

MARCH 2008

# Travel World

The Magazine for Destination Travel Specialists

NEWS®

## LATIN AMERICA

**BOLIVIA** – Crillon Tours Celebrates Golden Anniversary 1958-2008



**ANGUILLA** – Moonplash 2008

**CAYMAN ISLANDS** – 7th Heaven for Families

**RIVIERA MAYA** – Romance at Sandos Hotels

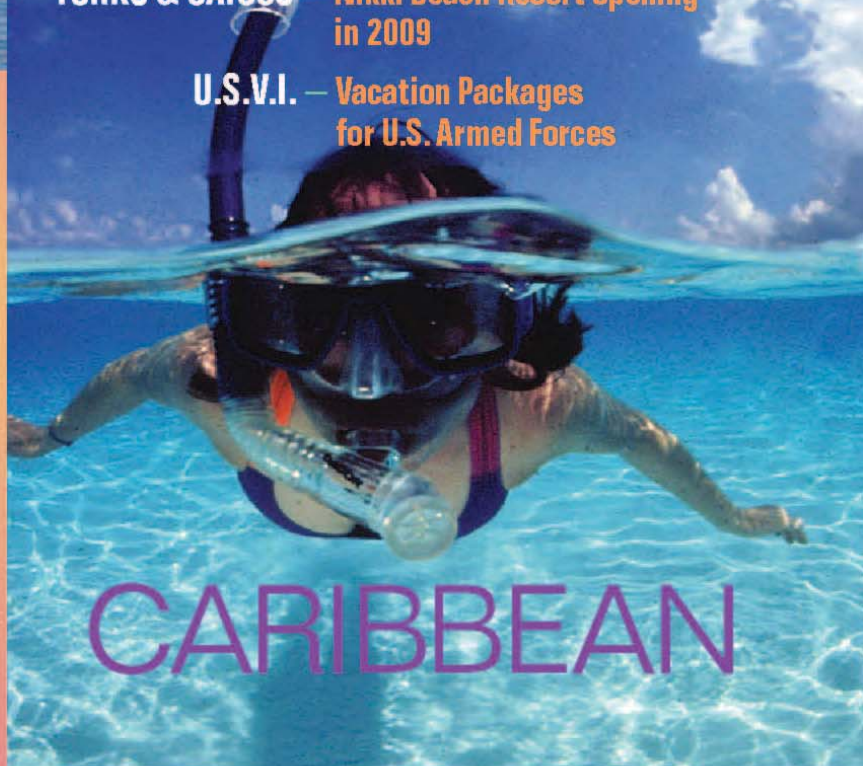
**TURKS & CAICOS** – Nikki Beach Resort Opening in 2009

**U.S.V.I.** – Vacation Packages for U.S. Armed Forces



Southern California's Jewel Called

**LA JOLLA**



## CARIBBEAN

## NICHE MARKETS

DIVING ADVENTURES | NICHE CRUISES | RAIL TRAVEL

# Travel World NEWS<sup>®</sup>

The Magazine for Destination Travel Specialists

MARCH 2008

ISSUE NO. 237

executive office  
50 Washington Street  
South Norwalk, CT 06854-2710  
Voice: 203-853-4955 • Fax: 203-866-1153

internet website  
www.travelworldnews.com

publisher  
Charles Gatt, Jr.  
charlie@travelworldnews.com

editor  
Jennifer M. Lane  
editor@travelworldnews.com

design production manager  
Linda Rogers  
linda@travelworldnews.com

Maria Rebello, Accounting Manager  
Shawn Hebert, IT Manager  
Cindy Johnson, Circulation Manager  
Carol A. Petro, Design Consultant

dive editor  
Lorry Heverly

cruise editor  
Michael Iachetta

southeast regional correspondent  
Joan Gonzalez

western regional correspondent  
Connie Skoog

south america correspondent  
Mark Zussman  
mark\_zussman@yahoo.com.br

contributing editors  
Jacquie Balaschak • Andrew Bill • Mona Birch  
Jerry W. Bird • Ann Charles • Gail P. Dubov  
George Hairston • Al Haut • Evelyn Kanter  
Marjorie Klein • Nancy Marcantonio • Anita Mason  
D.O. Christian Rieger • Knox Robinson • Mary Ellen Schultz  
Robin Swados • Helen Kittl Smith • Diane Terry

**Travel World News** (ISSN 1044-4602) is published monthly by Travel Industry Network, Inc., 50 Washington Street, South Norwalk, CT 06854-2710. The cost of a subscription in the USA is \$25, in Canada \$40. For subscribers outside USA or Canada, the rate is \$80. Please send check or money order in U.S. dollars payable to **Travel World News**. For change of address, please enclose your mailing label and send to: Circulation Department, **Travel World News**, 50 Washington Street, South Norwalk, CT 06854-2710. Periodicals postage paid at Norwalk, CT, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to **Travel World News**, 50 Washington Street, South Norwalk, CT 06854-2710. Address advertising inquiries and/or editorial copy to: **Travel World News**, 50 Washington Street, South Norwalk, CT 06854-2710. Copyright 2008. All rights reserved. Printed in USA. No part of this publication may be reproduced without permission.

All advertising in **Travel World News** is based on data submitted to the Publisher by the advertisers. The Publisher shall not be liable for the accuracy or inaccuracy of any information contained in **Travel World News** and shall not be liable, including but not limited to consequential or special damages, to any party for any products or services advertised or reported upon herein. The Publisher shall not be responsible for typographical errors. All information contained herein is subject to change without notice by the parties providing such products and services. The Publisher reserves the right to reject any advertising that has been submitted at his sole discretion. Upon providing a refund of any amount paid to the party whose submittal was rejected, the Publisher shall not have any liability to any party for such rejection.

## INDUSTRY EVENTS

Bringing the Tourist Industry Together at FITUR '08 3

CALENDAR 9

INDUSTRY NEWS 10

EUROPE 13

NORTH AMERICA 14

FAM TRIPS 15



## SECTION TWO • CARIBBEAN

CAYMAN ISLANDS – 7th Heaven For Families 3

ANGUILLA – Moonsplash 2008 7

TURKS & CAICOS – Nikki Beach Resort Opening in 2009 9

U.S.V.I. – Vacation Packages for U.S. Armed Forces 13

RIVIERA MAYA – Romance at Sandos Hotels 15



## SECTION THREE • LATIN AMERICA

Crillon Tours Celebrates Golden Anniversary 1958-2008 2

Big Nature in Peru and Brazil 4

Honduras' Roatan, a Sleepy Island Paradise Wakes Up to a Major Tourism Explosion 10

Ballum-Na (*House of the Jaguar*) Enters Resort Race With a Roar 13



## SECTION FOUR • PROFITABLE WORLD OF NICHE MARKETS

Southern California's Jewel Called La Jolla 2

Diving Adventures 9

Niche Cruises 12

Rail Travel 14



# Bringing the Tourist Industry Together at FITUR '08

Surpassing expectations and setting new records, the growth of FITUR '08 boosts business opportunities for tourism agents.

The predictions have been fulfilled and FITUR '08 has obtained the best results in its history, based on growth of 11.5 percent. In this respect, the fair achieved a new record in terms of its net exhibition area, which exceeded 100,000 square meters, distributed throughout 12 halls. The fair welcomed some 255,817 visitors, a 2.6 percent increase compared to last year. Of this number, 157,299 were professionals, a 3.6 percent increase compared to 2007. The fair also witnessed a rise in the number of visitors from abroad, based on a 10 percent increase compared to the last edition.

At its 28th edition, the fair brought together some 13,530 companies from 170 countries and regions. Another reflection of the importance of this fair, the first grand tourism event of the year, is based on its repercussions within the media; FITUR was covered by more than 8,300 journalists from 62 different countries.

The fair's growth, both in terms of attendance and participation, led to an increase in meetings and commercial transactions, confirming FITUR's role as a key point of reference within the industry, one that brings together the most competitive products and services and the most discerning sections of demand.

One of the most notable aspects of this latest edition was the growing international stature of the fair, fulfilling one of the main targets set by the organization. New countries were present for the first time, including Benin, St. Thomas & Prince, Bhutan, Madagascar and Greenland, which contributed to the fact that 44 percent of the participants were foreigners. This edition witnessed a sharp increase in attendance from regions such as Asia-The Pacific, the Americas, and Africa.

With regard to the exhibition that was presented at FITUR '08, the hotel and catering industry, official Spanish bodies, and leisure and culture companies were the most strongly represented sectors at the fair.

On the other hand, the majority of the trade visitors who attended FITUR '08 belonged to travel agencies (11 percent) followed by the hotel trade sector, transport companies and



His Majesty King Juan Carlos I of Spain welcoming the delegates.

wholesalers, and tour-operators (10 percent), among others.

Likewise, the sectors that awoke the greatest interest among these professionals were the transport companies, with 9 percent. Following this were wholesalers and tour operators, travel agencies, and leisure and culture products, each of which attracted 8 percent of the tourist agents.

FITUR CONGRESOS, which took place on January 28 and 29, served as an ideal prelude to the International Tourism Trade Fair. This monographic section devoted to business and incentive tourism brought together some 214 foreign buyers from 35 different countries and 160 Spanish representatives selling their products and services. Some 4,600 pre-arranged interviews took place over the event's two working days by means of a cross-agenda procedure.

As is customary at FITUR, the fair provided the framework for the staging of the Stands Competition, based on the best stands at FITUR within their different categories. Within the Spanish Regions Category, the awards went to the Madrid Tourist Board, the Canary Islands Tourist Board, and Catalonia Tourism, with a Special Mention presented to Benidorm.

In the Countries Category, the winners were the Tourism

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## INDUSTRY EVENTS

### **FITUR** FROM PAGE 3

Institute of Costa Rica, the National Institute for Tourism Promotion of Argentina, and the Portuguese Tourist Board. Within the Companies Category, the awards went to Confortel Hoteles, Air Comet, and Europcar Ib S.A.

Another competition that has become a traditional event at FITUR focuses on the Best Active Tourism Product, an event organized in collaboration with the magazine, Aire Libre. At the 13th edition of this competition, the overall winner and the winner of the Cultural Tourism Category was "Wine Routes of Spain" presented by Ciudad Real. In the Nature Tourism Category, the winning product was entitled "Routes, Volcanoes and Flowers for the Passionate" presented by Níjar in Almería.

The project "Whales, Dolphins & Sailing" presented by Murcia, was chosen as the winner in the Adventure Tourism Category. Within the International Category, the winning product consisted of "10 Routes through Romantic Landscapes" an idea presented by the Czech Republic. Finally, the Jury awarded a Special Mention to the "Active Crèches" program in Asturias.

FITUR '08 also evaluated and promoted tourism research within the tourist industry by staging the Jorge Vila Fradera Forum Award, which, at this edition, went to the work entitled "Measurement of Tourism Sustainability: Proposal of a Synthetic Index Based on Factorial Weightings" produced by Marcelino Sánchez Rivero and Juan Ignacio Pulido Fernández.

In order to continue growing alongside and for the tourist industry, FITUR will once again bring the industry together at its 29th edition, which is due to take place between January 28 and February 1, 2009.

**FITUR, [www.fituronline.com](http://www.fituronline.com)**

### **TREX TO BE HELD APRIL 7-9**

The 10th Annual TREX (Travel Exchange Central America) will be held in La Antigua Guatemala, April 7, 8 and 9 at the Hotel Casa Santo Domingo.

TREX Central America is the most important and productive business development opportunity of the year for suppliers of Central America tourism products and services. Their Tour Operator "Marketplace" features the exclusive William H. Coleman, Inc. SelectMatch pre-scheduled appointments system, which helps suppliers to meet buyers who are decision makers from worldwide markets.

The TREX Central America Travel "Exposition" on April 9 features pre-scheduled appointments between suppliers and retail travel agents. Suppliers have the opportunity to personally tell and sell specific sales information to highly qualified, front line retail travel agents in a strictly business environment.

The \$950 supplier registration fee includes one delegate; a booth/office in the business area; SelectMatch pre-scheduled appointments; and pre-scheduled appointments with

retail travel agents.

Suppliers also attend all business and social functions; receive the official buyer and travel agent directories; airport transfers on official arrival and departure days; and ground transportation. Additional supplier delegates can register at \$225 per delegate.

**TREX, 800-874-2324, [www.trexca.com](http://www.trexca.com)**

### **SOUTH AMERICA, EUROPE TO HOST ATTA 2008 ADVENTURE TRAVEL WORLD SUMMITS**

The Adventure Travel Trade Association (ATTA) has announced it will host two distinct Adventure Travel World Summits in 2008 on two continents.

Each will improve industry-wide access to networking; increase business-to-business marketplace opportunities; provide world-class learning; and address regional business needs along with addressing common, global issues aimed at sustainable growth.

ATTA's first Adventure Travel World Summit of 2008, the ATWS-South America (2008 ATWS-SA), will be held in São Paulo, Brazil, September 3-6, in conjunction with Brazil's thriving consumer Adventure Sports Fair – which draws thousands of companies and expects more than 70,000 consumers. The 2008 ATWS-SA will strengthen ties between the South American adventure travel industry and the global marketplace.

Additionally, between October 21-25, ATTA will hold the Adventure Travel World Summit-Europe (2008 ATWS-E) in Norway. Held aboard Hurtigruten's MS Midnatsol, an expedition passenger ship, the 2008 ATWS-E will be a voyage from Tromsø through Norway's fjords to Bergen. Special on-shore opening and closing events will be held in Tromsø and Bergen respectively, and the voyage includes a port-city visit in Trondheim. ATTA will continue to host multiple regional networking events throughout the U.S. during the year and will investigate potential venues for a North American Summit in 2009 and beyond.

For 2008, the two new ATTA Summits will bring North American adventure travel industry professionals to South America and Europe to further strengthen cross-continent connectivity, dialogue and growth.

With the rapid year over year growth of the previous Summits, the events are also expected to have a strong draw of top professionals from other parts of the globe as well. The Summits will bring global visibility to the adventure destinations Brazil and Norway, both of which have been multi-year sponsor-partners of the ATTA and its World Summit events.

Early release Summit information is available at [www.adventure-travelworldsummit.com](http://www.adventure-travelworldsummit.com). Delegate registration fees and special transportation and accommodation packages for each Summit will vary distinctly between each event. Additionally, each Summit will offer pre- and post-Summit FAM and press adventure excursions designed to showcase each destination.

**ATTA, [www.adventuretravel.biz](http://www.adventuretravel.biz)**

**ITE TO BE HELD JUNE 12 - 15**

Meet Asian and Chinese travel trade and corporate visitors under one roof at the 22nd edition of ITE, Hong Kong's only international travel fair. Among the earliest in Asia, ITE will be held from June 12-15 concurrently with ITE MICE, which is the only of its kind in the Greater Pearl River Delta. Such a combination is unique in travel fairs in Asia and effectively combines leisure, MICE and business travel. Hong Kong was ranked 14th in the world on outbound tourism expenditures last year by UNWTO, evidence of its importance as a market. At the last edition, 36 percent of buyers, trade and corporate visitors came from mainland China and other parts of Asia. By sectors, 56 percent were travel agents or operators, and 23 percent from a corporation. The last two days of the expo, which was open to public, drew 53,000 visitors. ITE and ITE MICE, therefore, offer a "one-stop" platform covering Asia including China, trade, corporate and public visitors.

ITE and ITE MICE run hosted buyer programs sponsored by the official airlines - Cathay Pacific and Dragonair, while several associations of travel agents in the region either organize delegations or promote buyers' visits. Over 600 hosted buyers from 32 countries/regions attended last year.

The coming ITE and ITE MICE will be held from June 12-15, 2008 and June 12-14, 2008, respectively at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Center. It is supported by China National

Tourism Administration, Hong Kong Tourism Board, and Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong. In addition, ITE MICE is supported by the event industry and international chambers of commerce from neighboring cities in Guangdong.

ITE, [www.itehk.com](http://www.itehk.com) ; ITE MICE, [www.itehkmice.com](http://www.itehkmice.com)

**AWTA SETS DATES FOR 2008 TRAVEL TRADE SHOWS**

AWTA's upcoming Spring & Fall 2008 Travel Trade Shows will take place March 31, 2008 and October 27, 2008 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Greentree Country Club in New Rochelle, NY.

For one show the cost is \$425 if paid by March 1, 2008 and \$495 thereafter. Please note the Spring and Fall Trade Shows are at a new venue at the Greentree Country Club in New Rochelle, with a buffet dinner. The location of a booth can only be guaranteed by receipt of payment. Checks should be made payable to AWTA. If you desire to share a booth with another supplier, the cost will be \$250 per supplier per show and must be approved by AWTA. AWTA reserves the right to select their supplier for this event and may not accept all applications. Cancellation 30 days prior to the event will result in a credit for the next upcoming AWTA Travel Trade Show. There will be no refunds.

AWTA (Alliance of Westchester Travel Agencies, Inc.), 914-923-3062, [awta@potonline.net](mailto:awta@potonline.net)




**St. Maarten – St. Martin hosts the 7th annual Regionalshow, SMART is a professional way to bring together the movers and shakers in the tourist industry. SMART will showcase the alluring islands of the North Eastern Caribbean Region including Anguilla, Antigua, Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Montserrat, Saba, St. Barthelemy, St. Eustatius, St. Kitts & Nevis, Barbados, St. Maarten and St. Martin.**

**SMART offers a unique opportunity to network, negotiate, conduct business, and experience the charm of the North Eastern Caribbean with daytrips to the nearby islands.**

**SMART brings International buyers and sellers in the tourist industry together for the islands of the North Eastern Caribbean.**

**For additional information, please contact the St. Maarten Hospitality & Trade Association. Tel: (599) 542-0108 or visit St.Maarten website: <http://www.visitsxm.com>**



**MAY 20 – 22, 2008**

**St. Maarten / St. Martin Annual Regional Tradeshow**

**Sonesta Maho Beach Resort, St. Maarten, N.A.**

## INDUSTRY EVENTS

**ITB ASIA, WIT TEAM UP;  
BOTH EVENTS TO BE HELD IN  
OCTOBER 2008**



**ITB**  
*Asia*

ITB Asia and WIT-Web In Travel have agreed to join forces in an agreement that will see Asia's leading travel distribution and marketing conference held in conjunction with The Trade Show for the Asian Travel market, taking place in Singapore.

WIT, which concluded on November 29-30 to positive feedback, will be held on October 21-22, 2008 while the inaugural ITB Asia will kick off on October 22. The two events will be held at Suntec City, Singapore, and ITB Asia exhibition and convention will run up to October 24.

"It makes sense for the two events to come together," said Ms. Yeoh Siew Hoon, founder of WIT. "ITB Asia needs a strong focus

on what is the largest growing segment of the travel industry – travel technology and the online travel space – and it is the right time for WIT to have a larger platform which the brand ITB, with its international clout and solid track record, will provide."

WIT was launched in 2005 with foundation support by the Singapore Tourism Board (STB), which is also instrumental in bringing ITB Asia to Singapore. In 2007 the event attracted close to 300 delegates from 18 countries and nearly 30 sponsors and partners.

ITB Asia is a premium B2B event, offering a platform for exhibitors of the leisure, technology, corporate and MICE industry.

Under the agreement, WIT will be responsible for running its own event and will retain control and creativity over its programming and management. It will work with ITB Asia to market ITB's Travel Technology pavilion to potential exhibitors.

WIT's strategic partner PhoCusWright Inc has been a strategic partner at ITB Berlin since 2006, offering delegates a one-day travel distribution conference called PhoCusWright@ITB, which takes place this year on March 6.

ITB Asia is aiming to attract 5,000 overseas delegates to its inaugural event in Singapore. More than 500 exhibitors from over 50 countries are expected to participate.

ITB Asia, [www.itb-asia.com](http://www.itb-asia.com)

**THE AFRICA TRAVEL ASSOCIATION**  
*presents:*

**The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Congress**

**For more information:**  
**Email:** [info@africatravelassociation.org](mailto:info@africatravelassociation.org)  
**Tel:** +1.212.447.1357  
**Web:** [www.africatravelassociation.org](http://www.africatravelassociation.org)

*Bringing the world to Africa and Africa to the world*

**AFRICA'S COMPETITIVE  
EDGE IN TOURISM**

**ARUSHA,  
TANZANIA**  
**19-23 MAY 2008**

*Hosted by*  
**The Ministry of Natural Resources & Tourism**  
**United Republic of Tanzania**


  
Media Sponsor

**JAMAICA READY TO HOST JAPEX 2008**

Capital city Kingston is busily finalizing plans for what Jamaica Hotel & Tourist Association (JHTA) President, Wayne Cummings says will be "a celebration of Destination Jamaica and the many positive developments taking place here," for participants of the Jamaica Product Exchange (JAPEX), April 25-27, 2008.

JAPEX, the island's premier hospitality and tourism industry marketplace, hosted annually by the JHTA, in association with the Jamaica Tourist Board, has over the past 18 years, proven to be an invaluable marketing opportunity for the entire sector.

Mr. Cummings said that "as usual, JAPEX will give overseas wholesalers an opportunity to meet in scheduled appointments with local suppliers.

This year we will also play host to hundreds of travel agents as well as trade journalists and everyone will have the golden opportunity to see first-hand, the fantastic developments that are making Jamaica an even more desirable tourist destination."

Noting that Kingston is better known as a center for business, Mr. Cummings said, "We are looking to JAPEX '08 in Kingston to

strengthen Jamaica's position as a preferred destination for leisure and business and while the trade show will be hosted in Kingston, our guests will have ample opportunity to enjoy the sights and sounds of this city, as well as the resort areas –Port Antonio, Ocho Rios, the South Coast, Negril and of course, Montego Bay, our second city."

New Prime Minister, Hon. Bruce Golding and Tourism Minister, Hon. Edmund Bartlett, will be in attendance in their maiden roles at JAPEX '08.

JHTA Kingston Area Chair Nicola Madden-Greig and her team are counting on the cultural and historical appeal of Kingston to win new business for the first city.

They have planned an exciting program of social activities beginning with the welcome reception at the poolside of the Hilton Kingston on April 25.

JAPEX was last held in Kingston in 2003 with great success and Mrs. Madden-Greig says that, "With enhancements across the sector, including hotels, attractions and allied product and service providers along with outstanding infrastructural developments, including a new road network of highways linking Jamaica's major towns, we expect a fantastic JAPEX '08."

JAPEX, [info@jhta.org](mailto:info@jhta.org)

www.betex.bz



Belize Tourism Expo

JULY 30TH - AUGUST 4TH, 2008

BELIZE, CENTRAL AMERICA







BETEX 2008 will help to extend your skills far beyond just selling travel to Belize.

BETEX will give you the first-hand experience needed for you to sell all the unique opportunities Belize provides to travelers.

5-Night Expeditions

from US\$299 • Spaces Limited

Organized by BTIA with the support of the Belize Tourism Board

SELL THE ADVENTURE

Travel Trade Professionals REGISTER ONLINE

www.betex.bz

email: info@betex.bz

- Choose from 10 specialized itineraries
- Meet with Belize's top suppliers
- Attend Educational Seminars
- Experience Belizean Cultures and Cuisines




### DR. DAVID SUZUKI TO DELIVER KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT



DR. DAVID SUZUKI

Dr. David Suzuki, one of the world's most celebrated voices on preserving the environment, will deliver the keynote address at the 10th Annual Caribbean Conference on Sustainable Tourism Development to be held April 28 – May 1, 2008 at Beaches Turks & Caicos Resort & Spa (by Sandals), a Green Globe Certified hotel.

The conference, organized by the Caribbean Tourism Organization in collaboration with the Turks & Caicos Tourist Board and the Caribbean Hotel Association, is designed to provide attendees with information on the development and implementation of ecologically responsible tourism.

Many experts have identified the Caribbean as a region that would be greatly impacted by the continued adverse effects of global warming and other environmental issues.

The conference also aims to examine how member nations of the CTO can implement sustainable tourism policies while providing a regional forum for the economic and social benefit of the Caribbean people.

Dr. Suzuki, the Canadian geneticist and environmental scientist, is the co-founder of the David Suzuki Foundation, whose mission is to promote energy efficiency and ecological fiscal reform.

As keynote speaker, Dr. Suzuki will have the opportunity to address environmental issues in keeping with the theme of this year's conference, Keeping the Right Balance – Sustaining the Caribbean Coastal Product. In addition to Dr. Suzuki, the conference will feature a dynamic program itinerary, including study tours of the host country, Turks & Caicos Islands. One such comprehensive tour will include a visit to the world's only conch farm.

Caribbean Tourism Organization, [www.OneCaribbean.org](http://www.OneCaribbean.org), [www.caribbeantravel.com](http://www.caribbeantravel.com)

### MITM AND CULTOUR TO BE HELD BACK-TO-BACK

MITM Euromed, Meetings and Incentive Trade Market, is the first travel trade market in Europe since 1997 to be conducted by one-to-one pre-selected and pre-arranged meetings between exhibitors and hosted buyers. Previously held in various cities of Spain, Italy, Portugal, Morocco, Czech Republic, France, and Tunisia and on a cruise ship between Spain and Italy, MITM is settling down in Cologne, Germany, in Koelnmesse, June 10 - 11, 2008, offering to approved hosted buyers post-MITM tours to Spain, Croatia and other European venues.

At the last edition of MITM Americas in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, last December, 40 percent of exhibitors rated the MITM overall as "excellent." There were 2,430 one-to-one meetings performed between exhibitors and buyers during MITM. All the exhibitors completed their 20 pre-requested individual appointments with the buyers, except for one exhibitor with one no-show, while 21 exhibitors had between three and 20 appointments more than the 20 scheduled. 47 percent of buyers gave MITM an overall rating of "excellent."

After MITM opens its door CULTOUR will begin. CULTOUR, a new travel trade exhibition, is the world's first and only one directed to the fast growing niche market of cultural travel. Run by MITM organizers –GSAR Marketing– it will be held in Koelnmesse, Cologne, Germany from June 12 - 15, 2008.

CULTOUR's invitation includes a traveling allowance on air fare of up to \$585, up to three hotel nights, local transfers, attendance to official functions, business meetings with worldwide exhibitors and eligibility to participate in a choice of post-CULTOUR fam tours to countries such as Spain, Ireland, Italy, Croatia, and Romania.

MITM, [www.mitmeuromed.com](http://www.mitmeuromed.com); CULTOUR, [www.cultourfair.com](http://www.cultourfair.com)

### NEVADA'S 2008 GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON TOURISM AT PEPPERMILL HOTEL CASINO IN RENO

The Nevada Commission on Tourism will hold its annual Governor's Conference on Tourism December 8-10, 2008, at the Peppermill Hotel Casino in Reno. The Peppermill's plush new \$400 million Tuscan Tower sets a new standard for elegance in the Reno area and this will be the first time the hotel has hosted the tourism conference.

The Governor's Conference on Tourism brings together top industry leaders, Nevada legislators, and travel media to present and examine new tactics and trends in the tourism industry.

The event also provides an opportunity to discuss issues and exchange ideas in order to constantly improve Nevada's most prominent industry, while also highlighting events and attractions around the state. Opened in December 2007, the Peppermill's expansion includes the 600-room Tuscan Tower and the 62,000 square-foot Tuscan Ballroom convention center. The expansion also includes two wedding chapels, a new sports book, a new parking plaza, new Terrace Lounge and new Biscotti's Restaurant. Also expected to open at the Peppermill this year is a Tuscan-themed spa and salon, nightclub, new pool and Bimini's Caribbean Steakhouse.

The conference theme will be chosen in weeks to come. Last year's Governor's Conference on Tourism at Caesars Palace hotel and casino in Las Vegas focused on the challenges and opportunities that growth presents, including its impact on infrastructure, domestic travel trends and the value of "green" tourism.

Nevada Commission on Tourism, [www.TravelNevada.com](http://www.TravelNevada.com)

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2008

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
<b>A P R I L</b>			
1-3	DATE 2008	Punta Cana, DR	<a href="http://www.drdate.net">www.drdate.net</a>
2-4	NTA Tour Operator Spring Meeting	Uncasville, CT	<a href="http://www.nta.travel">www.nta.travel</a>
6-12	Mountain Travel Symposium	Vail, CO	<a href="http://www.mtntrvl.com">www.mtntrvl.com</a>
6-18	AITF 2008	Baku, Azerbaijan	<a href="http://www.aitf.az/en/2008">www.aitf.az/en/2008</a>
7-9	TREX 2008	LaAntigua Guatemala	<a href="http://www.trexca.com">www.trexca.com</a>
8-10	GIBTM 2008	ADNEC, Abu Dhabi, UAE	<a href="http://www.reedtravelexhibitions.com">www.reedtravelexhibitions.com</a>
10-12	Toursib' 2008	Novosibirsk, Russian Federation	<a href="http://toursib.sibfair.ru/eng/">http://toursib.sibfair.ru/eng/</a>
11-13	Atlanta Travel Expo	Atlanta, GA	<a href="http://www.atlantatravelexpo.com">www.atlantatravelexpo.com</a>
11-13	Vacation Home Expo 2008	Atlanta, GA	<a href="http://www.vacationhomexpo.com">www.vacationhomexpo.com</a>
12-16	ASTA International Destination Expo	Lyon, France	<a href="http://www.astanet.com/conference/ide/index.asp">www.astanet.com/conference/ide/index.asp</a>
14-16	COTTM 2008	Beijing, China	<a href="http://www.cottm.com">www.cottm.com</a>
15-17	Oman Travel Mart	Muscat, Oman	<a href="http://www.oite.com/otm">www.oite.com/otm</a>
16-18	HSMIAI Resort Conference	San Diego, CA	<a href="http://www.resortconference.com">www.resortconference.com</a>
16018	AITF 2008	Baku, Azerbaijan	<a href="http://www.aitf.az/en/2008">www.aitf.az/en/2008</a>
17-19	BTC 2008	Santo Domingo, DR	<a href="http://www.btc.com.do">www.btc.com.do</a>
18-20	SATTE 2008	New Delhi, India	<a href="http://www.satte.org">www.satte.org</a>
20-22	WTTC Global Travel & Tourism Council	Dubai, UAE	<a href="http://www.globaltourism.com">www.globaltourism.com</a>
20-23	Ecuador Travel Mart (ETM) 2008	Cuenca, Ecuador	<a href="http://www.bite.com.ec">www.bite.com.ec</a>
22-24	IMEX 2008	Frankfurt, Germany	<a href="http://www.imex-frankfurt.com">www.imex-frankfurt.com</a>
23-27	PTM 2008	Lima-Cuzco, Peru	<a href="http://www.perutravelmart.com/pe">www.perutravelmart.com/pe</a>
24-26	KITF 2008	Almaty, Kazakhstan	<a href="http://www.kitf.kz/en/2008">www.kitf.kz/en/2008</a>
25-27	JAPEX 2008	Kingston, Jamaica	<a href="mailto:info@jhta.org">info@jhta.org</a>
28-May 1	10th Caribbean Conference (STC-10)	Providenciales, Turks & Caicos	<a href="mailto:sbrown@caribtourism.com">sbrown@caribtourism.com</a>
29-30	Home Based Travel Agent Show & Conference	San Diego, CA	<a href="http://www.travelindustryshows.com">www.travelindustryshows.com</a>
<b>M A Y</b>			
5-9	FIT Cuba 2008	Havana, Cuba	<a href="mailto:dircomunicacion@mintur.tur.cu">dircomunicacion@mintur.tur.cu</a>
6-8	CHTIC 2008	Hyatt Regency, Trinidad	<a href="http://www.caribbeanhotelassociation.com">www.caribbeanhotelassociation.com</a>
6-9	Arabian Travel Market 2008	Dubai, UAE	<a href="http://www.reedtravelexhibitions.com">www.reedtravelexhibitions.com</a>
8-10	M.I.T. 2008	Tunis, Tunisia	<a href="http://www.mit-med.com">www.mit-med.com</a>
13-15	Expotur	San Jose, Costa Rica	<a href="http://www.expotur.com">www.expotur.com</a>
14-17	BITE 2008	Manama, Bahrain	<a href="http://www.bitebahrain.com">www.bitebahrain.com</a>
18-20	Global Spa Summit 2008	New York, NY	<a href="http://www.globalspasummit.org">www.globalspasummit.org</a>
19-23	ATA 33rd Annual Congress	Arusha, Tanzania	<a href="http://www.africatravelassociation.org">www.africatravelassociation.org</a>
20-22	SMART 2008	St. Maarten	<a href="http://www.visitsxm.com">www.visitsxm.com</a>
29-Jun 1	EUROAL 2008	Torremolinos, Spain	<a href="http://www.euroal.net">www.euroal.net</a>
31-Jun 4	TIA's 40th Annual POW WOW 2008	Las Vegas, NV	<a href="http://www.tia.org">www.tia.org</a>
<b>J U N E</b>			
5-8	Karibu 2008	Arusha, Tanzania	<a href="http://www.karibufair.com">www.karibufair.com</a>
9-11	City Break 2008	Belgrade, Serbia	<a href="http://www.citybreakexpo.com">www.citybreakexpo.com</a>
10-11	MITM Euromed	Cologne, Germany	<a href="http://www.mitmeuromed.com">www.mitmeuromed.com</a>
12-13	Asia Tourism, Property & Attractions 2008	Shanghai, China	<a href="http://www.globaleaders.com">www.globaleaders.com</a>
12-14	ITE MICE	Hong Kong, China	<a href="http://www.itehkmice.com">www.itehkmice.com</a>
12-15	CULTOUR 2008	Cologne, Germany	<a href="http://www.cultourfair.com">www.cultourfair.com</a>
12-15	ITE Hong Kong	Hong Kong, China	<a href="http://www.itehk.com">www.itehk.com</a>
16-19	Asia Luxury Travel Market	Shanghai, China	<a href="http://www.altm.com.cn">www.altm.com.cn</a>
16-19	Vacation.com Annual Conference	Las Vegas, NV	<a href="http://www.agentnet.com">www.agentnet.com</a>
21-25	Annual Caribbean Tourism Summit	Washington DC	<a href="mailto:sbrown@caribtourism.com">sbrown@caribtourism.com</a>
<b>J U L Y</b>			
28-30	94th Annual DMAI Convention	Las Vegas, NV	<a href="http://www.destinationmarketing.org">www.destinationmarketing.org</a>
27-30	NBTA International Convention & Exposition	Los Angeles, CA	<a href="http://www.nbtaconvention.org">www.nbtaconvention.org</a>
30-Aug 4	BETEX 2008	Belize City, Belize	<a href="http://www.betex.bz">www.betex.bz</a>
<b>AUGUST</b>			
19-21	Manuel Antonio Expo	Manuel Antonio, Costa Rica	<a href="http://www.expotur.com">www.expotur.com</a>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>			
2-5	Travel Media Showcase	Kansas City, MO	<a href="http://www.travelmediashowcase.com">www.travelmediashowcase.com</a>
3-6	Adventure Travel World Summit-South America	Sao Paulo, Brazil	<a href="http://www.adventuretravelworldsummit.com">www.adventuretravelworldsummit.com</a>

TO LIST YOUR EVENTS EMAIL: [editor@travelworldnews.com](mailto:editor@travelworldnews.com) • FOR ADDITIONAL EVENTS VISIT: [www.travelworldnews.com/calendar](http://www.travelworldnews.com/calendar)

### ARTA BOARD APPOINTS BRUCE BISHINS PRESIDENT OF TRIP



BRUCE BISHINS

The ARTA Board of Directors has voted to appoint Bruce Bishins, CTC to the post of President of the TRIP Corporation.

ARTA, which serves as the incorporator and facilitator pro tem of the corporation, until TRIP seats a full, industry-wide board later this year, has moved forward with the incorporation of TRIP as a not-for-profit corporation slated to be based near the Detroit Metropolitan Airport in Romulus, Michigan.

TRIP calls for the creation of a joint, industry-managed, non-profit corporation to establish a more effective and useful system of providing recognition and credentials to accredited travel retailers in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, including the implementation of a new travel agent ID card. Expansion on a global basis is an option which the TRIP leadership will also consider.

ARTA first announced its support of and involvement in the development of the new industry-wide agency accreditation program in January 2007.

During the past year, ARTA formed a TRIP Working Group including ARTA Chairman Barry Richcreek (Richcreek Vacation Center, Harrisburg, PA), ARTA Vice Chairman John Faulds, CTC (Travel Destinations, Scottsdale, AZ), ARTA Executive Director Pat Funk, Nancy Linares, CTC (Holidays 'n Travel, Austin, TX), Gerda Myer, CTC (World Travel Management, Woodland Hills, CA), Sally Watkins, CTC (Century Travel, Austin, TX), and Bishins.

The working group met frequently in focus sessions with travel suppliers from all sectors of the industry as well as with agency association representatives.

Bishins brings an extensive background of experience to his new position at TRIP, including a wide variety of agency administration and training roles at major airlines, travel agencies, travel distribution companies, agency associations, the Air Traffic Conference (ARC's predecessor), and the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

TRIP will hold an industry orientation for all stakeholders, travel suppliers, agency groups, and other interested parties in Atlanta, on May 20, 2008. Additional details and registration information will be announced soon.

ARTA, 800-969-6069, [pat@artaonline.com](mailto:pat@artaonline.com)

### TOURISM NEW ZEALAND (TNZ) NAMES ANNIE DUNDAS REGIONAL MANAGER – NORTH AMERICA



ANNIE DUNDAS

Annie Dundas has been named Tourism New Zealand's (TNZ) new Regional Manager – North America, effective January 28.

Dundas will lead the destination's trade, media and marketing efforts in the U.S. and Canada, overseeing TNZ's offices in Los Angeles and New York. Dundas succeeds Bruce Lahood, who completed his term on January 25.

"North America is our third largest market, accounting for 264,175 visitors in 2007," Dundas noted. "This is a strong market that is very well served in key travel niches including epicurean, active adventure, culture and wildlife – all backed by New Zealand's enviable reputation for consistently meeting and exceeding our visitors' expectations."

"Our North American focus will be ongoing support of our trade partners with the solid training and tools they need to effectively sell New Zealand. We're working to promote the life-changing experiences New Zealand is known for that motivate sophisticated FIT travelers to visit," Dundas added.

Protecting New Zealand's pristine landscapes "tops our agenda," she noted. "Sustainable tourism will be evident when our capital city Wellington hosts the United Nation's World Environment Day on June 5. With a national goal to become carbon-neutral, we're able to offer responsible travelers a multitude of options – from accommodations and activities to restaurants and vineyards – that are making great strides to shrink their carbon footprint."

In December 2007, Christchurch airport became only the second carbon-neutral airport in the world – while Air New Zealand, the national carrier, is investing heavily in greener, more fuel-efficient aircraft technology.

Dundas, a 13-year veteran of TNZ who started in the Wellington office in 1995, enjoys a broad perspective based on her vast experience and numerous roles with the government tourism board: Public Relations Manager, North America (1998–2000); Marketing Manager, United Kingdom (2000–2005); Trade Marketing Manager, Wellington (2006–2007).

Last year, Dundas spearheaded TNZ's Rugby World Cup Project in Paris, which included erecting an 82-foot giant inflatable structure, capable of holding 220 people, in the shape of a rugby ball at the foot of the Eiffel Tower.

Tourism New Zealand, [www.newzealand.com](http://www.newzealand.com)

## GNOHLA ANNOUNCES ASHISH VERMA AS PRESIDENT



ASHISH VERMA

The Greater New Orleans Hotel and Lodging Association recently named Ashish Verma as its 2008 President. Verma is the General Manager of the Windsor Court Hotel.

Verma successfully led post-Katrina recovery efforts at the Windsor Court Hotel and as a result of his hard work and dedication to the hotel and the city of New Orleans, Windsor Court became one of the first hotels to re-open in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

He is actively involved in the local community in several ways, such as serving on the board of New Orleans Tourism and Marketing Corporation, the Arts Council of New Orleans, and The Horizon Initiative. During his leadership at the Windsor Court, he has initiated several projects including the Windsor Court "Awards of Excellence."

Verma also initiated "The Art of Living Well" a series of events focusing on several of New Orleans' important cultural genres geared towards visitors, with a unique view of the city. Verma has guided Windsor Court to start an "Art of Giving" series through which the hotel is committed to philanthropical causes, fundraising and educational initiatives.

Born in The Punjab, India, Verma received a B.A. with honors in Political Science and Economics from Punjab University, Chandigarh, India, a graduate degree in Hospitality Administration from The Oberoi School of Hotel Management, New Delhi, India, and a Master of Business Administration from IMHI Cornell-Essec, Paris, France. Prior to his current role with Orient Express Hotels, Trains & Cruises, Verma held various positions with Oberoi Hotels International, Hyatt International Corporation, and Millennium Hotels & Resorts. Greater New Orleans Hotel and Lodging Association, [www.gnohla.com](http://www.gnohla.com)

## PATH ELECTS NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On January 23, 2008 PATH (Professional Association of Travel Hosts) held their annual elections. The new board of directors includes the following well-regarded industry professionals: President and Co-Chair Event Committee, Andi Mysza, Montrose Travel; 1st Vice President and Public Relations/Communication, Anita Pagliasso, Ticket To Travel; 2nd Vice President and Co-Chair Supplier Membership Committee, Pam Miller, CTC, Magellan360; Secretary and Co-Chair Host Membership Committee, Betsy Geiser, Uniglobe Travel; Treasurer and Co-Chair Host Membership Committee, Tony Gagliano, Travel Planners International; Director and Co-Chair Event Committee, Kim Sherrett, Travel Counsellors; and Director and Co-Chair Supplier Membership Committee, Jackie Friedman, Nexion.

"We are looking forward to capitalizing on the positive momentum we have going into 2008 with our new Board of Directors. Our team of host agency leaders will direct PATH to become the premiere organization originally envisioned" commented Andi Mysza.

"I am proud to be associated with this cohesive group of like-minded professionals who are dedicated to common goals of PATH," stated Anita Pagliasso.

Kim Sherrett said: "As a charter member of PATH, it is an honor to serve on the Board of Directors and to add my personal touches to our special events as the 2008 Chairman of Meetings and Events committee." "I am committed to the success and development of independent travel professionals and am looking forward to being a part of PATH's dedicated leadership team," said Jackie Friedman. "Our objective is to ensure that

PATH remains a credible force in the industry and that we work together to champion standards, best practices and agent development programs that will mutually benefit our host agency and supplier membership."

PATH, Professional Association of Travel Hosts, [Membership@PATH4Hosts.com](mailto:Membership@PATH4Hosts.com), [www.PATH4Hosts.com](http://www.PATH4Hosts.com)

## GERMAN NATIONAL TOURIST OFFICE CHANGES MANAGEMENT



RICARDA LINDNER

Starting April 1, 2008, Ricarda Lindner will step up to assume the position of General Manager of the Americas for the German National Tourist Office (GNTO) in New York. At the same time, Michaela Klare, the current General Manager of the Americas, will become the Regional Manager, Northwest Europe based in Amsterdam.

Ricarda Lindner has been working for the GNTO in New York for the last 10 years and has held the position of Marketing Manager North America since 2000. Born in Frankfurt, Mrs. Lindner completed a three year management training program at the Frankfurt Airport and thereafter pursued an MBA at the University of Wiesbaden.

"We are delighted to have found in Mrs. Lindner the ideal person for this position. She will continue the success and great work of her predecessor with new initiative. Our colleagues in the Netherlands, on the other hand, win in Mrs. Klare a competent general manager, who will bring her comprehensive expertise to Germany's largest international incoming market," declared Mrs. Petra Hedorfer, CEO of the German National Tourist Board.

German National Tourist Office, [www.cometogermany.com](http://www.cometogermany.com)

### TRAVEL & TOURISM LEADERS FORECAST CONTINUED GROWTH FOR 2008

Despite repercussions of the ongoing global credit crunch, Travel & Tourism leaders have revealed that the industry will moderately be impacted and signaled continued growth rates for 2008 at a reduced pace.

According to the recent research produced by the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) and Oxford Economics (OE), Travel & Tourism entered this recent period on the back of another solid performance in 2007. International tourism arrivals increased in this year by nearly six percent, totaling to nearly 900 million tourists and marking the fourth successive year that arrivals' growth has exceeded its long-standing trend of four percent.

Furthermore, the research also indicated that tourism spending per capita has more than matched these increases. International air passenger traffic also rose at a record 9.3 percent from year to year in November.

Nonetheless, the Travel & Tourism industry does face challenges in the year ahead. The deteriorating economic conditions, particularly in the housing and credit markets across the globe are increasing concerns for the industry. However the slowdown is likely to have a limited impact, due to the growth of emerging markets and the easing in monetary policy by central banks. Higher energy prices are a two pronged challenge as they squeeze household budgets globally and raise the cost of a key input for the Travel & Tourism industry.

Dubai certainly represents a nation that has truly embraced Travel & Tourism as a catalyst for economic growth and prosperity. In recognition of the vision and commitment of Dubai Government, it will host this year's Global Travel & Tourism Summit along with pioneering Travel & Tourism companies including DTCM, Emirates Group, Jumeirah International, Nakheel and Dubailand.

The 8th Global Travel & Tourism Summit will be hosted by the Jumeirah Group and will take place on April 20-22, 2008 and will be the world's most significant public/ private partnership with the objective of driving the agenda on responsibility and the key role that Travel & Tourism plays.

World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC), [www.wttc.travel](http://www.wttc.travel); Global Travel & Tourism Summit, [www.globaltraveltourism.com](http://www.globaltraveltourism.com)

### EUROMIC CELEBRATES 35TH ANNIVERSARY

EUROMIC, the Destination Management Partnership in Europe and the Mediterranean, has announced its 35th Anniversary as one of the premier Destination Management Associations in the world.

EUROMIC was founded in Paris on February 4, 1973, by 10 European incoming agencies as a marketing consortium to promote Europe and its destinations, initially to the North American incentive travel market.

"EUROMIC and its members have proven their ability to adapt to change and survive in a marketplace that has seen a number of really rough patches over the last decades," said Giancarlo Carrera, current President of EUROMIC, referring especially to the oil crises of the 1970s and the events of 9/11. "Our members have seen steady growth over the past years. We have all the momentum and reputation that comes with 35 years of leadership. It is safe to say that we are in a position to maintain our competitive stance – continuing to lead the way in the Industry and expand our market-base."

As part of the anniversary celebrations, EUROMIC's communication tool received a complete makeover: a new logo and a redesigned website, featuring a new easy to read and navigate interface in order to deliver improved and state of the art assistance to all meeting and incentive professionals.

EUROMIC, [www.euromic.com](http://www.euromic.com)

### DESIRE HOTELS ANNOUNCES GAME PROMOTION FOR TRAVEL AGENTS

Desires Hotels announced that it has launched an interactive on-line booking incentive offering for travel agents. The promotion, "Find Your Heart's Desire" began on January 15 and will run through April 4. The promotion offers travel agents an opportunity to win prizes by booking trips at seven of Desires' boutique hotels in South Beach and San Juan, Puerto Rico. The list of participating hotels can be found on the global distribution systems (GDS) under the chain code "BT."

Agents can win two ways. For each booking they make, the agent earns five entries. Additionally, they can play the game daily to earn one entry, while earning two entries for getting a bonus question correct. Grand prizes include a seven-night stay at any of Desires Hotels in South Beach or San Juan, or a 37-inch flat screen HD television. Six bi-weekly prizes are also being offered and include a two-night stay at any of the Desires' properties in South Beach or San Juan, or an iPod Shuffle.

"This is the first of many on-going promotions that will help us communicate with travel agencies throughout the world, while rewarding their efforts when they book at one of our properties," said Doug Carrillo, Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing with Desires Hotels.

"We are excited to be able to market our hotels on the GDS and look forward to a strong relationship with the travel agent community."

Desires Hotels, [www.desireshotels.com](http://www.desireshotels.com)

## CORINTHIA HOTELS COME TO LONDON

Visitors to London will soon be able to select Corinthia as their hotel of choice. The historic Metropole building near Trafalgar Square in London will be re-developed as a five-star Corinthia Hotel – the first time the brand has entered the London market.

The property has just been purchased by a joint venture between Malta's International Hotel Investments p.l.c. (IHI), the Libyan Foreign Investment Company (LFICO) and Istithmar Hotels FZE of Dubai, and will be managed by Corinthia Hotels International (CHI).

The stunning Metropole building will be restored to the luxury hotel it originally was in the early part of the last century. In recent times, it had been used as government offices. IHI will develop the building as a 283-bedroom, deluxe five-star hotel with a complex of adjoining luxury apartments.

Major developers from around the world bid on the coveted property, sold on behalf of Crown Estate, which manages the British monarchy's properties on behalf of the United Kingdom government. Reports state that the property and the adjacent 10 Whitehall Place was won by the joint-venture between IHI, LFICO and Istithmar not with the highest bid, but rather was based on its development experience, financial capability to complete the project, and the significant fact that it proposed retaining the original façade of the building – a pledge most of the other bidders declined to make. The deal is reported to have cost over \$264 million dollars.

Corinthia Hotels International (CHI),  
[www.corinthiahotels.com](http://www.corinthiahotels.com)

## PRIVATE TOURS OF BUCKINGHAM PALACE NOW OFFERED IN WINTER AND SPRING FROM ROYAL COLLECTION

Among the choices on offer in The Royal Collection groups brochure for 2008 are private guided tours of the State Rooms at Buckingham Palace, available for the very first time in January, March and April when Her Majesty The Queen is in residence

at Sandringham and Windsor. These dates are in addition to the traditional summer opening dates in August and September.

Opening in May, an exhibition at Windsor Castle celebrates the 60th birthday of His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales. The displays bring together photographs, books and memorabilia from the Royal Collection and items from His Royal Highness's personal archive. Groups can book a talk about the exhibition by a member of the Royal Collection staff.

The Royal Collection has joined with a number of other attractions to offer several joint group visits in 2008, including a visit to the exhibition Amazing Rare Things, which comes to The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace in March 2008 with a special Plant Explorers tour at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; and a combined visit to the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace and the new Household Cavalry Museum.

Following the popularity of the joint visit with Frogmore House, the Royal Collection has teamed up with the Savill Garden again and added Windsor Castle as a new combination for 2008.

Royal Collection,  
[www.royalcollection.org.uk](http://www.royalcollection.org.uk)

## KEMPINSKI RESIDENCES ASTORIA ISTANBUL OPENS FOR BUSINESS

Kempinski Residences opened the Kempinski Residences Astoria Istanbul on Saturday January 26, 2008, a luxurious complex of residences, offices and a shopping mall in central Istanbul. This signature property offers a variety of fully-serviced, furnished and equipped residences for mid-to long-term rental, as well as some residences for sale and luxury offices for rental.

"The Kempinski Residences Astoria Istanbul is already attracting discerning clients who are selecting the city's top address as their place of residence or business," said Kempinski Residences CEO Jean-Claude Bailly.

Owners and tenants of both residences and offices will enjoy the high caliber of trained staff and comprehensive selection of ser-

vices that give the Kempinski brand its reputation for luxury. Some of the services include 24-hour concierge and intelligent security, house-keeping and daily maid, rent-a-cook or waiter, business center facilities, WIFI and high-speed Internet, in-house doctor, airport transfer, car rental services, and dedicated car park.

Additionally they will have access to the exclusive Anantara Spa, high-tech fitness equipment and professional trainers, Turkish bath and indoor swimming pool, and the opulent Astoria Shopping Center, which houses over 100 local and international brands, and a variety of restaurants, lounges and bars. Individual panoramic elevators ensure discreet access to these facilities, directly from the residences.

The Kempinski Residences Astoria Istanbul was developed by the Astas Group, which was founded in 1983 in Istanbul, Turkey. Work began in January 2005 and was completed at the end of 2007.

Kempinski Hotels, [www.kempinski.com](http://www.kempinski.com)

**ARTA**  
**100%**  
**Travel Agents.**

We're proud to say  
that ARTA  
does not accept  
airlines or  
other suppliers  
as members.

We work  
**ONLY**  
for agents!

Sign up for our  
**FREE**  
30-day trial membership:  
**[www.artaonline.com](http://www.artaonline.com)**

### THE HORIZON HOTEL HEATS UP PALM SPRINGS AFTER EXTENSIVE RENOVATION



The Horizon Hotel, one of the few true Mid-Century modern hotels in Palm Springs, is offering the city world class luxury since re-opening in May 2006. Scharf Properties, LTD acquired the hotel in February 2004 and completed a two-year extensive renovation during which The Horizon Hotel was nearly re-built from the ground up, restoring the original architecture and updating its amenities.

The hotel is one of famed architect William F. Cody's Mid-Century modern designs built in 1952. Cody's unique architectural design is highlighted throughout the hotel, most notably in its low slung ceilings and the absence of any 90 degree angles throughout the entire property.

The Horizon Hotel is one of many projects that spotlight Cody's tremendous influence on the rich architectural history in Palm Springs. In February 2004, Dave Scharf, real estate developer from Portland, Oregon, purchased The Horizon Hotel to revive its old Hollywood charm and elegance, and to re-establish it as the premiere Palm Springs destination that it once was in the 1950s. The hotel's 22 beautifully appointed rooms are the perfect setting for a secluded getaway. The hotel has been host to numerous events, weddings and retreats, and can accommodate gatherings for up to 100 people. Besides a complete renovation, The Horizon Hotel, [www.TheHorizonHotel.com](http://www.TheHorizonHotel.com)

### LVCVA TO LAUNCH ENHANCED VEGAS CERTIFIED PROGRAM

The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority (LVCVA) recently announced that it will launch an enhanced version of its online certification program for U.S.-based, licensed travel agents. The Las Vegas Travel Trade Certification, or "Vegas Certified" program, is a series of 10 test modules designed to educate travel agents about the destination in order to become "experts" on selling Las Vegas.

Once the program is completed, "Vegas Certified" agents are entitled to a variety of benefits and special incentives.

Under the enhanced "Vegas Certified" program, travel agents who correctly answer and submit all questions in each test module will automatically be entered into monthly drawings for the chance to win \$500 gift certificates redeemable at [GiftCertificates.com](http://GiftCertificates.com). Two monthly winners will be awarded this prize. Previously, 10 winners were awarded \$100 gift certificates. Additionally, "Vegas Certified" agents will be entitled to free show tickets for select shows when they visit Las Vegas, as well as a special discount card, including half-off and 2-for-1 offers, at select attractions, restaurants, shows, spas, shops and even wedding packages.

The new program will also go paperless, allowing agents who complete the program to receive their certificate of completion and introduction letter electronically, as well as download Las Vegas screen savers from the Internet instead of on CD. The enhanced program is scheduled to launch during the first quarter of 2008.

The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority (LVCVA), [www.lvcva.com](http://www.lvcva.com)

### VERO BEACH HOTEL & CLUB OPENS FINAL PHASE IN JANUARY 2008

With the completion of the final phase of the Vero Beach Hotel & Club in January, a void is finally filled for travelers seeking five-star hotel accommodations in the understated town ranked by Money Magazine as one of the wealthiest zip codes in the country.

A member of the prestigious Preferred Hotel Group, the Vero Beach Hotel & Club opened its first phase in February with 50 one- and two- bedroom designer suites. The final phase of the property opening January 2008 includes 33 two- and three-bedroom designer suites, the signature Indigo Room restaurant and lounge, and an executive boardroom and private event room.

Located on Vero's famed Ocean Drive, the four-story hotel now offers 83 fully furnished designer suites. Amenities include Heaton's Reef Bar & Grill, private beach club, cabanas, heated ocean view pool and aquaspa, fitness center, golf privileges at the Indian River Club, concierge, laundry, valet parking and business center services.

The luxurious 5,000-square-foot White Orchid Spa is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2008. With its opening in January, Indigo Room promises to leave an indelible mark on the Vero Beach dining and bar scene.

The much anticipated oceanfront restaurant and lounge will offer diners spectacular views while enjoying some of the finest cuisine on Florida's Treasure Coast.

Special introductory rates are currently being offered ranging from \$179 to \$729. Rates are subject to availability and are subject to change.

Condominium hotel suites are available for purchase through the Heaton Companies with prices starting at \$795,000. The Vero Beach Hotel & Club also offers a private residence club.

Vero Beach Hotel & Club, 888-301-3479, [www.verobeachhotelandclub.com](http://www.verobeachhotelandclub.com)

## BELIZE

Belize Tourism Expo (BETEX) is a five-day travel industry event taking place in Belize from Wednesday, July 30 through Monday, August 4.

BETEX is open to registered participants only. Because of the increasing demand and popularity of the expeditions, they have decided to decentralize the marketplace sessions and increase the expedition by one more day.

With four days of countrywide expeditions (10 itinerary options), travel professionals will better be able to immerse themselves in the product, and learn first hand how to sell the destination.

Trade attendees at BETEX may select one of 10 expedition itineraries at the time of registration, depending on the area of interest.

These five-night expeditions start from \$299.

Select from various itineraries that showcase some of the country's most precious attractions, including the second largest barrier reef in the world, the ancient cities of the Maya civilization, and pristine jungles that are home to a wide variety of plant and animal life.

Interact with the local people for an experience of diverse cultures and genuine Belizean hospitality.

Please note that itineraries are preliminary, and subject to change.

Finalized itineraries will be forwarded directly to each participant before July 1, 2008.

The registration fee includes all in-country meals, transfers, double-occupancy accommodations, tours and functions as noted on the itinerary.

The registration fee does not include international airfare to Belize, which must be purchased separately.

All participants must meet the requirements of the admission policy, and adhere to the show rules and regulations.

Belize Tourism Expo (BETEX),  
info@betex.bz, www.betex.bz

## BHUTAN, SIKKIM & WEST BENGAL

Adventureland Travel and Tours is offering a 14-day tour of Bhutan, Sikkim and West Bengal from March 17 to March 30, 2008, on the occasion of the famous Paro Festival in Bhutan.

The cost of the tour is \$2,920 double. Single supplement is \$580. Included in the package are hotel accommodations, three meals daily, all land transportation, services of local guides, shows and entertainment, portage, and escort services. Early booking is highly recommended due to limited space on Air Druk and a rule requiring purchase of at least one ticket to obtain a visa to Bhutan.

Adventureland Travel and Tours,  
888-980-7070,  
adventsafari@yahoo.com,  
www.adventurelandtours.com

## BLACK SEA & UKRAINE CRUISE

Unique World Cruises is offering a travel agent discounted trip to the Black Sea and the Ukraine from September 20 - October 5, 2008.

Visit Kiev, Odessa and Yalta, the site where in 1945 Roosevelt, Stalin and Churchill signed the Yalta Treaty. Cruise in maximum comfort on board the refurbished M/S Dnieper Star, one of the best vessels in the Ukraine.

This 16-day cruise includes air via Air France from New York (JFK airport). Ports of call include Kiev, Kanin, Odessa, Sevastopol, Kherson, Dnipropetrovsk, Kremenchuk, and Kherson. Price is from \$1,798 per person, outside twin cabin, and includes round trip air, transfers, three meals daily, on board entertainment, folklore performances, nightly music and dancing, captain's welcome reception and gala dinner.

The package also includes excursions and sightseeing as per itinerary. Port taxes are \$128. Airport taxes are \$358.

Unique World Cruises & Tours,  
800-669-0757,  
uwc@uniqueworldcruises.com,  
www.uniqueworldcruises.com

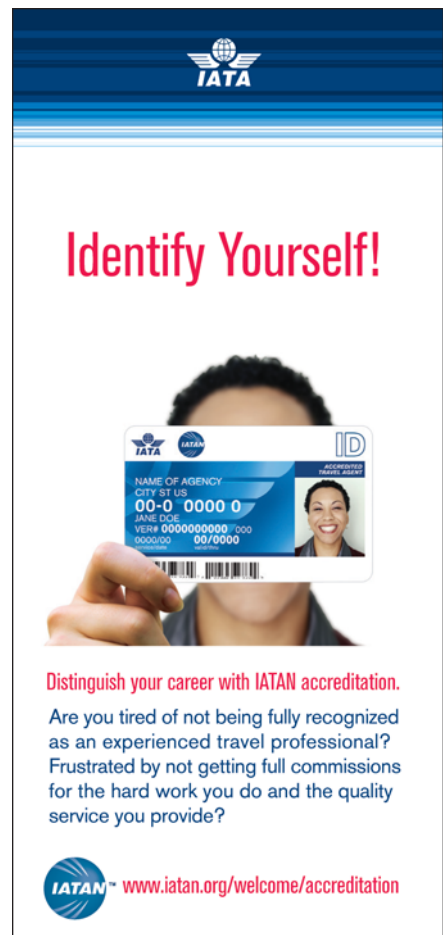
## FIJI

Air Pacific and Pacific Holidays are sponsoring an eight-day travel agent familiarization trip to the South Pacific Paradise – Fiji Islands. Departure date is November 6, 2008 and cost is \$795 per agent land and air from Los Angeles, \$1,395 per spouse or companion.

The eight-day South Sea experience includes two nights on the romantic beach resort of Warwick Fiji Resort & Spa in the Coral Coast area on the main island Viti Levu; one night stay at yet another resort on the coral Coast – the Naviti Resort; and a three-day/two-night visit to one of the most romantic island resorts: Mana Island Resort in the Mamanuca.

Package also includes airport transfers, breakfast daily, some hosted dinners, transportation between islands, and resort beach activities.

Pacific Holidays, 800-355-8025,  
sales@pacificholidaysinc.com,  
www.pacificholidaysinc.com



**Identify Yourself!**

Distinguish your career with IATAN accreditation.

Are you tired of not being fully recognized as an experienced travel professional? Frustrated by not getting full commissions for the hard work you do and the quality service you provide?

**IATAN™** [www.iatan.org/welcome/accreditation](http://www.iatan.org/welcome/accreditation)

# Invitation







*to be hosted in  
Cologne, Germany  
to attend*

**CULTOUR**

GLOBAL CULTURAL TRAVEL FAIR

12 to 15 of June, 2008

## **The invitation includes:**

-  **Round trip air transportation\* to Cologne.**
-  **Up to three nights of hotel accommodation.**
-  **Ground transfers in Cologne.**
-  **Official functions.**
-  **Pre-requested meetings with suppliers.**
-  **Three days post-fair tours to Spain, Croatia, Cyprus...**

**Apply online [www.cultourfair.com](http://www.cultourfair.com)**

*\* Funding up to US\$ 600 for air transportation.*

