

## Trends Update – Issue 108 (10 July 2009)

### Weather

- The Met Office forecast that during July and August temperatures across the UK will be above average, with rainfall totals close to average
- In June UK weather was characterised by well above average amounts of sunshine, above average temperatures and below average rainfall

### Transport and tour operator news

- The East Coast rail franchise is taken back into public ownership following heavy losses made by incumbent operator National Express, there will be no disruption to train services
- LD Lines axes the Dieppe to Dover ferry route that was introduced in February due to weak demand
- The Port of Dover handled 2.6% fewer passengers in June than a year ago
- The Civil Aviation Authority report that the volume of passengers travelling to/from the UK during April on scheduled flights was 2.7% down on a year earlier
- Disruption to check-in at Terminal 5 as luggage conveyors break down temporarily on 28th June
- British Airways carried 3.8% fewer passengers in June than a year ago, though premium traffic declined by 14.9%; the largest declines in traffic were on Asia Pacific routes with a fall of 15%
- Virgin Atlantic to shed 600 jobs and from October cut flights to Heathrow from Hong Kong from twice to once daily and totally suspend flights from Chicago to London
- From October BA to suspend flights from Lyon and Barcelona to London City
- easyJet to fly six times per week from Copenhagen to Manchester from the autumn
- From early November easyJet will operate six flights per week from Tel Aviv to Luton
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### Domestic Economic News

- The Office for National Statistics has revised its estimate for how much the UK economy shrank during the first three months of 2009 to an annual contraction of 4.9%
- The Bank of England leaves UK interest rates at 0.5%

### European Economic News

- Eurozone unemployment increased to 9.5% in May
- Eurozone consumer confidence remained steady at an historically low level in June

### US Economic News

- US unemployment crept up to 9.5% in June, meaning that since the end of 2007 7.2 million Americans have lost their jobs
- After a small improvement in May US consumer confidence declined during June

### Global Economic News

- Business confidence improves in Japan for the first time in two and a half years
- IMF says that the global economy will grow by 2.5% in 2010 after a 1.4% contraction this year

### Tourism News

- According to PKF UK regional hotel occupancy fell from 74.2% in May 2008 to 70.1% this year, with yield per available room declining 14.4%, while in London occupancy increased from 81% to 82.1% with yield per available room 6.4% down
- According to the US Department of Commerce outbound travel from the US fell by 1% in 2008
- From September the cost of getting a British passport will increase from £72 to £77.50

# Factors contributing to tourism trends in Britain, July 2009

