

FIND IDEAS FOR SCHOOL DAYS OUT AT EXCURSIONS 2008 GROUP TRAVEL SHOW Alexandra Palace, North London, Saturday 12 January

Teachers seeking fresh ideas for school days out and short breaks will find details from a huge variety of attractions, destinations and tour operators at Excursions 2008, the UK's premier one-day group travel show to be held at Alexandra Palace, North London on Saturday 12 January (10.30am-4pm).

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. Many of the exhibitors produce education resource packs and run sessions for schools that tie in with the national curriculum.

Teachers 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 school outings with confidence.

Exhibitors 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 schools packages and tailor-made tours.

New Planetarium at Greenwich

Amongst the exhibitors from London offering school visits is the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, which takes in the museum itself plus Queen's House, the Royal Observatory and new Peter Harrison Planetarium. An added bonus is the beauty and grandeur of Maritime Greenwich with its fine buildings, Royal Park and historic associations with Henry VIII, Elizabeth I and the Stuarts; this diversity means it's possible to cover a cross-curricular range in a day visit.

Using QCA Schemes of Work, in all key stages, most sessions at the National Maritime Museum take place in front of significant objects or art connected with science, history, literature and art. New programmes include art and design (KS4+), the marine environment (KS3), understanding slavery (KS3) and astronomy-related studies using the new Weller Astronomy Galleries and planetarium (all key stages to adult). There are also study days for teachers and they are encouraged to make familiarisation visits.

All school sessions must be pre-booked; details can be found on the National Maritime Museum website at www.nmm.ac.uk/learning or call 020 8312 8575.

Other exhibitors at Excursions 2008 with ideas for school trips include the Bank of England Museum (www.bankofengland.co.uk), which runs free presentations using role play and quizzes to explain the functions of currency in simple terms and the Hop Farm Country Park at Paddock Wood, Kent (www.thehopfarm.co.uk). An increasingly popular venue for school visits, its museums depict the history of Kentish life and hop picking providing a fascinating insight for key stages I and II pupils.

RAF Museum Cosford, near Shifnal, Shropshire (www.rafmuseum.org) uses its unique collection to produce programmes of activities, workshops and resource material for both subject specific and cross-curricular school visits. Hands-on interactive exhibits teach the principles of flight while a dynamic simulator provides an instant flying experience.

Teachers 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. Teachers 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:

Pat Edgar, PR Matters
Brambling House, 7 Finch Lane
Little Chalfont, Bucks HP7 9NE
November 2007

Tel: 01494 764932
Fax: 01494 764408
Mobile: 07836 786043
Email: PRMatters@dsl.pipex.com