

**RECORD VISITOR AND EXHIBITOR NUMBERS AT  
EXCURSIONS 2008 GROUP TRAVEL SHOW**

Excursions 2008, the UK's premier one day group travel show held at Alexandra Palace, North London on Saturday 12 January, was a resounding success attracting a record number of visitors and exhibitors. Around 1,050 event organisers and coach operators from around the UK attended the show where some 216 exhibitors had taken stand space including attractions, destinations, accommodation providers and tour operators.

For the first time this year, large parties brought to the show by coach operators included a group organised by Silver Star Coaches of North Wales. Their two coaches full of group organiser from North and Mid Wales were highly impressed with what was on offer and the show's organisation. Commenting on the exhibition, group leaders Gavin Owen, marketing manager and Osian Tomos, tours and contracts manager, said: "We were delighted to see so many of our group organisers come back on the coach with new ideas, we also received several enquiries on the way back. Our thanks also to Thistle and Hilton Hotels for their accommodation and service on our journey which was, as always, first class. It was an experience enjoyed by all and we will be back in 2009!"

There was also an excellent take-up for free places on the coach services offered to visitors from outside London kindly provided by members of the Confederation of Passenger Transport UK's CoachMarque quality scheme.

According to show organiser Fran Downton from Tourism South East; "We are delighted with the growing level of interest in Excursions and the continued generation of business and support to the groups industry. We look forward to welcoming them back the 2009 show which is set for Saturday, 17 January next year"

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

Excursions 2008 was officially opened by Aoife Mulholland, who plays 'Maria' in *The Sound of Music*, currently playing in London's West End, She arrived at the exhibition in a Rolls Royce Silver Shadow before touring the stands and meeting visitors.

Just under twenty exhibitors took a stand at Excursions for the first time this year. Among them was John Simm's from West Somerset Steam Railway who commented, "We've had a great show, definitely worth taking a stand and we have made a note of next year's date". And former exhibitor, April Hollier from Maritime Greenwich said, "Excursions offers good value for money; it reaches our target group audience and we see real results quickly. We'll be back!"

For further details visit [www.excursions.org.uk](http://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  
16 January 2008

Tel: 01494 764932  
Fax: 01494 764408  
Mobile: 07836 786043  
Email: [PRMatters@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:PRMatters@dsl.pipex.com)