

WHAT'S NEW AT EXCURSIONS 2010

A large number of exhibitors at Excursions 2010 are introducing something new. We list some highlights below in alphabetical order with stand numbers and see www.excursions.org.uk:

Airedale Tours – stand GT21

Several new brochures including Worldwide Holidays by Air 2010 featuring European tours and long haul destinations, plus a mini-brochure with short breaks to historic market and county towns in the UK and Christmas themed breaks.

Contact: Amani Claughton, Tel: 0808 161 1660, www.airedaletours.co.uk.

Ascot Racecourse - stand SE49

All inclusive party packages with admission, drinks, racecard and bet.

Contact: Kelly Charles, Tel: 01344 878536, www.ascot.co.uk.

Beaulieu, National Motor Museum - stand SE36

Opening a new exhibition from Easter 2010, *ProMotion*, which will showcase a variety of vehicles that illustrate the imaginative and fun techniques companies have used to promote their products over the years such as a giant pea on wheels.

Contact: Nikki Appleton, Tel: 01590 612345, www.beaulieu.co.uk.

Canterbury – stand SE09

Behind-the-scenes tours of the city's Cathedral. Groups can visit the stained glass studio, stone conservation shop, archives and library to see treasures and documents dating back to the 7th century and learn about the problems the cathedral's conservators face.

Contact: Therese Heslop, Tel: 01227 762862, www.canterbury.co.uk.

Cardiff and Southern Wales Tourism – stand GT20

New tour planner from Southern Wales for coach operators and group organisers has accommodation, attractions, sample itineraries, meal stops and coach parking.

Contact: Huw Davies, Tel: 01656 672932, www.southernwales.org.

Chatham Historic Dockyard – stand SE75

A new cultural venue and centre for world-class maritime collections opening mid 2010. *No 1 Smithery* will be an exciting fusion of museum, heritage and culture where objects, artworks and a historic building come together to provide an inspiring and thought provoking mix located within one of the UK's leading maritime heritage sites.

Contact: Gail James, Tel: 01634 823800, www.thedockyard.co.uk.

City of London - stand VL13

New multimedia audio guide for St Paul's Cathedral with images and video plus group guiding system with microphone and transmitter for the leader and a receiver and earpiece for the group members.

Contact: Vanessa Tassetto, Tel: 020 7332 3688, www.visitthecity.co.uk.

Compton Verney – stand HO3

Francis Bacon exhibition focusing on his work in relation to films and photography and from the summer to end October visit *Volcano*, an interactive exhibition celebrating the artistic genius inspired by volcanic eruptions.

Contact: Sam Skillings, Tel: 01926 645500, www.comptonverney.org.uk.

English Heritage – stand H12

In celebration of the recent launch of the Great Tower at Dover Castle, English Heritage and Canterbury Cathedral will be bringing two very important royal guests to Excursions – King Henry II and Thomas Becket.

Contact: Mike Gibson, Tel: 01483 252015, www.english-heritage.org.uk.

Exclusive Gardens of Kent – stand SE08

Launching at Excursions, Exclusive Gardens of Kent includes Mount Ephraim, Doddington Place and Godinton House, three historic gardens with a wide variety of planting, landscape and history, which complement each other. Visits March to October.

Contact: Claire Francis, Tel: 01227 751496, www.exclusivegardensof Kent.co.uk.

Finchcocks Musical Museum at Goudhurst, Kent – stand SE20

Celebrating two anniversaries - the 300th birthday of English composer Thomas Arne (12 Mar 1710 - 5 Mar 1778) who is best known for his composition of the patriotic Rule Britannia, and the 200th birthday of Chopin (1 Mar 1810 - 17 Oct 1849).

Contact: Katrina Burnett, Tel: 01580 211702, www.finchcocks.co.uk.

Greenwich - Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site – stand HO9

Opening of the new *Discover Greenwich* contemporary cultural centre, revamped Tourist Information Centre and the reconstruction of the former Meantime brewery in the Old Royal Naval College.

Contact: David Salmon, Tel: 020 8312 6589, www.greenwichwhs.org.uk.

Hampshire – stand SE68

Aviator Hotel Farnborough, a luxurious contemporary hotel located in the hub of TAG Farnborough Airport, has packages for the biggest event of the aviation calendar – the 2010 Farnborough International Airshow, 19th – 25th July 2010.

Contact: Sarah Davis, Tel 07921 888937, www.visitsoutheastengland.com.

Hastings & 1066 Country Attractions – stand SE28

New guided tour around the fishing area of The Stade in Hastings Old Town and World War II evacuee experience at Yesterday's World. Flower Makers Museum in Hastings Old town celebrates its centenary in Oct 2010.

Contact: Jane Ellis, Tel: 01424 451113, www.visit1066country.com.

Hidden England – stand GT74

Straddling Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire, Hidden England adds an extra stately home, Doddington Hall, and new garden experience at Grimsthorpe Castle to its treasure trove of great days out.

Contact: Mark Hibbert, Tel: 07595 349 400, www.hiddenengland.org.

Historic Royal Palaces – stand HO7

Kew Palace will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of George III's accession to the throne, while from the spring Kensington Place will be transformed into a new *Enchanted Palace* with a series of stunning installations inspired by royal dress and tradition.

Contact: David Miles, Tel: 020 3166 6313, www.hrp.org.uk.

Imperial War Museum – stand VL30

An exhibition opening in London in Feb, *Ministry of Food*, will examine the impact of rationing on the production and consumption of food, while during May events will mark the day Churchill became Prime Minister. Duxford's September air show will be themed on the Battle of Britain to mark the site's part in the campaign.

Contact: Laura Wilkinson, Tel: 020 7091 3039, www.iwm.org.uk.

Leeds Castle – stand SE16

World of Wings bird show from the spring will include formation flying storks and a Bald Eagle, also upgraded assisted service restaurant and new 2010 events programme.

Contact: Nicola Davy, Tel: 01622 767865, www.leeds-castle.com.

Maidstone, Kent – Stand SE17

New Maidstone Group Guide features itineraries, attractions, seasonal events, catering and accommodation for groups. Take a boat trip through the Millennium River Park or lunch in The Barge restaurant moored on the River Medway.

Contact: Laura Dickson, Tel: 01622 602510, www.tour-maidstone.com.

Musical Museum – stand VL34

The Musical Museum, Brentford and Kew Bridge Steam Museum have joined forces to offer a flexible package for group travel organisers and coach operators.

Contact: Ginette Kentish, Tel: 020 8560 8108, www.musicalmuseum.co.uk

Natural History Museum, London - stand VL01

New Angela Marmont resource centre for UK Biodiversity opening during 2010 aims to nurture, inspire, excite and support naturalists of all ages. Also two new temporary (May-Sep 2010) exhibitions for nature-lovers, *Butterfly Explorers* and *The Deep* that explores the 'final frontier' – the deep sea.

Contact: Sam Roberts, Tel: 020 7942 5881, www.nhm.ac.uk.

Poppy Travel - stand GT63

Official travel division of The Royal British Legion, they arrange journeys of remembrance to war cemeteries, memorials and battlefields. New destinations for 2010 include Canada, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Malta, Ireland and Vietnam.

Contact: Phil Jenkins, Tel: 01622 716729, www.poppytravel.org.uk.

Pumpkin Tours – stand SE34

Pumpkin Tours will be introducing new packages to Formula 1 grand prix racing events in Asia including China, Malaysia and Korea.

Contact: Eugene Bari; Tel: 01489 880 846, www.pumpkintours.co.uk.

Royal Albert Hall – stand VL01

From April a combined visit includes The Queen's Gallery, to hear how Queen Victoria and Prince Albert collected works of art, and a front of house tour of Royal Albert Hall – on certain dates these tours will be extended backstage, dates available at Excursions.

Contact: Sean Carrigan, Tel: 020 7959 0531, www.royalalberthall.com.

Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead – stand SE47

New walking tour, *Much More Than Madness*, to celebrate the 250th anniversary of King George III's accession to the throne in 1760; can be combined with a tour of Windsor Castle; also cycling tour of Windsor Great Park, both organised by tourist guide Laura Comley-Smith, www.spiritofengland.net.

Contact: Charlotte Stewart, Tel: 01753 743920, www.windsor.gov.uk.

Royal Navy Submarine Museum, Gosport – stand SE41

Package combining a visit to the Submarine Museum with a 40-minute cruise around Portsmouth Harbour; new look onsite waterfront coffee shop and a welcome group introduction about the historic setting of the Submarine Museum at Haslar Creek.

Contact: Bill Sainsbury. Tel: 023 9254 5034, www.rnsubmus.co.uk

Royal Opera House, London – stand VL10

Home to three world class performing companies - new special exhibition tours and auditorium visits; costumes and props on display for first time, some available to try on.

Contact: Barry Stewart, Tel: 020 7212 9389, www.roh.org.uk.

Shepherd Neame Brewery, Kent – stand SE08

The Depot – expanded display of historic delivery vehicles, hop picking memorabilia and pub signs. Look behind the scenes at one of Britain's oldest breweries.

Contact: Graham Hukins, Tel: 01795 542016, www.shepherdneame.co.uk.

Shropshire's Star Attractions – stand GT44

40th birthday for the Severn Valley Railway and RAF Museum Cosford will be marking the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain in September. First full season for the new, £12m developments at Blists Hill Victorian Town, one of the ten Ironbridge Gorge Museums, while Weston Park, stately home on the Shropshire/Staffordshire border, will be promoting its Granary Shop and Gallery as a refreshment stop for coffee, cakes and sandwiches.

Contact: Rebecca Gutierrez, Tel: 01952 567562, www.starattractions.co.uk.

Simply Groups – stand GT09

Three superb new cruises in association with Croisi Europe, the award winning European river cruise specialists. These include Croatia and Montenegro; Paris to Honfleur and Avignon and the Camargue.

Contact: Simon Ayres, Tel: 01943 605999, www.simplygroups.co.uk.

Stoke by Nayland Hotel, Golf & Spa resort – stand EE13

Recent £5m refurbishment for this hotel on the Suffolk/Essex border; spa has 11 treatment rooms including exotic Rasoul and Hammam suites, two championship golf courses.

Special rates £39.50pppn dinner, B&B.

Contact: Vickie Bennington-Lane, Tel: 01206 262836, www.stokebynaylandclub.com.

Stuart Line Cruises – stand GT03

Joined with Powderham Castle in South Devon to offer a combined castle tour and cruise on the River Exe for just £10 per person.

Contact: Ian and Philippa Stuart, Tel: 01395 222144, www.stuartlinecruises.co.uk.

Success Tours – stand GT17

Group packages with accommodation to the new Bavarian Beer Festival in Kent, August Bank holiday weekend. Two new trips to Dubrovnik and the Balkan States including excursions into Montenegro and Bosnia Herzegovina.

Contact: Steve Hornby, Tel: 01225 715060, www.successtours.com.

The Royal Landscape, a part of Windsor Great Park – stand SE52

Set within the Royal Landscape on the edge of Windsor Great Park, Savill Garden will be opening a contemporary new rose garden from June. Groups can combine a garden visit with a 2.5 hour boat trip on the Thames with French Brothers.

Contact: Carla Hall, Tel: 01753 847543, www.theroyallandscape.co.uk.

Thorpeness & Aldeburgh Hotels, Suffolk – stand EE04

Refurbishment of the half-timbered Swan Hotel at Lavenham and extensive upgrade of the Brudenell in Aldeburgh set to open as a four-star hotel in the spring.

Contact: Suzanne Richardson, Tel: 0774 8822 335, www.aldeburgh-breaks.co.uk.

Visit Blackpool – stand GT36

Free coach passenger facilities in the heart of the town. New coach drop-off and pick-up bays are one of many developments forming part of the town's wider regeneration.

Contact: Julie Holland, Tel: 01253 478229, www.visitblackpool.com.

Visit Surrey – stand SE69

Visit two Surrey attractions in one day from £10 per person – partners include Mercedes Benz World, Denbies Vineyard, Painshill Park, Loseley Park, Dorking, Guildford and the Lightbox gallery and museum.

Contact: Catherine Knight, Tel: 01483 444 981, www.visitsurrey.com.

Visit Wiltshire - stand GT53

200 years since the opening of the Kennet and Avon Canal; 175 years since the Great Western Railway was created by an Act of Parliament and 150 since the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum was founded. The county will also be marking 200 years of Ancient Wiltshire and the life of archaeologist Sir Richard Colt Hoare, who was among the first to record excavations at Stonehenge in 1798 and 1810.

Contact: Nick Baumber, Tel: 0845 602 7323, www.visitwiltshire.co.uk.

West Somerset Railway – stand GT60

New steam railway package days out from Bishops Lydeard to Dunster where the group will proceed by coach to an Exmoor hostelry for lunch and mystery tour. Similarly day out to Williton with a coach trip to explore the remains of the West Somerset Mineral Railway.

Contact: Martyn Snell, Tel: 01643 700383, www.west-somerset-railway.co.uk.

Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum – stand VL07

Launch of tennis wear designer Ted Tinling's exhibit. The Championships Showcase now includes kit used by Roger Federer during his victory over Andy Roddick in the Wimbledon 2009 finals and outfits donated by the Williams sisters.

Contact: Ashley Jones, Tel: 020 8946 6131, www.wimbledon.org/museum.

Winchester – stand SE68

Events programme will mark 900th anniversary of the founding of Hyde Abbey, King Alfred's last known resting place. New Jane Austin and Cricket trails and festivals.

Contact: Rachel Gander, Tel: 01962 848556, www.visitwinchester.co.uk.

WWT London Wetland Centre – stand VL17

10th anniversary celebrations with events programme 29 May- 6 June. Guided walks and talks and animal-focused events such as *Meet Bats Face to Face*, amphibian days and reptile events. New sustainable garden and pond zone.

Contact: Catherine Starling, Tel: 020 8409 4400, www.wwt.org.uk/london.

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