



# Excursions update:

## foodie offers, a pop-up pub and lots of group travel ideas

**We look ahead to Excursions 2017, the popular exhibition for group travel organisers and itinerary planners.**

**E**xcursions 2017 is back at Alexandra Palace, north London on Saturday 28th January, when visitors will have the chance to meet, network and gather fresh ideas from an array of visitor attractions, accommodation providers, theatre booking agencies, destinations, and tour and transport operators.

Organised by Tourism South East, supported by London & Partners and media partner Group Leisure, the free entry, one-day exhibition will have two new themed areas for



2017. They will allow visitors to discover more about food and drink offers from exhibitors and gather information on day trips and short breaks to Christmas markets.

Nicholson's pubs will be recreating a pop-up traditional British pub so visitors can sample their wares at the centre of the food and drink area, which is sure to prove popular. Since the Nicholson brothers opened their first pub in 1873 they have continued to welcome groups to their historic collection of iconic venues across the country. Denbies Wine Estate, England's largest wine producer based in Surrey, will also be hosting a ticketed wine tasting with places offered on a first come, first served basis, while Melton Mowbray will be promoting its famous pork pies and stilton cheese, as well as food and drinks festivals that welcome groups.

Amongst the first to take a stand in the new Christmas Market section is David Urquhart Travel, which will be promoting its December 2017 festive coach trips to Christmas markets in European cities including Bruges, Lille, Ostend and the Rhine Valley. Closer to home there will be options for group organisers in Liverpool, York, Bath and at the Longleat Festival of Light.

### Free transfer coaches and how to get there

Excursions is once again running its programme of free coach transfers for visitors, with 14 coaches covering 57 pick-up points to the north, south, east and west of Alexandra Palace. The return service operating from six central London main line railway stations will also be available.

These popular coach transfers are organised in partnership with the Confederation of Passenger Transport UK and members of the CoachMarque quality scheme. Although the coach travel is complimentary you will need to pre-book to secure your place.

For visitors making their own way to Excursions by train, there will be a free shuttle service running from Alexandra Palace main line and Wood Green Underground stations to the exhibition venue, courtesy of Ebdons Tours from 9.30am until 4.15pm. Members of the exhibition team will be at both stations to direct visitors to the coaches.

The W3 bus also picks up from both Wood Green (Piccadilly Line) and Alexandra Palace (London overground) stations and drops off at the exhibition venue.

### Cultural London and Discover Dorset familiarisation trips

Excursions show organisers, Tourism South East is offering visitors a choice of familiarisation trips that link with the event but also give GTOs the chance to sample ideas for days out and short breaks in London or rural Dorset.

The fam in the capital will be based at the Best Western Palm Hotel in north west London and offers the chance to experience some of the city's best cultural aspects. The itinerary takes in the Victoria & Albert Museum and Royal Albert Hall plus other attractions, and there will be a dinner at Garfunkel's followed by a West End show.

Located on the south coast, Dorset is a playground for groups with its heritage sites, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, sweeping beaches, dramatic cliffs and sheltered bays. The fam trip will include overnight accommodation at the Best Western Royale Hotel in Bournemouth, while attractions visited on the two-night trip include the Tank Museum, Lulworth Educational Centre, Russell-Cotes Art Gallery, Poole Pottery and Ringwood Brewery. There will also be a cruise around Poole Harbour.

As media partner of Excursions 2017, Group Leisure will be featuring the official preview to the exhibition in the next issue. Meanwhile a list of exhibitors can be found on the Excursions website.

**To register for free admission, book a place on a transfer coach, or to join one of the familiarisation trips visit [www.excursions2017.com](http://www.excursions2017.com) or call the show organisers on 023-8062 5516. ■**



### Complimentary coach transfer routes to Excursions 2017

Coach transfers will run from nearly 60 locations, the details are...

- Coach 1:** Folkestone – Ashford – Maidstone – Orpington
- Coach 2:** Canterbury – Sittingbourne – Rainham – Rochester – Dartford – Bexley
- Coach 3:** Eastbourne – Bexhill – Hastings – Tonbridge
- Coach 4:** Worthing – Brighton – Crawley
- Coach 5:** Southampton – Southampton Airport Parkway – Winchester
- Coach 6:** Chichester – Portsmouth – Waterloo – Guildford – Woking
- Coach 7:** Salisbury – Reading – Harrow
- Coach 8:** Oxford – Aylesbury – Watford
- Coach 9:** Birmingham – Milton Keynes
- Coach 10:** Ipswich – Colchester – Chelmsford
- Coach 11:** Southend-on-Sea – Lee-on-Sea – Basildon – Brentwood – Romford – Ilford
- Coach 12:** Waterloo – Charing Cross – Victoria – Paddington – Marylebone – Euston
- Coach 13:** Norwich – Cambridge – Stevenage
- Coach 14:** Bristol

[www.excursions2017.com](http://www.excursions2017.com)