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Here we are with the new issue of Guidelines Internation@l.

Dear Friends,

Time is running so fast. Since its establishment 22 years ago WFTGA has brought 88,000 professional tourist guides from all quarters of the world under the same roof, and, in line with the changes seen in this industry, accomplished many successful activities in terms of enhancing the professional quality of tourist guiding, training, specialization, communication among tourist guides, and providing the tourism consumers with tourist guides. The 12th Convention of WFTGA shall be held in Cairo, Egypt between 18 and 26 January 2007. On this occasion, we will be able to exchange opinions with the representatives of the world’s tourist guide organizations and colleagues from all over about the problems of this profession, developments seen in this sector, and tourist guiding practices on national and regional scales. In addition to the opportunity we will get to know the archaeological and natural beauties of Egypt; the program includes very important and interesting workshops such as “Future of Tourist Guiding”, “Legal Issues Facing Tourist Guides Worldwide”, “Cultural Awareness for Tourist Guides”, and “Guiding in Sacred Sites”, “Adult Learning & Education/Setting up Guide Training Courses”.

The tourist guiding organizations have started taking further steps in order to exchange opinions with colleagues from all over the world on development and future of this profession, and to determine a joint position. Participation in WFTGA and FEG meetings on the basis of national representation is increasing each day, and FEG (European Federation of Tourist Guide Associations) is in harmonious cooperation with WFTGA. FEG is supporting the Cairo Convention with two workshops, and is working towards participation of its members.

Recently we have seen a very positive incident in this respect. FEG held its second meeting of 2006 in Istanbul between 2-7 November within the frame of celebrating its 20th anniversary. As many as 70 colleagues from 18 European countries and Rosalind Newlands, Vice president of WFTGA participated in the meeting hosted by TUREB, which commemorates its 50th anniversary this year. We exchanged information and shared experiences on the future of our profession and standardization activities within the European Union.

WFTGA continues its activities in order to establish professional standards and ethic values, to improve respectability of this profession, and to promote the importance of tourist guides to the world public in terms of natural, cultural, historical environment and tourism.

We hope to leave a more livable world to the next generations by practicing this profession in the best possible way, informing guests correctly, ensuring they have a pleasant time, and creating consciousness in terms of sustainable tourism.

Our next bulletins will be enriched through your contributions. So, please do not deprive us of your contributions.

Hope to see you in Egypt. The activities in Egypt are so rich and beautiful that you would not want to miss...

Serif Yenen
WFTGA Board Member
Editor in Chief Guidelines Internation@l
President’s Letter to Members

Dear Members, Colleagues, Industry Partners,

As President of the WFTGA for nearly four years and with my ten years on this board. I have seen many changes in our organisation and this industry. One of my goals as President was to ensure that membership to the WFTGA spread globally and it has done so.

Our goal that the Training Division develops globally has also been achieved. It has not only grown globally but it is being recognised internationally with many organisations including the UN and USAID. WFTGA has a very strong and dynamic training division. We have worked as a great team since our meeting in Cyprus in March 2004 where we completely restructured the training. We have established our Cyprus Regional Training Centre as well as fulfilling requests for in-house training.

With the Convention in January 2007 being in Cairo, I hoped that we would have more contact and participation from the Arabic Speaking countries and this has also happened. The Gulf Region is booming and we are proud of our membership from the Emirates and increased communication with Saudi Arabia amongst others. More people from more countries apply for our Jane Orde Scholarship Fund at each Convention.

In the last four years, we have seen an increase in requests for tourist guides around the world from the WFTGA website. We have had requests for tourist guides from Germany, Italy, UK, USA, Canada, South Africa, India, China, Egypt, Spain, Austria and Sweden. Tour Operators and Corporate Organisations have been increasingly requesting tourist guides’ services worldwide. I have followed up on each one to ensure that a tourist guide was found and that the clients did in fact make contact with our member associations. We know this is going to increase even more in the coming years. We hope that our members will help with this promotion by letting us know more about their organisations.

Another goal was to work closely with other organisation such as the Federation of European Tourist Guides, the Arab Federation of Tourist Guides, the South East Asian Association of Tourist Guides, the National Federation of American Tourist Guides and many more. I have always believed that we have strength in numbers. What is becoming apparent is that there are more tourist guides in the world and that the numbers keep growing. Tourist guides are professionals who are the ambassadors of their countries, regions, and cities. We are experts who take visitors around and as the local hosts help them discover our countries.

WFTGA represents tourist guides; we encourage the local economy; we encourage high standards of training for tourist guides - all of which helps the money generated to remain within that country. We discourage very strongly any persons not qualified professionally or legally to work in a country or region for which they not permitted.

We work in collaboration with and communicate with tourist guide associations and regional and international organisations and also with our sponsors worldwide and we are very proud of our accomplishments and the continued increase in membership of the WFTGA.

WFTGA is very proud that from January 22-26 2007, the 12th WFTGA International Convention will be held in Cairo Egypt. It has only been held once before on the African continent - in 1993. The upcoming convention has been able to attract international speakers including Dr. Zahi Hawass, who is well known around the world for his documentaries on Egyptian archaeology. John
President’s Letter to Members

Downes, an international tourism industry lawyer, who has presented twice already at WFTGA Conventions with huge success for his humour and knowledge will be with us again. Our Senior Trainers will be offering Master Classes giving members ideas, which can be taken back home. We also have workshops on a variety of topics, which will be of interest to us all.

Not only will the educational portion be rewarding, but also the cultural events will give us an insight into the culture and history of this fascinating country.
All are welcome to the WFTGA Convention members and non-members, industry partners and the media. Register now as space is limited by going to our special website: http://www.egypt-wftga2007.com as always we encourage our members and industry partners to contribute to this magazine. Let us hear about what tourist guides are doing around the world.

We look forward to seeing you all in Egypt in January 2007 for the 12th WFTGA Convention!

I would like to thank our sponsor’s world wide for the continuous support and financial assistance, which allows this organisation to grow.

I would also like to thank the WFTGA Executive Board, who are a dedicated group of active tourist guides working full time in their own countries and who voluntarily give hours of their time daily to allow this organisation to run. Each has special talents in addition to their guiding skills that contributes to the WFTGA.

Best wishes,

Ruby Roy
President
THE WFTGA WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR SPONSORS:

Montreal
Tourisme Montreal [http://www.tourisme-montreal.org

Emeco Travel [http://www.emeco.com

The Cyprus Tourism Organization [http://www.visitcyprus.org.cy

The Frederikiou Institute of Technology
The Androus Foundation
University of Cyprus
The Vienna Chambre of Commerce


Egyptair [http://www.egyptair.com.eg

Cyprus Tourist Guides Association [http://www.cytouristguides.com

The APTG Montreal [http://www.apgt-montreal.org

European Federation of Tourist Guide Associations [http://www.feg-touristguides.org
GUIDING FROM THE ANCIENT WORLD TO THE MODERN WORLD

The International Convention will be held in Egypt (January 18-22, 2007).

Full information on the pre and post tours to Alexandria, Nile Cruise and the Sinai are also available. Please visit our site regularly for the updates on presenters and speakers in the coming weeks!

All partners of the travel and tourism industry including members of the press are welcome to attend the convention.

Held bi-annually in a different member country, the International Convention of WFTGA provides unparalleled opportunities for delegates (country representatives) and individual tourist guides to exchange views and information. It allows the participants to share experiences, compare ways of working and consulting on solutions to problems and challenges. It offers the possibility of creating new contacts. During each convention, lectures and workshops on a wide variety of subjects are held, which address the needs and demands of members to improve their guiding skills, increase their knowledge and explore methods of dealing with the changing needs of the industry worldwide.

The host nation arranges visits both during the Convention and as pre- and post-Convention tours. The International Conventions underline the World Federation's global outlook and enable the attending guides to expand their knowledge of the world in the company of fellow professionals and industry partners.

The impact to tourist guide associations who host the WFTGA Convention is enormous. Not only are they able to get media coverage and industry interest, it enables them to showcase the host country and the importance of tourist guides in the region. Furthermore, the General Assembly votes for the future convention venue.

WFTGA has the great pleasure to announce the participation of FEG in 2007 (The Federation of European Guides) at the 12th WFTGA Convention, as one of our sponsors and partners in the industry. In lieu of this sponsorship WFTGA will offer all FEG Members the same consideration as WFTGA members in Convention Fees. We will have special workshops for FEG members.

For more information visit the convention website:
www.egypt-wftga2007.com
wftga2007@emeco.com (For all inquiries on Egypt)
info@wftga.org (For all other inquiries)
JANE ORDE SCHOLARSHIP

Applications have now been received from tourist guides who would like to benefit from the Jane Orde Scholarship supported by the Androus Foundation. At the Convention in Scotland recipients were from Mongolia and Guatemala. In Melbourne, the award was won by our colleague from Latvia. The scholarship is awarded at the Convention in memory of Jane Orde Past President of WFTGA, who died in 2002. Jane was a member of the Scottish Tourist Guides Association and of the Guild of Registered Tourist Guides and she was delighted that the 10th Convention was to be held in Scotland. Sadly she died before the Convention took place but it was dedicated to her memory. The winner of the 2007 Award is from Mozambique.

WFTGA REGIONAL TRAINING CENTRE UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS

In January 2006, WFTGA Trainers Jenny Oulton, Felicitas Wressnig and Titina Loizidou delivered Hands On Tourist Guiding and Part I & II Train the Trainer Courses at our Regional Training Centre at the University of Cyprus. The training programme was sponsored by the Cyprus Tourism Organisation and was launched by WFTGA Vice President & Head of the WFTGA Training Division, Rosalind Newlands. Participants came from the following countries: Albania, Cyprus, South Africa, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom. The next courses will be held in February 2007.

Would you like to improve your guiding skills?

Would you like WFTGA and University Accreditation of your qualification?

Learn how to make more of your tours, add value for your visitors and improve their experience and make your guiding skills more marketable.

Would you like to work as a guide trainer?

If you can answer yes to any of the above questions the next courses we are holding at the WFTGA Regional Training Centre in Nicosia Cyprus are just what you are looking for:

10 day Train the Trainer: February 21st to March 4th 2007 - 798 CYP

7 Day Hands On Tourist Guiding: February 21st to February 27th 2007 - 520 CYP

In order to register for the course please contact Mrs. Houri Nazaretian, WFTGA Secretary; email info@wftga.org ; Telephone + 1 905 721 0783 ; Mobile + 1 416 725 7265.
WFTGA IN-HOUSE TRAINING COURSES

Abu Dhabi

In May 2006, 16 tourist guides attended WFTGA Hands On Tourist Guiding and Train the Trainer Courses sponsored by the Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority. The courses were delivered by WFTGA Trainer, Jenny Oulton and further courses will be held in November 2006. WFTGA Vice President Rosalind Newlands has been invited to visit Abu Dhabi in November to advise on the development of the full tourist guide training course for the United Arab Emirates. Tourist Guides Association has now been founded, led by WFTGA Trainer Jasem Zaiton.

Armenia

In October 2006, WFTGA held Hands On Tourist Guiding and Train the Trainer Courses held in Yerevan, Armenia. The courses were delivered by WFTGA Trainers Jenny Oulton and Felicitas Wressnig and WFTGA Secretary Houri Nazaretian advised on development of tourist guiding in Armenia. This programme is being sponsored by USAID.

City Guides Europe

WFTGA has been asked to advise on the course content for the City Guides Project which is funded by Leonardo with the Federation of European Guides (FEG) as one of the partners.

Further information on all WFTGA Training Programmes can be obtained from Houri Nazaretian on info@wftga.org

WFTGA Train the Trainer Part III

WFTGA Trainers who have already attended Parts I & II of our Train the Trainer Programme will have the opportunity to attend Part III at the WFTGA Convention in Cairo or in Cyprus in 2007. The development of new trainers will assist in our policy of providing professional tourist guide training around the world and raising tourist guide standards.

WFTGA Convention 2007 Master Classes in Tourist Guide Techniques

Once again WFTGA trainers will be conducting Master Classes for participants at the WFTGA Convention in Cairo in January 2007.

WFTGA and FEG work together!

On Friday 24th February, the Federation of European Tourist Guides Associations (FEG) celebrated its 20th birthday in Prague. WFTGA was represented by WFTGA Vice President Rosalind Newlands at the invitation of FEG Chairman Annie Passot-Tomianka. The event included a lunch attended by MEPs, Tourism Ministers, Ambassadors and Tourism partners. On Saturday 25th February at
the FEG EGM, delegates voted to hold the 2006 EGM at the WFTGA Convention in Cairo. FEG will also sponsor workshops and FEG members will be able to attend the WFTGA Convention, giving us all an opportunity to discuss matters of importance to guides everywhere. The birthday celebrations ended with a wonderful river cruise followed by a fireworks display.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Ruby Roy President of WFTGA addresses tourist guides in Abu Dhabi

Ruby was able to help the UAE Tourist Guides to solve some issues and work towards the establishment of the UAEGTG (United Arab Emirates Guild of Tourist Guides). The UAEGTG was established on 4th September with the support of Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority.

Ruby also held a workshop “Developing The Career Of Tourist Guides”. She was also interviewed for the TV programme “UR Guide” for Arabian Travel TV, in order to promote the role of tourist guides in the tourism industry.
INTERNATIONAL TOURIST GUIDE DAY IN UGANDA

Uganda Tourist Guides celebrated the International Tourist Guide Day on Saturday 22nd April, 2006. Two major activities were carried out. Bird watching with young birders, and launching a cultural walk in the city. At the end of the birding activity, the young birder were given a simple assignment of writing the birds they had seen in the morning, and they were asked to draw pictures of birds of their choice. All the participants were democratically involved in the assessment. The winners were given additional prizes. However all the young birders who participated were winners of different items. The occasion was honoured by the Prof. Thome Wolfgang, who is the President of the Private sector tourism associations. May other stake holders attend including visiting tourists from United States and Europe.

AFRICA: AFRICAN TOURISM SURGES AHEAD, SAYS UNWTO

For the past three years, international tourism has been booming. According to the World Tourism Organization, the number of international tourist arrivals in 2005 is estimated at over 800 million, a 5.5 per cent increase following the 10 per cent surge registered the preceding year.

This despite wars, terror, oil price hikes and natural disasters. Global markets have shown great resilience and consumers have become better at weighing their options by delaying or diverting their travel rather than abandoning it.

Africa has been one of the strongest growth markets, with most destinations showing consistently above average increases in arrivals and receipts. Between 2000 and 2005, international tourist arrivals to Africa increased from 8 million to 40 million - an average growth of 5.6 % a year, compared to a worldwide 3.1 % a year. In the same period, Africa’s International tourism receipts doubled from US$ 10.5 billion to US$ 21.3 billion.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Tourism Africa Exhibition, UNWTO Secretary General Francesco Frangialli said “This surge in African tourism clearly shows the great potential of our sector of the economy to help trade and development in the region and in so doing, to make an important contribution to the Millennium Development Goals aimed at reducing poverty systemically by 2015 particularly in Africa”.

He added “Africa can have substantial comparative advantage with its wildlife, nature, heritage and climate. An advantage which could, if nurtured, allow the world’s poorest countries to compete in this dynamic export sector. We must link poverty reduction strategies with programs to strengthen access, infrastructure, info-technology, security, sustainability and quality systems.”

UNWTO has initiated a range of activities to advance Tourism to and within Africa -as an export, a socio-economic driver and an instrument of development.

“A Sub-Saharan African Program; A joint development strategy with the African Union; A STEP program to link Sustainability and Poverty Elimination activities; A Liberalization with a Human Face approach for pro poor trade policies; An “Essential Tourism Development Route” plan with ICAO, to boost air services and A Public Private Partnership with Microsoft to advance e-Tourism for Development.

The Secretary General said that in this same spirit, we are delighted to be the Strategic Partner for Tourism Africa to ensure that every year, there is a special
global focus on the opportunities and challenges for our sector in its efforts to support the Millennium Development Goals in Africa.

In a related development, Francesco Frangialli, UNWTO Secretary General has called on world leaders to use the power of tourism to build new global bridges of understanding between states.

He emphasised that “people to people contacts, which only tourism can provide, would do much to counter the vague generalizations and confused perceptions that too often convey distorted images of countries, cultures, traditions and religions.

Frangialli said “Islam, which encourages travel for pilgrimage, has many characteristics in common with tourism such as tolerance, openness and hospitality. This is the reason why so many muslim countries have long established themselves as successful destinations on the world tourism map. And in so doing, help to diversify their economies and create jobs for young people and at the same time, revitalize their cultural heritage and awareness.”

UNWTO supports such initiatives and through its Global Code of Ethics, promotes the kind of tourism which advances sustainable development, cultural diversity and heritage preservation. The Code also calls on visitors and host communities to show mutual respect and understanding for each others’ beliefs and lifestyles.

**Study reveals factors that make travel agents successful**

Researchers at the University of South Carolina’s Sloan Foundation Travel & Tourism Industry Center (USC) have found that certain characteristics and practices of the most successful travel agencies can help other agencies and new entrants to the business, improve their operations. Results of this first in-depth study of agency profitability conducted by USC/Sloan were presented at THE TRADESHOW (Travel Retailing and Destination Expo) in Orlando recently.

“USC/Sloan’s ground breaking research will be used as a basis to further enhance the profitability of ASTA members in the future,” said William A. Maloney, ASTA executive Vice President and COO. “Travel agencies now have proven success models by which to pattern their business practices, which will undoubtedly change the way many agents build and increase their clientele.”

Although the industry took a series of blows between 1995 and 2001, drastically shrinking the number of agencies, some travel agencies have not only survived but thrived. The research presented by USC will explore how those agencies remained healthy despite the elimination of airline booking commissions, competition from the proliferating internet travel suppliers and consumer attitudes in the wake of terrorist attacks.

The project leaders, Dr. David Weaver and Dr. Laura Lawton of USC, sought to identify the strengths, internal and external weaknesses, challenges and opportunities cited by top officers of financially successful agencies large and small, in comparison to those that have not fared as well.

Funded jointly by ASTA’s Corporate Advisory Council, The ASTA Foundation, Inc., Marriott International and the Sloan Center—a unit of the university’s College of Hospitality, Retail, and Sport Management and Moore School of Business—the study began in December 2005 with a quantitative survey, followed by in-depth interviews with a selected number of agencies’ officers to identify the strategies, attitudes and “best practices” of highly successful agencies.
The interviewees noted the need for public education on the value and benefits of travel and using travel agents. And they saw opportunities for strong growth in the next few years through specialization in niche markets and products: retiring “baby boomers” with plenty of discretionary income, the barely tapped cruise-ship market, honeymoons and destination weddings, the gay and lesbian market, eco-tourism and family reunions.

The mission of the American Society of Travel Agents and its affiliate organizations is to enhance the professionalism and profitability of members worldwide.

Source: Jimoh Babatunde With Agency Reports, Vanguard(Lagos).

EGYPT (THE VENUE FOR THE WFTGA CONVENTION 2007)

EGYPT MORE THAN JUST THE LAND OF PHARAOHS

Along with the Suez Canal and oil and gas revenues, tourism is one of Egypt’s main sources of foreign currency and, as the number of tourists increase every year, so does the importance of the money they pump into the national economy.

Patterns, however, are shifting, with tourists looking for something more than just the traditional tour of the monuments or cold drinks on a hot beach. With a little bit of development and forethought, Egypt has the potential to meet the new demands of worldwide tourists.

The scale of the industry is impressive. Last year, the number of visitors to Egypt increased from 8.1 million to 8.6 million, with Germany provided the largest number of visitors, 979,000, more than any other European country.

Egypt has always been famous as the land of the Pharaohs, and has relied on this for its tourism for a long time. But Egypt has much more to offer than the Valley of the Kings and the Giza Plateau. Though few of us have actually had the opportunity to walk in the snow in the high Sinai mountains, watch tropical birds in a marshy lake district, or explore the rich pristine coral reefs and marine life of Egypt’s coastal waters, these sights are barely more than a stone’s throw from the ancient monuments and the sandy beaches that are so popular among tourists. Perhaps this is why, since the early 1980s, the Egyptian government has been so intent on establishing nature reserves, or, as they are often called in Egypt, “protected areas.”

Nature reserve tourism has become a goal for many governments in the region. This interest is not only fueled by the fact that this kind of tourism will provide new revenues from hotels, airports, transportation and entrance tickets, but also by the fact that the Mediterranean simply does not have enough nature reserves.

Environmental experts of The World Conservation Union held a Conference on Financing Protected Areas in the Mediterranean, in Seville, Spain from January 9-31, 2006. They concluded after the conference that protected areas in the Mediterranean are seriously under-funded. Talking about Egypt, according to some reports released for the News Press Agency for the Mediterranean, the revenues derived from protected areas are about $3.5 million a year, which is nearly double the budget for these areas. Only 3 percent to 5 percent of this sum is spent on supporting their infrastructure systems.

With its 26 protected areas, Egypt has declared that 5,598 hectares, or 5.7 percent, of its total land area should be protected from destructive development.
The best-known reserve, which is also Egypt’s first national park, lies at the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula, 30 km south of Sharm El-Sheikh. Ras Mohamed (Point Mohamed) was established in 1983 and protects more than 200 species of coral, 1,000 species of fish and a large number of threatened mammals.

The South Sinai governorate has the largest number of protected areas in Egypt. These areas are the island of Teran, the island of Asafer, the St. Catherine, Abo Galom, Nabak and Taba reserves. These natural reserves have their own beauty and mystique. They also provide shelter for many rare mammals, birds and plants.

Other protected areas extend all over Egypt from the northwest coast, which contains the beautiful protected area of Al-Ameed in Matrouh governorate, to the Saloga and Ghazal protected areas in the Aswan governorate.

Therapeutic tourism is another obvious feature of the environmental tourism business. Egypt possesses a wide range of rich physical features, including many hot springs. Clay found in these springs boasts therapeutic properties that can be used to treat numerous bone, skin, kidney and respiratory diseases. Also, the chemical composition of the water of the Red Sea and abundance of coral reefs is used to cure various forms of psoriasis.

Many tourist sites offer curative services in Egypt. Sand bathing is famous in the south of Egypt in Aswan. Treatment centers for psoriasis are well established on the Red Sea coast at Marsa Alam and Safaga. Siwa Oasis is also famous for its therapeutic treatment of rheumatism and renal diseases at Gabal Takrour (Mount Takrour) and Hamamat Cleopatra (Cleopatra’s Bath).

Despite its environmental riches and the wealth of ancient monuments and museums, the country probably attracts more beach vacationers than any other type of tourist. Since the warm Egyptian beaches are both inexpensive and well appointed, this comes as no surprise.

Egypt has a number of beach zones, with Mediterranean beaches all along the northern coast from Libya to the Sinai, and the warm waters of the Red Sea stretching from Taba down to Marsa Alam in the south.

While both coasts have their own character and advantages, international tourism has focused heavily on the Red Sea coast over the last 20 years, with the resort towns of Hurghada and Sharm El-Sheikh providing a variety of hotels and entertainment in a range of prices to fit almost any tourist budget.

Despite all this development, however, many areas remain unexploited. The coastline between Marsa Matrouh and Al-Alamein, considered a hot spot for tourism development, is one example. This area has many advantages that make it a good place for investment. Close to Europe, it has good weather and clean sandy beaches.

Any visitor to the eastern coast can’t escape talking about diving. The Red Sea is well known as one of the best diving opportunities in the world. It is not only divers, however, who enjoy the riches of its coral reef, as the Red Sea offers an incomparable experience for swimming and snorkeling, and even those who simply want to ride in a glass-bottomed boat.

Another thrilling option in Egypt is rock climbing. The Red Sea region is riddled with mountains to climb. Sinai offers many exhilarating opportunities including Al-Rameel, Hamam Foro’on, Al-Maghara and Al-Sefsaf. The same adventure is also available away from the sea in Al-Fayoum in the Abo Lefa 474-meter-high mountains and in Katrany and Al-Serwana mountains, with an elevation of over 740 meters.
In addition to the adventure offered by this sport, it offers tourists the chance to see Egypt from an unusual perspective. Many young people work as guides for rock climbers – these guides show tourists the way up, stay there overnight and complete the journey the next day. The whole trip usually costs around $200.

Egypt is rich in untapped tourism resources that can potentially offer tourists unparalleled experiences if they are properly developed. By building up the incredible natural resources of the country, Egypt has the potential to attract a new kind of tourist.

*Source: Egypt Daily Star*

**TWO COMPANIES COMPETE FOR THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT OF THE GRAND EGYPTIAN MUSEUM**

Two international consortiums are now waiting for the final answer as to who will be responsible for the management of the construction and operation of the new Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM).

The museum administration reviewed the presentations of the two companies on Wednesday and will announce the winner soon. According to a museum official, the project manager should be on board by the end of this year.

The Ministry of Culture announced the project management and construction bid to qualified project management firms in August 2003. In mid-October 2003, tender documents were submitted by 15 project management firms. Following a pause initiated by the Ministry of Culture in May 2004 to study the founding proposal, the bid was resumed. Then the applicants were narrowed to a field of two: The Japan-based Pacific Consultants International (PCI) and the EHAF-led consortium.

PCI is a group company that provides consulting and engineering services. It has completed about 94,000 consulting projects over the last 50 years in more than 130 countries.

"Today, PCI is at the helm of major projects worldwide. Our skills and expertise are top ranked in global development consulting services," reads the company’s official Web site, "Our reputation is based on our successful and timely completion of highly complex projects involving the construction of high technology intensive facilities and large-scale economic and urban infrastructure development projects."

"With 50 years of continuous experience in the provision and transfer of expert knowledge and technology, PCI can provide its ever growing range of services and expertise to address the diverse and changing consulting needs of the world," adds the PCI Web site.

EHAF is a full-service architecture, engineering, construction management and program management firm. It leads a consortium of 14 international companies with different specialties, from design and technologies to human resources management. Also co-leading the consortium are Hill International, a United States-based construction consultant firm, and Nihon Sekkei, a consultancy firm providing comprehensive and integrated services for architectural design, building engineering, civil engineering, urban planning, landscape design, interior design and relevant consulting and management work.

Tomoyoshi Kato, Nihon Sekkei’s deputy general manager for the architectural design division, says that most of the companies in the consortium have
worked together, in teams of two or three or more, in previous international projects.

Rather than take the company with the lowest costs, the selection process depends on evaluation and a ranking system. Finances come second, according to GEM officials; negotiations take place with the winner regarding its financial proposal. The priority goes to the quality of the proposal.

During a meeting for the companies of the EHAF-led consortium, Raouf Ghali, Hill International president of the project management group, noted that the presentation is meant to identify solutions for any possible problems, so if the consortium wins they would save time and address the problem immediately.

The idea to construct a Grand Egyptian Museum first came to life in November 1992 through a presidential decree to find a suitable location for the project. Nine years later the Ministry of Culture formed a technical committee responsible for the project. In January 2002, the ministry announced an international design competition under the patronage of Unesco.

The results were announced in July 2003 and four months later the winning team was contracted for the pre-schematic design phase.

"Neighboring a timeless wonder, the Giza Pyramids, the new museum is to pay homage to eternal ancient Egyptian monuments, treasures and history, hosting over 100,000 artifacts, 3,500 of which belong to the famous King Tutankhamen," reads the GEM Web site.

Just 2.5 km from the Giza Pyramids, the museum’s site spans over 480,000 square meters. According to the Web site, the total cost of implementation is $550 million: $100 million from the Ministry of Culture, $300 million from Japanese loans and grants and $150 million from international fund raising campaigns.

Mohamed Fahmy, EHAF vice president, says that his consortium includes companies specialized in international fundraising to help raise the rest of the project costs.

GEN is expected to generate 5,500 job opportunities. After its opening, the museum is expected to receive 15,000 visitors per day, totaling 3 million a year.

According to the final design, the museum would be divided into different categories, including religion, kinship and predominant professions, which move in parallel lines across the length of the museum. The lines are divided into eras and intersect, according to their actual overlap in history.

The statue of Ramses II, which was recently moved from a downtown Cairo district of the same name, will stand at the entrance. The museum will also be home to King Tutankhamen’s treasures.

Specially equipped rooms are being included to host virtual museums. Cameras connected to the real sites are to send footage to some of these rooms so that GEM visitors will feel as though they are actually at the sites.

THE LOST PHARAOH

Hatshepsut’s back story reads like a whodunit novel, with lots of intrigue, back-stabbing and deception. A new Kimbell exhibit fills in some of the blanks.
Thutmose III appears at far right of this carved limestone block (1492-1479 B.C.). An image of his stepmother, Hatshepsut, once stood in front of him, but 20 years after her death, he had her name and image removed from everything.

With her scandalous back story of incest, usurpation and disappearance, you’d think that Hatshepsut would be one of the best-known Egyptian monarchs. Instead, she was lost for more than 3,000 years. Her stepson Thutmose III saw to that -- he struck her name from official records, destroyed her temples and defaced her statues. Her cultural achievements that influenced successive dynasties were smashed into rubble, and the sands of millennia eventually buried all traces that she or they had ever existed.

In the early 20th century, archeologists stumbled upon clues indicating that once upon a time, during a period of Egyptian history known as the New Kingdom, a great woman was pharaoh. They began to piece together her story using shards, broken statues and the ghostly remains of hieroglyphics on walls. It soon became obvious that Hatshepsut had been deliberately deleted. The story of her ascendancy and eventual disappearance, as well as more than 200 artifacts created during and shortly after her reign, are on exhibit in “Hatshepsut: From Queen to Pharoah,” which opens Sunday at the Kimbell Art Museum.

There are still holes in her story, and new interpretations arise every decade. It is known that she was the daughter of a king, Thutmose I, and that she married her half-brother, Thutmose II, a common practice among Egyptian royal families to ensure the bloodline. Thutmose II became pharaoh and died soon after leaving Hatshepsut and her daughter Neferure, and a secondary wife, Isis, mother of Thutmose III. Pharaohs were allowed multiple wives, but the first wife was accorded greater honor and power. Because Thutmose III was still an infant, Hatshepsut became queen regent in 1479 B.C. She could not officially rule, because she was not the king’s mother. Hatshepsut crowned herself king (yes, king) to strengthen her claim to the throne. Once she became king, though, she could not step down, not even when Thutmose came of age. Kings were kings for life, and were considered deities. She was committed to joint rule with Thutmose III until her death.

For 15 years, the two shared the throne in what seems to have been an amicable fashion. It was a prosperous time for Egypt, with few threats of war. Hatshepsut embarked on several infrastructure projects, including road and temple building, and she encouraged the arts. Much of the artwork that was made to decorate temples incorporated influences from other cultures and became a standard by which successive dynasties modeled their imagery.

Hatshepsut reworked the images of herself as queen and had them recarved using the male iconography of the pharaoh. Her long white dresses were shortened to knee-length kilts that men wore. Her stride lengthened into the more aggressive stance of the male. Her statues show her with the double crown worn by men and pharaohs, yet texts refer to her with female pronouns and suffixes. This was a public-relations campaign, orchestrated by Hatshepsut to emphasize her right to the throne.
Among Hatshepsut’s royal court was Senenmut, who was in charge of secular activities at the temple of Karnak, as well as tutor for Neferure. He wielded a great deal of power and had many statues made to glorify his trusted in-circle status. These are some of the most well-preserved objects from Hatshepsut’s time, and they illustrate many of the artistic changes that were introduced. He was quite powerful and orchestrated many building projects, but he abruptly disappeared, and no one knows why. Whatever the reason, few of his monuments were desecrated, and they offer the greatest trove of artifacts from her reign. Hatshepsut died around 1458 B.C., and 20 years later, Thutmose III began a systematic eradication of all evidence of her as a pharaoh. Images of her as a queen were left intact, but those of Hatshepsut in a short skirt and the double crown were defaced. Her cartouche was erased from temples and tombs. Workers carefully removed all kingly attributes from her statues, careful not to anger any deities. Then, once they had rendered her visibly mortal and female, they unceremoniously dumped her sphinxes and statues in a pit and paved over it to make way for Thutmose’s temple.

For quite some time, it was believed this was a retaliatory measure of an angry stepson against an evil stepmother. But recent scholars say that, had that been the case, Thutmose would have not waited almost two decades to begin his assault on her history.

Timothy Potts, director of the Kimbell, endorses the theory that erasing all evidence of Hatshepsut discouraged any successive queen from muddying the male primacy of succession. It might have dissuaded the next few generations of queens, but there were several others who made power grabs and succeeded. Cleopatra, who ruled much later, comes to mind.

Though Thutmose’s efforts proved quite effective at erasing Hatshepsut for thousands of years, she resurfaced, not only in reconstructed artworks but in the mummified flesh. Her remains were discovered just this year in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, where they had been shelved, misidentified as those of a household servant.

With more research and more discoveries, Hatshepsut’s story will become less sketchy. For now, though, it is certain she was instrumental in furthering the arts, reinstating traditional religious observances and constructing works of great architectural significance. Being a woman of mystery has served to make her even more intriguing to historians, almost guaranteeing we haven’t heard the last of Hatshepsut.

Source: Gaile Robinson, Star-Telegram.

TRAVEL BACK IN TIME

Explore Egypt’s extensive Christian heritage at the newly reopened Coptic Museum

Museum lovers are like time travelers, transported into another dimension the minute they get their first whiff of museum air — dry and musty, mixed with the smell of old wood. But my trip last month began before I even came within sight of the newly re-opened Coptic Museum.

Leaving behind the taxis lying in wait at the corner by Amr Ibn Al-Aas Mosque, I walked down a narrow street fronted with tourist shops peddling postcards and trinkets. As I progressed, the noise of the vendors faded and I soon found myself alone, walking in long shadows cast by ancient houses of worship glimpsed above the tops of imposing stone walls. Each step forward was a step back in time until I reached the precipice: Babylon Fortress.
Built by the Romans in the second century AD, the walls of the stronghold have now been subsumed by urban buildup and the site now houses six historic churches, a ninth-century synagogue and an active convent. It is in the district aptly known as Masr El-‘Adima (Old Cairo) or Coptic Cairo, the traditionally Coptic Christian center of Cairo.

Founded by Morkos Smeika Pasha, the Coptic Museum opened in 1910 to trace and preserve the history of Christian Egypt by displaying artifacts recovered from Egypt’s monasteries. After nearly two and a half years of restoration work, the Supreme Council of Antiquities, in partnership with USAID and the American Research Center in Egypt, reopened this 8,000-square-meter complex, housing a collection of approximately 14,000 pieces, some dating back to the third century AD.

The building is an architectural marvel combining Roman and Mediterranean styles, with white stone walls accented by smooth pillars and wood-latticed windows overlooking a terrace blooming with flowers and palm trees. Inside, you find heavenly high ceilings of ornately carved dark wood, providing a canopy over marble floors twinkling with mashrabeyya-filtered sunbeams.

The two-story museum is well organized, with exhibits arranged chronologically throughout 14 halls embracing an inner courtyard. All artifacts are descriptively labeled in English, French and Arabic. The ground floor is mostly dedicated to early-era stonework, columns and painted niches retrieved from Coptic monasteries, while the first floor focuses on lighter, smaller pieces and their use through the centuries.

Egypt’s Christian period, spanning the first through seventh centuries AD, is significant because it links the Greco-Roman period, the rise of Christianity and the Arab conquest and subsequent Islamic period. The museum’s exhibits are a tangible illustration of the evolution of Coptic art resulting from the influence of these different cultures.

Kamilia Makram, the museum’s director of manuscripts, says that it takes “at least one hour to see everything, but if you’re attracted and read a lot, it takes much longer.” After two hours of wandering entranced through the halls, I decided she was correct, if a little conservative in her estimate.

Walking from exhibit to exhibit, I pieced together a vision of life during an oft-overlooked era. The collection is extensive, encompassing pieces as diverse as limestone busts, tombstones, wooden door panels, pottery, kitchenware, colorful linen and wool textiles and brilliantly illuminated manuscripts. Many of the items have specific religious significance, such as the nineteenth-century crown of the 11th Patriarch of the Coptic Orthodox Church. Many others are everyday household tools and utensils, examples of items that evolved with Egyptian culture.

Standing in the Coptic Museum, it is almost as if you’ve been invited into someone’s home for a 700-year visit. From the third and fourth century, you find bronze jugs, intricately etched with angel designs, others featuring flowers and some with secular patterns. Two hundred years later, that same kitchen might have held the bronze frying pan decorated with pearls and the iron and bone fork. Some sixth-century child no doubt enjoyed the ivory comb and toys now carefully sheltered in a display case.

The artifacts reveal not only cultural differences and similarities, but the fusion of ideas as the society transitioned between eras. Take the delicately sculpted third- or fourth-century limestone bust of Venus: The Roman goddess of love and beauty was also the symbol of baptism for early Christians. Coptic artifacts featuring Greek figures like Hercules and Athena also appear frequently.
If you’re looking for a blockbuster attraction like the Egyptian Museum’s King Tut or Royal Jewelry exhibits, you might be disappointed. When Philip Halim Faltas, director of the Coptic Museum, was asked to list the highlights, he responded as any proud museum director would: “All the things in the museum are important because it is a very important period of time.”

When pressed, Faltas admitted that his favorite piece was the fresco of the Monastery of Apollo at Bawit.

The fresco embodies one of the most important contributions of the Coptic era: monasticism. Egypt is known as the birthplace of Christian monasteries. During the third century, monasteries sprang up to shelter and support Egyptians who had started to retreat into the desert to pray. The monastic movement attracted the attention of their co-religionists from other parts of the world and sparked the concept’s global spread.

The fourth-century Monastery of Apollo at Bawit, located near Dairut in the Assiut governorate, is renowned for the architectural and artistic treasures discovered there. The monastery itself lies in ruins, but many of its artifacts and painted niches have been recovered and are on display at the Coptic Museum. Painted on plaster over a whitewashed mud-brick wall, the fresco is a brightly colored mural centered on a haloed Christ with long dark hair framing his long, thin face and wide eyes. He is flanked by two angels, with a smaller image of a martyred saint off to the side.

Another historically poignant piece is the icon of the flight of the Holy Family to Egypt. The country has a very special place in Christianity, going back to the very beginning with the Holy Family’s exile. Dating to the eighteenth or nineteenth century, this oil painting on wood and fabric illustrates this momentous journey in vibrant detail: The Virgin Mary is riding a white donkey as Joseph walks before her carrying the baby Jesus on his right shoulder.

I never really appreciated Egypt’s arid climate until I came to the manuscript exhibits. The preservation of these papyrus and paper manuscripts, some from as early as the fourth century, would not be possible without the hot, dry conditions in which these documents were stored. The Coptic Museum is known for its collection of manuscripts, most notable of which is the Arabic version of the four Gospels. The thick, yellowed pages of this beautiful book depict St. John, drawn in brilliantly colored inks, surrounded by ornate designs of gold trim in the margins.

The museum sees some 200 to 250 visitors per day, most of whom Faltas says are tourists. Don’t be fooled into thinking that the Coptic Museum is only for foreigners or Christians, though — with a collection so diverse and a location that has traditionally been a focal point for Egypt’s religious history, the museum puts you right in the middle of a vivid historical backdrop for today’s society.

Source: Egypt Today

ARCHAEOLOGISTS UNEARTH PHARAONIC STATUES IN EGYPT’S LUXOR

Archaeologists have discovered five complete Pharaonic statues and four statue heads in the Avenue of the Ram-Headed Sphinxes in Karnak in Egypt’s Luxor, MENA news agency reported Monday.

The statues were in an astonishingly very good shape and had hieroglyphic inscriptions on them, MENA said, adding the new finding proved the importance of excavations at the site.
It, however, didn’t give more details about the newly-discovered statues.

The avenue of ram-headed sphinxes led the visitor to the massive front of the first pylon of the Karnak Temple in the ancient city of Luxor, some 690 km away from the capital Cairo.

The huge Karnak Temple, covering an area of 1.2 square kilometers, has sanctuaries, huge columns, obelisks and even a sacred lake. Its main entrance is lined by the ram-headed sphinxes.

Built 3,000 years ago, the Karnak Temple is a vast open-air museum and the largest ancient religious site in the world, and is probably the second most visited ancient sites in Egypt, second only to the Giza Pyramids in western Cairo.

Source: Xinhua People’s Daily Online

An African kingdom on the Nile [Meroe]

SUDAN’S FABLED CITY ON THE LOWER NILE IS BEING EXCAVATED, CONSERVED, AND PREPARED FOR TOURISM

In a lecture at the Canadian Institute of Archaeology in Cairo last month, Krzys Grzymski of the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) described the use of modern technology to uncover the origins and topography, history and development of Meroe, an African kingdom which developed along the upper reaches of the Nile about 200km north of Khartoum between 800 BC and 350 AD. “We began our operations in October 1999, and ancient Meroe is slowly coming to light,” Grzymski said. “We first carried out a comprehensive survey of the area, and we are doing our work slowly and thoroughly. There is probably no greater danger to the preservation of an ancient site than hasty excavations, and much of our first season was spent walking over the entire area and recording surface material.” This exercise produced a number of surprises which included errors in earlier published plans of various buildings, numerous unrecorded inscriptions, some graffiti, and many beautifully carved blocks. “Perhaps the most exciting discovery was a stone block bearing the name of King Anlamani (c. 620-600 BC), one of the earliest datable objects ever found at Meroe,” Grzymski said.

The UNESCO operations sponsored by the Egyptian and Sudanese governments in the 1960s, when the High Dam in Aswan was destined to inundate all of Nubia, did not include Meroe because it did not fall into the threatened area. Those salvage operations did, however, revive interest in the ancient capital city of Kush, and excavations were resumed in 1965 under the directorship of Peter Shinnie. At first these were on behalf of the University of Khartoum, and later in a joint mission with Canada’s University of Calgary. Domestic and industrial areas were unearthed, several iron-smelting furnaces discovered. Also located were temples dedicated to Isis and the Nubian lion-god Apedemak. Excavations revealed what appeared to be part of a processional avenue leading to a large temple. Also found was a prison, so-called because Herodotus, in the sixth century BC, alluded to prisoners kept in chains of gold. Although new light is being cast on Meroe, mysteries remain. And it is with a view to drawing back the veil of uncertainty on the African kingdom that Krzysz Grzymski and co-director Ali Osman are proceeding to excavate two areas of the ancient city: mound M 712, which was identified, but not excavated, by John Garstang, and parts of the Amun temple, the largest building in the city of Meroe which was never adequately studied.
Modern archaeological surveys are not limited to observing the structures visible on the surface. “Thanks to technological developments, it is now possible to identify structures hidden underground by means of a geophysical survey,” Grzymski said. Several different techniques are being used, including a magnetic survey based on identifying anomalies in the ground and a resistivity survey which detects differences in the electrical resistivity of the soil.

Power-point presentations greatly facilitate understanding, but magnetic maps are not for the lay public. Grzymski had to point to part of the area known as the “royal city” (which revealed a large rectangular structure which is possibly a palace), a double row of circles near the city’s southern gate which was at first thought to be a monumental colonnade but was later identified as brick-lined pits filled with rich soil brought up from the Nile’s banks. “Our magnetic map revealed the existence of similar tree pits at the southern gate,” Grzymski said, adding that, “this avenue of verdant trees would have been an impressive sight.”

The project is called the “Meroitic revival” and the aim of the team, in contrast to earlier archaeologists who concentrated exclusively on excavations, is site preservation and conservation. Meroe lies within the rain belt, and during the July-September rainy season its soft Nubian sandstone buildings are exposed to serious water erosion, a hazard unknown further north. It is a seriously threatened area. “Prior to excavations, and on the recommendation of our conservators, we set about trimming trees and removing some of the spoil heaps left by previous excavators,” Grzymski said. “This not only makes the site more attractive to visitors but helps to redirect the flow of water away from endangered structures, and moreover it keeps goats from climbing on and destroying the remaining walls.”

Meroe has become a popular tourist destination, largely because the sight of archaeologists at work is ever a tourist attraction, and also because there are not many alternatives within reach of Khartoum which is only a couple of hours away by car. “We have had to take the increased flow of Sudanese and foreign visitors into account and provide facilities for them,” Grzymski said.

Nubiology is now a recognised discipline. “The study of Nubia extends beyond the Nilotic sites in Egyptian and Sudanese Nubia, into the Eastern Desert as far as the Red Sea coast, and across the Western Desert to include the oases,” Grzymski explained.

Source: Jill Kamil, Al Ahram Weekly on [http://weekly.ahram.org.eg](http://weekly.ahram.org.eg)

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**EAST AFRICA**

**SINGLE REGIONAL VISA FOR TOURISTS COMING IN NOVEMBER**

**The East African (Nairobi)**

Tourists visiting East Africa will have an easier time if a proposal to introduce a common visa is approved by relevant sectoral authorities under the East African Community integration programme.

If approved, the visa will be binding on the three partner states of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

A source at the EAC Secretariat said the proposal was tabled before Immigration heads of the EAC states in Arusha last week.
It followed an appeal by tourist boards of the partner states for a common visa to accelerate promotion of the region as a single tourist destination.

Under the proposal, the new East African tourist visa can be issued by any partner state’s embassy.

Currently, tourists have to visit the respective embassies of the three countries to obtain visas. The EAC Secretariat, which is co-ordinating the move, wants it approved before November’s World Travel Fair in London, one of the largest sources of potential visitors.

The move would also enhance travel by residents within East Africa and contribute to domestic travel in the region. “The common tourist visa is geared towards contributing to sustainable development of the region,” said the EAC source.

Prehistoric humans roamed the world’s largest desert for some 5,000 years, archaeologists have revealed.

The Eastern Sahara of Egypt, Sudan, Libya and Chad was home to nomadic people who followed rains that turned the desert into grassland. When the landscape dried up about 7,000 years ago, there was a mass exodus to the Nile and other parts of Africa.

The close link between human settlement and climate has lessons for today, researchers report in Science. “Even modern day conflicts such as Dafur are caused by environmental degradation as it has been in the past,” Dr Stefan Kropelin of the University of Cologne, Germany, told the BBC News website. “The basic struggle for food, water and pasture is still a big problem in the Sahara zone. This process started thousands of years ago and has a long tradition.”

**Jigsaw puzzle**

The Eastern Sahara, which covers more than 2 million sq km, an area the size of Western Europe, is now almost uninhabited by people or animals, providing a unique window into the past. Dr Kropelin and colleague Dr Rudolph Kuper pieced together the 10,000-year jigsaw of human migration and settlement; studying more than 100 archaeological sites over the course of 30 years.

In the largest study of its kind, they built up a detailed picture of human evolution in the world’s largest desert. They found that far from the inhospitable climate of today, the area was once semi-humid. Between about 14,000 and 13,000 years ago, the area was very dry. But a drastic switch in environmental conditions some 10,500 years ago brought rain and monsoon-like conditions.

Nomadic human settlers moved in from the south, taking up residence beside rivers and lakes. They were hunter-gatherers at first, living off plants and wild game.

Eventually they became more settled, domesticating cattle for the first time, and making intricate pottery.

**Neolithic farmers**

Humid conditions prevailed until about 6,000 years ago, when the Sahara abruptly dried out. There was then a gradual exodus of people to the Nile Valley and other parts of the African continent. “The Nile Valley was almost devoid of settlement until about exactly the time that the Egyptian Sahara was so dry...
Guidelines Internetion@l

people could not live there anymore,” Dr Kropelin told the BBC News website. “People preferred to live on savannah land. Only when this wasn’t possible they migrated towards southern Sudan and the Nile. “They brought all their know-how to the rest of the continent - the domestication of cattle was invented in the Sahara in the humid phase and was then slowly pushed over the rest of Africa. “This Neolithic way of life, which still is a way of life in a sense; preservation of food for the dry season and many other such cultural elements, was introduced to central and southern Africa from the Sahara.”

Motor of evolution

Dr Kuper said the distribution of people and languages, which is so politically important today, has its roots in the desiccation of the Sahara. The switch in environmental conditions acted as a “motor of Africa’s evolution,” he said. “It happened during these 5,000 years of the savannah that people changed from hunter-gathers to cattle keepers,” he said.

“This important step in human history has been made for the first time in the African Sahara.”

Source: Helen Briggs, bbc on http://news.bbc.co.uk

THE GAMBIA

STONE CIRCLES OF SENEGAMBIA, THE LATEST ADDITION TO THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST

The World Heritage Committee sitting at its 30th session in Vilnius, Lithuania, has approved the inscription of the Stone Circles of the Senegambia in the World Heritage List. This is The Gambia’s second inscription in the prestigious list which constitute cultural and natural sites of outstanding universal value which form the common heritage of humankind, and whose protection is the obligation of the international community as a whole. The Gambia obtained its first inscription under James Island and Related Sites in 2003. In recognizing the universal significance of the Stone Circles, the World Heritage Committee cited the fulfillment of criteria I and III of the World Heritage Convention’s conditions for inscription in the World Heritage List, noting that:

Criterion I. The finely worked individual stones display precise and skilful stone working practices and contribute to the imposing order and grandeur of the overall stone circles complex.

Criterion III. The nominated stone circles, represent the wider megalithic zone, in which the survival of so many circles is a unique manifestation of construction and funerary practices which persisted for over a millennia across a sweep of landscape, and reflects a sophisticated and productive society. It will be recalled that the stone circles complex is a trans-border phenomena which extends/radiates from the River Gambia north to the River Saloum in Senegal. In December 2004 the National Council for Arts and Culture spearheaded a workshop which brought together Gambian and Senegalese heritage officials with a view to harmonizing/synchronizing a World Heritage Nomination dossier and developing a management plan for the circles. From the workshop the most representative sites in Gambia (Wassu and Kerbatch) and Senegal (Sine Ngayen and Wanar) were identified for nomination. These are the sites that have now been inscribed in the World Heritage List. It is to be noted that
megalithic phenomena is widespread in the world and is manifested in various configurations and sizes and served diverse functions over a long period of human history. Some studies have asserted that there are links between megalithic phenomena worldwide, but no functional relationship has been scientifically established between these cultures which are often separated by more than 5000Km.

Although the stone circles are smaller in dimension than their counterparts at Stonehenge in the UK, or Carnac in France, the presence of such a large number of stones in a delimited space is found nowhere else in the world. The Senegambian complex comprises 1053 stone circles with up to 52 circles on a single site, and not only a few isolated circles as found in Europe or other parts of the world.

Many questions continue to be asked about the significance of the circles, their purpose, or who built them. What is certain is that they are burial grounds. The burials are either single or multiple. Grave goods, as in the objects interred with the body, consist of body adornment limited to a bracelet on the wrist; and the individual is buried with a weapon, usually a spear. Some pottery are also found, usually upside down. The burials appear to be pre-islamic in nature. On the whole the stone circles testify to a highly sophisticated and organized society with an early knowledge of iron-working, and a belief in life after death. As the burial goods continue to be extant and in use in the vicinities in which they are found, there is no need to look elsewhere for the circle builders.

The NCAC would like to take this opportunity to thank all individuals and institutions who assisted in the nomination process, including the villagers around the sites who have for long realized the importance of this invaluable legacy and have done so much to conserve them. Special thanks is extended to the Africa 2009 Programme for the Conservation of Immovable Cultural Heritage in Sub-Saharan Africa for assisting in the process as well as providing training opportunities for the staff who have day to day responsibility for the circles, both in The Gambia and Senegal.

Source: thepoint.gm on http://www.thepoint.gm

SOUTH AFRICA

SKELETON ‘ALMOST CERTAINLY’ THAT OF KHOISAN

An archaeologist who examined the human skeleton unearthed in the grounds of one of the Noetzie castles near Knysna is “almost certain” it is that of a Khoisan teenager buried in pre-colonial times.

Knysna police have meanwhile opened an inquest docket and the skeleton is in the town’s mortuary.

The Cape Times asked the Knysna police whether their opening an inquest docket meant they disagreed with the archaeologist and suspected a crime, but they would not comment.

A police spokesman in George said the bones would be sent for forensic examination in his town, but he could not say how long this would take.

Dave Halkett, an archaeologist with the University of Cape Town, said on Wednesday he had visited the site, but the skeleton had been removed.

“it was already out by the time I got there.
"From what I could see at the mortuary, the remains would be consistent with a Khoisan burial," Halkett said.
"It is almost certainly a Khoisan individual.
"The police had taken the skull and most of the big bones.
"It was also certainly a complete skeleton.
"We sieved the pile of earth for other human remains and recovered additional smaller bones, from fingers and toes."

The skeleton was unearthed during excavations for the redevelopment of the castle by the new owners, Pezula Private Estate.

The Knysna municipality stopped excavations last week as they had not authorised the plans for the septic tanks.

Heritage Western Cape, which had not been informed of the human remains, also ordered the excavations to be halted after members of the public had alerted them.

Asked about the significance of the remains, Halkett said: "There is an extensive prehistoric midden on the property, produced by the people who lived on the coast in the past, and this individual is one of those people, a direct representative of them.

"Burials are important to archaeologists because they can be used to indicate things like the diet of the people who lived there, the date they lived there and so on."

Halkett said the skeleton had certain features that would suggest the person had died young, possibly in his or her teens.

Source: Melanie Gosling, IOL South Africa on http://www.int.iol.co.za

How the bow and arrow helped humans to colonise the world

The invention of the world's first bows and arrows may have played a part in the eventual colonisation of much of the world by Homo sapiens.

In a groundbreaking paper published yesterday, Paul Mellars, one of Britain's leading archaeologists and a Cambridge professor, suggests Homo sapiens' dominance of much of the world was triggered by a technological revolution which caused a demographic explosion between 60,000 and 80,000 years ago. As a result, the population of one particular human ethnic group expanded up to 1,000 times over.

Source: David Keys, The Independent on http://news.independent.co.uk/world
VICTOR LEAL ESTÉVEZ

Victor, The winner of the 2003 Jane Orde Scholarship sadly died in 2005 but he was born in Guatemala, where he worked as a free lance tourist guide from 1978. At the end of his regular High School, he began tourism studies at Guatemala private school for Tourist Guides getting a degree in 1977. In 1978 he began studies to become professional tourist guide at the Technical Institute for Capacity and Productivity, INTECAP, (professional tourism education division) getting the official Professional Tourist Guide Title from the Labour and Social Foresight Ministry of the Government of Guatemala. He also finished Hotel Management and Tour Operator technical studies from the same Institute. Victor was the Founding Member of AGTG Guatemala Tourist Guides Association, a board member and President since year 2001. Victor become World Federation of Tourist Guides Associations Area Representative for Spanish speaking Americas after attending the 2003 Convention in Dunblane Scotland. Victor was one of the WFTGA first Jane Orde Scholarship winners. Due to his hard work at developing and promoting tourist guides world wide and in his region and many other criterias which he met to win the scholarship.

Victor was very much looking forward to coming to Egypt a life long dream of his and to meet with all of us again and meet the challenges of our ever changing profession.

THE GUILD OF PROFESSIONAL TOUR GUIDES OF WASHINGTON, DC

2007 Guild Awards

The awards are given annually:

Jill Blakeman Award (Guide of the Year): A Full Member whose work best exemplifies the spirit of the Guild, who has made an original and significant contribution to the operations of the Guild, and who has advanced the guiding profession in some other significant way. (Current and past Guild presidents are not eligible for the award.)

Tourism Industry Contribution Award: An individual or organization, not necessarily a Guild member, that has provided particularly valuable and distinguished service to the Guild, the guiding profession or tourism in the Washington area.

Motor Coach Operator Award: The motorcoach operator (local or regional) who has best contributed to the team spirit of guiding and to the care and comfort of the passengers. The coach operator also is conscientious about the condition of the coach.

SCIENTISTS LAUNCH TWO-YEAR PROJECT TO MAP NEANDERTHAL’S GENOME

U.S. and German scientists launched a two-year project to decipher Neanderthals’ genetic code, a feat that they hope will help deepen understanding of how modern humans’ brains evolved.

Neanderthals were a species of the Homo genus who lived in Europe and western Asia from more than 200,000 years ago to as little as roughly 30,000 years ago.
Scientists from Germany’s Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology are teaming up with Branford, Connecticut-based 454 Life Sciences Corp. to map the Neanderthal genome, or DNA code.

“The Neanderthal is the closest relative to the modern human, and we believe that by sequencing the Neanderthal we can learn a lot,” said Michael Egholm, the vice president of molecular biology at 454, which will use its high-speed sequencing technology in the project.

There are no firm answers yet about how humans picked up key traits such as walking upright and developing complex language. Neanderthals are believed to have been relatively sophisticated, but lacking in humans’ higher reasoning functions.

The Neanderthal project follows scientists’ achievement last year in deciphering the DNA of the chimpanzee, our closest living relative, which produced a long list of DNA differences with the chimp and some hints about which ones might be crucial.

The chimp genome “led to literally too many questions, there were 35 million differences between us and chimpanzees — that’s too much to figure out,” Jonathan Rothberg, 454’s chairman, said in a telephone interview.

“By having Neanderthal, we’ll really be able to home in on the small percentage of differences that gave us higher cognitive abilities,” he said. “Neanderthal is going to open the box. It’s not going to answer the question, but it’s going to tell where to look to understand all of those higher cognitive functions.”

Over two years, the scientists aim to reconstruct a draft of the 3 billion building blocks of the Neanderthal genome working with fossil samples from several individuals.

They face the complication of working with 40,000-year-old samples, and of filtering out microbial DNA that contaminated them after death.

About 5 percent of the DNA in the samples is actually Neanderthal DNA, Egholm estimated, but he and Rothberg said pilot experiments had convinced them that the decoding was feasible.

At the Max Planck Institute, the project also involves Svante Paabo, who nine years ago participated in a pioneering, though smaller-scale, DNA test on a Neanderthal sample.

That study suggested that Neanderthals and humans split from a common ancestor a half-million years ago and backed the theory that Neanderthals were an evolutionary dead end.

The new project will help in understanding how characteristics unique to humans evolved and “will also identify those genetic changes that enabled modern humans to leave Africa and rapidly spread around the world,” Paabo said in a statement Thursday.

Source: Berlin (AP)

TRAVEL INDUSTRY ECO-CERTIFICATION PROGRAM PILOT LAUNCHED IN NORTH AMERICA

Sustainable Travel International (STI) has officially pilot launched its Sustainable Tourism Eco-certification Program™ (STEP) in North America.
STEP is a voluntary certification initiative developed by STI in conjunction with stakeholders from around the world for the travel and tourism industry. It's designed to assist travel and tourism providers in identifying, measuring and managing their environmental, socio-cultural, and economic impacts. Though similar initiatives exist in other countries, STEP is currently the only unsubsidized, non-profit eco-certification program of its kind that will be available globally.

Before formally launching the program in the U.S. and Canada, STEP will be piloted in conjunction with leading accommodations, attractions, tour operators and transportation service providers in these regions. Participating companies will go through the eco-certification process and provide suggestions for refining and further streamlining the program. They'll also have an opportunity to be among the first to be Eco-certified in North America.

“We have been developing the program in a transparent manner, involving stakeholders from around the world, for the last three years,” explains Brian T. Mullis, STI President. “Our primary focus is to offer a user-friendly system that doubles as an educational and marketing tool and compliments other existing sustainable tourism eco-certification programs while limiting the barriers to entry for travel and tourism-related companies of all sizes.”

Participation in the STEP Pilot Launch is limited and is available on a first come first served basis. Companies based in the U.S. and Canada that are interested in participating are encouraged to contact STI. For more information on STEP, email STI, call 720-273-2975, or visit www.ecocertification.org.

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL AND GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Publish New Manual on Creating Ecotourism Destinations

Determining if a destination is suitable for sustainable ecotourism is not an easy task. However, a new publication produced by Conservation International (CI) and The George Washington University (GW) provides field practitioners with tools to perform rapid assessments and analysis of potential ecotourism destinations.

Titled “Linking Communities, Tourism and Conservation—A Tourism Assessment Process,” the new manual offers practitioners with a practical guide for planning ecotourism sites that safeguard a destination’s cultural heritage, enhance its natural environment, and improve the welfare of the local population. The manual provides a detailed planning framework and easy-to-use processes for:

1. Conducting an inventory of attractions;
2. Analyzing market demand and competitiveness; and,

“The goal of this new manual is to help determine whether a destination is suitable or unsuitable for sustainable tourism,” said Eileen Gutierrez, ecotourism advisor at CI. “In addition, the publication shows how ecotourism can work to benefit conservation and help provide opportunities for local communities.”

Containing criteria and principles on how to properly build sustainable and ecotourism developments, the hands-on manual also is a tool for those engaged in applying tourism as a strategy for biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction.
Within the manual are sample worksheets that help practitioners create interview questions, surveys, matrixes, and recommendations that focus on such subjects as involving local stakeholders, attractions inventory, infrastructure and services, market demand analysis, supply and competitiveness, human and institutional capacity, socio-economic, cultural and natural resource use considerations, environmental and biodiversity footprint, and cost benefit analysis.

“This manual was created to help those with limited resources who want to create ecotourism sites in the correct manner,” said Kristin Lamoureux, director of the International Institute of Tourism Studies at GW. “But it also is an important tool because it incorporates biodiversity conservation and local community benefits.”

To obtain a free PDF copy of "Linking Communities, Tourism and Conservation—A Tourism Assessment Process," please send an email to ecotour@conservation.org.

The biodiversity hotspots are 34 regions worldwide where 75 percent of the planet's most threatened mammals, birds, and amphibians survive within habitat covering just 2.3 percent of the Earth's surface (roughly equivalent to the combined areas of the five largest U.S. states). This habitat originally covered 15.7 percent of the Earth's surface, an area equivalent in size to Russia and Australia combined. New hotspot analysis shows that an estimated 50 percent of all vascular plants and 42 percent of terrestrial vertebrates exist only in these 34 hotspots.

Conservation International (CI) applies innovations in science, economics, policy and community participation to protect the Earth’s richest regions of plant and animal diversity and demonstrate that human societies can live harmoniously with nature. Founded in 1987, CI works in more than 40 countries on four continents to help people find economic alternatives without harming their natural environments. For more information about CI, visit www.conservation.org.

International Institute of Tourism Studies at the George Washington University continues to play a leadership role through its global tourism research and academic programs. Today, the business school's Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management and International Institute of Tourism Studies offers academic opportunities in tourism administration, event management, sport management, and sustainable destination management for undergraduate, master’s, and professional students.

GW's School of Business prepares students for professional management careers. The depth and variety of its academic and professional programs, including five specialized master's programs, provide rich opportunities for students in the school's core Bachelor of Business Administration, Master of Business Administration and doctoral programs. GW's undergraduate- and graduate-level international business programs rank among the world’s best. For more information about GW School of Business, visit www.business.gwu.edu.

Contact: Julian Teixeria, j.teixeira@conservation.org

CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING

Within the world’s biodiversity hotspots, poverty is driving people to pursue livelihoods that often destroy the very natural resources on which they rely. Increasingly, governments, local communities, and NGOs are pursuing ecotourism as part of the solution. CI actively supports these efforts by building...
their capacities to design and implement ecotourism programs that truly address conservation issues and create needed jobs and income opportunities.

CI has developed and successfully used its participatory workshops, seminars and training courses to promote ecotourism as an alternative and help communities, businesses, and other local stakeholders develop competitive ecotourism products and destinations. The tools used to undertake this work have traditionally addressed a range of topics including: Business Planning for Environmental Enterprises; Community Ecotourism Education and Awareness; Ecotourism Product Development; and, Linking Communities, Tourism & Conservation: A Tourism Assessment Process. Most recently, CI in partnership with The George Washington University has developed the Ecotourism Learning Program.

**Ecotourism Learning Program with The George Washington University**

CI has partnered with The George Washington University (GW)—a leader in ecotourism and sustainable tourism education for more than 25 years—to develop a specialist training course in ecotourism. Piloted successfully in Gabon in 2005, the program consists of eight courses that aim to increase the knowledge of practitioners and program managers worldwide. Course subjects include sustainable ecotourism concepts, tourism assessments, product development, tourism marketing, project design and management, fundraising, and becoming a trainer. The courses will be carried out in conjunction with local institutions to provide a center for ongoing instruction.

**Tourism Assessment Process with The George Washington University**

CI’s ecotourism program and GW’s tourism innovation and research unit have developed “Linking Communities, Tourism & Conservation: A Tourism Assessment Process” - a guide to help donors and practitioners assess current and potential tourism destinations.

The manual presents easy-to-use processes for conducting inventories of attractions; analyzing market demand and competitiveness; evaluating potential social, cultural, economic, and environmental effects; and presenting final recommendations on tourism development. It is also currently being used as a component of the Ecotourism Training Program. Please email ecotour@conservation.org for a copy of the manual.

Besides producing resources to disseminate best practices, CI incorporates capacity building into all of its regional activities so that strong local partners sustain them. The following are examples.

**Ecotourism Training and Curriculum Development in Gabon**

In 2005 CI delivered a training course and workshop in this highly biodiverse Central African country. Participants came from a range of Gabonese organizations, including government tourism and parks programs, training institutions, hotellers, tour operators, and local NGOs concerned with biodiversity conservation in Gabon. The first half of the program focused on the dimensions and impacts of tourism and criteria for ecotourism. Through interactive discussions, participants produced strategies and institutional structures for managing tourism in national parks and maximizing tourism revenues. The second half of the program examined the jobs and skills needed to implement those strategies, resulting in an outline of recommendations on key jobs areas and the training necessary to meet ecotourism labor needs in Gabon. CI worked with The George Washington University to deliver this targeted training.
Ensuring that Tourism Enhances Biodiversity Conservation in Three Destinations

In response to the ecological threat tourism presents, Rainforest Alliance, Conservation International, The Programme for Belize and the Ecuadorian Ecotourism Association (Asociación Ecuatoriana de Ecoturismo), working in collaboration with the private sector in each country, have come together under the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) Global Environment Facility (GEF) to promote and disseminate the best management practices for tourism in each of these three regions.

Entitled “Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation into Tourism Through the Development and Dissemination of Best Practices,” the two-year project will support sustainable tourism and conservation by identifying best management practices and developing training manuals and workshops in sustainable tourism management for local tourism businesses, including hotels, tour companies and cruise lines.

Ensuring that Tourism Enhances Biodiversity Conservation in Three Magical Destinations

Nature seems to play favorites with certain places, endowing them with impressive vistas, lush vegetation and remarkable wildlife. Belize’s Cayo District boasts Mayan ruins, a wealth of biodiversity, rushing rivers, breathtaking mountains and mysterious tropical rainforests. The Galapagos Islands, which inspired Darwin’s theory of evolution, are a treasure trove of wildlife and unique species. And the Mindo Chocó cloud forest in Ecuador rewards visitors with a wide variety of flora and fauna, including a multitude of tropical birds.

These naturally endowed regions have become magnets for visitors, who may inadvertently threaten the very places they are coming to enjoy.

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“With our conjoined efforts we hope to create –by means of our skills, experiences and relationships– tangible results in the conservation of the ecosystems of Belize and Ecuador,” affirms Jamie Sweeting, Senior Director of Travel & Leisure at the nonprofit organization Conservation International. “We believe that by promoting the supply-and-demand approach to tourism, all of the participants will benefit from sustainable best management practices.”

Project staff will identify best management practices appropriate for tourism in tropical rainforests and coastal/marine ecosystems,
Efforts to Conserve Biodiversity

- Develop manuals for sustainable tourism best management practices in tropical forests and coastal/marine areas
- Supply information about applying tourism best management practices to 2,000 interested entrepreneurs through participation in seminars and other methods of dissemination
- Train 400 business people in best management practices, certification, marketing and monitoring
- Assess 50 tourism businesses to indicate areas in which they should improve or establish sustainable practices
- Support 25 to 30 businesses with technical and financial assistance so they can more easily adopt best practices
- At least 10 businesses from the three regions will participate in programs linked to the Sustainable Tourism Certification Network of the Americas, the regional entity that brings together the continent’s certification programs and other key sustainable tourism organizations that provide them with technical and promotional support

develop bilingual manuals that can be used in training workshops, and build a cadre of training leaders who can share the best practices with tourism entrepreneurs. Simultaneously, the project will work with major inbound and outbound operators to build and develop the sustainable tourism supply chain.

“Training is fundamental as it generates the awareness necessary for the participants to fully commit themselves to sustainable practices,” notes Ronald Sanabria, Director of the Rainforest Alliance’s sustainable tourism program. “Training, done in partnership with the tourism industry, will enable us to achieve our objective – namely, conserving the biodiversity of the Cayo District, Mindo Chocó and the Galapagos Islands.”

Entrepreneurs who participate in the training will also have the option of receiving an assessment of their businesses to identify areas where the impact on natural and cultural resources could be improved. Participants who demonstrate a strong commitment to adopting best management practices will benefit from the project’s efforts to develop effective marketing tools and link them with international tour operators eager to respond to clients’ growing demands for vacations that are not only memorable but also benefit the conservation of these natural and cultural attractions.

Source: Conservation International/ David Krantz

WHAT PARIS AND CORAL REEFS HAVE IN COMMON, OR: ‘TOURIST GUIDES, BEWARE OF DAMSELFISH TERRITORY!’

What do you think of a guide accompanying tourists on a tour through Paris and omitting to provide the history – or to even mention the existence - of places such as the Moulin Rouge, the Place de la Concorde or the Eiffel Tower?

Agreed, my example might sound a bit simplistic - or even absurd! Yet, while we all agree on a set of minimum standards in terms of quality for guided land-
based activities, the same seems not (yet) to apply for guided tours related to water-based activities – or more specifically, to the coral seas of this planet. Let me explain:

Every year, approximately nine million scuba divers hit the warm waters in the tropical equatorial belt of our globe, fins on their feet and mask tightly strapped to their nose, exploring the colorful world of our coral reefs. Add to that an even more important number of snorkelers of all ages enjoying coral reef-related activities, and you get the picture of the importance of reef-based tourism taking place annually in the Caribbean, Pacific, Indian, Atlantic Ocean and Red Sea.

For those of you that enjoy the occasional snorkel tour or engage into scuba diving, the following remarks may sound very familiar: "Oh look, how this beautiful ..erm... blue-spotted creature is... trying to bury itself into the sand?!” or "Hey, did you see this yellow-grey little fish swimming up right to my mask to... play with me?” (* see below for the correct answers). Observations like this make us aware about the huge gap that separates land-based guided tours form coral reef-based tour activities. Besides a few misplaced facts and the occasional name of a reef fish, dive professionals and snorkel guides accompanying tourists on a tour through the reef mostly lack basic understanding of the coral reef ecosystem. Fascinating coral reef organism behaviours, food-web relationships that exist between various marine creatures, the 'daily social life' at a fish cleaning station are just a few examples that illustrate the incredible array of interesting stories that can make a visit to the coral reef an unforgettable one. The only problem is: coral reef tour guides mostly don't know anything about it!

Dive pro tourist guides are in the happy position that underwater communication is quite impossible – but the embarrassment can be important back on the dive boat when divemasters and scuba instructors are bombarded with questions from excited divers trying to understand what they just saw during their dive. The same is valid for snorkel guides when possessing only sketchy knowledge of the coral reef playground they explore.

Yet, who is to blame for this lack of knowledge on the side of dive & snorkel tour guides? Coral reef-based educational programs for tourist guides wanting to learn more seemed to be entirely missing–but not anymore! The Montreal-based company Beautiful Oceans has developed an original course program to fill this gap. Through well-designed, scientifically validated yet easy-to-understand coral reef biology courses that can be applied in water, dive professionals and snorkel guides may now learn the fascinating intricacies of the coral reef ecosystem and its inhabitants. And the best is: Science Instructor Development Courses (SIDCs) are open to any tour guide and are also available online! High quality course material such as course manuals and even submersible dive slates are available to tourists and allow to take the knowledge to the reef.

Beautiful Oceans also donates 10% of its profits – or 1% of its revenues (whichever is greater) to local projects of coral reef conservation. Snorkeling best practices and diving best practices are part of the educational program and position Beautiful Oceans as a coral reef ecotourism company while Science Instructors become credible stewards of coral reefs.

To learn more, log on to www.beautifulocean.com or www.pro.beautifuloceans.com.

* The first creature might have been a Red Sea blue-spotted ray (Dasyatis kuhlii) preying on a crustacean. Rays possess electroreception senses, detecting prey even when buried invisibly in the sand. The 'little yellow-grey
fish' might have been a Caribbean threespot damselfish (Stegastes planifrons). Like many damselfish species, the threespot damselfish literally 'farms' and defends a patch of algae on the surface of corals to impress females. Females chose their mate based on the quality of his algae patch: a well-kept garden is a sure sign that a male has the patience and the strength to defend the females' eggs against a hungry predator. In the words of one marine biologist, "male damselfishes use a well-kept algae patch to attract females in the same way a human might attempt to get a date by driving an expensive sports car."
TOURIST GUIDES “SHINE” FOR TORONTO’S HOMELESS

By Pam Cook

Once again members of the CTGA of Toronto opened their hearts not only on the bus tour to Cambridge where they raised a total of over $150.00 supporting the raffle which was used to do a bulk food shopping for the Good Shepherd Centre, but they also “shone” with kindness on the day of our Annual Christmas Tour and Lunch where we so much enjoyed Bruce Bell and the St. Lawrence District along with a great lunch with fun and prizes at Hot House Cafe.

We literally overflowed the back end of the pickup truck with donations and the inside back seat was packed to the roof with food, baking and loads of non-perishable items and gifts.

Several cash donations were received during the lunch so we did another large bulk shopping which was delivered again just before Christmas.

Letters of thanks were received from Good Shepherd Centre due to the three deliveries.

Bravo, Tourist Guides! It makes one very proud to be a part of CTGA of Toronto, a great group of people with great “shining” hearts!

INTERNATIONAL TOURIST GUIDE DAY 2006

The Canadian Tour Guide Association of Toronto celebrated International Tourist Guide Day 2006 by providing a program of free coach tours to local residents and visitors. Walking tours of the immediate neighbourhood were also offered. We held our event on March 21, 2006 as we could anticipate better weather on that day than we could on February 21, the date when International Tourist Guide Day is usually observed.

We were pleased and proud to have several local tour operators/destination management companies, local tourist attractions and five coach companies among our sponsors for the day as well as the City of Toronto and Tourism Toronto.

The City of Toronto gave us the use of the rotunda of Metro Hall, a city office tower located in the Entertainment District (theatres, symphony, restaurants),
as our centre of activities. From here we dispatched enthusiastic participants on their coach and walking tours after they had an opportunity to view the several exhibits set up by our sponsors for this event and by CTGA in the rotunda.

Originally expected to depart hourly from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, the tours were so popular and our visitors so enthusiastic that we were dispatching coaches much more frequently. Members of the association enjoyed giving their guests a short but thorough tour of the neighbourhoods of the downtown core including the Entertainment District, the Old Town of York (our oldest neighbourhood), the Financial District, the shopping areas around and including the Eaton Centre, the City Hall area and University Avenue, Queen’s Park, the University of Toronto, Chinatown and Harbourfront.

When the day was over, members were gratified that it had turned out so well and the free tours had been so well received. Our guests had fun and enjoyed their tours. We, in turn, were confident that we had done a good job of raising our profile as tourist guides among the general population and made them more aware of what we do as guides. We also made them aware of the purposes and programs of CTGA of Toronto and of the World Federation of Tourist Guide Associations.

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**ISRAEL PLANS ON OPENING MONTREAL TOURISM OFFICE**

Israel plans to open a tourism office in Montreal this spring, conditional upon the Israeli cabinet’s adoption of its budget, says Dani Shahal, director of the Israel Government Tourist Office (IGTO) in Toronto.

Shahal said that if the cabinet approves the budget at the end of this month, the Montreal office could open in March or April. The initiative has been approved in principle by the tourism ministry, he added.
The IGTO has not had an office in Montreal for about 27 years, he said.

Shahal, who has been IGTO director since October, 2001, believes Israel could attract far more tourists from Quebec – both Jewish and non-Jewish – if the IGTO had a representative in Montreal. He believes there is a “huge potential” market among the non-Jewish population that Israel is not tapping into.

Shahal said his preference is to locate the Montreal office downtown, separate from the Israeli consulate, and to have it run by a Canadian.

The IGTO estimates that 7,000 to 8,000 Quebecers visited Israel in 2005, about 70 per cent of them Jewish. Approximately 50,000 Canadians in total visited Israel last year, of whom 60 per cent were Jewish, Shahal said. That’s up from 42,000 in 2004. The IGTO is projecting 58,000 Canadians will visit Israel this year.

As it has elsewhere in Canada, tourism to Israel from Quebec fell after the start of the second intifadah in 2000 but has started to recover. The IGTO believes up to 9,000 people from Quebec were going to Israel per year just before the violence began.

In addition, tourism from Quebec was hurt by Air Canada’s cancellation of its twice-weekly direct flights between Montreal and Tel Aviv at the end of 2000, Shahal said. He said he is trying to persuade the carrier to restore that service.

Israel’s national airline, El Al, stopped its flights out of Montreal in the late 1990s. Shahal does not believe that will change.

He believes the IGTO should be making a greater effort in Quebec to market Israel as a tourist destination, as well as a destination of religious significance to Christians and Jews. In 2006, he expects that non-Jews will represent a larger proportion of the Quebec tourists.

Shahal said 400 Canadian religious groups are already confirmed to tour Israel in 2006, and almost 90 of those are from Quebec. He said that greater ease of movement between Jerusalem and Bethlehem, with the relaxing of security checks, has led to an upsurge in Christian pilgrims from around the world.

The IGTO also plans to more vigorously promote tourism in the Montreal Jewish community, including asking rabbis to impress upon their congregants the importance of going to Israel.

The renewed interest in Quebec by Israel is a major turnaround from only four years ago, when Israel was about to close its consulate in Montreal, and only relented after pressure from Jewish community leaders.

Source: Janice Arnold, Canadian News
JACKIE CHAN JOINS UNWTO TO FIGHT FOR TOURISM

Action film hero Jackie Chan has a new cause to fight for as the World Tourism Organization’s (UNWTO) first “Asia-Pacific Tourism Ambassador”. In his new role, Jackie Chan will help promote tourism as a means of fighting poverty throughout the region.

“I am really honoured to receive this Asia-Pacific Tourism Ambassador award,” said the actor. “I will do my best to achieve the tasks you have given me: to promote tourism in a healthy and sustainable way, and to help people who are less fortunate through tourism.”

Mr. Chan said he has travelled the world making his films and, in that way, has tried to turn the spotlight on different tourism destinations. But he promised that from now on, in his new capacity, he would do a better job.

“Now when I slide down a building, I will make sure it becomes a tourist attraction,” he joked.

Jackie Chan, already an honorary professor at the School of Hotel and Tourism Management of Hong Kong Polytechnic University, received a plaque today from UNWTO Secretary-General Francesco Frangialli at a brief ceremony held in Macau to celebrate his appointment.

“I am extremely happy that UNWTO Tourism Ambassador Jackie Chan will officially join us to promote Asia and the Pacific as a prime tourist destination and help communicate important messages about poverty alleviation,” said Mr. Frangialli.

In addition to being Asia’s most popular martial artist, film director, actor and stuntman, Jackie Chan is active in numerous charities in Asia. In Hong Kong, he sponsors the Jackie Chan Charitable Foundation to help impoverished children and the elderly, and made substantial contributions to help with the fight the SARS epidemic in 2002.

SINGAPORE TOURISM BOARD UNVEILS KEY INITIATIVES TO SPUR GROWTH IN THE MICE INDUSTRY

The Singapore Tourism Board (STB) launched a set of initiatives to propel the growth of the MICE industry to meet the targets envisioned for the Business Travel & MICE (BTMICE) sector in the Tourism 2015 strategic blueprint and to establish Singapore as the Exchange Capital of the World.

Held at the Red Dot Museum, the launch was officiated by the Minister for Trade and Industry, Mr. Lim Hng Kiang, and attended by some 400 guests from the industry, media and public sector.

The new initiatives mark a milestone in the STB’s efforts to rally the industry partners here and abroad to drive growth in the volume and calibre of business events staged in Singapore, and to capitalise on the opportunities brought about by the transformation taking place in Singapore’s MICE landscape.

With new developments such as the Marina Bay Sands and the re-development of the Marina Bay area into an integrated, compact and vibrant MICE location that will offer 200,000 sqm of convention and exhibition space, as well as appealing leisure options, the stage is set for the STB to partner the industry to concertedly and aggressively bid, attract, create and grow strategic business events.
Amidst intensifying competition for the MICE dollar, Singapore needs to differentiate itself beyond its current value proposition. In defining the new value proposition, Mr Lim said in his speech: "Singapore needs to move beyond being merely an efficient and effective venue. We must become a catalyst for business success. Singapore aspires to be an exchange capital where talent, technology and ideas converge to create synergistic value for both business events and visitors".

Echoing his comments, Mr Aloysius Arlando, Assistant Chief Executive, Business Travel and MICE Group, Singapore Tourism Board said: "Singapore seeks to bring value to business events through leveraging our key industries, pro-business environment and global connectivity. Our goal is to be a top MICE destination which offers MICE visitors many opportunities to exchange ideas, network, explore business prospects, and develop human capital."

“We need to tap into our strategic location, cosmopolitan and vibrant tourism offerings, and extensive global connectivity to deliver value and enriching experiences to all business visitors. Corporate end-users and decision makers who choose Singapore as the venue for their business events will also stand to gain from a dynamic and pro-business environment which leverages a strong economic base comprising key industries that are pivotal to the success of MICE business,” added Mr Arlando.

The BTMICE sector accounted for approximately 30 per cent or SGD 3 billion of total tourism receipts in 2004. STB aims to substantially raise its contribution to at least 35 per cent or SGD10.5 billion by 2015. This translates into an average annual growth rate of 15% over the next ten years.

To realise this vision and to galvanise the BTMICE industry, the STB will implement the new value proposition by aligning its business and marketing strategies to position Singapore as the catalyst to business success.

It will embark on the following key initiatives

**New business strategy: The Strategic Cluster Approach**

The STB’s new business strategy for the MICE industry will entail a close collaboration between Singapore Inc. agencies and industry partners within key economic clusters to create, grow and attract business events that are centred on the nation’s key economic drivers and initiatives. These include clusters such as biomedical sciences, ICT and digital media, environment and water technologies, banking and finance, transportation and logistics and tourism.

In essence, this strategy seeks to leverage Singapore’s key economic sectors in order to develop a strong ecosystem of business events, thus complementing the development plan of these sectors, while creating buzz and strengthening the strategic position of Singapore as an exchange capital for each of these clusters.

**“BE in Singapore or Business Events in Singapore “ Incentive Scheme**

The STB is committing S$170 million drawn out of the S$2 billion Tourism Development Fund to finance the development of business events over the next five years (2006-2010).

Called "BE in Singapore", this is an umbrella incentive scheme that supports the evolving and varied needs of the MICE industry. Developed in consultation with the industry, this incentive scheme empowers the industry to attract, bid for and grow a sustainable volume of strategic business events to support the development of key clusters that make up Singapore’s economic base.
To complement the business events incentive scheme, the STB will embark on initiatives to entice International Organisations to establish their Asia-Pacific base in Singapore. It will also encourage the domestic MICE industry to forge stronger partnerships so as to strengthen its marketing and business development presence globally.

**Global Marketing and Advertising Campaign - “Singapore, Where Great Things Happen”**

To entrench Singapore’s value proposition as the catalyst to business success, the STB will embark on a 3-year global marketing and advertising campaign for the MICE industry, revolving around the tagline, "Singapore, Where Great Things Happen".

It will showcase Singapore as a MICE destination of choice which not merely offers world-class venues to suit all kinds of business events, but also provides the platform for a rewarding exchange of ideas, networking and business prospects.

Consisting of print advertising, publicity and marketing activities, the campaign will be launched in Singapore and then rolled out pan-regionally. It will be augmented by marketing activities in overseas markets.

Seven ad creatives have been developed. Two of these will focus on Singapore’s strengths as a leading MICE destination, while an additional five will focus on aviation, biomedical sciences, infocomm and media, environmental technology, and banking and finance clusters.

This global advertising campaign will be a one-year campaign, which will kick off pan-regionally, followed by in-market advertising. Subsequently, the campaign will be reviewed and refreshed on a year-on-year basis. It will be seen in pan-regional print media, pan-regional trade publications and print media in major overseas markets such as Europe, America, China, India and Japan.

*Source: Michael Verikios, Travel Daily News*

**SINGAPORE LAUNCHES MUSLIM VISITOR’S GUIDE**

The Singapore Tourism Board (STB) has launched a new Muslim Visitor’s Guide, as part of its campaign to attract visitors to the South East Asian Island state. The guide features essential information on annual events, cultural districts of Singapore, major shopping areas and vital visitor advice written specifically for Muslim tourists.

It also features a list of restaurants certified by MUIS, the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore, so that visitors can comfortably find Halal food in a variety of Singaporean, Chinese, Malay, Indian and Middle Eastern eating places when they visit the country.

The guide is being supported by a new Arabic language version of the popular Visit Singapore website, which features online updates of new attractions and festivals taking place.

STB executives based in the region are confident that the guide will prove
popular with Middle East residents looking to decide the location of their next holiday,

“Feedback from our large network of travel agents in the region has shown that there is a real demand for information about Singapore, so we decided to launch a bespoke guide especially for Muslim visitors,” says Alan Tan, Area Director, Middle East and Africa, Singapore Tourism Board.

“We are anticipating a large volume of requests for the guide, particularly in countries like the UAE, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, from where we are welcoming increasing numbers of visitors to Singapore in the summer of 2006,” he added.

The guide complements the Uniquely Singapore Muslim Visitor’s Dining Guide, launched earlier this year, which contains an extensive range of Halal restaurants in Singapore, as well as a list of “Must Try” local dishes.

Over 14 percent of the population in Singapore is Muslim and the country has a long history of welcoming Muslim travelers from around the world. Singapore’s Arab Street, which pre-dates the arrival of Europeans in the country, is one South East Asia’s oldest ethnic Arab enclaves.

Source: Theodore Kournelis

MACAU’S PROSPERITY IS GROWING FAST

The Chinese Government must be pleased with Macau’s performance, when you think about it it must be a good thing for them to have all gambling under control in just one spot in China.

Over six years after China regained sovereignty over the Special Administration Region (SAR) of Macau, the region has achieved unprecedented economic prosperity, and is a hot destination for investors from around the world.

The competition brought instant effects. Sands Macau, invested by the legendary Sands Las Vegas, was opened in May 2004. It pocketed MOP3.11 billion in gaming revenue that year and the figure rocketed to MOP7.7 billion in 2005.

The existence of Sands Macau and its breath-taking business success in such a short time rocked the gaming industry.

More new-style casinos were built and other entertainment facilities were developed, including hotels and casinos invested by Macau Wynn, Galaxy Casino and Sociedade de Jogos de Macau. Investors from Asia, Australia and Taiwan Province are building theme parks, exhibition centres and other resorts.

REGIONS AND TERRITORIES: MACAU

Tiny Macau, a special administrative region of China, has seen its low-key colonial character give way to massive commercial and tourist development.

The former Portuguese colony, a near neighbour of Hong Kong, occupies a small peninsula and two islands off China’s southern coast.
Its economy revolves around tourism. Macau has capitalised on its long history as a gambling centre, drawing many thousands of visitors from China and Hong Kong.

Foreign casino companies have invested heavily since Hong Kong tycoon Stanley Ho's decades-long monopoly on the gaming industry ended in 2002. New "mega-casinos", which include major hotel developments, are replacing traditional gambling dens.

Analysts say the returns from the casino boom could surpass the revenues of the US gambling mecca, Las Vegas. But they also warn that Macau risks relying too much on the industry. Some politicians and academics say most locals have yet to benefit from the economic boom.

The former colony reverted to Chinese sovereignty in 1999 after 400 years of Portuguese rule. Beijing promised to uphold Western-style freedoms for at least 50 years.

Although it is part of China, Macau is governed under the "one country, two systems" principle, under which it has a large degree of autonomy.

Pro-reform forces are less vocal in Macau than in Hong Kong. But pro-democracy activists are pushing for universal suffrage after 2009, when Macau's constitution, the Basic Law, allows for changes to the electoral system.

Portuguese seafarers settled in the area in the 1500s. Initially, the colony prospered on the lucrative returns from regional trade and European-style mansions and churches mushroomed.

Trade dwindled from the 1600s, but the introduction of licensed gambling in the mid 1800s revived Macau's fortunes.

**Facts:**

- Population: 472,000 (UN, 2005)
- Area: 23.8 sq km (9 sq miles)
- Major languages: Chinese (mainly Cantonese), Portuguese (both official)
- Major religions: Buddhism, Christianity
- Life expectancy: 78 (men), 82 (women) (UN)
- Monetary unit: 1 pataca = 100 avos
- Main exports: Clothing, textiles
- GNI per capita: $14,390 (World Bank, 2000)
- Internet domain: .mo

**JATILUWIH: WORLD HERITAGE SITE**

The Bali mountain village of Jatiluwih, has become a World Heritage Site. World Heritage Sites are specific places (such as a forest, mountain range, lake, desert, building, complex, or city) of outstanding cultural or natural importance to the common heritage of humankind.

Located 20 kms from Tabanan, is the shadow of Gunung Batukaru, Jatiluwih features some of the most perfect rice terraces in Bali. The village of Jatiluwih...
Jatiluwih is close to the Eco Lodge, where my friends from Australia live. Even in the hot humid wet season, you need a sweater in the evening. In Jatiluwih, most people are involved in rice cultivation, and the village life, playing the gamelan and going to ceremonies is still the central part of daily life. A friend of mine will be doing cultural music tours in the highlands, including trips to neighboring villages and meeting with some of the skilled musicians who live there. Would be great to go if only for the scenery and the chance to visit people in a truly untouristed area.

Apparently Jatiluwih produces some of the finest rice in Indonesia, still using the old methods and old Bali rice. Suharto introduced strains that are more productive, but have less character and quality. Jatiluwih produces 1,500 tonnes per year out of 300 hectares of rice field.

The Batukaru area which includes Jatiluwih is great for a slow mountain cruise on motorbike or car. Time from Kuta, 90 minutes.

Source: www.baliblog.com
On the occasion of the celebration of the Guide’s Day (feasted every year on Feb. 21st), the Association of Greek National Guides, in cooperation with the Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature (HSPN) organized a happening of environmental content that took place on Saturday the 25th of February 2006 in two main squares, within the historical center of Athens.

Aiming to render all inhabitants of Greece more conscious, more sensitive and encourage everyone to modify those attitudes resulting to the accumulation of trash along the roadsides, the beaches, the natural environment of Greece etc., the participants, members of our Association accompanied by their children, through a pleasant, colorful, humorous and friendly approach of the people in the streets, tried (we hope successfully) to communicate a message of caring for the Natural and Urban environment and urge all citizens to recycle and throw trash only in the appropriate trash bins.
The environmental activity of the Association of Greek National Guides started in 1996 and has since been expressed in the following ways:

- twice with the voluntary reforesting of burnt forests (on mount Hymettos and mount Pendeli),
- with yearly voluntary cleaning expeditions in areas of Greece where the accumulation of trash in the natural environment has been more intense,
- by doing three times a research on the cleanliness of the road net leading to and from Museums and Historical - Archaeological Sites, in cooperation with the Institute of Urban and Rural Sociology of the National Centre for Social Research.

The president of the Association of Greek National Guides
Chryssa Karageorgi

INTERNATIONAL TOURIST GUIDE DAY IN RHODOS ISLAND-GREECE

On the occasion of celebrating the International Tourist Guide Day, the tourist guides of the Association of Dodecanese based in Rhodes, presented a new DVD about Rhodes island, in the presence of the head of Prefecture of Dodecanese, Mr. Mahairidis, the mayor of Rhodes, Mr. Giannopoulos and many other officials. The DVD was created by tourist guides themselves in their free time, mostly in winter, and its title is “Rhodes, the town-Local initiatives of employment-Culture”. It’s a voluntary offer by tourist guides to the inhabitants of Rhodes, to get to know their own town and it includes six walking tours (three in the old Town and three in the new town). A relevant brochure will be handed out to schools and inhabitants of Rhodes island. The President of the Dodecanese Tourist Guides’ Association, Mr. Alexandros Colliadis and the Vice President, Mr. Dimitris Salahouris, spoke about the important role tourist guides play for the area and for the whole country, but also about the difficulties they face while trying to do their job professionally. All officials agreed and emphasized the importance of tourist guides for the development of the area and wished them a successful year in tourism.
CEN MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL TOURIST GUIDE DAY IN CYPRUS

Tourist Guides of 10 European countries celebrated the 21st February 2006 in Cyprus by having the meeting of the European Standardisation Committee (CEN) for the standardisation of “Training and Qualification of Tourist Guides”.

European Standardisation Committee (CEN) in Cyprus: The meeting was attended by Tourist Guide experts including Rosalind Newlands WFTGA Vice President (UK Expert), Tom Hooper WFTGA EXBO (UK Expert) and Titina Loizidou WFTGA Past President (Cyprus Expert).

21st of February on International Tourist Guides Day, where guided tours in Museums were given free by Cyprus tourist guides.
TUREB AWARDS 2005

TUREB’s “Bests of Tourism” Awards were given in Istanbul on the International Tourist Guide Day 2006. The guides evaluated the nominees and elected the bests by voting in the website of the federation.

The award categories and the winners are:

1. Best Periodical Publication
The travel appendixes of Cumhuriyet and Hurriyet magazines

2. Environmental Protection
Açık Radyo (Open Radio)

3. Cultural Protection
Allianoi and Apollon Smintheus Temple Excavations

4. Hospitality
Sakıp Sabancı Museum

5. Authentic Product
Karaköy Güllüoğlu Baklavaları

6. Authentic Local Activity
Ahırkapı Hıdrellez Celebrations

7. Authentic Kitchen
Feriye Restaurant

8. Journalism (Tourism)
Mevlüt Yeni
Saffet Emre Tonguç
INTERNATIONAL TOURIST GUIDE DAY IN AUSTRIA

In 1989, at its 3rd Convention the WORLD FEDERATION OF TOURIST GUIDE ASSOCIATIONS decided in Cyprus that the 21st of February shall be instituted as the “INTERNATIONAL TOURIST GUIDE DAY”, commemorating the foundation of its own organization back in 1985 in Israel where the first international convention had taken place.

Since 1990 tourist guide colleagues from all over the world, from California to Australia, from Finland to South Africa celebrate “their day.” On this very special day tourist guides do not guide their international groups but dedicate themselves to the residents in their local community.

In 2005 the Vienna Tourist Guides explained to over 400 Vienna residents the collections of the Leopold Museum, the Sisi Museum in the Vienna Habsburg Palace and took 100 blind people and persons with impaired vision into the collections of Vienna’s Museum of Technology.

In 2006 the International Tourist Guide Day activities started already four days before February 21 with a special celebration honouring the director of the visiting program of Schönbrunn Palace, Mr. Robert Tidmarsh, “BOBBY” as we guides call him, has always an open heart for us guides, instructs us about the fire prevention program and creates that friendly atmosphere in the most-visited sight of Vienna that is so essential for our work as tourist guides.

Vienna’s International Tourist Guide Day was dedicated to the great musical tradition of the city. In 2006 Vienna celebrates Wolfgang Amadeus Mozarts’ 250th birthday and we tourist guides took the Viennese on four different walks.
following Wolfgang’s traces in present-day Vienna. Starting point was Vienna’s Dorotheum (the world’s 4th largest auction house) where the local residents gathered from well before 10 a.m. until sunset, eagerly listening to the explanations about one of the greatest musical talents who has ever lived in this city. Furthermore - and out of tradition - some of us guides introduced 70 blind people to the treasures of Vienna’s Furniture Museum.

The tourist guides in Wien offered three different walking tours (Mozart and the musical tradition in Vienna) for to celebrate International Tourist Guide Day. They had 610 visitors. Besides the guides had about 70 blind people for the special program (guided tour in the Furniture Museum). TV, Radio and some newspapers mentioned the guides too.

ICELAND

INTERNATIONAL TOURIST GUIDE DAY IN ICELAND

The Iceland Tourist Guide Association in cooperation with a local tour operator and the Hunting Museum in the south of Iceland invited the blind and sight impaired on an excursion to “see” wild animals from Africa on International Tourist Guide Day 21 February 2006. Forty people accepted the invitation which was a great success.

The guests enjoyed the unique opportunity to touch stuffed animals originating in Africa and other continents. Animals on display included a lion, giraffe, warthog, waterbuck and other exotic ones.
The participants were thrilled with the four-hour guided excursion and commented on its educational value. "Today, I touched some foreign animals that I have only heard about but never had an idea what looked like", a blind young woman said who also mentioned the stuffed birds on display at the museum. "It was fantastic to touch some birds that I have heard so often before in nature but never known what they really looked like, until today".

Mr. Pall Reynisson and Mrs Frida Magnusdottir own and run the Hunting Museum. "When we had 1000 people walking through our kitchen to see the animals we decided to open up a real museum," Mr Reynisson told the guests during the visit. The couple shot most of the animals themselves but some 30 are on permanent loan from the Icelandic Institute of Natural History.

Asked if this hobby wasn’t expensive, Mr Reynisson replied: “Hunting is our passion and we save money on other things. We never spend our money on things we don’t need and we even live in the museum itself which is an old storage shed, to save money.”

After visiting the Hunting Museum in Stokkseyri the group was taken on an excursion around the village and afterwards the town of Selfoss, before making an afternoon tea-time stop at the Eden Garden Centre in Hveragerdi. The
excursion was planned by Mr Stefan Helgi Valsson, guided by Mr Valur Palsson and Gylfi Gudmundsson and driven by Mr Bergsteinn Hardarsson – all members of the Iceland Tourist Guide Association.

The event attracted the attention of two television stations, three newspapers and three Internet news portals. The State Television presented news about the event during its main evening news. Channel 2, Iceland’s most popular pay subscription television station, mentioned the event during its news programme and featured the event for six minutes in Iceland Today, its magazine programme.
# 2007 UPCOMING EVENTS

## JANUARY 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11-14</td>
<td>GO 17th International Travel Trade Fair Regiontour - 16th International Fair of Regional Tourism Exhibition Centre, Brno, Czech Republic</td>
<td>Radek Chmela Trade Fair Brno PH: +420-541-152-823 FAX: +420-541-153-062 <a href="mailto:rchmela@bvv.cz">rchmela@bvv.cz</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-14</td>
<td>Adventure in Travel Expo New York</td>
<td><a href="http://www.adventureexpo.com">www.adventureexpo.com</a> +1-203-878-2577 x100 <a href="mailto:info@adventureexpo.com">info@adventureexpo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>21-23</td>
<td>Florida Huddle Sarasota, FL</td>
<td>Telephone: 904-268-1354 Facsimile: 904-268-1389 General info: <a href="mailto:info@floridahuddle.com">info@floridahuddle.com</a> Sales: <a href="mailto:sales@floridahuddle.com">sales@floridahuddle.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-24</td>
<td>Hospitality 2007 NEC Birmingham UK</td>
<td>Judy Armstrong +44 (0) 20 7886 3066 <a href="mailto:judy.armstrong@freshrm.co.uk">judy.armstrong@freshrm.co.uk</a> <a href="http://www.hospitalityshow.co.uk/">www.hospitalityshow.co.uk/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>27-28</td>
<td>Adventure in Travel Expo Chicago</td>
<td><a href="http://www.adventureexpo.com">www.adventureexpo.com</a> +1-203-878-2577 x100 <a href="mailto:info@adventureexpo.com">info@adventureexpo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>29-31</td>
<td>AVIATION SECURITY, SINGAPORE</td>
<td>Phyllis Goh Marketing Manager IBC Asia (S) Pte Ltd website: <a href="http://www.ibc-asia.com">http://www.ibc-asia.com</a> Tel: (65) 6835 5103 Fax: (65) 6733 5087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 JAN - 04 FEB</td>
<td>FITUR 2007 IFEMA, Feria de Madrid Spain</td>
<td>IFEMA Feria de Madrid 28042 Madrid Spain Tel: + PH 34-91-7225000 FAX: +34-91-7225787 <a href="mailto:fitur@ifema.es">fitur@ifema.es</a> <a href="http://www.fituronline.com">www.fituronline.com</a></td>
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## Upcoming Events

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Moscow International Travel Workshop</td>
<td>Kim Waddoup aiGroup, Russia Tel +7 495 540 9695 Fax +7 495 540 5190 <a href="mailto:kim@aiGroup.ru">kim@aiGroup.ru</a> <a href="http://www.aiGroup.ru">www.aiGroup.ru</a> Website: <a href="http://www.moscowworkshop.com/">http://www.moscowworkshop.com/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>8-9</td>
<td>Strategic Healthcare Tourism A Five Star Venue To Be Announced Shortly, Thailand</td>
<td><a href="#">click here</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-11</td>
<td>Los Angeles Times Travel &amp; Adventure Show Long Beach, California, USA</td>
<td><a href="http://www.adventureexpo.com">www.adventureexpo.com</a> +1-203-878-2577 x100 <a href="mailto:info@adventureexpo.com">info@adventureexpo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-12</td>
<td>INDIA TRAVEL MART (ITM) 2007 India’s Prominent International Travel &amp; Tourism Mart Ahmedabad (Gujarat)</td>
<td>Secretariat : India Travel Mart (ITM) C/o iCreativeMinds E-46, 3rd Floor, Main Road Naraina Vihar, New Delhi-110028 (INDIA) Phone : 011-25897594, 25897596, 41414557, Reliance : 011-32615757 Fax : 011-25897597 Mobile : 9313415758, 9313415759 Email : <a href="mailto:indiatravelmart-itm@airtelbroadband.in">indiatravelmart-itm@airtelbroadband.in</a> Email : <a href="mailto:indiatravelmart@airtelbroadband.in">indiatravelmart@airtelbroadband.in</a> Email : <a href="mailto:indiatravelmart@vsnl.net">indiatravelmart@vsnl.net</a> Website : <a href="http://www.indiatravelmart.com">www.indiatravelmart.com</a></td>
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<td>11-13</td>
<td>Business Travel Show Earls Court, London, UK</td>
<td>Avril Donnelly or Charlotte Le Rougetel Bastion87 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6HJ UK T: +44 (0) 20 7490 1323 F: +44 (0) 20 7490 1350 <a href="http://www.businesstravelshow.com">www.businesstravelshow.com</a></td>
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<td>Business Travel Show Earls Court, London</td>
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## Upcoming Events

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<td>Travel Technology Show</td>
<td><a href="http://www.businesstravelshow.de">www.businesstravelshow.de</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 22-25 | International Tourism Exchange BIT 2007              | EXPOCTS, S.p.A. Milano, Italy  
PH: +39-02-34984.1  
FAX: +39-02-33600493  
[expo@expocts.it](mailto:expo@expocts.it)  
[www.bit.expocts.it](http://www.bit.expocts.it) |
| 26-28 | ScotHot                                               | Fresh RM  
Judy Armstrong  
+44 (0) 20 7886 3066  
[judy.armstrong@freshrm.co.uk](mailto:judy.armstrong@freshrm.co.uk)  
[www.freshrm.co.uk](http://www.freshrm.co.uk/) |

### MARCH 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>CONTACT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 2-4  | Vivattur 2007 - 13th International Trade Fair of Tourism, Sport and Leisure Vilnius, Lithuania | Visus Plenus, Ltd  
Ms. Milda Zilyte  
PH: +370-5-2136326  
FAX: +370-5-2124124  
[info@visusplenus.it](mailto:info@visusplenus.it)  
[www.visusplenus.it](http://www.visusplenus.it) |
| 3-4  | Adventure in Travel Expo Washington                  | [www.adventureexpo.com](http://www.adventureexpo.com)  
+1-203-878-2577 x100  
[info@adventureexpo.com](mailto:info@adventureexpo.com) |
| 4-7  | The Show                                              | [http://www.nvreastaurants.com](http://www.nvreastaurants.com)         |
| 7-11 | Internationale Tourismus Boerse (ITB 2007) Berlin, Germany | [www.itb-berlin.de](http://www.itb-berlin.de)                             |
| 13-14 | Travel Distribution Summit Asia                      | [www.eyefortravel.com/tdsasia2007](http://www.eyefortravel.com/tdsasia2007/) |
| 18-21 | Intourmarket (ITM) 2007 International Trade Fair for Tourism IEC Crocus Expo Moscow, Russia | JSC Euroexpo  
Arab Str 35  
119002 Moscow, Russia  
Tel: +7-095-105-6561/62  
FAX: +7-095-248-0734  
[itm@itmexpo.ru](mailto:itm@itmexpo.ru)  
[www.itmexpo.ru](http://www.itmexpo.ru) |
## Upcoming Events

<table>
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</table>
| 20    | Moscow International MICE Forum  
Moscow, Russia  
Kim Waddoup  
aiGroup, Russia  
Tel +7 495 540 9695  
Fax +7 495 540 5190  
kim@aiGroup.ru  
www.aiGroup.ru  
Website: www.MiceForum.ru |
| 21-24 | MITT 2007 Moscow International Travel & Tourism Exhibitions  
Expocentre Moscow, Russia  
ITE Travel Exhibitions  
ITE Group Plc  
London, UK  
PH: +44-20-75965183/5043  
FSX: +44-20-7596-5102  
travel@ite-exhibitions.com  
www.mitt.ru.com |
| 22    | Moscow Golf & Luxury Travel Reception  
Moscow Russia  
Kim Waddoup  
aiGroup, Russia  
Tel +7 495 540 9695  
Fax +7 495 540 5190  
kim@aiGroup.ru  
www.aiGroup.ru |
| 22-24 | GLOBE Travel Exhibition in Rome  
http://www.globe07.it/ |
| 23-25 | INDIA TRAVEL MART (ITM) 2006  
India’s prominent International Travel & Tourism Mart  
23-24-25 March 2007  
Chandigarh (UT)  
Secretariat :  
India Travel Mart (ITM)  
C/o iCreativeMinds  
E-46, 3rd Floor, Main Road  
Naraina Vihar, New Delhi-110028  
INDIA  
Phone : 011-25897594, 25897596, 41414557, Reliance : 011-32615757  
Fax : 011-25897597  
Mobile : 9313415758, 9313415759  
Email : indiatravelmart-itm@airtelbroadband.in  
Email : indiatravelmart@vsnl.net  
Website : www.indiatravelmart.com |
| 27-30 | Horeca, The Levant’s Largest and most regional hospitality and food event  
BIEL, Beirut Central District – Lebanon.  
Hospitality Services s.a.r.l.  
P.O.Box. 90 155  
Jdeidet el Metn 1202 2020  
Beirut - Lebanon  
Tel: +961 1 480081 ext. 108  
Fax: +961 1 482876  
www.hospitalityservices.com.lb |
# Upcoming Events

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| 17-19 | IMEX 2006 - Long-distance Inspiration: The worldwide exhibition for incentive travel, meetings and events Frankfurt, Germany | Carina Bloom  
The Agora, 1st Floor  
Ellen Street, Hove  
East Sussex BN3 3LN, United Kingdom  
Tel. (44) 1273 227311  
Fax (44) 1273 227312  
e-mail: [info@imex-frankfurt.com](mailto:info@imex-frankfurt.com)  
Website: [http://www.imex-frankfurt.com](http://www.imex-frankfurt.com) |
| 23-25 | IT&CM China in Shanghai Incentive Travel & Conventions Meetings China (IT&CM China) | MP International (Shanghai) Pte Ltd  
Brian Ge  
FL.11E Jinming Building, No. 8 South Zunyi Road  
Shanghai, 200336, China  
Tel +86 021 6295 9990  
Fax +86 021 6270 6030  
Email: briange@mpinetwork.com  
Website: [www.mpinetwork.com](http://www.mpinetwork.com) |
| 26-28 | KITF 2007 7th Kazakhstan International Tourism & Travel Fair “TOURISM & TRAVEL” Almaty, IEC "Atakent", KAZAKHSTAN | Ms. KARINA SOGOMONYAN – Project Manager  
Tel: +7 (3272) 583 434, 583 432,  
E-mail: tourism@iteca.kz |
THE MEMORY KEEPER’S DAUGHTER

by Kim Edwards (Author)

Product Details

Paperback: 432 pages  
Publisher: Penguin (Non-Classics); Reprint edition (May 30, 006)  
Language: English  
ISBN: 0143037145  
Product Dimensions: 8.1 x 5.4 x 0.8 inches

Editorial Reviews

From Publishers Weekly

Edwards’s assured but schematic debut novel (after her collection, The Secrets of a Fire King) hinges on the birth of fraternal twins, a healthy boy and a girl with Downs syndrome, resulting in the father’s disavowal of his newborn daughter. A snowstorm immobilizes Lexington, Ky., in 1964, and when young Norah Henry goes into labor, her husband, orthopedic surgeon Dr. David Henry, must deliver their babies himself, aided only by a nurse. Seeing his daughter’s handicap, he instructs the nurse, Caroline Gill, to take her to a home and later tells Norah, who was drugged during labor, that their son Paul’s twin died at birth. Instead of institutionalizing Phoebe, Caroline absconds with her to Pittsburgh. David’s deception becomes the defining moment of the main characters’ lives, and Phoebe’s absence corrodes her birth family’s core over the course of the next 25 years. David’s undetected lie warps his marriage; he grapples with guilt; Norah mourns her lost child; and Paul not only deals with his parents’ icy relationship but with his own yearnings for his sister as well. Though the impact of Phoebe’s loss makes sense, Edwards’s redundant handling of the trope robs it of credibility. This neatly structured story is a little too moist with compassion.

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From The Washington Post’s Book World/washingtonpost.com

My first daughter was born lifeless and gray-blue. “Like a seal,” I remember thinking as the room went bright white and the doctor started suctioning her mouth. I pushed my wife’s head back onto the pillow so she wouldn’t be able to see the slick form down below. The oxygen tank hissed angrily. In the minutes that followed, as we waited and waited for my daughter to cry, all the hopes we’d stored up were suffocated under the weight of our new future that filled the room with fear.

Mercifully, few parents experience the shattering birth moment we did, and it may be that memories of my daughter’s birth magnified the emotional impact of Kim Edwards’s debut novel. But I think anyone would be struck by the extraordinary power and sympathy of The Memory Keeper’s Daughter. The book opens during a snowstorm in Lexington, Ky., in 1964, when Norah Henry realizes that she’s going into labor. The weather keeps her doctor from making it to the office in time, but her husband, David, is an orthopedic surgeon with enough experience to handle the situation. Under the partial influence of gas, Norah gives birth to a healthy baby boy, but as David tells her the happy news, another series of contractions begins. He quickly sedates his wife again, and she gives birth to another child, a girl with Downs syndrome.
“Later,” Edwards writes, “when he considered this night -- and he would think of it often, in the months and years to come: the turning point of his life, the moments around which everything else would always gather -- what he remembered was the silence in the room and the snow falling outside.” In that quiet, terrifying moment, the grief and resentment caused by his sister’s death at the age of 12 washes back over him, and he acts to preserve their vision of a happy future. He hands the baby to his nurse and asks her to take it to a home outside the city for handicapped children. When Norah awakens a few minutes later, he tells her their second baby was stillborn. “He had wanted to spare her,” Edwards writes, “to protect her from loss and pain; he had not understood that loss would follow her regardless, as persistent and life-shaping as a stream of water. Nor had he anticipated his own grief, woven with the dark threads of his past.”

Edwards has trouble maintaining the electrifying atmosphere of this long opening scene, but David’s fateful decision that night is enough to power the novel through the next 25 years. The story runs along parallel tracks that don’t converge until the very end: The first follows the picture-perfect Henry family, three healthy, talented people separated from one another by the secret that only David knows. The other track follows David’s nurse, Caroline, who couldn’t bring herself to follow his instructions that night. Instead, she left town with his baby, struggled through a series of part-time jobs, battled an unresponsive school system and managed to hammer out a joyful life.

As a single mother at a time when special-needs accommodations are unheard of or considered naively radical, Caroline would seem to have a far more difficult path to travel. Edwards does nothing to minimize or romanticize that struggle, but Caroline makes her humble way in the world through sheer determination and with the help of like-minded activist parents who are beginning to argue that children with disabilities should be raised at home and attend regular schools.

Those two sets of lives make for a thought-provoking contrast, a study in what really determines a family’s happiness. With a successful, lucrative career, David can give his wife and son everything, except candor. As Edwards points out -- probably too many times -- the effort to conceal what he’s done with their daughter poisons the atmosphere of their home with a colorless, odorless gas of deception. David throws himself into photography, a poignant attempt to freeze perfect moments and crop life just as he wants it. Barred from her husband’s heart, Norah turns to alcohol, then to a series of affairs, trying to deaden or distract herself from a sense of loss she can’t fully understand.

Some ominously saccharine moments indicate that Edwards can slip into the treacly trade -- “The love was within her all the time, and its only renewal came from giving it away” -- but these gaffes are relatively infrequent, especially considering the presence of a handicapped character, who would, in less disciplined hands, be used to generate a waterfall of sentimental tears.

The episodic structure allows Edwards to survey these two families through the ‘60s, ‘70s and ‘80s, but frankly she’s best when she moves slowly. The middle section skips through the years, obscuring the characters behind Significant Historical Moments: Women’s Lib, Vietnam, Disability Rights. The novel begins to look as though it’s been planned by a divorced dad: Every alternating weekend encounter has to be packed with a major activity. This structural tendency may be the effect of Edwards’s experience as a short story writer. We drop in on these characters only on important days -- separated by years that included all the minutiae of real life. They’re reduced to saying things like, “The last few years have meant so much to me.” I kept thinking, No, show the
true nature of these people on a few ordinary days.

Edwards is entirely capable of doing that, as the opening and closing sections of her novel show. This tragedy of a man who thinks he can control how lives are redirected is as moving as the story of his nurse, who knows that her love can bless a damaged life. In the end, it’s not just that David made a mistake in a moment of crisis; it’s that he never realized that parenthood is an infinite series of opportunities for redemption. Years after the choice he could never forgive himself, for, as Caroline tells him, “You missed a lot of heartache, sure. But David, you missed a lot of joy.” Readers of The Memory Keeper’s Daughter will find ample stores of both.

Reviewed by Ron Charles

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THE END (A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS, BOOK 13

by Lemony Snicket (Author), Brett Helquist (Illustrator)

Product Details

Reading level: All Ages
Hardcover: 368 pages
Publisher: HarperCollins (October 13, 2006)
Language: English
ISBN: 0064410161

Editorial Reviews

Book Description

Dear Reader,

You are presumably looking at the back of this book, or the end of the end. The end of the end is the best place to begin the end, because if you read the end from the beginning of the beginning of the end to the end of the end of the end, you will arrive at the end of the end of your rope.

This book is the last in A Series of Unfortunate Events, and even if you braved the previous twelve volumes, you probably can’t stand such unpleasantries as a fearsome storm, a suspicious beverage, a herd of wild sheep, an enormous bird cage, and a truly haunting secret about the Baudelaire parents.

It has been my solemn occupation to complete the history of the Baudelaire orphans, and at last I am finished. You likely have some other occupation, so if I were you I would drop this book at once, so the end does not finish you.

With all due respect,

Lemony Snicket

About the Author

Lemony Snicket was born before you were, and is likely to die before you as well. His family has roots in a part of the country which is now underwater, and his childhood was spent in the relative splendor of the Snicket Villa which has since become a factory, a fortress and a pharmacy and is now, alas, someone else’s villa.
To the untrained eye, Mr. Snicket’s hometown would not appear to be filled with secrets. Untrained eyes have been wrong before. The aftermath of the scandal was swift, brutal and inaccurately reported in the periodicals of the day. It is true, however, that Mr. Snicket was stripped of several awards by the reigning authorities, including Honorable Mention, the Grey Ribbon and First Runner Up. The High Council reached a convenient if questionable verdict and Mr. Snicket found himself in exile.

Though his formal training was chiefly in rhetorical analysis, he has spent the last several eras researching the travails of the Baudelaire orphans. This project, being published serially by HarperCollins, takes him to the scenes of numerous crimes, often during the off-season. Eternally pursued and insatiably inquisitive, a hermit and a nomad, Mr. Snicket wishes you nothing but the best.

PORTUS: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE PORT OF IMPERIAL ROME (ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONOGRAPHS OF THE BRITISH SCHOOL AT ROME)

by Simon Keay (Author), Martin Millet (Author), Lidia Paroli (Author), Kristina Strutt (Author)

Product Details

Paperback: 360 pages
Publisher: British School at Rome (August 24, 2006)
Language: English
ISBN: 0904152472

THE KINGDOM OF THE HITTITES

by Trevor Bryce (Author)

Product Details

Paperback: 576 pages
Publisher: Oxford University Press, USA; New edition (January 5, 2006)
Language: English
ISBN: 0199281327
Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 6.4 x 1.2 inches

Editorial Reviews

Book Description

In the 14th century BC the Hittites became the supreme political and military power in the Near East. How did they achieve their supremacy? How successful were they in maintaining it? What brought about their collapse and disappearance? This comprehensive history of the Hittite kingdom seeks to answer these questions. It takes account of important recent advances in Hittite scholarship, including some major archaeological discoveries made in the last few years. It also features numerous translations from the original texts, so that on many issues the ancient Hittites are given the opportunity to speak to the modern reader for themselves. The revised edition contains a substantial amount of new material, as well as numerous other revisions to the first edition.
Humour

A bus load of tourists arrives at Runnymede. They gather around the guide who says, “This is the spot where the barons forced King John to sign the Magna Carta.”

A fellow at the front of the crowd asks, "When did that happen?"

"1215," answers the guide.

The man looks at his watch and says, "Damn! Just missed it by a half hour!"

The frightened tourist: "Are there any bats in this cave?"

The guide: "There were, but don't worry, the snakes ate all of them."

The tourist: "Can you tell me why so many famous Civil War battles were fought on National Park Sites?"

Windsor castle, outside of London, is directly in the flight path of Heathrow International Airport. While a group of tourists was standing outside the castle admiring the elegant structure, a plane flew overhead at a relatively low altitude making a tremendous amount of noise. One particularly annoyed tourist whined, "Why did they build the castle so close to the airport?"

A pair of tourists were out in the fields when they discovered an abandoned well near an old farm house. Of course they're curious so they drop a small stone into the well, but they never hear it hit bottom. They search and find a larger rock and drop it into the well but once again hear nothing. They decide they need something larger and search the farm yard for a larger object. After much struggle, they manage to drag a large railroad tie to the edge of the well and drop it over the edge.

After several seconds, a goat tears across the yard and without any hesitation, dives head first into the open hole. The two tourists stand in amazement. About then a farmer appears and tells them he is looking for a lost goat. The tourists tell the farmer about the goat diving into the well.

"That couldn't be my goat", the farmer replies, "My goat was grazing in the field roped to a railroad tie!"

Two anthropologists fly to the south sea islands to study the natives. They go to two adjacent islands and set to work. A few months later one of them takes a canoe over to the other island to see how his colleague is doing. When he gets there, he finds the other anthropologist standing among a group of natives.

"Greetings! How is it going?" says the visiting anthropologist.

"Wonderful!" says the other, "I have discovered an important fact about the local language! Watch!"

He points at a palm tree and says, "what is that?"

The natives, in unison, say "Umbalo-gong!"

He then points at a rock and says, "and that?"

The natives again intone "Umbalo-gong!"

"You see!", says the beaming anthropologist, "They use the SAME word for 'rock' and for 'palm tree'!"
“That is truly amazing!” says the astonished visiting anthropologist, “On the other island, the same word means ‘index finger’!”

In Alaska’s National Forests, a tourist guide was giving a talk to a group of tourists about hiking in grizzly bear territory: “Most bear encounters occur when hikers, being extra quiet along the trails in hopes of viewing wildlife, accidentally stumble into bears. The resulting surprise can be catastrophic.” To avoid this, he suggested that each hiker wear tiny bells on their clothing to warn the bears of their presence. “Also,” he said further, “be especially cautious when you see signs of bears in the area, especially when you see bear droppings.”

One tourist asked, “How do you identify bear droppings?”

“Oh that’s easy,” the guide explained, “It’s the ones with all the tiny bells in them!”

A tourist guide was talking with a group of school kids at Yellowstone park when one of the kids asked him if he had ever came face-to-face with a wolf.

“Yes, I came face to face with a wolf once. And as luck would have it, I was alone and without a weapon.”

“What did you do?” the little girl asked.

“What could I do? First, I tried looking him straight in the eyes but he slowly came toward me. I moved back, but he kept coming nearer and nearer. I had to think fast.”

“How did you get away?”

“As a last resort, I just turned around and walked quickly to the next cage.”

A tourist is traveling with a guide through one of the thickest jungles in Latin America, when he comes across an ancient Mayan temple. The tourist is entranced by the temple, and asks the guide for details. To this, the guide states that archaeologists are carrying out excavations, and still finding great treasures. The tourist then queries how old the temple is.

“This temple is 2503 years old”, replies the guide.

Impressed at this accurate dating, he inquires as to how he gave this precise figure.

“Easy”, replies the guide, “the archaeologists said the temple was 2500 years old, and that was three years ago.”

Two tourists were driving through Louisiana. As they were approaching Natchitoches, they started arguing about the pronunciation of the town. They argued back and forth until they stopped for lunch. As they stood at the counter, one tourist asked the employee, “Before we order, could you please settle an argument for us? Would you please pronounce where we are... very slowly?”

The girl leaned over the counter and said, “Burrrrrrrrr, gerrrrrrrr, Kiiiiiiing.”

A man is walking down the street when he sees a sign in the window of a travel agency that says CRUISES - $100. He goes into the agency and hands the guy $100. The travel agent then whacks him over the head with a baseball bat and throws him in the river.
Humour

Another man is walking down the street a half hour later, sees the sign and pays the guy $100. The travel agent then whacks him with the baseball bat and throws him in the river.

Sometime later, the two men are floating down the river together and the first man asks, “Do you think they’ll serve any food on this cruise?”

The second man says, “I don’t think so. They didn’t do it last year.”

A tourist was being led through the swamps of Florida. “Is it true,” he asked, “that an alligator won’t attack you if you carry a flashlight?”

“That depends,” replied the guide, “on how fast you carry the flashlight.”

“Look, guide, here are some LION tracks.”

“Good. You see where they go and I’ll find out where they came from.”