



TRAVEL PLACES

winning news



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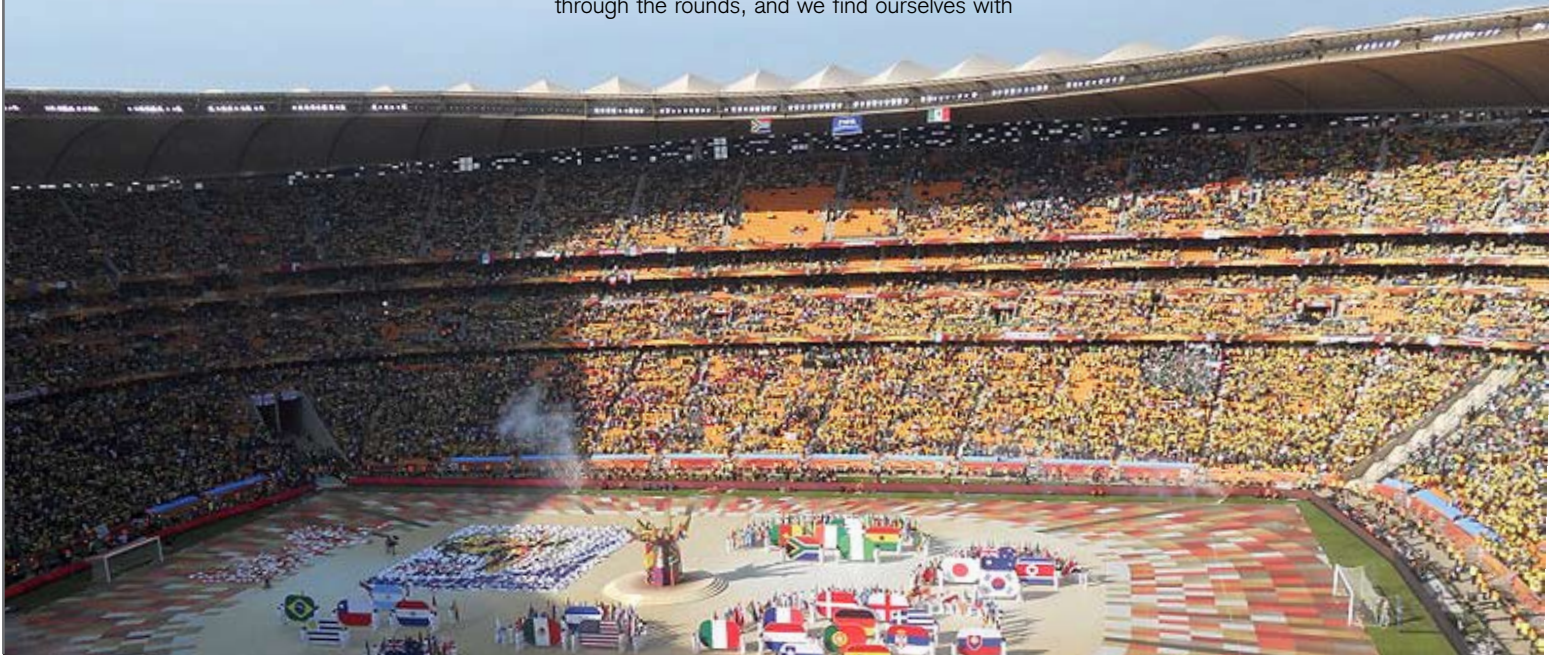
Welcome to the Summer edition of Winning News

Welcome to the summer edition of Winning News! It's been a busy time for sports travel and for incentive groups planning on visiting London and the UK prior to the summer of 2102.

Fresh from the Football World Cup, Travel Places are proud to have assisted our media clients throughout the tournament, and we hope some of you had some time to appreciate the stunning natural beauty of South Africa.

Meanwhile, Formula 1 has also been racing through the rounds, and we find ourselves with

the exciting prospect of visiting South Korea soon for the very first time. There are also other major sporting tournaments taking place across the globe that we are involved with, and as always, whatever you need; we are here to serve you.



If you have any comments, suggestions or requests for the newsletter email us at:

newsletter@travelplaces.co.uk



The Commonwealth Games is a multinational, multi-sport event featuring competitions involving thousands of elite athletes from members of the Commonwealth of Nations. Organised every four years, they are the third-largest multi-sport event in the world, after the Summer Olympic Games and the Asian Games.

As well as many Olympic sports, the Games also include some sports that are played mainly in Commonwealth countries, such as lawn bowls, rugby sevens and netball. The Games are overseen by the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF), which also controls the sporting programme and selects the host cities. The host city is selected from across the Commonwealth, with eighteen cities in seven countries having hosted it.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES OVERVIEW

The event was first held in 1930 under the title of the British Empire Games. The event was renamed as the British Empire and Commonwealth Games in 1954, the British Commonwealth Games in 1970, and gained its current title in 1978. Only six teams have attended every Commonwealth Games: Australia, Canada, England, New Zealand, Scotland and Wales. Australia has been the highest scoring team for ten games, England for seven and Canada for one.

There are currently 54 members of the Commonwealth of Nations, and 71 teams participate in the Games. The four Home Nations of the United Kingdom – England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland – send separate teams to the Commonwealth Games (unlike at the Olympic Games, where the United Kingdom sends a single team), and individual teams are also sent from the British Crown dependencies – Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man – and many of the British overseas territories. The Australian external territory of Norfolk Island also sends its own team, as do the Cook Islands and Niue, two states in free association with New Zealand.

The most recent games were in 2006 in Melbourne, Australia. The next edition will be held in 2010 in Delhi, India.



The Queen's Baton Relay

Queen's Baton Relay:

The Queen's Baton Relay, similar to the Olympic Torch Relay, is a relay around the world held prior to the beginning of the Commonwealth Games. The Baton carries a message from the Head of the Commonwealth, currently Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The Relay traditionally begins at Buckingham Palace in London as a part of the city's Commonwealth Day festivities. The Queen entrusts the baton to the first relay runner. At the Opening Ceremony

of the Games, the final relay runner hands the baton back to the Queen or her representative, who reads the message aloud to officially open the Games.

The Queen's Baton relay began when the baton, which contains Queen Elizabeth II's message to the athletes, left Buckingham Palace on 29 October 2009. The baton will arrive at the 2010 Games opening ceremony on 3 October 2010, after visiting the other 70 nations of the Commonwealth and travelling throughout India, reaching millions of people to join in the celebrations for the Games. Baton Reached India date 25th June 2010 through Wagah Border from Pakistan.

The baton was designed by Michael Foley, a graduate of the National Institute of Design. It is a triangular section of aluminium twisted into a helix shape and then coated with coloured soils collected from all regions of India. The coloured soils are a first for the styling of a Queen's Baton. A jewel-encrusted box was used to house the Queen's message, which was laser-engraved onto a miniature 18 carat gold leaf – representative of the ancient Indian 'patras'. The Queen's baton is ergonomically contoured for ease of use. It is 664 millimetres high, 34 millimetres wide at the base, and 86 millimetres wide at the top and weighs 1,900 grams. ▶



COMMONWEALTH GAMES OVERVIEW ...continued



Delhi 2010:

The 2010 Commonwealth Games are the nineteenth Commonwealth Games, and the ninth to be held under that name. The Games are scheduled to be held in Delhi, India between 3 October and 14 October 2010. The games will be the largest multi-sport event conducted to date in Delhi and India generally, which has previously hosted the Asian Games in 1951 and 1982. The opening ceremony is scheduled to take place at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Delhi. It will also be the first time the

Commonwealth Games will be held in India and the second time the event has been held in Asia (after 1998 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia).

Preparations:

Delhi proposed a four-lane, 2.2 km underground stretch from Lodhi Road to trans-Yamuna, linking the Games Village to the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium and reducing travelling time between the Village and the Stadium by six minutes.

In response to concerns over the large number of trains that pass by the Delhi metropolitan region daily, construction of road under-bridges and over-bridges along railway lines has been started. To expand road infrastructure, flyovers, cloverleaf flyovers, and bridges have been planned to improve links for the Games and city in general. Road-widening projects have begun with an emphasis being placed on expanding national highways. To improve traffic flow on existing roads, plans are underway to make both the inner and outer Ring roads signal free.

To support its commitment to mass transport, nine corridors have been identified and are being constructed as High Capacity Bus Systems (for example, one from Ambedkar Nagar to Red Fort). Six of these corridors are expected to be operational in 2010. Additionally, The Delhi Metro will be expanded to accommodate more people and boost the use of public transport during the 2010 games. At 420 km long, it will be one of the world's longest networks and it will extend to Gurgaon and the Noida area. For this exponential increase of the network, Delhi Metro will deploy 14 tunnel boring machines, an unprecedented number in an Asian country.

Indira Gandhi International Airport is being modernised, expanded, and upgraded. Costing nearly US\$ 1.94 billion, Terminal 3 will improve airport passenger capacity to more than 37

million passengers a year by 2010. A new runway is being constructed, allowing for over 75 flights an hour and – at over 4400 metres long – it will be one of Asia's longest.

The airport will be connected to the city via a six-lane expressway (Delhi–Gurgaon Expressway) and the \$580 million Delhi Airport Metro Express line. ▶





COMMONWEALTH GAMES OVERVIEW...continued



Red Fort, Delhi

Venues:

Existing and new stadiums in Delhi will be used to house the sports during the Games:

- Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Delhi – Athletics, lawn bowls, weightlifting
- Dhyan Chand National Stadium – Hockey
- Indira Gandhi Arena – Archery, cycling, gymnastics, wrestling
- Delhi University sports complex – Rugby sevens
- Thyagaraj Stadium – Netball
- Siri Fort Sports Complex – Badminton, Squash
- Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range – Shooting
- Talkatora Stadium – Boxing
- SPM Swimming Pool Complex – Aquatics
- RK Khanna Tennis Complex – Tennis
- Yamuna Sports Complex – Table tennis

The opening and closing ceremonies, athletics, lawn bowls, and weightlifting will take place at

the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Delhi, which will have a capacity of 75,000 spectators after renovation for the games.

Archery, cycling, gymnastics, and wrestling will take place at the Indira Gandhi Arena, the largest indoor sports arena in India and the second-largest in Asia, which seats 25,000 people. Located at the Indraprastha Estate in the eastern region of New Delhi, the arena will be connected to other venues via dedicated bus lanes and mass transportation. The arena will be renovated for the Games.

There are 26 new stadiums which will be utilised for the Commonwealth Games. Some older ones will be upgraded and some new will be constructed.

In preparation for an influx of English-speaking tourists for the Games, the Delhi government is implementing a program to teach English, and the necessary skills for serving tourists, to key workers – such as cab drivers, security workers, waiters, porters, and service staff. In the two years prior to the Games 2,000 drivers were taught English. The programme aims to teach 1,000 people English per month in the hope of reaching all key workers by March 2010. In addition to Delhi, the Indian Government plans to expand the programme to teach people in local tourist destinations in other parts of India.

In addition to physical preparation, India will offer free accommodation for all athletes at the Games Village, as well as free transport and other benefits, such as a free trip to the famed Taj Mahal and a reserved lane for participants on selected highways. The Games Village will house over 8,000 athletes and officials for the Games. Indian states will train state police forces to handle tourist-related issues and deploy them prior to the Games.

Travel Places are here to help you if you wish to make plans to attend the Games, or even if you already have tickets and just want to organise a tour or holiday afterwards. [Please contact Gayleen Scott on 01903 832888.](mailto:Gayleen.Scott@travelplaces.co.uk)

As the officially appointed agent to the English Team and with previous experience as an official agent for the Melbourne 2006 Games we are well placed to assist you.

There is also a Delhi Destination Guide for your information on the Commonwealth Games section of our website: <http://www.travelplaces.co.uk/d2010-destination-guide-menu.htm>

Delhi has been seeing a lot of infrastructure developments for the 2010 Commonwealth Games. However, there has been no direct funding provided for an Indian Grand Prix yet.

According to experts, the benefits of a booming economy like India joining the F1 calendar are clear. Not only would the hotel and tourism industry get an immediate boost, the country's profile, too, would get a lift.

Experts are also of the view that once the Indian Grand Prix kicks off, it has the potential to generate around \$170 million in revenue and employ as many as 10,000 people. The opportunity in advertising tie-ups between manufacturers and F1 can't be overlooked either.

F1 India

The new Circuit near New Delhi is set to be completed by 2011. The race will be held at the Jaypee Group Circuit in Greater Noida, 50 km from Delhi. See our website for details: <http://www.travelplaces.co.uk/mr-circuits-india.htm>





TRAVEL PLACES LONDON: YOUR LONDON EYE

With the recent addition of our Events and Incentive Team at the London office, we have the knowledge and the expertise to bring you a fresh and exciting take on our nation's capital city.

London is currently the focus of many inbound meetings, incentives, conferences, exhibitions, and for tourism generally, not to mention the preparations that are underway for hosting one of the world's largest sporting events in the summer of 2012.

Our London team conducted a Familiarisation trip to London in conjunction with Visit London at the end of June for senior managers of clients based overseas; all with key positions in companies such as Luminous (Hong Kong), Swiss Privilege, (Hong Kong), PR1ME (Canada), Aviva (USA), PHB Events (USA), Pharmedent (USA) and SE+T Sports,Events,Tourism (Netherlands). They experienced first-hand what London can offer, courtesy of Travel Places London and our partners.

The trip lasted four days, during which time they were initially based at the Grove (London's Country Estate), where they had some time for spa treatments and relaxation. The following days consisted of visits to some of London's key icons and new venues, such as The View. Located on the top two floors of a 16-storey development in Bow, east London, The View offers a stimulating audio-visual visitor experience and boasts a large terrace with panoramic views overlooking the Olympic Park and Stadium for the Games in 2012. ►





TRAVEL PLACES LONDON: YOUR LONDON EYE ...continued



Forman's Fish Island

Our guests were then taken to H. Forman & Son, to see this unique venue on the doorstep of the Olympic Stadium.

H. Forman & Son is a 4th generation family owned salmon smoker, established in the East End in 1905. They employ 90 staff who supply smoked and fresh fish to top hotels, restaurants, chefs and retailers including Gordon Ramsay, Marco Pierre White, Fortnum & Mason, The Dorchester and The House of Lords amongst others and also export across the globe. Nearby hotels include the Four Season's Canary Wharf and the Marriott Canary Wharf.

The remainder of the day was taken up with site inspections of the O2 Arena, Canary Wharf, with

a transfer by river to St Katherine's Dock, to visit Tower Bridge, South Bank past HMS Belfast, finishing at the Tower of London and a tour of the Jewel House and Treasury.

The next day was spent aboard the legendary VSOE British Pullman, which departed from London Victoria on a circular tour, with a five course lunch on board, and champagne reception at Whitstable. Their overnight stay was at the Landmark Hotel and the evening was taken up at the Geilgud Theatre for a performance of "Hair - the musical". Their final full day was spent at the All England Lawn Tennis Club, Wimbledon; where they were treated to a champagne reception and three-course a la carte lunch at the Gatsby Club.



The Gatsby Club

The afternoon was spent either on Centre Court or Court One, watching play. Late afternoon Tea with strawberries cream was also served! The last evening was a farewell dinner at the Landmark Hotel before returning to their respective countries the next morning. This type of tour really showcases what we can offer you and your clients. Nobody knows London's venues like we do!

We also have a dedicated business travel team working within our London office, dealing with corporations and small/medium size businesses alike. They have access to an extensive air fares database, and can provide accommodation for your stay from a worldwide hotel inventory.

For quotes or information please contact us on business@travelplaces.co.uk

WorldSkills 2011

Gerry and his team at Swan Court have recently won the contract for Phase 1 & 2 of the WorldSkills London event in 2011, which we are proud to be part of. A press release in Venues & Events details our involvement:

<http://www.venues.org.uk/news/news.asp?article=1433>

Find out more about WorldSkills 2011:

<http://www.clockhousedesign.co.uk/2011sponsorshipbrochurefinal.pdf>

As UK residents when was the last time you thought about a weekend in London? The city has much to offer everyone, not just high end hospitality or events. Give us a call for any meeting or event that you need help with, either in the capital or abroad. We have access to an extensive fares database and hotel inventory, as well as our experience across the team. The number is **+44 (0)203 117 0870**.

For more background see our new ebrochure or visit the website:

<http://www.travelplaces.co.uk/winningevents/index.html>



SPECIAL REPORT FROM TP SOUTH AFRICA

The World Cup has drawn to a close and Spain and Travel Places can look back on a job well done.

Travel Places was involved in moving in excess of a thousand media clients from all over the world to cover the 2010 World Cup. Despite the BA strike and the volcanic ash cloud everybody arrived on time into South Africa. All of the Travel Places team received official media accreditation which allowed us access to the International Broadcast Centre, next to Soccer City.



Operating from the Getty Images office the team were on hand to handle any changes and additional bookings that were required by various media organisations such as the BBC, Host Broadcast Services, Getty Images, Canon and various other media groups.

As well as successfully handling International and domestic flight arrangements, Travel Places organised accommodation and car hire as well

as coach transport to Rustenburg, Polokwane and Nelspruit on behalf of many clients. The response we had from all of our customers was first class, and being on the spot enabled us to turn all enquiries round quickly.

We also handled new business on behalf of a number of new clients, hopefully to whom we can offer our services when they all travel to London for the 2012 Games.

As well as working hard throughout our stay in Johannesburg, (bearing up as temperatures dropped to below freezing most evenings), staff were able to experience at least two matches with the Germany v Ghana match being the highlight in Soccer City.

It was a great experience being at the Football World Cup, and the success was down to a real team effort.



GO VIRGIN GALACTIC!

Business tycoon Sir Richard Branson is a truly great British entrepreneur. Not content with overseeing his current Virgin Group empire; comprising of media, Formula 1, various airline operations, trains, cosmetics, jewellery, radio stations, Games, financial services, consumer electronics, retail travel and luxury destinations, he is now on the verge of pioneering travel for the paying public into new frontiers.



Virgin Galactic, White Knight 2

Space travel was once the dominion of governments, and the likes of Gene Rodenberry, but thanks to Virgin Galactic and their partners Scaled Composites, we have an awe-inspiring new travel product to look forward to.

Virgin Galactic plans to provide sub-orbital spaceflights to the consumer (albeit those with enough funds), along with sub-orbital space science missions and orbital launches of small satellites. Further in the future Virgin Galactic hopes to offer orbital human spaceflights as well.

Space Tourism:

It is planned that the spacecraft are to be robust and affordable enough to take paying passengers (\$200,000 per person with a \$20,000 deposit). The craft is projected to be a six passenger, two pilot craft. Its planned trajectory will overlap the Earth's atmosphere at 70,000 feet (21,000 miles), which will make it a sub-orbital journey with a short period of weightlessness. At around 16 kilometres or 52,000 ft (16,000 m), the rocket will separate when the plane reaches its maximum height. The time from liftoff of the White Knight II booster carrying SpaceShipTwo until the touchdown of SpaceShipTwo after the sub-

orbital flight will be about three and a half hours. The sub-orbital flight itself will only be a small fraction of that time. The weightlessness will last approximately 6 minutes. Passengers will be able to release themselves from their seats during these 6 minutes and float around the cabin.

In addition to the sub-orbital passenger business, Virgin Galactic will market SpaceShipTwo for sub-orbital space science missions and market WhiteKnightTwo for "small satellite" launch services. They plan to initiate RFPs for the satellite business in early 2010.

The Spaceship Company:

The Spaceship Company (TSC) is a new aerospace production company, founded by Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Group and Scaled Composites, which is building a fleet of commercial spaceships and launch aircraft with the intention of making widespread space travel a reality. TSC's initial launch customer is Virgin Galactic, which has contracted to purchase five SpaceShipTwos and two WhiteKnightTwos. To meet Virgin Galactic's requirements, TSC has contracted Scaled Composites to develop and build prototypes of WK2 and SS2, which TSC started full-scale production of in 2008. ►



GO VIRGIN GALACTIC! ...continued



Spaceport, America

SpaceShipTwo:

Scaled Composites' Model 339 SpaceShipTwo (SS2) is a suborbital spaceplane for carrying space tourists, under development by The Spaceship Company, a joint venture between Scaled Composites and Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Group, as part of the Tier 1b program. The spaceship was officially unveiled to the public on Monday, 7 December 2009, at the Mojave Air and Spaceport in California. The Virgin Galactic spaceline plans to operate a fleet of five of these craft in passenger-carrying private spaceflight service starting no earlier than 2011. A ticket costs \$200,000 USD.

SpaceShipTwo will fly higher than SpaceShipOne, to a height of 110 km in order to go beyond the defined boundary of space (100 km) and lengthen the experience

of weightlessness. The spacecraft will reach around Mach 3 (1000 m/s), which is faster than current fighter jets are capable of attaining; however, the spacecraft will not be able to sustain that speed for long periods of time. It has twice the crew (2) and can carry triple the passengers (6) of its predecessor.

In honour of the science fiction series "Star Trek", the first two ships are named in honour of the fictional starships "Enterprise" and "Voyager". To re-enter the atmosphere SpaceShipTwo folds its wings up, and then returns them to their original position for a smooth and gentle glide back onto the runway. The craft has a very limited cross-range capability and until other planned spaceports are built worldwide, it has to land in the area where it started. SpaceShipTwo uses a feathered re-entry system, feasible due to the low speed of re-entry – by contrast, space shuttles and other orbital spacecraft re-enter at orbital speeds, closer to 25,000 km/h (16,000 mph), using heat shields. It is designed to re-enter the atmosphere at any angle.

SpaceShipTwo will decelerate through the atmosphere, switching to a gliding position at 80,000 ft and will take 25 minutes to glide back to the spaceport. Once the passengers return, their passports will receive a spaceflight stamp and they will be awarded their astronaut wings

at an awards ceremony. They will also be able to relive their flight from footage filmed during the spaceflight.

SpaceShipTwo will have 43 cm and 33 cm diameter windows for the passengers' viewing pleasure, and all seats will recline back during landing to decrease the discomfort of G-forces. Reportedly, the craft can land safely even if "catastrophic damage" occurs during the flight.

About 300 individuals are reported to have signed up for a flight. They are all willing to pay about \$200,000 (£121,000) for the privilege of experiencing six minutes of weightlessness during what will be a two-hour end-to-end flight. Many of those future "astronauts" have attended the VIP unveiling at the Mojave Air and Spaceport.

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson christened the spaceliner Virgin SpaceShip (VSS) Enterprise. The New Mexico authorities are investing almost \$200m in a purpose-built facility in Upham. Spaceport America will have a 3,000m (10,000ft) runway and a suitably space-age terminal and hangar building designed by Foster and Partners.

Sir Richard intends to run the first flights out

of New Mexico (Spaceport America), before extending operations around the globe. Virgin Galactic also announced on April 3rd, 2008 that in the future they will operate in Europe out of Spaceport Sweden. Further "Spaceports" are planned in Dubai and elsewhere, with the intention that the Spaceline will have a world-wide availability and commodity in the future.



Ice Hotel, Kiruna Sweden



Flight Updates:

EMIRATES UPDATE



Emirates is the national airline of Dubai, United Arab Emirates and operates over 2400 passenger flights per week, from its hub at Dubai International Airport Terminal 3, to 108 destinations in 60 countries across 6 continents. The company also operates four of the world's longest non-stop commercial flights from Dubai to Los Angeles, San Francisco, São Paulo and, Houston with all except San Francisco on

the Boeing 777-200LR. The flight to San Francisco is currently served by a Boeing 777-300ER. Emirates is a subsidiary of The Emirates Group, which has over 50,000 employees, and is wholly-owned by the Government of Dubai directly under the Investment Corporation of Dubai. Cargo activities are undertaken by the Emirates Group's Emirates SkyCargo division.

Success:

In 2010 the airline was the sixth-largest airline in the world in terms of international passengers carried, and largest in the world in terms of scheduled international passenger-kilometres flown. The airline was also the seventh largest in terms of scheduled freight tonne-kilometres flown.

Emirates has built up a strong brand name as a trendsetter in the aviation industry, particularly in terms of service excellence, coupled with consistent profitability. In 2010, Emirates was voted the eighth best airline in the world by research consultancy firm Skytrax.

Superjumbo Expansion:

On 8th June 2010, at the Berlin Air show, Emirates ordered an additional 32 A380s worth \$11.5 billion. The deal was the biggest single order for the world's largest passenger aircraft. This latest order, added to the 58 A380s previously ordered, brings the total to 90. Emirates expects all 90 superjumbos to be delivered by 2017. None of the additional 32 jets are intended to replace existing A380s; although Emirates received its first A380 in 2008 it does not expect to retire these early

airframes before 2020. Later in June 2010, Tim Clark, the president of Emirates, hinted at further orders for A380s.

The airline now uses their Airbus A380-800 on flights to: Bangkok, Sydney, Toronto, Auckland (via Sydney), London Heathrow (double daily services), Seoul, Jeddah, Paris, Beijing (commencing 1st August 2010), Manchester (commencing 1st September 2010), New York-JFK (resumes on October 31st, 2010) and Shanghai (commencing 1st January 2011). The airline has also expressed interest in starting A380 flights to Melbourne.

However, the airline is facing challenges from foreign governments and their airlines, who, being fearful of their own market share dropping are refusing traffic rights, limiting Emirate's growth plans. New routes to Berlin and Stuttgart, additional capacity to Paris, and extra seats to Canada and South Korea have so far been denied to Emirates.

Despite protectionism challenges the airline will expand into the Czech Republic and Spain, with new services commencing to Prague and Madrid in July and August respectively. ►



Flight Updates:

EMIRATES UPDATE ...continued

Environmental Stewardship:

The airline claims to have lower emissions than other airlines due to its fleet which has an average fuel burn of less than four litres for every 100 passenger kilometres they fly. The Cargo division of the airline also uses an efficient hub-based operation, using fewer flights needed to transport the same number of people. Emirates has stated that their versions of A380-800 will offer fuel economy of 3.1 litres per 100 passenger km. Emirates A380-800s also feature the Engine Alliance GP7200 engines, which save 500,000 litres of fuel per aircraft per year.

In-Flight Innovation:

Emirates became the first airline in the world to introduce a personal entertainment system on a commercial aircraft after introducing the world's first seat-back screens in 1992. All three classes feature a personal In-Flight-Entertainment (IFE) system on Emirates aircraft. There are three types of entertainment system on Emirates: ICE (Information, Communication, Entertainment); ice Digital Widescreen; and Emirates tv&radio.



Emirates has won the award for best in-flight-entertainment from Skytrax for their ICE system every year since the systems inception in 2003. At present, almost 70 percent of the fleet has the ice in-flight entertainment and by 2011 the entire Emirates fleet is set to have the system. ICE offers more channels than any other in-flight entertainment system.

Introduced in 2003, ICE is available on all new aircraft and features between 600 and 1000 channels to all passengers. ICE is found on the airline's Airbus A380-800, Airbus A340-500, Boeing 777-300ER and Boeing 777-200/LR aircraft. It is also available on all Boeing 777-300 aircraft which have all been retrofitted.

In July 2007, Emirates introduced ICE Digital Widescreen, an updated version of ICE. It offers over 1000 channels of entertainment (up from 600) available to all passengers. ICE Digital Widescreen is available on all new aircraft.

News & Information:

The system is based on the 3000i system from Panasonic Avionics Corporation. ICE provides passengers with a direct data link to BBC News. ICE is the first IFE system to be connected directly to automatic news updates.

Entertainment:

The ICE system includes movies, music, and video games. ICE offers over 130 on-demand movie titles and 15 video on demand channels, 60 pre-recorded television channels, 350 audio channels, and around 50 video-game titles. ICE can also be accessed in 10 languages such as English, French, German, Spanish, Arabic, Korean, and Japanese. Since 2003, all entertainment options are available on-demand to all classes with options to pause, forward, and rewind them.

Emirates now features docking capability for Apple's iPod portable music and video player as of mid-2007. This allows the device's battery to be charged, but also allows integration with Emirates' in-flight entertainment (IFE) system. This also enables the IFE system to play music, television shows, or movies stored on the iPod, as well as function as a control system.

Business Model:

The so-called "Emirates business model" lies at the heart of the airline's commercial success. Its main ingredients are a lean workforce comparable to a low-cost carrier and a flat organisational structure that allows the airline to maintain low overhead costs.

Some industry analysts believe the airline is second only to Ryanair on a cash cost per seat basis due to lower operating costs at its Dubai base. This enables it to serve secondary destinations profitably by connecting these via its global hub in Dubai.

Emirates has not joined any global airline alliance, stating that unless an airline is the lead participant in such an alliance - e.g. Lufthansa in Star Alliance or Air France in SkyTeam, individual alliance members' freedom of action is compromised by the imposition of common alliance goals that mainly serve the interests of the alliance leaders.

Emirates operates an all-widebody fleet. This results in lower unit costs compared to other large airlines operating mixed narrow- and widebody fleets and allows the airline to use the aircraft's cargo capacity to increase its revenues and total profits. Since Dubai International Airport does not have any night flying restrictions, Emirates achieves a higher utilisation of its aircraft than competitors. It also has fewer legacy costs than longer established rivals, and it helps that all forms of strikes are banned in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).



Flight Updates:

Hop on to Air France's super jumbo between Paris and London this summer



Air France had ordered 12 Airbus A380-800 aircraft, with options on a further two. The first A380 was delivered on 30 October 2009, and is used on the Paris to New York route. Following delivery of the second A380, Air France started using it on the Paris to Johannesburg route from the 17 February 2010. With delivery of the third A380 in April 2010, they increased the frequency of the Johannesburg route to daily.

Additionally, for the duration of the summer of 2010, until 30 August, the carrier has scheduled daily flights between Paris and London using the A380 to avoid an 18-hour layover in Paris for the aircraft used on the Johannesburg route. The fourth superjumbo will be delivered in August 2010, which will be used to begin A380 flights to Tokyo (starting on 1 September 2010) and as more are delivered, to Beijing. Air France was the first airline in Europe to be operating the A380 with Lufthansa following in June 2010.

British Airways

Launch of "PrivateConnect" Service

The new partnership between British Airways and private US jet charter company Citation Air will provide a convenient "pay by the hour" hire service of small private aircraft within North America and the Caribbean. Designed to assist BA travellers who need an onward connection (although the service does not have to be used as such), and is available to all Executive Card members who have flown with the airline in the last twelve months, or is employed by a company that has a BA corporate account. It will enable customers to hire private jets without the long-term commitment and up-front fees normally associated with chartering.

Prices start at \$6,464 per hour for a six-seater CJ3 aircraft, and includes fuel, federal excise and segment taxes, property, landing and other taxes, transportation if transferring between British Airways and CitationAir aircraft, and international fees for flights outside the US.

For more information visit the website: <http://www.citationair.com/PrivateConnect/Home.aspx>

Launch Gatwick – Cancun Direct Service

British Airways will become the first scheduled carrier to operate direct flights between the two cities when it launches its service in November to the popular Mexican resort of Cancun. The twice weekly service will be an 11 hour flight, departing London Gatwick at 1245 and arriving in Cancun at 1745, with the return leg departing Cancun at 1915, and arriving into Gatwick at 1015 the following morning. BA also currently serves Mexico City with direct flights from London Heathrow using B747 aircraft. The new Cancun flight will be run using a three-class B777 aircraft.



Other news

- QANTAS to Operate Daily A380 Flights to London



- AA launches mobile boarding at Heathrow
- Emirates will fly Airbus A380 from Dubai to Delhi as one off to celebrate launch of T3 at Indira Gandhi Airport on July 15th
- Cathay Pacific to offer in-flight broadband from 2012



- BA launches new economy & premium economy seating on new B777-300ER aircraft



Hotel Updates:

Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts



Banyan Tree, Seoul

From a single boutique resort in Phuket in 1994, Banyan Tree has grown into a multi-business operator globally. Listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange since 2006, it currently manages and/or has ownership interests in over 20 resorts and hotels, over 60 spas, in excess of 70 retail galleries and 3 golf courses. The company is best known for its signature Banyan Tree and Angsana brands.

Its innovative business model is based on seven business segments generating multiple income streams. Banyan Tree's vertically integrated business model comprises:

Hotel investment

- Banyan Tree owns and manages luxury hotels under its brands, as well as hotels that are managed by other world-class operators.

Hotel management

- Banyan Tree additionally manages properties under the Banyan Tree and Angsana brands for other owners.

Spa operations

- Banyan Tree Spa pioneered the tropical garden spa concept, and has since grown to over 60 outlets worldwide.

Hotel residences

- Hotel inventory are primarily sold under the brand name Banyan Tree Residences.

Property sales

- Properties that are not part of hotel operations are sold by our subsidiary company, Laguna Resorts and Hotels, and its subsidiaries, in Laguna Phuket.

Gallery operations

- The retail arm is consolidated under Banyan Tree Gallery, which comprises five brand segments located in over 70 stores worldwide.

Design and other services

- Revenue from design services is earned by Architrave, Banyan Tree's in-house architectural arm. Other service fees include income from operating golf clubs.

Real Estate Hospitality Funds

- Banyan Tree Capital was set up to tap private equity and other sources of investments in order to provide a cost efficient structure to fund the Group's future developments.

The company's vision is to grow into a global business, with a portfolio of properties strategically placed around the world; its mission is inextricably intertwined with its commitment to corporate social responsibility and sustainable growth as it continues to expand globally. ►



Banyan Tree Spa, Seoul



Hotel Updates:

Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts

...continued

Expansion:

The renowned boutique hotel brand Banyan Tree, are expanding into South Korea. The new Banyan Tree Club & Spa in Seoul, which comprises a member's club as well as a city hotel is spread over 70,00 square metres, in Mount Namsam, providing easy access from downtown Seoul, as a place for leisure and entertainment in a natural environment.

Rising 21 storeys, Banyan Tree Club & Spa Seoul occupies the former Tower Hotel building, one of Seoul's most enduring cultural landmarks designed in 1967 by architect Kim Swoo Geun to commemorate the Korean War. The rooms and suites, each featuring a relaxation pool, and 16 dedicated Club Rooms and Suites especially for club members, are equipped with state-of-the-art technology. Meanwhile, the private members club offers an unparalleled degree of attention, activities and pampering for every kind of social and business occasion.

With wraparound views of Seoul, the limpid Han River and the lush greenery of Namsan Park, this urban oasis offers a sanctuary for the senses in the heart of one of the world's most exciting cities. Effortlessly, it combines Banyan Tree's signature warmth and traditional Korean hospitality with a tempting mix of Banyan Tree

Spa, the first in Seoul, a myriad of outdoor facilities including golf driving range, tennis, futsal and outdoor swimming pool, and round the clock sophisticated cuisine and refreshments in any one of the resort's 12 restaurants and bars.

Other recent openings this year include Banyan Tree Al Wadi, the first desert resort in the UAE to offer an all-pool villa concept, complete with 3,000 square metres of Asian-inspired hydrotherapy spa facilities, a dedicated nature reserve, a private beach club and an 18-hole championship golf course.

This oasis of indulgence spans over 100 hectares, of which 60 hectares are dedicated as a nature reserve – home to local desert wildlife such as Arabian gazelles, camels and oryxes, offering guests a unique opportunity to interact with and observe these gentle creatures up close.

The resort is a 45-minute drive from Dubai International Airport and a 20-minute drive from the vibrant Ras Al Khaimah city centre.

In 2009 the group also opened the Banyan Tree Mayakoba, in Mexico's desirable Riviera Maya on the Yucutan Peninsula. ▶



Image left and above: Banyan Tree Mayakoba, Mexico



Banyan Tree, Al Wadi, UAE.



Hotel Updates:

Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts ...continued

The heart of Riviera Maya – the 100-mile stretch of blue-green Caribbean and bleached white sand that stretches from Cancun and south to Tulum – is a small but buzzing beach town called Playa del Carmen which has grown tremendously in popularity during the last decade. Just minutes from Playa (beach in Spanish) as locals call it, the resort is also located within an easy distance of three stunning and highly significant archaeological sites – the Chichen Itza complex, the Tulum seaside ruins, and the Coba jungle temples. Hundreds of structures which date as far back as the 3rd century during the Maya civilisation are still standing today and can be visited by anyone with a day to spare.

All 132 freestanding villas are set among lush and pristine mangrove jungles which architects had sought to preserve during the initial planning phase, or are by the beachfront facing the Caribbean sea. Each villa – be it a Garden Pool Villa, Spa Pool Villa, Terrace Residence and Beachfront Pool Villa – offers a spacious private pool, starting from 30 square metres and is shielded from neighbouring villas by natural flora.

The villas available in one-, two- and three-bedroom configurations also feature private outdoor heated jet-pools or sunken baths, sun decks, and steam rooms.

The Indian Ocean has also been another destination for the opening of a stunning new Banyan resort.

Launched in July 2009, Angsana Velavaru's InOcean Villas have the distinction of being the first standalone collection water villas in the Maldives. It even has its own Italian gourmet restaurant and bar Azzurro on stilts, catering exclusively to InOcean Villa guests. You can't live any closer to the ocean than this – each villa "floats" over brilliant turquoise waters on the edge of the reef. Located in the South Nilandhe Atoll, each two-storey water villa is positioned on the edge of the reef one kilometre away from the island where the main Angsana Velavaru resort stands.

With panoramic ocean views through floor to ceiling sliding glass doors – along the living, sleeping and bath areas – that resemble life-sized postcards in motion, guests may find themselves less inclined to utilise the modern amenities provided such as a flat screen TV, DVD player, stereo system with iPod docking station and wireless Internet connection unless really necessary. Guests are encouraged to make use of the snorkelling fins and masks that are provided in each InOcean villa to explore the lagoon waters beneath. Kayaks are also provided for a paddle around or to get to the main island (boat transfers are also available).



Angsana Velavaru, Maldives

Other news



Fullerton Bay Hotel, Singapore

- Luxury brand Westin to open in Hamburg
- Swissotel Pioneer Kids Rooms
- Fullerton Bay Hotel Singapore re-opens after re-vamp
- Ritz-Carlton to open new hotel in Abu Dhabi in 2011
- W London opening delayed until Feb 2011
- InterContinental opens 2nd property in New York

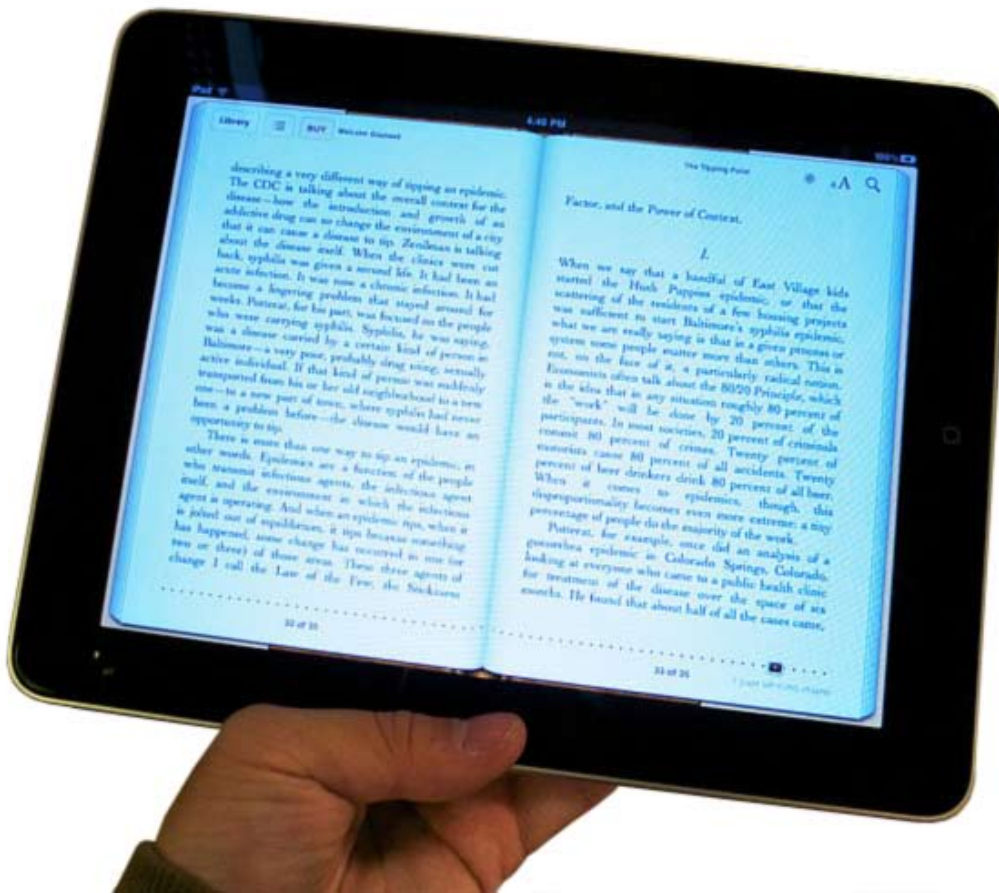


Technology Updates:

iPAD IS A HIT

Free iPad service at Langham Place Hotel:

Langham Place Hotel in Mongkok, Hong Kong is now offering a free roaming iPad service for guests.



The iPads are loaded with Langham Place's own Hong Kong city guide, a Cantonese-English translator of must-know phrases, to-the-minute maps of Hong Kong, an intimate guide to using the Mass Transit Railway, as well as a restaurant locator and information on how to match Hong Kong delicacies with wine.

Tech-savvy guests are able to "check-out" the iPads for 24-hours at a time.

Langham Place Hotel's general manager, Shaun Campbell, said, "The hotel is surrounded by a Wi-Fi bubble so guests can take the iPads anywhere in the hotel – by the pool, at the bar, or in their room."

Guests can also browse the web, check emails, flick through the latest magazines or sit poolside skimming through one of the pre-loaded e-books – all free of charge.

The hotel's x team (concierge) is also equipped with iPads to provide interactive information on the city's must-see and must-do attractions. The iPads for guest use are accessible free of charge, regardless of room type for a 24-hour time period.

An iPad for a menu:

The Global Mundo Tapas eatery at Rydges Hotel in North Sydney, Australia, has replaced its printed menus with the iPad for its customers to order their meals.

Rydges Hotel's general manager Craig Simpson, said having such a unique menu is "One of the points of difference for our restaurant".

He bought 15 iPads, getting 10 from Adelaide on launch day (May 28) when the highly sought-after gizmo went on sale outside United States. Each cost A\$629 (US\$531).

"It's the cost of doing business," said Simpson.

An iPad app enables diners to flick on the screen to browse the menu, which comes with photographs and tasting notes. Press a button and the order is placed.

The hotel plans to add new features to the iPad, which include pop-up boxes recommending wines to go with meals and stock-control mechanisms to delete sold-out items from the menu.

According to the hotel's food and beverage manager, Fareid Taheri, the menu had been well received. "It's something to play with while you order," he said.



Technology Updates:

THE HUMAN NETWORK



'A hundred years ago, as the nineteenth century drew to a close, scientists around the world were satisfied that they had arrived at an accurate picture of the physical world... If you were to say to a physicist in 1899 that in 1999, a hundred years later, moving images would be transmitted into homes all over the world from satellites in the sky; that microscopes would be able to see individual atoms; that people would carry telephones weighing a few ounces, and speak anywhere in the world without wires – if you said all this, the physicist would almost certainly pronounce you mad. Most of these developments could not have been predicted in 1899, because prevailing scientific theory said they were impossible. Even the most informed scientists standing on the threshold of the twentieth century had no idea what was to come.' Michael Crichton, Timeline'

It's strange that as we enter the third millennium,

we only now seem to be starting to understand just how ignorant we really are about the great mysteries of the universe. We now know we have not discovered all that is to be discovered, nor have we arrived at an accurate view of the world scientifically, mentally, socially, emotionally or spiritually.

With increasingly superior research and technology, we are realising that what was once thought of as the upper limit – “the sky” – is no longer a prohibitive boundary. What was unimaginable no more than a few years ago is becoming well within our reach, and revealing at the same time how much more there is to discover.

Just as efficient technological networks are the way of the future, effective human networks will need to be developed to connect people and their varied ideas and resources. Although technological networks are already being recognised as a powerful force, as yet the importance of human team networks has not been fully appreciated.

Through finding common pathways of understanding, recognising different talents, combining resources, and sharing roles people will be able to access much more than they ever have before. Just as speed and the depth of connection are the new keys to technological growth, and are allowing humanity to penetrate deeper into the unknown, efficient and effective communication

may also be the keys to human growth. But a network is only as fast and effective as its weakest link. In the same way that progress in technology is slowed down by incompatibility, teams also must learn to see the big picture and find a common platform. Internal politics, inadequate leadership, and a destructive competitive approach often slow down whole company teams and smaller specialised teams (departmental/task groups). Coupled with a lack of understanding of what can turn an ordinary work group into a high performance work team, individuals and companies neglect exploring positive new possibilities, failing to reach anywhere near their full potential.

Often, it seems, the weakest link in a company is not a lack of intelligence or energy, but the way these are channelled.

Performance @ the speed of team competence

Bill Gates' book “Business @ the Speed of Thought” explores a great concept. As thought and light are the fastest known means of travel, he discusses how we can utilise progressive technological concepts to maximise business opportunities. But at the same time as maximising strengths such as these, it is important to recognize the need to minimise weaknesses.

Developing the human network

Over 1 million individual parts make up an airplane, but each part is not the plane in itself. It is not the individual parts of a plane, but the completed construction that makes it work that gives it a definition. The identity of the airplane exists only in the function and design of the whole.

It is not the individual links that make up the network, but the complex channel between them. It is not the people within a company that make the company work and give it definition, but the way they interact that is important. This is the human network. The identity of a company exists only in the function and design of the whole.

When people in companies can start to recognize the importance of this mindset and the enormity of what could be achieved if talented individuals worked together as a team, then they can truly say that, “the sky is no longer the limit”.

We have just had a century of unimaginable progress with technology, now lets dream of a century of unimaginable progress in human achievement. The sky is not the limit.

Selected excerpts from Andrew and Gaia Grant's upcoming book “Building Villages, Not Empires”



WINNING TOURS: National Sevens Series

This summer has seen the first National Series Summer Sevens take place, organised by Ultimate Rugby Sevens. The top UK teams, many of whom book their international travel through Winning Tours at Travel Places, on the seven circuit have competed at four key events throughout June and July, namely Rugby Rocks in Richmond, West Country Sevens, Manchester Sevens and Newquay Sevens.

Travel Places was present at the Manchester leg of the series and Gameface Pacific Warriors celebrated their travel partnership with Travel Places with our logo on their team shirts. Both the profile of the teams and Travel Places has been boosted with the National Seven Series being broadcasted on Sky Sports after each weekend of action!

If anyone would like more information on these events or similar, whether as a team or a spectator, please contact Emily at the Winning Tours Department on clubsandschools@travelplaces.co.uk or for anything Sevens Rugby related take a look at:

<http://www.ur7s.com>

stop press:

- Travel Places are now working with Blue CRM, who provide state-of-the-art travelling security for passengers concerned about their safety while abroad. See our website for details: <http://www.travelplaces.co.uk/travel-extras-blue-crm.htm>
- Travel Places Schools, Clubs and Rugby division has been busy lately. We were recently named as an official sponsor to Gameface Pacific Warriors on the Manchester leg of the National Sevens Series.
- Early details about the new circuit under construction near Delhi now on our stop press page: <http://www.travelplaces.co.uk/mr-circuits-india.htm>
- Travel Places are now on Twitter, followers welcome! <http://twitter.com/travelplacesuk>





Quarterly Quotes

The biggest gap in your life is that between what you know and what you do.

Bob Proctor

Security is mostly a superstition. It does not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. Life is either a daring adventure or nothing.

Helen Keller

Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all.

Dale Carnegie

Nurture your mind with great thoughts; to believe in the heroic makes heroes.

Benjamin Disraeli

Action is eloquence.

William Shakespeare

The greatest efforts in sports came when the mind is as still as a glass lake.

Timothy Gallwey

Concentration is the ability to think about absolutely nothing when it is absolutely necessary.

Ray Knight

Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection we can catch excellence.

Vince Lombardi

The 5 Ss of sports training are: stamina, speed, strength, skill, and spirit; but the greatest of these is spirit.

Ken Doherty

The secret to winning is constant, consistent management.

Tom Landry

A coach is someone who can give correction without causing resentment.

John Wooden

Effective teamwork begins and ends with communication.

Mike Krzyzewski

Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity.

Darrell Royal

You can't build a reputation on what you are going to do.

Henry Ford

To keep a lamp burning, we have to keep putting oil in it.

Mother Teresa

What the mind of man can conceive and believe, it can achieve.

Napoleon Hill

Some pearls of wisdom from: Sir Winston Churchill (1874 – 1965)



All great things are simple, and many can be expressed in single words: freedom, justice, honour, duty, mercy, hope.

A love for tradition has never weakened a nation, indeed it has strengthened nations in their hour of peril.

When I am abroad, I always make it a rule never to criticize or attack the government of my own country. I make up for lost time when I come home.

Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm.

However beautiful the strategy, you should occasionally look at the results.

Continuous effort - not strength or intelligence - is the key to unlocking our potential.

I am an optimist. It does not seem too much use being anything else.