

BOOKINGS FOR EXCURSIONS 2008 UP 20% OVER LAST YEAR **Alexandra Palace, North London, Saturday 12 January**

The organisers of Excursions 2008 are delighted to confirm that stand bookings are 20% up on the same period last year. The UK's premier one-day group travel show will be held at Alexandra Palace, North London on Saturday 12 January (10.30am-4pm).

Commenting on the success, joint show organiser Fran Downton, the travel trade manager from Tourism South East said: "Excursions is continuing to grow in popularity by both exhibitors and visitors alike. The 2008 show promises to offer new and unmissable opportunities for group travel organisers planning their days out and short breaks next year."

Over 200 exhibitors from across the UK, but with emphasis on London and the south and east of England, are expected to take part in the free entry show; there should also be a small selection from mainland Europe. Stand holders will include castles, museums, wild animal parks and zoos, botanical gardens, historic houses, art galleries and steam train and riverboat operators as well as heritage destinations, theatre agencies and tour operators that offer group packages and tailor-made tours.

Amongst the first time bookers for 2008 are the Royal Horticultural Society garden Wisley and Whitchurch Silk Mill, while others who have signed up include BBC Tours; Cadbury World, the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich; Windsor and the Royal Borough, Simply Groups and Airedale Tours.

Visitors will receive personal, on the spot advice from exhibitors with first hand knowledge of their destination or attraction enabling them to make an informed choice and plan their future outings with confidence.

Group travel organisers planning to visit Excursions 2008 from outside London will be offered free coach travel with pick-ups from around twenty major towns as well as selected central London main line railway stations. Pre-booking is essential.

Excursions is organised by Tourism South East and Group Travel Organiser magazine, supported by Visit London and East of England Tourism.

To Exhibit or Pre-Register as a Visitor

Organisations interested in exhibiting at Excursions 2008 should contact the following for details and a booking form:

- Tourism South East region – call Fran Downton on 023 8062 5409 or email fdownton@tourismse.com.
- Visit London area – call Louisa Jackley on 020 7234 5821 or email ljackley@visitlondon.com.
- East of England – call Stephen Rampley 01284 727 478 or email srampley@eet.org.uk.

- Organisations from all other areas – call Adrian Gates at Group Travel Organiser magazine on 0845 166 8125 or email adrian@grouptriporganisier.com.

Visitors wishing to pre-register for free entry should call 023 8062 5409. Details can also be found on www.excursions.org.uk.

- Ends -

For press enquiries and images please contact:

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