



2007, July 20

Thomsonfly to begin direct air service to Jamaica in 2008

Jamaica is set to benefit from new direct air service when Thomsonfly begin making charter flights to Montego Bay next year. The new weekly service will originate from Birmingham International Airport on Mondays and return on Tuesdays. The service will be available for six months only from May 5 to October 20, 2008. Thomsonfly is a British airline owned by the TUI Group and is the largest charter airline in the world.

[For further information visit: www.thomsonfly.com]

JTB sponsors Best Cultural Heritage Award

The Jamaica Tourist Board has agreed to sponsor the Best Cultural Heritage Award as part of the 2007 Virgin Holidays Responsible Tourism Awards. These awards will be handed out during World Travel Market in London on November 14. The Responsible Tourism Awards were founded in 2004 and aim to recognise individuals, companies and organisations in the travel industry that are making a significant commitment to the culture and economies of local communities and are providing a positive contribution to biodiversity conservation.

[For further information visit: www.responsibletourismawards.com]

Byron Lee to be honoured in New York

Just weeks after being honoured locally for more than 50 years in the business, musical giant, Byron Lee is again being recognised in New York at Yam Jam 2007 on Sunday, July 29. The event will take place at the Roy Wilkins Park in Queens. The musical legend formed his Byron Lee and the Dragonaires band in 1956 and has since been taking Jamaica's music to the world stage. The band's big break came in the first James Bond film Dr. No, where they appeared in the scene at Pussfeller's Club and played a number of tunes on the soundtrack. The group's versatility has seen them perform various soca, reggae, ska and dancehall tunes.

Yam Jam is an annual New York festival celebrating Caribbean culture through food and music and includes a kiddies' village to ensure lots of fun for the entire family.

[For further information visit <http://www.byronleemusic.com> / OR <http://www.jamaicans.com/news/events/ByronLeeNYChonor072007.shtml>]

License to Wed premieres Wednesday

The new romantic comedy, "License to Wed", will premiere on Monday, July 23 at 8:00 pm at the Palace Amusement, Carib 5 in Cross Roads, Kingston. The 100-minute movie, which was released on July 3, stars Robin Williams, Mandy Moore, and John Krasinski. It was filmed in part in Jamaica and facilitated by Sandals Resort and Jamaica Trade and Invest.

[For further information visit: http://www.jamaicatradeandinvest.org/event_20.html OR <http://www.palaceamusement.com/palace.dti?page=weeklyschedul&rand=1209591184947799>]

Best of Festival Concert Series begins

The Best of Festival concert series is a potpourri of Jamaica's culture in music, drama, traditional folk forms, speech and dance. It showcases the various gold medal winners in the national festival of the performing arts which are held annually across the island. Shows under the Best of Festival concert series include Folkfest – a selection of traditional Jamaican folkforms, Dancefest, Dramafest, Musicfest and Speechfest. All events will take place from July 23 to 27 at the Ranny Williams Entertainment Centre in Jamaica's cultural capital – Kingston.

[For further information telephone: (876) - 926-5726/29]

London prepares for reggae with a regimental difference

London is set to be brightened up by the sounds of Jamaica this summer, but rather than the familiar reggae tones it will be the unmistakable sound and look of the military bands of the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) that will fill the air.

A combined Jamaica Military and Jamaica Regiment Band is now in the UK as part of the annual military exchange: Calypso Hop. They arrived at the start of July and support the JDF contingent engaging in ceremonial duties, including the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace starting on Thursday 19th July. The combined band is also due to make several appearances in and around central London, as they prepare to commemorate two of

Jamaica's most significant dates, Emancipation Day on 1st August and Independence Day on 6th August. They will be performing up to August 23. The 34-strong band is being led by Director of Music, Major Roy Wade.

For further information telephone: (876)-908-5298]

Miss Jamaica Universe 2007 to open exhibition on Trans-Atlantic Trade in Africans

Miss Jamaica Universe 2007, Zahra Redwood, will open an exhibition on the Trans-Atlantic Trade in Africans at the Sovereign Centre, Liguanea in Kingston on Saturday, July 28, 2007 at 10.a.m. In addition, university lecturer and radio talk show host, Dr. Orville Taylor will officially launch "Freedom Delayed", a textbook on the trade that will be distributed islandwide to build awareness among high school students. The two activities are part of the continuing thrust to highlight the 200th Anniversary of the Abolition of the Transatlantic Trade in Africans to Jamaica.

Speakers at this event will include Dr. Clinton Hutton from the Department of Government at the University of the West Indies, Professor Verene Shepherd of the Jamaica National Bicentenary Committee, and Mr. Robin Walker of London and author of "When We Ruled". There will be books on sale and exhibitions by various cultural agencies, as well as a film and documentaries on the trade and slavery. Leading authors will be available for book signing at the Sangster's Book Store in Sovereign Centre.

[For further information telephone: (876) - 970-4441]

REMINDERS

15th staging of Sumfest gets underway

The 15th staging of the Red Stripe Reggae Sumfest is currently underway and will culminate tomorrow Saturday, July 21 with a show entitled Zenith. Artistes for this round of performances include the queen of hip hop soul Mary J Blige, Beres Hammond, Tanya Stephens, Alison Hinds, Tessanne Chin, Half Pint, Leroy Sibbles, Tiger and The Mighty Diamonds. The event will be held at the Catherine Hall Entertainment Complex in the resort capital of Montego Bay.

For further information visit: www.reggaesumfest.com]

Travel Channel highlights Jamaica

On July 22 and 28, the US Travel Channel will continue to highlight Jamaica in a film entitled Jamaica: Paradise Uncovered. The sixty-minute feature reflects the beauty of the island and its rich culture and heritage. The show will air at 5:00 pm local time on July 22 and at 4:00 pm on July 28.

[For further information visit: <http://travel.discovery.com/tv-schedules/special.html?paid=26.7588.80556.0.0>]

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