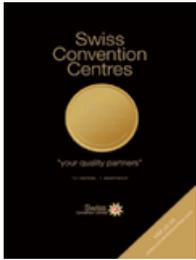


Swiss Convention Centres – Welcome their 10th Member



Swiss Convention Centres, the alliance of Switzerland's largest convention venues has a new member – the Kongress + Kursaal Bern joins the cooperation after a multi-million modernization programme which will be completed by mid-2012.

Swiss Convention Centres – are your ten Swiss partners when it comes to large events from 500 to 4'000 participants. They all have a net exhibition area of at least 1'000 sqm/16,760 sqft, with sufficient hotel accommodation in the vicinity, plus competitive accessibility.

While each of the ten congress centers places great emphasis on individuality and flexibility, they are all committed to quality and share a typical "Swissness".

The ten members are located in Basel, Bern, Davos, Geneva, Interlaken, Lausanne, Lucerne, Lugano, Montreux and Zürich.

For more information please contact: Kerstin Kossatz at kerstin.kossatz@congress.ch www.congress.ch

Complete E-Booklet: miceplaces.com/centers/

Phone +41 58 206 2658

Steady Growth in Business Travel Continues in Q1, 2012



GBTA (Global Business Travel Association), sponsored by Visa, announced that business travel is showing signs of moderate but stable growth for the 2012. GBTA's 'Business Travel Quarterly Outlook for the United States' shows that the business travel market has stabilized. GBTA believes that business travel will reach its pre-recession levels by June 2012 and forecasts that business travel spend will increase by approx. 4.6% in 2012. "It seems like we can start to breathe a sigh of relief about business travel," said Michael W. McCormick, GBTA executive director and COO. "The continued stability of business travel bodes well for the economy as a whole and for continued recovery in the employment market as business travel is a leading indicator of both. While the outlook for Europe is cloudy and economic growth in Asia is slowing, things still look much better than they did twelve months ago."

www.gbta.org

NEW TOURISM CAMPAIGN FOR THE PHILIPPINES

Capitalizing on the core strength of the Filipino people, the Department of Tourism (DOT) recently launched the new tourism campaign tagline "**It's More Fun in the Philippines**". The new campaign speaks well of the fun-loving nature of the Filipinos. As Lonely Planet calls the Filipinos "*among the most easygoing and ebullient people anywhere*", the brightness and fun colors of the logo reflect the joyful vibrant spirit of the people and resembles pixels that signal advancement into the digital age.

In support of this campaign, the Tourism Promotions Board as the DOT's marketing and promotions arm has started to strengthen its MICE promotions by hosting two major events.

Marketing and promotional plans are underway to aggressively create and sustain awareness of the new campaign.

www.dotpcvc.gov.ph



Pentahotel Beijing Opened in Style

The Pentahotel Beijing re-opened in an unforgettable way on March 29, 2012. Guests arrived to the sounds of local four-piece band and interactive entertainment in the lobby and bar. The musical entertainment was then handed over to a DJ, to warm-up the crowds for the main musical attraction of the evening: DJ Andy Norman, who kept the crowd's excitement levels at the maximum - also with amazing dance performances all night! It was truly a completely non traditional hotel unveiling, complete with world class DJ's and crazy entertainment! The neighborhood lifestyle, 307 room hotel combines comfort and efficiency and style. In the heart of Beijing, the Pentahotel is located just two minutes from Chongwenmen Metro Station. The Pearl Market and Wangfujing, for local cuisine and shopping opportunities, are a stone's throw away. Meeting rooms are available and a well equipped gym for the work out's afterwards.



www.pentahotels.com

Content

Swiss Convention Centres – Welcome their 10th Member

Steady Growth in Business Travel Continues in Q1, 2012

Pentahotel Beijing Opened in Style

Amsterdam RAI wins Best International Venue award

Intercontinental Malta's newly refurbished Spa and conference facilities

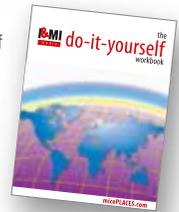
Nordic Visitor DMC Announces New Website for MICE Services in Iceland

American and Japan Airlines Offer Promotions to Celebrate New Routes Between the U.S. and Asia

The Most Unique Research Tool for MICE Buyers on the

Create your own personal directory of beautiful, highly detailed pdf pages of hotels, destinations, congress centers and dmc's worldwide.

Assemble your research into a single pdf document and download.



[Click Here](#)

New in the Do-It-Yourself Workbook on micePLACES.com



InterContinental Dubai Festival City

Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE)
The lavish hotel is a blend of luxury leisure and state of the art business facilities offers 4 dynamic restaurants, 2 bars with breathtaking views, a 3,800 sqm/40,660 sqft Event Centre, hosting two large ballrooms and 8 meeting rooms and is directly connected to the Festival Centre. 498 Rooms/Suites
Theater 1,300, Classroom 528, Cocktail 1,400, Banquet 900
[See more details!](#)



InterContinental Cairo Semiramis

Cairo, Egypt Cairo's leading hotel is situated in the cities heart just minutes from the city's commercial center, the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities and the Cairo Opera House and just 26km/16 miles from Giza Pyramids and Cairo International Airport and offers excellent facilities and options for your events. 726 Rooms/Suites
Theater 1,847, Classroom 849, Cocktail 1,597, Banquet 1,170
[See more details!](#)

Amsterdam RAI wins Best International Venue award

at the 6th annual Exhibition News Awards in London. The Excellence Awards are conferred annually on businesses that make outstanding contributions to the exhibition industry.

Amsterdam RAI was shortlisted in the 'Best International Venue' category, where it faced stiff competition from other nominees including Cape Town International Convention Centre, Suntec Singapore, Riocentro Rio de Janeiro, and last year's winner, ADNEC Abu Dhabi.

In announcing its decision, the jury commented: "Amsterdam RAI was a clear winner in the Best International Venue category this year for its standout exhibition facilities and professional approach. The venue boasted a great location and offering".

"We are proud to have won this prestigious award, which is a great recognition of our ongoing service improvements," says Maurits van der Sluis, Commercial Director at Amsterdam RAI. "It is our goal to help international organizers make their event as successful as possible and the best experience for exhibitors and visitors alike. Amsterdam RAI should always be a venue that people wish to return to."

The universal attractions of Amsterdam as a city with its core values of creativeness, enterprise and innovation as encapsulated in the "I Amsterdam" campaign also help ensure events are a success. "The culture of our city means that everybody feels at home right away, all within a stable business environment," adds Van der Sluis.

The category 'Best International Venue' was open to all large international exhibition venues with 10,000 sqm/107,639 sqft or more floor space that attract major international events. This is the first time Amsterdam RAI has been recognized as **Best International Venue** by the Exhibition News Awards.

www.rai.nl - [Amsterdam RAI on micePLACES.com](http://AmsterdamRAIonmicePLACES.com)



**Intercontinental
Aphrodite Hills
Resort Hotel**

Paphos, Cyprus In this scenically location, Aphrodite, the Goddess of love, is said to have emerged from the waves. Today, the award-winning Aphrodite Hills Resort gives the MICE organizer ample options to create special events, from a simple VIP boardroom meeting to memorable once in a lifetime experiences.

290 Rooms/Suites
Theater 550, Classroom 250,
Cocktail 1,200, Banquet 400

[See more details!](#)



**Jamaica Tourist
Board**

Kingston, Jamaica Renowned for its reggae music, pristine beaches, rain forested green hills, unique culture, delectable cuisine and laid back atmosphere, Jamaica is the Caribbean's meetings and conventions mecca. It is home to the Montego Bay Convention Centre, the largest of its kind in the English speaking Caribbean, and boasts more attractions than any other Caribbean island.

Jamaica is a destination like no other and its Tourist Board is ready to assist you in order to create an unforgettable event.

[See more details!](#)

ITE & MICE Hong Kong will open in June! Register now for free admission



At its 26th edition, the annual ITE is among Asia's earliest established and is also the only travel fair in Hong Kong. **ITE & MICE this year will be held from June 14 to 17 this year**, and will use 15000 square meters of space in the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Center. Featuring over 600 exhibitors from some 50 countries and regions, some 80% of exhibitors come from outside Hong Kong.

On display are tourism boards, resorts, hotels, airlines, theme parks, attractions, travel agents etc, and themes like **Cruise, Medical & Wellness**, and new this year are **Honeymooning and Overseas Wedding, Study Tours and Travel Photography**.

The Expo opens only to trade on Jun 14 and 15th. Trade visitors please register online to apply for free admission and priority seating in seminars in trade days, or buy tickets at the Entrance. Further details, please visit www.itehk.com or send your inquiry to TKS, the Organizer by email: travel@tkshk.com.



THE ESSENTIAL WORLDWIDE EXHIBITION FOR MEETINGS AND EVENTS



CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION

Cartagena de Indias, Colombia Staying at the Hotel Caribe is to be immersed in the history surrounding Cartagena de Indias, a city declared a world Cultural Heritage for Humanity by UNESCO. The arches, balconies and large wooden windows of the Colonial Tower have made the hotel a city icon in Cartagena. 363 Rooms/Suites

Theater 280, Classroom 123,
Cocktail 200, Banquet 90

[See more details!](#)



Hotel Caribe

InterContinental Malta's newly refurbished Spa and conference facilities

The newly refurbished Carisma Spa & Wellness has professionally trained therapists in a sophisticated and personal environment taking care of exhausted meeting participants. A Hamam, the traditional Turkish Baths, is also available. The InterContinental Malta has not only 451 guest rooms, 33 suites (260 non-smoking rooms) but also 23 meeting rooms, providing a variety of capacities and various seating arrangements, offering a dynamic flexible meeting solution.

Conference space totals 5,000 sqm/53,830 sqft, including a main ballroom (with inbuilt translation booths) seating 770 in theater style. The Bay Arena offers 1,660 sqm/17,220 sqft of uninterrupted space and an additional 1,100 sqm/11,840 sqft of exhibition space. The latest addition, a 296 seat auditorium with a 7x17 meter/23 ft x 56 ft screen and digital projector is perfect for presentations.

www.ichotelsgroup.com



**The Wyndham Grand
London Chelsea
Harbour**

London, England London only 5-Star luxury all-suite hotel is only minutes from all the major sites and the legendary boutiques which line the King's Road. It is one of London's finest hidden gems, where guests can immerse themselves in a residential setting offering stunning Thames views. 158 Rooms/Suites

Theater 400, Classroom 350,
Cocktail 800, Banquet 500

[See more details!](#)

Nordic Visitor DMC Announces New Website for MICE Services in Iceland

Nordic Visitor, a leading Icelandic travel agency and DMC, announces the launch of a new website events, meetings and incentives in Iceland. The new website features a user-friendly navigation, allowing potential clients to easily find information about the company's staff, types of services, contact information, customer reviews and, perhaps most importantly, the destination itself.

"Our new site plays an essential role in our growth in Iceland's fast-growing MICE market," explained Ásberg Jónsson, Nordic Visitor CEO. "And the timing of the launch could not have been better - we're seeing a big jump in demand for these types of services as interest in Iceland has surged." The number of foreign visitors in Iceland has skyrocketed in the last 4 years, when the country's economic crisis forced a major drop in the value of its currency. Several major travel and MICE industry publications have declared Iceland a top destination for those seeking a good value and a new MICE experience.

dmc.nordicvisitor.com/iceland/

CROWNE PLAZA BERLIN - POTSDAMER PLATZ

Opening Summer 2012 - Life is back in the Post Palais

The new flagship of the Crowne Plaza brand fascinates through its interaction of modern design with historic architecture. 256 rooms, split into 3 different categories will be available with an exclusive Club Floor, offering a lounge and 19 luxury suites. The open show kitchen restaurant overlooking the garden terrace, a trendy bar and the exclusive Cigar Lounge will become the new meeting place, not only for the guests. 500 sqm/ 5,382 sqft of conference and event space consisting of 7 flexible conference rooms, as well as the Palais Hall (up to 300 guests), create the perfect atmosphere for any event. From small discussions and innovative, creative meetings, up to major conferences - all are supported by the latest technology.



Contact & Information:

Crowne Plaza Berlin-Potsdamer Platz
Hallesche Strasse 10-14, 10963 Berlin, Germany

Phone +49 30 80 10 66-0 - info@cphotelberlin.com
www.cphotelberlin.com | www.crowneplaza.com

American and Japan Airlines Offer Promotions to Celebrate New Routes Between the U.S. and Asia

To commemorate the one-year anniversary of their Pacific Joint Business, American Airlines and Japan Airlines (JAL) have launched special promotions, including a fare sale for travel on flights between the continental United States and Japan. In addition, American will offer a fare sale to select cities in China. The offer is valid for round-trip travel originating and ticketed in the United States on select Economy and Premium Class fares booked on www.AA.com or www.ar.jal.com. Outbound travel is valid between April 11 and May 15, and all travel must be completed by June 15, 2012.

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Sands Cotai Macao

Macau, Macau Asia's ultimate meetings destination provides an unbeatable range of almost 10,000 guest rooms from five international hotel brands. With a total of 120,000 sqm/ 1,291,800 sqft of meeting and exhibition space including 274 breakout rooms, Sands Cotai Macao can cater for every type of event. 9,083 Rooms/Suites
Theater 13,000, Classroom 3,192, Cocktail 7,000, Banquet 5,208
[See more details!](#)



Hotel Capilla del Mar

Cartagena de Indias, Colombia
Refurbished and comfortable, offering a warm, cordial and pleasant experience focused on every detail. Sea-front location, just 5 minutes from the historic city center and 15 minutes from the airport, the hotel guest rooms with private balcony overlooking the sea are spacious, comfortable and stylish.

203 Rooms/Suites
Theater 200, Classroom 100,
Cocktail 200, Banquet 150
[See more details!](#)



InterContinental
Cairo Citystars

Cairo, Egypt Cairo's most amazing hotel is a perfect blend of Egypt's traditions with all benefits, services and facilities modern MICE organizers need: the largest conference facilities and hotel banquet hall in Cairo and 18 additional versatile function/meeting rooms are located just 7 minutes from Cairo International Airport and 10 minutes to Cairo International Conference Centre
790 Rooms/Suites
Theater 2,200, Classroom 1,300,
Cocktail 2,200, Banquet 1,800
[See more details!](#)