

Transport and tour operator news

- BA again increases its long-haul fuel surcharge – this now stands at £70 for a return long-haul trip to the UK
- Eurostar carried approximately the same number of passengers in the first three months of 2006 as in 2005
- BAA traffic figures for March: Domestic –2.9%, European scheduled –0.4%, North Atlantic down 2.8% but other long-haul traffic up 4.6%
- Hemus Air launches a five-flights per week service from Sofia to Heathrow
- Brazilian airline TAM has been granted the go-ahead to start operating flights from Brazil to London, exact details are expected during the summer
- Figures from Global Refund continue to show positive growth in the amount of VAT being reclaimed by overseas visitors to the UK, up by 22% in March compared with a year before

Domestic Economic News

- IMF forecast UK economic growth at 2.5% in 2006, increasing to 2.7% in 2007
- Latest figures show a slight increase in the number of people unemployed

European Economic News

- IMF forecasts that Eurozone economic growth will be just 2.0% in 2006, dropping to 1.9% in 2007

US Economic News

- IMF forecasts that US economic growth will be 3.4% in 2006 and 3.3% in 2007
- The US continues to put pressure on China for a revaluation of the yuan

Global Economic News

- IMF forecast that the world economy will expand by 4.9% in 2006
- Chinese economic growth stood at 10.2% in the first quarter of 2006, once again higher than expected

Domestic Tourism News

- Restrictions put in place after the isolated case of H5N1 in a dead swan found on the Fife coast are lifted

Global Tourism News

- World Health Organisation figures show the number of human deaths due to avian flu now stands at 113, of which 37 have been during 2006
- The Chinese authorities have granted permission for civil aircraft to start using a shorter route between China and Europe, saving around 30 minutes on the current journey time

Pictorial Summary of Prevailing Conditions for British Tourism

http://vbnet/Images/Communications/pie%20210406_tcm17-8615.doc

About "Trends Update"

Issued bimonthly TU highlights the latest facts, figures and trends that impact on tourism. TU doesn't cover the main tourism surveys or Market Intelligence Reports circulated separately by International/England Research and Overseas Operations.

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