

POSITIVE RESEARCH FROM EXCURSIONS 2008 ENCOURAGES EARLY BOOKINGS FOR NEXT YEAR

Research from Excursions 2008 confirmed that 99% of visitors found the one day group travel show, held at Alexandra Palace, North London, to be 'worthwhile' or 'very worthwhile' and 95% were 'likely' or 'very likely' to visit the venues which exhibited.

Stand holders were also unanimous with 100% confirming they would consider re-booking for Excursions 2009 borne out by over sixty tourism organisations, which have made advance bookings for next year's show to be held on Saturday, 17 January (10.30am-4pm). Amongst those who have signed up are Blenheim Palace; Maritime Greenwich; Marriott Hotels; Simply Groups; Suffolk Tourism Partnership and Windsor & the Royal Borough.

In total some 200 exhibitors from across the UK are expected to take part; there should also be a small selection from mainland Europe. Stand holders will include castles, museums, wildlife attractions, houses and gardens, art galleries and steam train and riverboat operators as well as theatre agencies, event organisers and tour operators that offer group packages and tailor-made tours.

Commenting on the show's ongoing success, joint organiser Fran Downton, travel trade manager from Tourism South East said: "Excursions is continuing to grow in popularity by both exhibitors and visitors alike. The 2009 show promises to offer new and unmissable opportunities for group travel organisers planning their days out and short breaks next year."

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 2009 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.

For press enquiries and images please contact:

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June 2008

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