



## Travel and Tourism Industry News (April 2009)

### Introduction

We've gathered together some news stories that will be of interest to staff and students on travel and tourism courses, helping to keep you up to date with the fast-moving travel and tourism industry in the UK and overseas.

### Sources

We are happy to acknowledge the main sources for these news items as:

[www.travelmole.com](http://www.travelmole.com) (If not already registered, you will need to sign up with TravelMole to view stories)

[www.travelweekly.co.uk](http://www.travelweekly.co.uk)

[www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

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

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

We use other sources from time to time and acknowledge these separately. **Please note that we cannot be held responsible for the content and suitability of external websites.**

30 April 2009

### Pirate threat forces change to world cruise

*The threat of pirates attacking cruise ships has led to Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines re-routing a world cruise next year away from the Somali coast. The 106-night cruise on Balmoral from Dover on January 5, 2010 is being diverted to avoid sailing through the Gulf of Aden.*

Read the full story at:

<http://www.travelmole.com/stories/1136103.php>

29 April 2009

### Mexico flights cancelled

*Major tour operators have cancelled flights to Mexico in light of the outbreak of swine flu. Thomson, First Choice and Thomas Cook have all cancelled their services to Cancun and are flying customers already in Mexico back to the UK. Kuoni has suspended holidays to Mexico but normal booking conditions apply to all departures from May 4 onwards.*

Read the full story at:

<http://www.travelmole.com/stories/1136077.php>

29 April 2009

## GMTC figures show business travel downturn is worsening

*The downturn in business travel has worsened, according to the latest figures from The Guild of Travel Management Companies. First quarter 2009 transaction figures show a 6% overall reduction in activity, compared to the same period last year. Air travel was the worst hit, with 17% fewer transactions than last year.*

Read the full story at:

<http://www.travelmole.com/stories/1136042.php>

29 April 2009

## Tourism still booming in London

*The number of people visiting London rose to more than 26 million in 2008 despite the economic downturn, according to figures from Visit London. The number of tourists coming to the capital increased 2% on 2007.*

Read the full story at:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/london/8025503.stm>

24 April 2009

## *Independence of the Seas* to sail year-round from UK

*One of the world's largest cruise ships is to sail from Southampton in the winter for the first time from next year. Royal Caribbean International's Independence of the Seas, which can carry more than 4,000 passengers, will be based year-round in the UK from April 2010. Winter cruises in 2010 and 2011 will be to the Mediterranean and Canary Islands. The itineraries, which go on sale on June 1 for winter 2010, range from between 11-to 18-nights in duration.*

Read the full story at:

<http://www.travelmole.com/stories/1135978.php>

20 April 2009

## First Choice produces 'green' brochure

*First Choice is to unveil a new online, Greener Holidays brochure tomorrow (Tuesday). Claimed to be a first for the mainstream holiday industry in the UK, the brochure and web pages will feature hotels that have received a Travelife award for their commitment to the environment, employees and local communities.*

Read the full story at:

<http://www.travelmole.com/stories/1135894.php>

18 April 2009

## New limits to Antarctic tourism

*Countries with ties to Antarctica have adopted US proposals to limit tourism in the region, in a bid to protect the fragile ecosystem of the continent. Parties to the Antarctic Treaty agreed to limit the size of cruise ships and the number of tourists taken ashore at a meeting in the US city of Baltimore.*

Read the full story at:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/8005467.stm>

14 April 2009

## Another slap in the face for Thai tourism

*BBC correspondent Jonathan Head, in Bangkok, says political turmoil has disrupted life in Thailand for so long now that it is easy to forget the country was once seen as a paragon of stability. The months of protests have had a significant effect on Thailand's economy and badly affected its vital tourist industry.*

Read the full story at:

<http://www.travelmole.com/stories/1135767.php>

3 April 2009

## UK tourism 'no candy floss industry'

*Shadow culture secretary Jeremy Hunt believes tourism could generate an additional £22 billion for the economy and 50,000 jobs if the government took action to help. Giving a keynote speech at a Conservative Party tourism summit in Brighton, he called for the structures that promote UK tourism to be radically simplified.*

Read the full story at:

<http://www.travelmole.com/stories/1135590.php>

3 April 2009

## Bmi speeds up business check-in at Heathrow

*A dedicated business class check-in area has been created by Bmi at Heathrow Terminal 1. It is part of a pledge by the carrier to enable passengers to arrive at check-in as little as 30 minutes before departure with a guarantee that they will make their flight. The new glass surround area is located on the main concourse of the terminal with check-in for business class and premium economy travellers as well as Diamond Club Gold and Silver Card holders.*

Read the full story at:

<http://www.travelmole.com/stories/1135594.php>

2 April 2009

## Hotel chain to recruit 800 for new openings

*Jurys Inns is embarking on a nationwide recruitment drive for 800 new staff to work in 10 new hotels. Up to 200 vacancies - setting a target of 25% - will be filled by long term unemployed workers as part of a government scheme.*

Read the full story at:

<http://www.travelmole.com/stories/1135569.php>

1 April 2009

## Airlines shown benefits of selling ancillary products

*Airlines are being urged to sell ancillary products in order to boost their revenues. Collinson Latitude, which provides ancillary revenue programmes, said its study has shown that airlines can make at least an extra \$6 per passenger by offering services above and beyond ticket sales.*

Read the full story at:

<http://www.travelmole.com/stories/1135532.php>

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