

FREE COACH TRAVEL TO EXCURSIONS 2008 ALEXANDRA PALACE, SATURDAY 12 JANUARY

Visitors from outside London attending Excursions 2008, the UK's premier one-day group travel show at Alexandra Palace, North London on Saturday, 12 January, are kindly being offered free coach travel by members of the Confederation of Passenger Transport UK's CoachMarque quality scheme.

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

Following three very successful years working in partnership with CoachMarque, the Excursions organisers have been able to use their past experience in running this service to ensure the towns and pick up points are of optimum value and convenience to group travel organisers visiting the show. As a result 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.

Seven Coaches

For 2008 there will be two new services; the first from the west starting at Cheltenham/Gloucester with stops at Swindon, Reading and Slough/Watford, and another in the east from Herne Bay via Canterbury, Chatham and Gravesend.

The third coach will depart from Folkestone in the South East of England stopping at Ashford, Maidstone and Bexley/Dartford while further services will set off from Hastings and Portsmouth on the South Coast stopping at Eastbourne, Brighton, Southampton and Basingstoke.

Visitors from the east of the capital will be able to join a route from Ipswich via Colchester, Chelmsford and Romford. The seventh coach will serve London's main line stations at Waterloo, Charing Cross, Victoria, Paddington, Marylebone and Euston/King's Cross.

Pre-booking Essential

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, where full details of pick-up points and times 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.

For visitors making their own way to Excursions by train, there will be a free shuttle service provided by Anderson Travel running from Alexandra Palace main line and Wood Green Underground stations to the exhibition venue. Members of the exhibition team will be at both stations to direct visitors to the coaches; they will be easily recognisable with their 'Excursions' signs.

The free entry show, which is organised by Tourism South East and Group Travel Organiser magazine, is supported by Visit London and East of England Tourism.

The number of exhibitors is expected to be around 170 with several taking space for the first time. Visitors will include group travel organisers, coach and tour operators, tourist guides, corporate social clubs, school and higher education teachers, youth organisations, language schools and in fact anyone who is involved in arranging away days and short breaks for groups.

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@grouptravelorganiser.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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15 October 2007

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