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UK News



New book takes it slow

Groups who wish to see more by travelling less will find plenty of ideas in 'Slow Travel and Tourism', a new book from green publishers Earthscan. Written by Janet Dickinson and Les Lumsden, it encourages people to spend more time travelling to their destination overland and longer exploring their immediate area. It includes case studies demonstrating travel by train, bus, bicycle and on foot.

■ For further information telephone 0207 841 1930

Bateaux offers gateaux

Bateaux London will be offering 90-minute Afternoon Tea Cruises for groups every Wednesday between April and October 2011. Both the 'Classic' and 'Elite' options will come with sandwiches, pastries and cakes; however, the latter also includes window seating and champagne for each member. Additional dates and exclusive hire will be available for 85 people or more.

■ For further information telephone 020 7695 1800

A taste of South Africa

London's largest South African restaurant has opened in Camden's Stables Market. Shaka Zulu showcases the best in African cuisine and has wooden carved murals covering the walls and ceiling. Diners are also promised authentic African entertainment with drummers, dancers and live music. Set menus are available for groups.

■ For further information telephone 020 7428 8981

Corrections

Two numbers on last month's (GTO 214, August) 'UK News' pages were incorrect. The number given for the 'Hythe Visitor Guide 2010/11' should have read 01303 211341, and the correct number for the Page & Moy and Travelsphere Group Travel Choice service is 0845 758 5007. Meanwhile, in 'Events Round Up', the number for the British Military Tournament should have read 0845 371 2991.

Fashion fever takes hold at MoL

THE Museum of London has launched seven brand new group tours focusing on the world of fashion.

The exclusive tours, which span five centuries, are led by expert fashion and decorative arts curators and designed to offer a unique insight into the best items in the museum's collections.

Star pieces include costumes from the Middle Ages and Tudor periods and a Mary Quant mini dress from the 1960s.

The tours include 'From Sweatshop to Catwalk: Making and Wearing Fashion', which focuses on the divide between those who made fashionable garments and those who wore them, and 'Dressed to Impress', which gives an insight into what fashionable 18th and 19th century Londoners might have worn when attending a ball at the Mansion House or taking a stroll in a pleasure garden.

Meanwhile, 'These are a few of my favourite things...' will see



Costumes featured in the 'Dressed to Impress' tour.

curators taking a more personal approach to highlights of the collections.

■ For further information telephone 020 7001 9844

City of Bath wakes up to winter

DESTINATION marketing organisation Bath Tourism Plus has launched 'Winter Highlights', a new brochure and website campaign promoting winter breaks in the Somerset spa city.

Providing a guide to visiting Bath between September and March 2011, the campaign includes information on shopping, festivals and events such as the Christmas Market, and suitable accommodation.

The website can be found at www.visitbath.co.uk/winter

■ For a copy of the brochure telephone 01225 477083

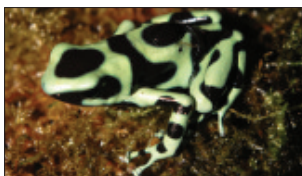
Endangered beasts board the Ark

AS mentioned in 'Out & About' last month (GTO 214, Aug), Paignton Zoo in Devon has opened a new conservation centre for endangered amphibians.

The Amphibian Ark species rescue and reintroduction centre, which features indoor exhibits and a large water garden, containing seven ponds, is currently home to 14 amphibian species.

These include the blue poison dart frog, classed as vulnerable, the phantasmal poison dart frog, which is endangered, and the critically endangered Anderson's axolotl frog.

Staff have also been working



A poison dart frog in the Amphibian Ark.

with relatively common species to perfect husbandry routines and protocols before taking on endangered amphibians.

Entry to Amphibian Ark is included in the general ticket price to the zoo. Special rates are available for groups of 15 or more.

■ For further information telephone 01803 697500

New tours at dockyard

PORTSMOUTH Historic Dockyard is now offering groups exclusive tours of two of its most iconic attractions with the chance to learn more about what goes on behind the scenes and meet the experts who bring them to life.

A new guided tour of HMS Warrior 1860, lasting between 60 and 90 minutes, lets visitors delve deeper into the history and technology of the ship.

Groups can also benefit from specialist talks by an expert on a range of topics including Victorian engineering, naval navigation and social history.

Meanwhile, The Mary Rose Museum now offers one hour guided tours led by a costumed guide which include the opportunity to handle replica artefacts from the wreckage.

For those who wish to learn even more about Tudor history, the museum is offering specialist talks from an expert on a range of topics from costume and music to archery and weaponry.

Both tours can be arranged with an additional expert talk and refreshments, and are available to any groups who purchase a ticket to HMS Warrior, the Mary Rose Museum or a combined Dockyard ticket.

The tours must be requested at the time of booking and are subject to availability.

■ For further information telephone 023 9283 9766

Vine time for all at Surrey estate

ENGLAND's largest vineyard is to offer a new tour from Easter 2011, offering groups the opportunity to get an insight into wine and beer production.

The 'Grape & Grain' tour at Denbies Wine Estate in Dorking, Surrey, will run in conjunction with the Surrey Hills Brewery, producers of the award winning Shere Drop Ale, which is currently relocating to an area within Denbies' existing winery building.

The brewery will include a visitor viewing area and tasting platform for a real 'hands on' experience. Special rates will be available for groups of 10 or more.

■ For further information telephone 01306 876616