium and even had a language of their own. Over 200 unique fans are on display as part of a special exhibition at the Doll's House Museum Basel provides evidence for all of these claims.

### The language of fans

The language of fans is the most gallant language in the world. An instrument for self-expression of any emotion with grace and clarity. The 18th century, particularly the rococo era, was the golden age of the fan and witnessed the birth of the language of fans - not a proper language - a code to pass signals among themselves that revolves around social activities, i.e. flirting and lover's games. In London and Paris, there reputedly existed fan academies to teach this gracious code to ladies and gentlemen. The surviving interpretation of the various gestures comes primarily from an undated publication by fan manufacturer Duvelleroy.

### Madame Volet's collection

This exhibition at the Doll's House Museum features over 200 fans from Madame Volet's unique collection. The fans hold many secrets that are not readily apparent at first glance. Fans were often used for very different purposes. There are fans that served as opera glasses and others that could be used as an effective weapon. One unusual example is the 'pocket violin with fan for dancing masters'. This is a miniature violin that is actually playable and includes a fan for the dance instructor. Every day objects have been equipped with fans. Notable examples include a walking stick and a riding crop - each with a built-in fan.

The exhibition also includes fans owned by the famous. One good example is the diamond-studded fan with white ostrich feathers owned by the Princess of Thurn and Taxis from 1890.

### Events

The exhibition includes some surprises, including the opportunity to test visitors knowledge or engage their creativity. Visitors can view gestures used in fan language during short film sequences and then step in front of a 'magic mirror' to test their own aptitude for this unique style of flirting. Photographs are taken to show their skills - a lovely souvenir of the exhibition. The 'fan language' can be found also on the web site [www.puppenhausmuseum.ch](http://www.puppenhausmuseum.ch)

### Basel Museum Night

During the Museum Night on Friday 22 January 2010, exciting fan-related entertainment is programmed. International artists will present flamenco and other fan dances, magic tricks using fans, juggling with fans, the highlight will be a fan-themed laser show created especially for this occasion.

by Mary Bennett

### A potted history

- Prehistoric man, (and the remote Indians of the Amazon basin today), have used hand-screens of woven grass or "fronds" to fan flames of their fires to make flour.
- In Egyptian, two gold-handled ostrich fans of King Tutankhamun (1352BC) were found among the treasures and household utensils placed in his tomb. Presumably to keep him cool and ward off insects on his journey into the underworld.
- During the Chou dynasty (about 1106BC) fans were used in a more mundane way - to fan dust from wheels of chariots - keep it from being blown into the eyes of the drivers.
- The earliest record of a fan in Japan is in the 6C burial mound on the island of Kyushu - a wall painting depicting waves, boats, horses and a human figure flanked by two upright poles topped with large oval shapes drawn with radiating lines.
- Hand-held fans were not used in Europe until the 16C, popularity as a fashion accessory was undoubtedly spread by Catherine de Medici (1519-89), whose dowry included fans when she married Henry II of France.
- France was one of the main centres of fan production and there were more than 150 master fan craftsmen by the mid 18C. The rococo era (1720-1770), was the golden age of the fan. The sticks were made of ivory, mother-of-pearl and tortoiseshell. Gold and silver plating, carvings and precious stones. Interest grew in chinoiserie and Japonism, fans originating in the Chinese city of Canton where popular in Europe.
- For the next two centuries fans continued to be a major fashion accessory as well as being used as advertising medium. Today there are a few fan making shops left in Paris, London and parts of Spain. Production is focused on inexpensive souvenir fans and traditional flamenco fans.

### Will the fashion return?

**The Doll's House Museum Basel**  
Steinenvorstadt 1, 4051 Basel  
Tel. +41 (0)61 225 95 95  
Fax +41 (0)61 225 95 96  
[www.puppenhausmuseum.ch](http://www.puppenhausmuseum.ch)

**Opening hours** Museum, shop and café:  
Daily from 10.00 to 18.00

**Admission** CHF 7.00 / 5.00  
Children up to 16 free of charge in the company of adults. The entire building is wheelchair-accessible. No additional charge for the special exhibition.



### Images from the top

- Fan turns into bouquet when closed France, ca. 1897
- Fan of the Princess von Thurn und Taxis Germany, ca. 1890
- Pierrot and penguins France, ca. 1910
- At Maxim's advertising fan, France, ca. 1900
- Blue Fan Bally shoes advertising, France, ca. 1920
- The cranes Japan for export late 19C.



# City Cruises plc enters its winter season

At the Group Travel Awards ceremony in 2009, London's City Cruises won Best River and Canal Boat Operator for the eighth time in ten years. November 2009 sees the winter season in with new timetables and fares.

**The Sightseeing service**, which operates between Westminster, London Eye, Tower and Greenwich piers, will run at regular intervals throughout the day, weekdays from 10.00 (from Westminster Pier) until 17.40 (Westminster Pier to Tower Pier only) and at weekends from 10.00 (from Westminster Pier) until 18.10 (Westminster Pier to Tower Pier only).

The River Red Rover ticket, which offers unlimited travel throughout the day between Westminster, London Eye, Tower and Greenwich Piers, will cost £12.50 per adult and £6.25 per child (5 to 16 years of age). Prices for the Rail and River Rover ticket, which offers unlimited travel throughout the day on the Docklands Light Railway and City Cruises sightseeing service will remain the same at £13.50 per adult and £6.75 per child (5 to 16 years of age). Family tickets are also available.

**NB Special rates for Group Organisers and Tour Operators apply**

**The London Showboat**, an unforgettable evening of top quality entertainment and superb food will operate from November until the end of December 2009 every Thursday, Friday and Saturday. In January and February 2010 it will operate on Fridays and Saturdays and during March 2010 on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.



Showboat – cheers!!

The price will remain the same at £75 per person, which includes a welcome drink, four-course dinner, half a bottle of wine, the river trip, cabaret singer and dancing. From the 5th November 2009 boarding will be at Westminster Pier at 7.15pm, returning at 11.00pm, except between the 3rd and the 19th December 2009 when it will be returning half an hour later at 11.30pm.

**NB Special rates for Group Organisers and Tour Operators apply**

Further information can be obtained by calling the Sales Centre on + 44 (0)20 77 400 400 or by visiting the website at [www.citycruises.com](http://www.citycruises.com) where tickets for the sightseeing cruises and The London Showboat can also be booked online. Gift vouchers are also available.

by Alan Bennett



Sightseeing cruise

## Dine in style on the Thames

Lunch or dinner on the City Cruises R.S. Hispaniola is just a few clicks of the mouse away thanks to a new live booking facility just launched on [www.hispaniola.co.uk](http://www.hispaniola.co.uk).

The facility provided by Livebookings allows up to 10 people to book for either lunch or dinner via the ship's website, which can be accessed from anywhere in the world and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The R.S. Hispaniola, a ship permanently moored on London's Victoria Embankment, offers some excellent cuisine in a unique setting. The ship boasts fabulous views of the Thames, from St. Paul's to the Houses of Parliament and offers a gastronomic haven amongst the city bustle. Its central location makes it an ideal venue for pre and post theatre dining and meeting friends for an evening out.

Diners in the restaurant, located on the main deck of the ship, can choose from the extensive à la carte menu or opt from one of the set menus on offer. The international menu has a modern European bias with a distinctive Mediterranean twist and the wine cellar is the finest anywhere on the river. There is also an elegant cocktail bar on the main deck, from where guests can enjoy a drink in comfortable surroundings.

The restaurant is open Tuesday to Saturday from noon until 11pm with last orders at 9.30pm and on Sundays from noon to 6pm.

For further information and to make a booking visit [www.hispaniola.co.uk](http://www.hispaniola.co.uk). **Parties of more than 10 people can call +44 (0)207 839 3011.**

# Frankfurt am Main

## The Christmas Market and Beyond



For those of you travelling to Frankfurt am Main during the winter season, get ready to experience the Main metropolis from its most beautiful side! From 25th November to 22nd December 2009, the **Frankfurt Christmas Market** will once again transform the historical Römerberg old town centre into a sea of lights, sounds and scents.

The premier culinary speciality awaiting visitors during the holiday season is without a doubt our **hot apple wine**, the winter version of the locals' beverage of choice. 'Bethmännchen', small-sized marzipan candies, are equally popular and very delicious. Rumour has it that none other than Frankfurt's favourite son, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, used to enjoy them in large quantities. Our special Christmas Market Tour, entitled '**Stories, Sweets and Savouries**', presents the Frankfurt Christmas Market and all of its delicacies and delights during the course of an interesting one-and-a-half hour stroll across the Römerberg.

In fact, the market is so popular that it has become one of Frankfurt's biggest export sellers. Residents and visitors of Birmingham, for example, Frankfurt's English sister city, have been enjoying **Birmingham's Frankfurt Christmas Market** for many years, in particular the traditional Frankfurt Christmas specialities and the unusual yet very popular Frankfurt Christmas pub.

### The year ahead

But there's more to 'Mainhattan' than just the holiday season. Next year, Frankfurt will once again be playing host to a wide and colourful range of special events. Frankfurt's cultural offer is truly beyond compare – and not just because of the city's generous cultural budget, the largest of all German cities. Whether it's a large-scale theatre production or cabaret on the small stage, Frankfurt's cultural diversity knows no bounds. The curtains of the city's many opera houses, theatres and cabaret venues are raised more than a hundred times a week. The **English Theatre Frankfurt** has been playing a significant role in Frankfurt's international cultural scene for some 30 years. Its colourful programme consists of highly entertaining musicals, time-honoured theatre classics and much more. In 2010, it will feature 'The Full Monty', 'An ideal husband' by Oscar Wilde and many more.

Frankfurt's famous museum embankment, an architecturally unique cultural ensemble, offers a spectacular array of culture and fine arts, including art, sculpture, history, design, film, architecture, ethnology and much more. From 13th November 2009 until 28th February 2010, for example, the Städel Museum will be putting on show a superb exhibition featuring the art of 'Botticelli'. Further highlights of Frankfurt's magnificent museum landscape in 2010 include exhibitions on 'Georges Seurat' and 'Gustave Courbet' at Schirn

### Special offers for event organisers

- Our special Christmas market tour, entitled '**Stories, Sweets and Savouries**' – Enjoy the Frankfurt Christmas Market with all of your senses, is now also available for group bookings!
- We also have a wide variety of Frankfurt city tours and special guided theme tours available for reservation throughout the year and in 24 different languages.
- Event organisers and travel agencies receive a commission for the resale of the Frankfurt Card.
- We are also happy to assist you in organising your individual Frankfurt programme of events.

Art Hall (05th February to 09th May 2010 and 15th October 2010 to 30th January 2011, respectively), a retrospective of Ernst Ludwig Kirchner at the Städel Museum (23rd April to 25th July 2010) and 'Dinosaurs – The Giants of Argentina', on show at the Senckenberg Museum of Natural History.

There's also Frankfurt's popular 'Museum Night', an annual night-time cultural event (24th April 2010), and the renowned Museum Embankment Festival, when Frankfurt celebrates its museums and the magnificent River Main, traditionally held on the final August weekend.

Sport enthusiasts, on the other hand, will have something to cheer about when the **European American Football Championships 2010** (27th to 31st July 2010), the **Eschborn-Frankfurt City Loop** (01st May 2010) and the **European Ironman Championships** (04th July 2010) with its finish-line dramatics on Frankfurt's Römerberg come to town.

Regardless of whether you have come to Frankfurt for the Christmas market, the countless cultural offers, the shopping, sport or apple wine, or any other reason, one thing is certain: Here, you'll find highlights and special events of every variety, every day of the year.

by Karen Kelly-Moore

### Frankfurt Tourist+Congress Board

The Frankfurt Tourist+Congress Board is your premier partner in Frankfurt am Main, offering hotel reservation services for over 250 hotels, sightseeing tours, transfers, special discount cards (commission for tour operators and travel agents available!) as well as assistance and advice with the organisation of congresses and conferences. For more detailed information on Frankfurt am Main, please request your free copy of the Frankfurt Rhine-Main Sales Manual!

### Contact

Frankfurt Tourist+Congress Board  
Kaiserstr. 56, 60329 Frankfurt  
Germany

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E-mail: [tourismus@infofrankfurt.de](mailto:tourismus@infofrankfurt.de)

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## AUSTRIA

### Concerts

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www.swarovski.com/crystalworlds  
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### Museums

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A museum and working distillery, original furniture from the 1870's – 1920's. Visitors can tour the distillery and taste and buy. Coach parking

**Technisches Museum Wien**  
Mariahilfer Sraße 212, A-1140 Wien  
Tel: +43 1 899 98 1720  
Fax: +43 1 899 98 1111  
email: museumsbox@tmw.at  
www.technischesmuseum.at

Exhibits range from the original Imperial Salon carriage of Empress Elizabeth I to the modern TV studio. Interactive presentations and "hands on" experiments – a unique experience

### Restaurants

**Sternbräu Gastronomie Welt**  
Greisgasse 23  
Salzburg  
Tel: +43 0 662 840 717  
info@sternbraeu.at  
14 different dining experiences under one roof, with beautiful gardens also for guests eating during the summer. Excellent location for groups with easy parking

### Shopping

**Geiger Hut-und Trachtenmoden**  
Goldgasse 19, A-5020 Salzburg  
Tel: +43 662 841393  
Fax: +43 662 841393  
E-mail: geiger@hats.at  
www.hats.at  
Contact: Mr Peter Macho  
groups welcome, good provisions!  
We are specialised in the famous boiled wool jackets from Geiger and traditional hats! Tax free for non eu visitors!

**Salzburger Heimatwerk**  
Residenzplatz 9  
A-5010 Salzburg  
Tel: +43 0 662 844 110  
sbg@heimatwerk.at  
Large store offering every type of gift for any friend or family member, exhibitions and displays throughout the year.  
Everyone visiting Salzburg passes the door

## BELGIUM

### Museums

**Choco-Story**  
Sint-Jansstraat, 7b  
8000 Bruges  
Tel/Fax +32 50/61.22.37  
info@choco-story.be  
The museum opened in March 2004. Tells the story of the transformation of cocoa into chocolate and to promote the health and quality aspects of Belgian chocolate

### Gifts/Souvenirs

**Käthe Wohlfahrt - Kerstfeerie N.V.**  
Walplein 12/Wollestraat 29  
Tel: +32-(0)50/330604  
Fax: +32-(0)50/346313  
E-m: kerstfeerie.brugge@pandora.be  
Experience the real authentic German Christmas in Bruges. Käthe Wohlfahrt, the German Christmas specialist, have two 'year round' Christmas stores in Brugge

## FRANCE

### Perfumerie/Museum/Boutique

**Perfumerie Molinard**  
60 Boulevard Victor Hugo, 06130 Grasse  
Tel: +33 (0) 493 360162  
20 Rue St Francois de Paule, 06300 Nice  
Tel: +33 (0) 493 62 90 50  
Free guided tour and 10% group discounts and free parking. Welcome pack for Tour Managers collecting On The Road magazine

## GERMANY

### Gifts/Souvenirs/Hotels

**Hofgut Sternen**  
An der Ravennaschlucht (B31)  
79874 Breinau/Hollsteig

Tel: +49 7652 9010,  
Fax: +49 7652 1031  
E-m: info@drubba.com  
Contact: Jurgen

Cuckoo clocks (demonstration), Biersteins, Hummel figures, Birkenstock, Swarovski crystal, largest cuckoo clock in the Upper Balck Forest.

**Black Forest Clock Centre**  
Seestrasse 37, 79822 Titisee  
Tel: +49 765 198 1200  
Fax: +49 765 188 142  
E-m: info@drubba.com

Cuckoo clocks (demonstration), Biersteins, Hummel figures, Swarovski crystal, boat trips.  
Contact: Alison or Peter

**House of the Black Forest Clocks**  
Landsraß 7, D-78132 Hornberg  
Niederwasser  
Tel: +49 7833 8037  
Fax: +49 7833 7724  
Web: www.house-of-black-forest-clocks.com  
Contact: Jurgen Herr  
Black Forest Clocks

### Gifts/Museums

**Käthe Wohlfahrt - "Weihnachtsdorf", (Christmas Village & Christmas Museum)**  
Hermgasse 1  
91541 Rothenburg ob der Tauber  
Tel.: 09861 - 4090

Christmas novelties, and museum  
Museum Contact: Mrs Felicitas Höptner  
Tel: +49 (0)9861 409 365  
E-mail: hoeptner@wohlfahrt.com  
Shop Contact: Andrea Rank  
Tel: +49 (0)9861 409116  
E-mail: rank@wohlfahrt.com  
Fax: +49 (0)9861 409 366  
Shops also in Heidelberg, Oberammergau and Rudesheim

## GREECE

**Destination Greece**  
Olympias 23, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Glyfada 16673  
Tel: +30 210 9626220  
Fax: +30 210 9651493  
Mob: +30 6944 825251  
email: julie@cruise-greece.com  
Tour Operator

## ITALY

**Travel**  
**Blue Star Italia**  
V. Filippo Corridoni 15, 1/c 00195 Rome, Italy  
Tel: +39 063 723487  
Fax: +39 063 728573  
Contact: Giancarlo Starocchia  
E-m: bluestartv@tiscalinet.it

### Gifts/Souvenirs/Leather

**Mair Mair**  
Alstadt No 1, I- 39049 Sterzing, Vipiteno  
Tel: +39 472 765 386  
Fax: +39 472 766 386  
Contact: Mr Mair  
Souvenirs, Leather, Wine, etc

## NETHERLANDS

### Souvenirs/Restaurant

**De Simonhoeve**  
Wagenweg 2  
1145 PV Katwoude/Volendam  
Tel: +31 299 36 58 28  
info@simonehoeve.com  
15 minutes north of Amsterdam, Cheese Farm & Clog Factory with demonstrations, meals and snacks

### Museums

**Het Loo Palace**  
Koninklijk Park 1, 7315 JA Apeldoorn  
Tel: +31 55 577 2448  
Was the famous summer retreat for the Dutch Royal family between 1686-1975. The museum has been beautifully restored with gardens

## NORWAY

### Clothing

**Oslo Sweater Shop**  
Radisson SAS Scandinavia Hotel,  
Tullins Gate 5, N-0166 Oslo  
Tel: +47 22 11 29 22  
Fax: +47 22 11 06 48  
Contact: Yonna Johnsen

## SWITZERLAND

### Restaurants

**Swiss Folklore Restaurant Stadtkeller**  
Sternenplatz 3, CH-6004 Lucerne  
Tel: +41 0 41 410 4733

email: info@stadtkeller.ch  
www.stadtkeller.ch  
Original Swiss folklore restaurants, yodelling, alphorn blowing and flag throwing, and outstandingly good food

### Swiss Musik & Foklore Show

Albisgütl Event Centre  
Uetlibergstrasse 341  
8045 Zurich  
Tel: +41 43 333 30 00  
Fax: +41 43 333 30 01  
Internet: www.albisguetli.ch  
E-Mail: info@albisguetli.ch  
Opened June 2008 Experience Swiss folklore at it's best: Yodelling, alpine horn blowing & banner waving. Lots of fun and good food are guaranteed!  
Groups are welcome

### Shopping

**Bühler's "Chalet Shop & Toyland"**  
Bühler AG Interlaken  
Bahnhofstrasse 10  
CH-3800 Interlaken  
Tel: +41 (0)33 822 34 33  
Fax: +41 (0)33 823 34 33  
info@buehler-interlaken.ch  
www.buehler-interlaken.ch  
Contact: Kurt Bühler

A huge souvenir and watch store close to the west-station, every conceivable gift idea, and also a model train enthusiast dream. Open daily during the season until 10.30 pm. Multilingual staff to assist your clients

### Swiss Knife Center

Höheweg 125  
3800 Interlaken  
T/F+41 (0)33 822 32 30  
Email swissknife@tctnet.ch  
Established for over 20 years, specialists for Swiss army knives, Swiss and German kitchenware, International-hunting knives, and Swiss souvenirs. Opposite Hotel Du Nord, parking available.

### Watches/Jewellery/Gifts

**Casagrande**  
24 Kapellgasse & Grendel/  
Schwanplatz, Lucern  
Tel: +41 41 418 60 60  
Fax: +41 41 412 16 64  
E-mail: info@casagrande.ch  
www.casagrande.ch  
"One stop shop" for all gifts including watches. Additional store, and Internet Café. Restrooms

**Gübelin**  
Schweizerhofquai 1  
6004 Luzerne  
Tel: +41 41 417 0017  
Fax: +41 41 417 0018  
E-mail: pr.guebelin@guebelin.ch  
www.guebelin.ch  
Watches, jewellery and diamond centre.

## UK

### Group Services

**T Shirts Etc**  
Tel: +44 (0) 1442 832929  
E-m: info@tshirtsetc.co.uk  
Personalised tour gifts and souvenirs, no minimum order for Tour Operators/Cruise Company/Event Organisers. Over 7,000 items available instantly

### Associations

**ETOA**  
The Weighhouse Gallery  
6 Weighhouse Street  
London W1K 5LT  
Tel: +44 020 7 499 4412  
Fax: +44 020 7 499 4413  
E-m: info@etoa.org  
Web: www.etoa.org  
Contact: Tom Jenkins  
European Tour Operators Association. Representing the interests of European and international tour operators at a political level in Europe and providing commercial opportunities for suppliers.

**International Association of Tour Managers (IATM)**  
397 Walworth Road, London SE17 2AW  
Tel: +44 020 7703 9154  
Fax: +44 020 7703 0358  
E-m: iatm@iatm.co.uk  
Web: www.iatm.co.uk  
Contact: Ron Julian  
The Association for all professional Tour Managers.

Regions  
UK: iatmbr@iatmbr.co.uk  
Central Europe: iatmcer@gmx.at  
Israel: iatm@iatm.co.il  
Italy: iatm.italia@aliceposta.it  
Ned: jannas63@hotmail.com  
Nordic: iatm@telia.com  
N. America: iatmtourmanager@yahoo.com  
Pacific: iatmpacific@yahoo.com  
Spain: bofiko@yahoo.es  
Taiwan: T +886 22779 0070

"We Welcome Groups"