

**FREE COACH TRAVEL TO EXCURSIONS™ 2011
ALEXANDRA PALACE, SATURDAY 15th JANUARY**

Visitors from outside London attending Excursions™ 2011, the UK's premier one-day group travel show at Alexandra Palace, North London on Saturday, 15th January, are kindly being offered free coach travel by members of the Confederation of Passenger Transport UK's Coach Marque quality scheme.

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

Commenting on the free service, joint organiser Elaine Pearce, Travel Trade Manager from Tourism South East said: We have been able to use our past experience in running the coaches to ensure the towns and pick up points are of optimum value and convenience for visitors to Excursions™. As a result, routes now include pick-ups at train stations to integrate road and rail travel". The coaches will be scheduled to arrive at Excursions™ from around 11am with departures for the homeward journey at 3.30pm.

Seven Coaches

For 2011 the first coach will come from the west starting at Swindon and stopping at Newbury, Reading and Slough, while the second will begin in the east from Canterbury travelling to Alexandra Palace via Chatham and Bexley. The third route will depart from Folkestone in the South East of England stopping additionally at Ashford, as well as Maidstone and Swanley.

Other 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 also 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. Full information including pick-up times and a booking form can be found online at www.excursions.org.uk or call 0845 226 7542. Each vehicle will also carry a Blue Badge Guide to provide interesting facts on the journey.

Additional, independently operated coaches will be running from Wiltshire and Dorset to Excursions™; full details can also be found on the exhibition website.

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 exhibition is organised by Tourism South East and Group Travel Organiser magazine, supported by Visit London and East of England Tourism. The number of exhibitors is expected to be around 220 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.

Visitors can pre-register online at www.excursions.org.uk or call 023 8062 5472 to request a registration form. Everyone who pre-registers and comes along on the day will be automatically entered into a free prize draw to win one of the many exciting prizes offered by exhibitors. These include a private view of a new British sculpture exhibition worth £1,000 with the Royal Academy of Arts, tickets to the Royal Ascot race meeting in June and a pass for two people to visit all the 'Houses of Hidden England'.

Organisations interested in exhibiting at Excursions™ 2011 should book online or contact Emma Davis at Tourism South East on 023 8062 5472; a video of the 2010 show can also be viewed on the website.

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