

JAN 2007

Travel World

The Magazine for Destination Travel Specialists

NEWS®

Argentina

*FIT America Latina
Turns Eleven*



Yorkshire England

*Swinton Park Offers Genuine
English Country House Experience*

Caribbean

- Cayman Islands—Sunset House Where Diving is King
- The Mexican Caribbean—Quintessential Quintana Roo

Latin America

- ABAV—Brazilian Travel Agents Fight the Good Fight
- M/V *Antarctic Dream*—Modern-Day Explorers Wanted by Antarctic Dream Expeditions

Asia Pacific

- The Indian Connection—Delta Airline's Non-stop New York—Mumbai and Kingfisher Airlines

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Argentina's FIT América Latina Turns Eleven

Whether the fourth or the fifth most important even of its kind in the world, or even the 20th, prices in Tangoland are never going to be this low again.

BY MARK ZUSSMAN

The tourism Web site for the city of Buenos Aires includes, amidst a ton of other useful information, an impressive animated guide to distances and flying times into BA from major cities in Argentina itself. From Bariloche, the glamorous Argentine ski center high up in the Andes Mountains, for example, its 1630k and 2h30m. From Puerto Iguazu, where the great cataracts are, it's 1284k and 1h45m. From Ushuaia, down in the region in which the world comes to an end, or at least appears to do so, at the foot of the Tierra del Fuego, amidst snow and mist and rain, it's 3194k and 3h40m. With its head up in the torrid sub-tropics and its feet in a bath of ice water, this is a big country, right?

But now click to the map showing distances and flying times from major cities in Europe, Africa, Asia and North America. From Miami, the distance is 7104k (that's 4414 miles); from Atlanta, it's 8061k (that's 5008 miles); from New York, it's 8491k (that's 5276 miles) — and the flying times from these U.S. cities climb up into the high stratosphere of 11h30m. Argentina is not just big, it's far away.

The formidable distances and flying times aside, U.S. entries to Argentina — in figures available at November's 11th annual Feria Internacional de Turismo de América Latina in Buenos Aires — numbered 371,407 for the year 2005. This is needless to say nothing on the order of U.S. entries to major Western European countries. It's even substantially fewer than U.S. entries to much smaller — but closer — Costa Rica. And still it's not nothing and, in the view of numerous Argentine tour operators at the Feria Internacional de Turismo, or FIT, it is a strong base to grow from.

Duval and Bushes

Was the actor Robert Duval — the American Laurence Olivier, according to Vincent Canby of the New York Times — himself among foreign visitors to Tangoland in 2005? This piece of information is not easy to obtain with 100 percent certainty, but it's likely. Buenos Aires has famously come to count as Duval's favorite world city in his post-“Godfather” years. He maintains a home thereabouts. He is a tango fan and a skilled tango dancer, he has filmed repeatedly in Argentina, and he is a devotee of the Argentine way of life with its crazy all night hours (particularly in the capital) and



Shopping for appointments down the Main Boulevard at FIT America Latina.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Discover Africa – SPRING 2007

APTA MOVING FORWARD

Share the Discovery . . . Africa the vast and varied continent of people, places, creatures and dreams, forever new, forever old, always a marvel and more. Vendors and agents come together for an evening of education and stimulating interaction on the following dates and regional locations. Join us and let us show you how APTA can increase our sales, your profits and your knowledge.

6 March New York
7 March Southern Florida
8 March Atlanta
13 March Chicago



ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF TOURISM TO AFRICA

APTA is a non-profit association, founded in 1979, that brings together the travel agent, the tour wholesaler, hotels, airlines and others whose common goal is to educate those involved with tourism to Africa.

Our Chapters are located in:

Los Angeles	Orange County (CA)	San Diego	Sacramento
Denver	Dallas	Seattle	Chicago
New York	South Florida	Phoenix	San Francisco
Atlanta			

**For more information email: info@apta.biz
 or visit our website at www.apta.biz, and contact a
 Local Chapter or Executive Board Director listed on the site**

FIT FROM PAGE 3

its wall-to-wall bars and coffee houses. (The French are "arrogant and arrogant," Duval has been quoted as saying. The Argentines are "arrogant but warm.")

Were Barbara and Jenna Bush, the twin daughters of our 43rd President, in Argentina to help swell the previously cited statistics for 2005? In all likelihood, no. They were there, however, in November 2006, just days before the FIT was to open, and, in an incident probably more embarrassing to the famously vigilant Secret Service than to Argentina, one of them had a purse and a cell phone stolen in a restaurant in the lively San Telmo district of cobblestone streets, flea markets, antique dealerships, and outdoor tango performances. Argentina is in fact one of the safest countries in South America. Buenos Aires is one of the safest large cities.

An interesting conflict of views at the FIT itself at the La Rural fairgrounds in the leafy, upscale Palermo neighborhood of the city: one speaker called the event the fifth most important of its kind in the world. Another called it the fourth most important of its kind. Either way — and despite the relatively small blip the FIT continues to make on radar screens in the U.S. — the event is huge. The total visitor count this year was 74,000, up 11.8 percent over 2005. Professional visitors numbered over 30,000.

According to Argentine tourism minister Carlos Enrique Meyer, moreover, tourism promotion is now a matter of Argentine national policy. Tourism, said Mr. Meyer, accounts for 6.7 percent of Argentina's foreign earnings, and this puts it ahead of beef, grain and petroleum exports.

A Cheaper Paris?

Buenos Aires, the all but inevitable gateway for North American visitors to Argentina if not their sole destination, has repeatedly been called the Paris of South America. But, as many readers will know, Buenos Aires was never without rivals in South America in its aspirations to turn itself into a kind of other-side-of-the-world Paris. Once, in a used book store, I held in my hands a volume under the title "The Image of Paris in the Tropics," and I kick myself for not having bought it, because it is a rarity and it is not likely to come my way again. This book was principally about the rebuilding of downtown Rio de Janeiro in the early 20th century and the efforts, under the Pereira Passos administration there, to turn that city, too, into a kind of Paris of the Bottom Hemisphere.

Santiago, too, had its little flirtation. Gustave Eiffel, believe it or not, fresh from his feat of building a great tower for the Paris Universal Exposition of 1889, was commissioned to design Santiago's Central Railroad Station and also the Central Market in nearby Valparaíso. Eiffel was induced to take on projects even in Peru and in Bolivia.

In the competition to create the best possible South American Paris, no question, though, Buenos Aires came out

on top. To be sure, there is no Louvre there on the banks of the River Plate. There is no Orsay Museum. There is no Pompidou Center. What makes BA the South American Paris is more the city's urbanism and architecture and its Europeanized style of life, and it might also be said that what BA lacks in the way of museums it more than makes up for in the way of tango and other distinctly native cultural manifestations. (Many people, after all, just kid themselves into thinking they like hauling through museums all day long.) Even without a museum full of European Old Masters, moreover, there's a lot going on in BA's art scene. The people are gorgeous. The restaurants are exciting and lively. The food is world-class.

No question, the big story down this way currently, though, is prices. Thanks to years of economic crisis, BA is one of the cheapest great cities on the planet. The same is also true, and more so, in Argentina's glorious provinces. Accommodations, dining, entertainment, leather goods and indeed fashion of every kind — nobody is going to call them dirt cheap. But, no question, this is the place for travelers who want to live like royalty but without doing any significant harm to their credit card balances.

FIT, www.fit.org.ar

DISCOVER AFRICA OFFERS SPRING SHOW SERIES IN MARCH

Discover Africa is the premier U.S. tradeshow focusing strictly on Africa. It is organized annually by APTA to promote Africa and its' APTA member suppliers to the travel agent community. Travel agents are also permitted to bring clients as their guests.

Each year APTA rotates Discover Africa between its' various Chapters, selecting four or five. Their Spring 2007 show series is March 6, 7, 8 and 13 in New York, Florida, Atlanta, and Chicago. Thus, Discover Africa may not return to these cities for another one to three years.

Each event attracts between 20-30 suppliers. Generally, each of the major U.S. Africa tour operators are present, as well as tourist offices and many African based tour operators, lodges, and others who come from Africa to promote themselves. Discover Africa generally draws from 70 to over 100 attendees who are focused on travel in Africa.

In addition to the tradeshow, several suppliers are offered the opportunity to give a verbal presentation on their product and/or services (extra cost, first come-first served). One highlight of each event is a featured speaker who gives a 30-minute address. The speaker for 2007 is Sammy Leseita, an inspiring speaker who comes to Discover Africa from Samburu, sponsored by Heritage Hotels.

There is an early booking discount available for all four shows. Table Top and Presenter rates for all four venues are \$2,800, or \$700 each single show.

Discover Africa, 303-679-3183, DiscoverAfrica@apta.biz



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The evening trade show starts with an hour of tabletop display. All suppliers material is pre-packaged to allow each agent to leave the evening with a collection of the newest collateral material.

A three-course dinner immediately follows. At this time a one on one contact with supplier and agent is maximized and encouraged

The evening wraps up with a brief 3 – 4 minute presentation by each of our suppliers over coffee and desert.

SPRING 2007 SCHEDULE

WEEK I

Schaumburg, IL	02/20/2007
Milwaukee, WI	02/21/2007
Northbrook, IL	02/22/2007
Oak Lawn, IL	02/23/2007

WEEK II

Nashville, TN	02/26/2007
Knoxville, TN	02/27/2007
Birmingham, AL	02/28/2007
Atlanta, GA	03/01/2007

WEEK III

Houston, TX	03/05/2007
San Antonio, TX	03/06/2007
Austin, TX	03/07/2007
Dallas, TX	03/08/2007

WEEK IV

Cocoa Beach, FL	03/12/2007
West Palm Beach, FL	03/13/2007
Fort Myers, FL	03/14/2007
Sarasota, FL	03/15/2007

WEEK V

Philadelphia, PA	03/19/2007
Allentown, PA	03/20/2007
Bucks County, PA	03/21/2007
Cherry Hill, NJ	03/22/2007

WEEK VI

Pompton Plains, NJ	03/26/2007
Bergen County, NJ	03/27/2007
New Jersey Shore Area	03/28/2007
Edison, NJ	03/29/2007

WEEK VII

Troy, MI	04/16/2007
Grand Rapids, MI	04/17/2007
Toledo, OH	04/18/2007
Novi, MI	04/19/2007

WEEK VIII

Pittsburgh, PA	04/23/2007
Harrisburg, PA	04/24/2007
Columbia, MD	04/25/2007
Washington, DC Sub.	04/26/2007

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Helping to Discover Nigeria

Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo Sends Tourism Delegation to the U.S. to Promote Nigeria's Travel and Tourism Industry.

Nigerian Minister of Culture and Tourism Chief Olufemi Fani-Kayode kicked off a two-week promotional visit to the U.S. on September 18 in New York. The opening event was hosted by the New York chapter of the Africa Travel Association (ATA) in Harlem, where the Minister was joined by former CNN correspondent and National Public Radio journalist Charlayne Hunter-Gault.

"For Nigeria, tourism is one of the priority sectors of our economy," said Fani-Kayode to more than 40 ATA chapter members. "Each state has spectacular attractions, ranging from warm springs to ancient medieval collections and from cultural festivals to monuments of the trans-Atlantic slave trade across the



Edward J. Bergman, Africa Travel Association's Executive Director with H.E. Chief Femi Fani Kayode, Minister of Culture and Tourism, Nigeria.

country."

The Minister said that despite its vast tourism offerings, Nigeria was relatively unknown to international travelers. "Some of you have visited Nigeria and can testify to the security and safety of our country."

ATA organized the three-city—New York, Atlanta, and Los Angeles—tour to promote Nigeria's emerging travel industry, and ATA's 10th Annual Eco-Tourism Symposium, to be held in Nigeria's Atlantic Coast resort town of Calabar from November 15-20, 2006.

Among the delegates were Permanent Secretary Otaki M. Oyigbenu, Director General of the Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation (NTDC), Otunba Segun Runsee, and other distinguished members from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

Nigerian delegates visited New York, Atlanta, and Los Angeles, where they held press conferences, met with prominent city officials, and spoke to leading travel professionals, ATA chapter members, and representatives of the Nigerian Diaspora community.

In New York, ATA held its first annual African Presidential Forum at New York University, where President Olusegun Obasanjo invited everyone to invest in

Nigeria's tourism sector.

"For African-Americans and our brothers in the Diaspora, Nigeria is not just a desirable tourist destination, but it is indeed a second home. To them particularly, we open up our arms and offer a warm embrace," said Fani-Kayode on behalf of the President.

In Atlanta, at the DeKalb County Government Office, the delegation met with department heads to discuss building economic links between Nigeria and American business leaders.

Nigerian delegates met with city officials in Los Angeles and invited the Nigerian Diaspora to participate in tourism development of Nigeria.

Ron Mracky, a member of the ATA International Board and Los Angeles ATA chapter, spoke about the significant increase of international travelers to Africa from California. "Anywhere between 30-50 percent of leisure travelers to Africa come from California," said Mracky, who traveled to Calabar, Nigeria in October to help plan the upcoming Symposium. Eddie Bergman, ATA Executive Director, represented "Nigeria truly is an amazing country and I assure you that you will have a journey of a lifetime. The Calabar Symposium is designed to introduce Africa's culturally rich west coast—the Atlantic coast—to the American travel industry and traveling public," said Eddie Bergman, ATA Executive Director. "Whether you are arriving at the airport in Lagos, visiting the two-millennia-old sites of Calabar, or enjoying the Abuja Carnival, your comfort and security at every stage of your journey is of utmost importance for President Obasanjo and his government."

Africa Travel Association,
info@africatravelassociation.org,
www.africatravelassociation.org

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INTERNATIONAL ACCOLADE FOUNDATION OF BONAIRE PRESENTS AWARD TO DEMA'S TOM INGRAM



Jack Chalk, General Manager of Captain Don's Habitat presents Tom Ingram, Executive Director of DEMA with an award of recognition.

On November 11, 2006 the International Accolade Foundation of Bonaire presented an award of recognition to DEMA's Tom Ingram.

The award was presented to honor the DEMA Show's 30th anniversary as well as the important role the Association has

played in promoting marine protection. The presentation of the award certificate and pewter medal was made by Jack Chalk during DEMA Show 2006 in Orlando, FL, the Show's 30th anniversary.

"The Accolade Foundation of Bonaire applauds DEMA's 30th anniversary and our board has unanimously agreed that because of DEMA there have been untold organizations, dive shops, individuals and groups that have found the truth in environmentalism," read Jack Chalk from a statement prepared by Captain Don Stewart, Founder of the International Accolade Foundation of Bonaire.

Tourism Corporation Bonaire, 800-BONAIRE

CULTOUR: A REAL INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION ON CULTURAL TRAVEL

CULTOUR is the first in the world's real international exhibition to reach the fast

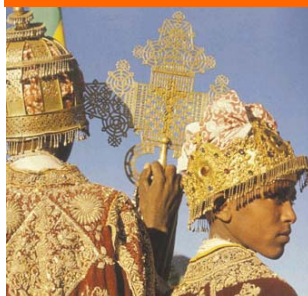
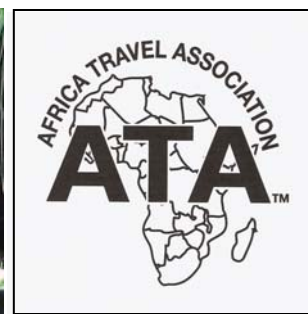
growing cultural travel market niche, claims GSAR Marketing, the organizing company. As of now, there are registered exhibitors from 12 countries including Argentina, Belgium, Croatia, Ecuador, Egypt, Italy, Libya, Mexico, Netherlands, Peru, Russia, Spain and the U.S.

Currently, hosted buyers requesting to be registered in CULTOUR (tour operators and travel agent wholesaling cultural travel) are coming from 38 countries including Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, France, Germany, Guatemala, Hong Kong, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Russia, Singapore, Spain, Syria, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Uruguay, the UK and the U.S.

CULTOUR will be held January 25 and 26 in Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

CULTOUR, gsar@gsamark.com, www.cultourfair.com

Save The Date; May 06-10 2007, Ethiopia



32nd Africa Travel Association International Congress & Africa Travel and Airlines Marketing Exposition



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The 32nd Africa Travel Association International Congress: **Africa Travel & Airlines Marketing Exposition** will present many of the African destinations, attractions, airlines, tour operators, hotel & resort brands and more.

This is a great and unusual opportunity to meet the West, East, North and South of Africa's major industry names, as well as the ones who, as yet you may not know. Besides business you will have an opportunity to meet and speak to the Tourism Ministers and heads of many National Tourist Boards. This is designed as a "Net-Work-Business" Congress—to meet, to celebrate and to enjoy. Our hosts are planning grand receptions and gala events to celebrate the upcoming African Ethiopian Millennium, as the Julian Calendar Year 2000 approaches.

E-mail us at: info@AfricaTravelAssociation.org — Tel (212) 447-1357 (New York)

TREX 2007 TO BE HELD APRIL 25 - 27

The 9th Annual TREX (Travel Exchange Central America) will be held in Belize City, Belize, April 25 – 27, 2007 at the Princess Hotel Conference Center. TREX Central America has become one of the most important business development opportunities of the year for Central America tourism.

TREX 2007 is actually three highly organized events going on at the same time. There is a Tour Operator "Marketplace" featuring the exclusive William H. Coleman, Inc. SelectMatch Pre-scheduled Appointments System, which helps suppliers meet "decision makers" from worldwide markets who want to discuss specific "rates and dates." This system practically eliminates "no-shows" and makes sure every appointment is productive. There are also Retail Travel Agent Seminars held while suppliers have pre-scheduled appointments with tour operator buyers. Over 100 carefully qualified travel agents from North America and Latin America get the latest destination and product information about all of Central America. Finally, a Central America Travel Exposition is held on April 27 that features every Central America Country prominently represented in its own section which enables suppliers to "tell and sell" specific sales information to these "front line" retail travel agents in a "strictly business" environment.

Supplier Registration Fees of \$950 include one Delegate and SelectMatch Pre-scheduled Appointment with tour operator/buyers during the "Marketplace" and exhibit space/travel agent ap-

Mitt
2007
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Travel & Tourism Exhibition
21 - 24 March 2007
Moscow, Russia

Uitt
2007
13th Ukraine International
Travel & Tourism Exhibition
28 - 31 March 2007
Kiev, Ukraine

WTM RIBBON CUTTING AT DISCOVER AMERICA PAVILION



From left: Bruce Bommarito, VP International Planning, TIA; Björn Bieneck, President & CEO, B-FOR International; Roger Dow, President & CEO, TIA; Robert Tuttle, U.S. Ambassador to the U.K.; Helen Marano, Director, U.S. Department of Commerce; Peter Moss, Chair, Visit USA Association (U.K.).

Discover America Pavilion, www.discoveramericapavilion.com

pointments during the Travel Exposition. Suppliers also attend all business and social functions, and receive the Official Marketplace Directory on CD, the Travel Agent Directory, airport transfers on official arrival and departure days, and ground transportation. Additional delegates pay \$165 each. A special "booth sharing" option is available for smaller hotels/tour operators, but space for this option is very limited.

TREX – Travel Exchange Central America, 800-874-2324, sales@whcoleman.com, www.trexca.com

NEW STRATEGIC PLAN FOR AMERICAN TOURISM SOCIETY

The American Tourism Society (ATS) has announced the unanimous approval of its new Strategic Plan presented to the ATS Board of Directors by Phil Otterson, ATS Board Member and Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee. Otterson, who is also Executive VP, External Affairs, Tauck World Discovery, said: "Our objective was to develop a plan that would build the future of the organization based on the successes of the past."

Otterson noted that the committee had identified five specific goals: Organizational Capacity, which includes securing sponsorships, financing and partnerships; Access & Relationship Building, including raising the profile of ATS in the industry through email communications and e-newsletters; Education, both for the overseas and U.S.-based members; Marketing, strengthening media relations with press trips and ongoing press campaign and updates; and Government Relations through education of government entities and officials about the economic impact of developing tourism in ATS member countries.

The American Tourism Society, 212-893-8111, info@americantourismsociety.org

**TOP LUXURY SPECIALISTS TO ATTEND
PREMIUM TRAVEL 2007**



Royal Albert Hall in London

Premium Travel 2007 will be the host to America's leading travel agents when the Travel & Leisure's Travel Agent Advisory Board (TAAB) coincides its bi-annual meeting in London with a visit to the show. The Board consists of 14 of the most senior independent travel agents in the United States. To be a member, individuals have to be an owner, principal or senior executive of their company. The Board meets twice a year and in the last few years it has met in London, Delhi, New York and Los Angeles. As visitors they will be part of 500 international buyers from the UK, Europe, Russia, India and the Middle East, more than 150 of which have already registered to attend. Some of the leading brands that will participate, include Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group, Starwood Hotels & Resorts, Radisson Edwardian Hotels, Langham Hotels, Von Essen Hotels Ltd, InterContinental Hotels & Resorts, The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company and new to the event, Royal Canadian Pacific. Premium Travel 2007, an ultratravel event organized by Haymarket Exhibitions Ltd, will take place on May 15-16, 2007 in the Royal Albert Hall in London.

Premium Travel 2007, www.premiumtravel2007.com

**GIBTM 2007 CHANGES DATES TO
MARCH 12-15**

Reed Travel Exhibitions (RTE) and ADTA (Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority) have announced a change of dates for GIBTM (Gulf Incentive Business Travel & Meetings Exhibition) which will now take place in Abu Dhabi from March 12-15, 2007. The new state of the art Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Centre remains the venue. The date change will assist Abu Dhabi in hosting a major United Nations Organization (UN) conference during the period when GIBTM was originally due to take place. The inaugural event is set to showcase international meetings and incentive suppliers from national tourist organizations, destinations including convention bureau, hotels and hotel groups, destination management companies and specialist service providers representing the Gulf region, South and South East Asia, Europe, North Africa and beyond. Joining them will be a global visitor audience including high quality buyers from regions such as Europe, Africa, Asia, the United Arab Emirates and the wider Middle East region.

GIBTM, www.gibtm.travel; Reed Travel Exhibitions, www.reedtravelexhibitions.com

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DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
FEBRUARY			
1-3	Travel World 2007	Mumbai, India	www.travelworld.in
3-5	ITM 2007	Ahmedabad (Gujarat), India	www.indiatravelmart.com
6-7	IMTM 2007	Tel Aviv, Israel	www.ortra.com
8	Summer Travel Workshop	Moscow, Russia	www.moscowworkshop.com
10-11	Adventure Travel Expo	Long Beach, CA	www.adventureexpo.com
12-15	Go West Summit	Portland, OR	www.gowestsummit.com
15-18	EMITT	Istanbul, Turkey	www.emittistanbul.com
15-18	Holiday World	Prague, Czech Republic	www.holidayworld.cz
20-22	CONFEX	London, England	www.international-confex.com
22-25	BIT 2007	Milan, Italy	www.bit.ecpoc.it
22-25	Discover America Pavilion at BIT 2007	Milan, Italy	www.exhibitpro.com
23-25	The New York Times Travel Show	New York, NY	www.nytimes.com/travelshow
MARCH			
2-4	Vivattur 2007	Vilnius, Lithuania	www.visusplenus.lt
3-4	Adventure Travel Expo	Washington D.C.	www.adventureexpo.com
7-11	Discover America Pavilion at ITB 2007	Berlin, Germany	www.exhibitpro.com
7-11	ITB 2007	Berlin, Germany	www.itb-berlin.com
11-12	METTS 2007	Abu Dhabi, UAE	www.mettsprogramme.com
12-15	GIBTM	Abu, Dhabi, UAE	www.reedtravelexhibitions.com
12-15	Seatrade Cruise Shipping Convention	Miami Beach, Florida	www.cruiseshipping.net
15-18	Salon Mondial Du Tourisme	Paris, France	www.mondialtourisme.com
16-17	No Frills Travel & Technology Expo	Bergamo, Italy	www.nofrillsexpo.com
20	Moscow M.I.C.E. Forum	Moscow, Russia	www.miceforum.ru
21-24	MITT	Moscow, Russia	www.mitt-moscow.com
21-24	Discover America Pavilion at MITT 2007	Moscow, Russia	www.discoveramericapavilion.com
22-25	TUR 2007	Gothenburg, Sweden	www.nemonet.swefair.se
22-25	WTF 2007	Shanghai, China	www.worldtravelfair.com.cn
22-25	Discover America Pavilion at TUR 2007	Gothenburg, Sweden	www.exhibitpro.com
23-25	ITM 2007	Chandigarh, India	www.indiatravelmart.com
23-25	Beneath The Sea	Secaucus, NJ	www.beneaththesea.org
23-25	The Boston Globe Travel Show	Boston MA	www.bostonglobetravelshow.com
25-29	IDE- Asia 2007	Jeju, Korea	www.astanet.com
29-30	MITM euromed	Tunisia, Tunisia	www.mitmevents.com
30-Apr 1	CLIA's cruise3sixty 2007 Conference	Fort Lauderdale, Florida	www.cruise3sixty.com
APRIL			
12-14	DATE 2007	Punta Cana, DR	www.drdate.net
15-21	Mountain Travel Symposium	Whistler, BC	www.mtntrvl.com
17-19	IMEX 2007	Frankfurt, Germany	www.imex-frankfurt.com
19-21	BITE 2007	Cuenca, Ecuador	www.bitecuador.org
19-22	SITC	Barcelona, Spain	www.saloturisme.com
19-22	TPOC Conference & Trade Show	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	www.tpoc.org
19-22	SATTE Open World	New Delhi, India	www.satte.org
25-27	TREX 2007	Belize City, Belize	www.trexca.com
26-28	KITF 2007	Almaty, Kazakhstan	www.kitf.kz/en/2007
26-28	NTA Tour Operator Spring Meet	Kelowna B.C., Canada	www.ntatravel.com
26-29	IFT 2007	Belgrade, Serbia	www.ift-belgrade.com
27-29	Miami Travel Expo	Miami, FL	www.miamitravelexpo.com
27-30	JAPEX 2007	Ocho Rios, Jamaica	www.jhta.org

A Genuine English Country House Experience at Swinton Park

Swinton Park is an ancestral castle set in 200 acres of parkland, lakes and gardens at the gateway to the Yorkshire Dales. A stay here is a unique opportunity to enjoy the genuine English country house experience in a castle which dates from the 1600's. Swinton Park combines all the warmth and traditional comforts of a grand house, with the up to date facilities of a luxury hotel.

The 30 bedrooms have each been individually designed on the theme of a Yorkshire town, dale, garden, castle or abbey. One of the four suites is on three circular floors in the turret with a Victorian rainbath.

With 200 acres of parkland and a 20,000 acre estate surrounding the hotel, the beauty of the English countryside and Yorkshire Dales is exceptional. The appreciation of fresh and good quality food plays a key role at the hotel. Fruit, vegetables and herbs are sourced from the garden, with game and venison from the estate.

There is also a cookery school run by the celebrity chef Rosemary Shrager with a program of courses running throughout the year.

The estate offers golf, fishing, shooting, a clay pigeon shooting school, a horse riding course and moorland pony trekking, walking, mountain biking, off roading, croquet, an off road driving course, falconry and even model yacht racing or coracle racing on the lake.

Within the hotel there is a spa with Jacuzzi and sauna, and five treatment rooms with face and body treatments. There is also a Relaxation Room and an Exercise Room. Children enjoy an indoor play area, a children's menu, an outdoor play area, and more.

The menu at their restaurant Samuel's combines modern British style with traditional ingredients.



Swinton Park's York Suite.

Complemented by an exclusive selection of the finest wines, an evening at Samuel's is a unique opportunity to savor Yorkshire's heritage.

Private parties and meetings for up to 120 are catered for in the Library, the Panelled Room, and three syndicate rooms, which combine the style and elegance of a country house with the up to date facilities and equipment of a modern venue.

Swinton Park has an AA rating of four red stars at 86 percent. Samuel's, has been awarded three AA rosettes placing it in the top 10 percent of restaurants in the country. These two awards place the hotel as the highest rated in North Yorkshire and Cumbria.

Swinton Park is now featured in the Michelin Guide, Harden's, Good Food

Guide and Good Hotel Guide. The hotel is also listed in the new AA guide, The Guest List, which has selected the top 42 hotels in the whole of the UK.

Swinton Park has received numerous awards, among them the Yorkshire Life Hotel of the Year 2002; Yorkshire Tourist Board Outstanding Customer Service Award 2006; Harpers Spa Guide 2005 Best Mother and Baby Package; and Independent Top 50 Most Romantic Hotels (Feb 06).

In February 2005, Andrew McPherson joined the hotel as General Manager from Skibo Castle, which hit the headlines in 2000 when it hosted Madonna and Guy Ritchie's wedding.

Swinton Park,
felicity@swintonpark.com,
www.swintonpark.com

CORINTHIA GRAND HOTEL ROYAL HOSTS PRESIDENTS FOR 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION



Pictured from left to right: Mr. Walter Balzan, Ambassador of Malta for Hungary; Edward Fenech Adami, President of Malta and Mr. Adrian Ellis, General Manager of Corinthia Grand Hotel Royal.

The Corinthia Grand Hotel Royal proudly welcomed the presidents and delegations of Lithuania, Malta and Portugal, who, together with other heads of states, were in Budapest to mark the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian revolution.

While in Budapest, the official delegations of the various countries attended a Gala Performance by the Hungarian National Philharmonic Orchestra at the Opera House, under the auspices of Hungarian president László Sólyom, who personally welcomed the guests.

The anniversary commemorations took place on Monday, October 23, in the hall of the Upper House of Parliament. The Hungarian national colors were hoisted, together with the flags of the attending dignitaries. This was followed by a festive speech by Hungarian Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsány and the adoption of the Budapest '56 Liberty Statement.

The Corinthia Grand Hotel had its own reasons to commemorate the tragic events of 1956 as the 110 year old hotel was heavily involved and partially destroyed in the proceedings. On the morning of November 4, 1956, a cell of uprising organizers were holding out in the barricaded hotel, when they were heavily bombarded for five solid hours by a dozen T34 Soviet tanks. All of the men inside the hotel perished and the hotel sustained very heavy damage, with the roof top being completely destroyed and fires raging from its windows.

Paul Lauer, who would later rise from porter to vice manager of

the rooms division, remembers: "The windows were trembling all day long. Once it was over, the hotel stood in flames."

A marble plaque has been put up near the hotel's coffee shop entrance in memory of these brave Hungarians, who died as patriots on that fateful day. On November 4, the management of the hotel will be laying a wreath on the memorial board of those who lost their life in the Grand Hotel Royal siege.

Corinthia Hotels, www.corinthiahotels.com

TUSCAN-STYLE DREAMS AT RELAIS VILLA PETRISCHIO

The 4-star Relais Villa Petrischio located in the heart of Tuscany is the vision of Italy's Tosato family. The owners, Domenico and Isabella Tosato, have a lovingly hands-on approach to managing the Relais Villa Petrischio and supporting their attentive staff.

The Relais Villa Petrischio restoration was completed in 2004 maintaining the original architecture characteristics dating from the early 18th century. The stone and brick work are outstanding in color, texture and dove-cote, typical of the era.

The villa accommodations and public areas offer bold arches, fireplaces, wood beam ceilings and valuable Tuscan style 19th century furniture and antiques. The 18 rooms, each named after a mythical female personality, are all different and furnished with valuable antiques which easily marry with the most modern comfort of a 4-star Reais Villa.

Construction of RVP's first luxury villa duplex Merlino and Artu was completed in March 2006. Each villa has a fully equipped kitchen, dining room, living room, private underground garage plus outside front and back patios with Tuscany views. Each unit is fully air conditioned and furnished with a washer/dryer. The interior design features Tuscany brick arches as well as comfortable furnishings.

An additional project is underway located about three miles from RVP in the direction of Cortona; it includes an 18-hole golf course and 4-star hotel on the links.

The hospitality at RVP is the result of years of savvy planning and execution. Located on the very highest hill between Montepulciano and Cortona in the Tuscan countryside, guests can unpack once for any number of days to enjoy an abundance of attractive services, including day trips to explore Tuscany, or exciting Taste of Tuscany culinary classes.

The Tosatos' eldest son, Stefano, is the force behind their hotel marketing firm based in Rome, while their younger son Giorgio is an architect in charge of new construction design in Tuscany, including the two recently finished villas at the Relais property. He also leads the design team for the new 18-hole golf course and wellness center. These new facilities will compliment the region's numerous half and full day excursions to explore the Tuscan countryside.

International Destination Management, Inc., 888-867-2251, bobkark@msn.com; Relais Villa Petrischio, info@villapetrischio.it, www.villapetrischio.com

EURAIL ADDS NEW COUNTRIES TO RAIL PASS PROGRAMS IN 2007

Starting in 2007, the EURAIL GROUP G.I.E. will add more passes and country combinations. Eurail's National Passes will add Benelux (Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxemburg), Croatia, Ireland, Italy and Portugal on January 1, increasing the total number of passes to 15 (including existing National Passes).

The Eurail Regional Pass, created three years ago to allow unlimited travel in two bordering countries, will also have more countries on offer.

In 2007, customers will be able to choose Austria and Hungary or Italy and Spain in addition to the 16 other passes already available.

In addition to the Eurail National and Regional Passes, Eurail continues to offer the Eurail Select Pass as well as the original Eurailpass (renamed Eurail Global Pass), covering 18 countries.

Eurail, www.Eurail.com

SPRINGTIME IN HOLLAND WITH INTRAV

This April and May, INTRAV is offering four 12-day "Springtime in Holland and Belgium" departures.

INTRAV's April 1, 11, 21 and May 1 itinerary allows travelers access to off-the-beaten-track areas with an expert team of guides leading all shore excursions, and a series of onboard guest lectures.

After an overnight in Amsterdam, day tours features the capital's 17th and 18th century buildings plus Dam Square, the Portuguese Synagogue and Rijksmuseum.

Following a visit to Keukenhof Gardens, a cruise to the fishing village of Volendam takes guests to Edam.

In Utrecht, visit the famous Kröller-Müller Museum.

After sailing along the Amsterdam-Rijn canal, INTRAV guides lead a walking tour of the 13th century town of Schoonhoven, before continuing to the 19 Kinderdijk Windmills. In Gouda, see the monumental de Waag (weighing house) and the striking Stadhuis.

Enjoy a full-day excursion in Delft, home of the famous blue and white porcelain. The journey continues to The Hague - seat of Dutch government and home of the royal family.

From the harbor of Veere, visit the Delta Works, one of the world's largest hydraulic engineering projects. The tour concludes in the town of Middelburg.

A full day is spent in Bruges. Explorations begin with a canal cruise then continue on foot past the Beguinage, the Town Hall Markt and the belfry's world-famous 47-bell carillon.

A full day and onboard overnight in Antwerp allows time to see the port city's wide squares and monuments.

Prices for the "Springtime in Holland and Belgium" voyages start at \$2,995, ppdo, plus airfare, and include 10 nights aboard the Rembrandt, all meals, shore excursions, port charges, departure fees and the services of an INTRAV cruise director and travel director, onboard guide and experts.

Visitors can also add a pre- or post-cruise two-night extension in Brussels including accommodations and visits to sites around the city. Prices are \$625 ppdo.

INTRAV, 800-456-8100, www.intrav.com

VACATION VILLAS AND APARTMENTS IN EUROPE WITH INTERHOME

Swiss-based INTERHOME, Europe's leader in vacation rentals is about to re-launch its main website with many new search options and a realtime booking engine. Besides providing more freedom and flexibility, a vacation home can also be a price-wise alternative to traditional hotel stays.

The PRESTIGE catalog features Interhome's VIP and TOP quality selection with some 150 castles, luxury villas, country estates and apartments, all in prime locations across Europe, including France, Spain, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Germany and further East.

The brochure for CITY stays in Europe lists hundreds of centrally located apartments for short breaks or for weekly rentals in metropolitan centers like

London, Paris, Barcelona, Madrid, Venice and Rome, as well as Berlin, Munich, Vienna and Prague. Prices start at \$45 per person for three nights.

Other rates are: Lucerne from \$78 per person; Vienna from \$93 per person; Paris from \$104 per person; and Florence from \$118 per person. Many castles, villas or farm estates in Italy, France and Spain easily accommodate large families or a group of friends.

Price examples include: a Luxury Villa with pool in Mezzegra on Lake Como for eight at \$3,020, June 16-23; a 5-star Finca in Moraira on Spain's Costa Blanca for eight at \$4,763 August 25- September 1; a Country Estate near Monaco on French Riviera for 12 at \$4,994 September 8-15; and a Medieval Castle near Arezzo in Tuscany for up to 13 people at \$5,241 June 9-16.

INTERHOME, 800-882-6864, info@interhome.us, www.interhome.us



Relais Villa Petrischio

Delightfully located on the very highest hill between Montepulciano and Cortona in the gorgeous Tuscan countryside. Your clients can unpack once for any number of days to enjoy an abundance of attractive services.

Enjoy 10% to 12% commission on all accommodations bookings.

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**CONTACT: bobkark@msn.com
1.888.867.2251 • 303.282.0200
www.villapetrischio.com**

VALENTINE'S DAY PACKAGES AT MIRAMONTE RESORT & SPA

The Romance in the Desert package at Miramonte Resort & Spa includes luxury room accommodations for two nights; dinner for two in Ristorante Brissago; two 60-minute spa treatments at THE WELL Spa; Champagne and chocolate dipped fruit upon arrival; romantic turndown amenity; and late checkout at 2:00 p.m.

For those couples wanting to add a romantic spa treatment or take a dip on the chocolate side, THE WELL Spa has created the Come L'Acqua Cioccolata (Like Water for Chocolate) package, which includes baths overflowing with chocolate water and a chocolate facial or scrub.

Come L'Acqua Cioccolata spa package includes 15-minute Chocolate Bath (indulge in sweet chocolates while soaking in chocolate water); 45-Minute Massage; and choice of 30-Minute Chocolate Facial or 30-Minute Chocolate Scrub.

The Romance Package is \$734 for a two-night stay, plus taxes and resort fee. The Come L'Acqua Cioccolata spa package can be added to the Romance in the Desert package, purchased as a day membership to THE WELL, or via gift certificate for \$195 plus tax and gratuity.

Miramonte Resort & Spa brings the spirit of the Mediterranean to the California desert community of Indian Wells, minutes from Palm Springs. The intimate village, featuring THE WELL Spa, Coachella Valley's only Mobil-rated destination spa, and Mediterranean-inspired Ristorante Brissago, offer guests an unforgettable experience, whether for business or for pleasure.

Miramonte Resort & Spa, 877-716-7987,
www.miramonteresort.com, www.thewellatmiramonte.com

HISTORY AND HEROES: A VISIT TO PATRIOTIC FAYETTEVILLE, NC

Rich in history and tradition, Fayetteville, North Carolina offers the perfect place to pay tribute to our country's active duty soldiers and veterans. Fort Bragg, with 45,000 soldiers and 8,500 civilian personnel, is the world's largest airborne facility today and is home to some of the most celebrated units in Army history, including the 82nd Airborne division and the "Golden Knights"- the U.S. Army Parachute Team.

The Psychological Warfare Center – now the U.S. Army Special Operations Command- was established in 1952 and Fort Bragg became the Army headquarters for special operation soldiers. One of the few "open" Army bases in the country, Fort Bragg offers free access to visitors. It provides a rare opportunity to observe the latest advances in military technology and training in action, and to see military life first-hand.

There are many attractions on Fort Bragg including: the 82nd Airborne Division War Memorial Museum, which houses an extensive collection of weapons, uniform, aircraft, parachutes and other items from World War I to present day; the JFK Special Warfare Museum, which provides a behind-the-scenes look at unconventional warfare with emphasis on Special Operations units; the

Sicily Drop Zone where guests observe paratroopers on actual Airborne training; the Special Operations Memorial Plaza; JFK Hall of Heroes; and Iron Mike Statue, a monument to the Airborne Soldier. There are also numerous memorials throughout the base, and visitors can take a historical self driving tour.

Pope Air Force Base is one of the oldest installations in the air force. Tours are available for groups of 15-40, depending on missions and availability.

The Airborne & Special Operations Museum, another point of interest, is one of the top 20 public attractions in NC, and is the only place to experience the comprehensive history of the U.S. Army Airborne from Test Platoon to present day. In October, the Airborne & Special Operations Museum opened their new galleries, which chronicle Special Operations activities since the first Gulf War; and the rescue of Kurt Muse from Panama.

Fayetteville is located halfway between New York and Florida. Fayetteville and Cumberland County have something for everyone- from tours and group reunions, to meetings and conventions, to family vacations. There are an abundance of hotels and restaurants, and first rate facilities for meetings and conventions. Visitors can enjoy arts and entertainment, shopping, festivals, special events, outdoor recreation activities, and golf courses. The Fayetteville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau can assist with itineraries and all aspects of planning trips to the area.

Fayetteville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau,
888-NC-CHARM, www.VisitFayettevilleNC.com

NEW CIVIL WAR PROGRAM INTRODUCED BY SHEBBY LEE TOURS

Rapid City, SD-based tour operator Shebby Lee Tours has announced the introduction of its latest Vanishing Trails Expedition, Bleeding Kansas: Where the Civil War Began. Scheduled for September 15-21, 2007, the program explores the issues that threatened the delicate balance of America's "peculiar institution," when free-soilers fought to enter the union as a free state and pro-slavers sought to extend slavery into the territories.

This program is ideal for Civil War buffs that have toured all the battlefields but never visited the area where the Missouri Compromise came unraveled, and the seeds of civil war took root. Historians and re-enactors lend insights to the era known as "Bleeding Kansas" which pitted neighbor against neighbor and created legendary characters like John Brown and William Quantrill.

The six night/seven day hub-and-spoke itinerary features living history, speakers, special events, historic sites, and more. Included in the per passenger price are deluxe motorcoach, professional tour director/historian, special speakers and programs, all admission and park entrance fees, six nights' lodging, daily breakfast, evening hospitality reception, three evening meals and two luncheons. Cost of the tour is \$1,339 ppdo and \$1,723 single. Tour begins and ends in Kansas City, Missouri.

Shebby Lee Tours, Inc., 800-888-8306,
info@shebbyleetours.com, www.shebbyleetours.com

IRELAND

Winter Elegance in Ireland, a luxury travel agent FAM, is being offered February 22-27, 2007 by Hammond Tours. It is priced at \$1,299 with air from Newark (U.S. Departure Tax is \$195 additional.) Companion is welcome for \$1,399. This is a great FAM Trip for agents with upscale clients looking for a Deluxe/Luxury Irish Product. The FAM includes four nights in luxurious hotels; full Irish breakfast daily; three dinners; sightseeing; services of professional Irish driver/guide; deluxe portfolio of travel documents professionally executed; portage of one suitcase; and all taxes and service charges. Highlights includes: Adare, Dingle, Galway, Connemara, Cong, and Dublin. Hotels include Adare Manor, an 18th century Manor/Castle which is an architectural masterpiece of towers, turrets, and stonework ornamentation; Ashford Castle, a Deluxe Estate dating back to the 13th century and considered one of the most luxurious Castle Hotels in all of Ireland; and Westbury Hotel, one of the most luxurious five star city center Dublin hotels.

Hammond Tours, 866-486-8772,
mhammond@hammondtours.com, www.hammondtours.com

ITALY

Blue Chip Travel and Giglio Travel present a new Italia FAM, February 21-28, 2007, featuring Naples, Sorrento, Pompeii, and the Amalfi Coast. Trip includes six nights accommodations in a 4-star hotel; modern coach for transfers and excursions; tour leader during entire stay; local guides; wine and water with dinners; buffet breakfast; four course dinners; some lunches; guided excursion to Pompeii, Naples and a cameo factory; guided excursion to Amalfi Coast and ceramic factory in Vietri; visit to farmhouse villa with pizza making course; all entrance fees; and Taratella Show.

Agent rate is \$639. Companion or friend rate is \$769 and single rate is \$839.

Blue Chip Travel Inc., charlie@bluechiptravelinc.com

PERU

South Star Tours offers a variety of FAM trips for travel agents. The next trip is from April 21 - 28 2007 to Peru for \$ 1,450 in conjunction with Copa Airlines including airfare out of New York, Miami, or Los Angeles, accommodations, transfers and tours. Limited space is available.

South Star Tours, 800-654-4468, www.southstar tours.com

RHINE AND MOSELLE RIVER CRUISE

Europeanbarging is offering a Rhine and Moselle River Cruise FAM May 26, 2007. FAM includes a seven-night cruise in an outside cabin, six meals daily, five sightseeing excursions, fuel and port tax, and wine with dinner. Cruise is on the 110 passenger deluxe Peter Deilmann Heidelberg, featuring 192 sq ft cabins with French doors opening to the outdoors. Cruise roundtrip Mainz with stops in Speyer, Strasbourg, Mannheim, Worms, Cochem, Koblenz, Rudesheim. Rate is \$1,799 pp for main deck and \$2,099 pp for

upper deck. Group leaders and companions are welcome at the same rate.

Europeanbarging, 888-869-7907, jan@europeanbarging.com,
www.europeanbarging.com/famtrips.htm

THE TRAVEL INSTITUTE INTRODUCES NEW ONLINE TRAINING

The Travel Institute has launched its new e-learning center, where all travel professionals will have access to quality training 24/7. The new e-learning center addresses the training needs of both travel sellers and suppliers. The Travel Institute will be converting its own courses to the online format as well as presenting other supplier and destination programs. All new online training programs will be developed in conjunction with the Institute's curriculum specialists and subject matter experts in order to maintain the quality and standards they are known for. This state-of-the-art online platform provides online learning candidates with: user friendly interaction; self paced training; transcripts; up-to-date content and statistics; imbedded live links for further information; images, videos and graphic elements; efficient note taking; the ability to print content; testing that generates immediate completion certificates; and eligibility of CEUs. The courses currently available in The Travel Institute's online catalog are Destination Specialist France (sponsored by Maison de la France) and Selling America's Last Frontier-Alaska. Both courses are currently being offered free of charge. Although the complete DS-France course has been converted to online, the print version is also available. Those who complete the Alaska training will be eligible for a 25 percent discount on The Travel Institute's more comprehensive DS-Alaska course. In 2007 The Travel Institute will launch online courses on Anchorage, St. Barth Properties, Vacation Rentals 4 Agents, and Orient Express Hotels, Trains & Cruises.

The Travel Institute, 800-542-4282, www.thetravelinstitute.com



100,000 of them are getting theirs this year.
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Find out more about Egypt's new campaign (TV, press, outdoor, web) at

www.trade.egypt.travel

