



FROM ENGLAND'S HISTORIC CITIES

# ENGLAND'S UNIQUE HISTORY. DISCOVERED YOUR WAY.





# TRAVEL TRADE ACTIVITY SUMMARY 2022



VisitWiltshire was contracted to manage a programme of trade activity for 2022/2023 based on 1 day a month. Outcomes from this report, covering the period from Jan - Dec 2022 were as a direct result of our activity. A total of 15 days consultancy at a cost of £5,250 (excluding VAT and event costs). We achieved the following summary of activity:

- Travel Trade Engagement one-to-one meetings with over 100+ buyers
- England Originals / EHC represented at 3 key travel trade events and Exhibitions
- Recruited 3 (+ 1 strong prospect tbc) new Travel Trade Partners who are committed to develop and distribute England Originals programmes
- Secured 6 new programmes from 2 travel trade partners
- Developed a new travel trade resource and distributed it to over 1,200 key trade contacts



# EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS 2022



- Britain & Ireland Marketplace, 28
   January (in-person London) & 1 February (virtual), total of 36 one-to-one meetings.
- Explore GB, 21 24 March (virtual) total of 20+ one-to-one meetings
- **Destination Britain North America,** 7-12 September (in-person Washington DC) total of 40 one-to-one meetings plus networking.





## **NEW TRAVEL TRADE RESOURCE**



- Engaged with EHC City DMO contacts and coordinated the content for 60+ key travel trade products from 11 cities.
- Developed a new Travel Trade Resource <u>England Originals Travel Trade Resource</u> 2023 is now available on the Travel Trade Toolkit section of the website.
- This new resource has recently been distributed to over 1,200 key trade contacts in the Helping you sell England's Historic Cities newsletter.







# TRADE ENGAGEMENT PARTNERS & DISTRIBUTION



- New partners secured this year include the following:
  - Janet Redler Tourism a well-known UK based DMC targeting the north American market
  - GT Experiences secured from DBNA. An in-market North American tour operator with an extensive network of agents. Currently investigating the feasibility of running a series of video tour based webinars in early 2023
  - **Beautiful Britain** a Belgium tour operator who created and distributed a 'Treasure Trove' fixed tour programme. This ran with 8 pax from 31 October 5 November 2022, who visited Durham, York, Lincoln and Cambridge.
- New prospects include a high end north American tour operator (from DBNA), interested in selling (B2C clients worth £1,500 a day) luxury product within England's Historic Cities for 2023.
- Ongoing engagement with London based DMC's and other trade partners.
- The Trade are in need of more one-to-one help than ever before as they continue to grow their focus on product development.



### **CHALLENGES**



### Challenges:

- Trade engagement activity saw peaks and troughs throughout the year. COVID still clearly had an impact at the beginning of 2022 and this meant that buyers were less focussed on product development activity but were sticking to what they know sells. Throughout spring and early summer, buyers were busy dealing with bookings from pent up demand. This autumn/winter has been productive with additional one-to-one meetings following attendance at key events. We predict this level of interest will continue into 2023 and beyond.
- **Evaluation** of EO / EHC trade activity will always be a challenge as identified in the trade engagement evaluation by Bright Side Tourism Consulting earlier this year. Trade partners will often reflect more qualitatively on performance but anecdotally they feel that sales are going in a positive direction.



## SUCCESSES & RECOMMENDATIONS



### Successes & Recommendations:

- The development of a New Travel Trade Resource for England Originals/EHC was instigated due to demand for trade specific information. Feedback from buyers has been positive. We recommend that this is reviewed annually, with amends to existing and additional product, plus additional inclusions from missing city product.
- It is our recommendation that England Historic Cities consider longer-term investment into trade activity for 2023/2024. We can continue to offer a point of contact for trade engagement building on the work undertaken to date and can prioritise future distribution and sales of England's Historic Cities programmes via the trade.





## 2023 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS & NEXT STEPS



#### Activity

- Britain & Ireland Marketplace Friday 27 January, in-person, London. Deadline to book Wednesday 21
  December.
- European Travel Marketplace North America (formally North American Marketplace) 21 March 2023,
   virtual. Early Bird Rate valid until 12 January.
- Explore GB, 27 February 3 March, virtual, 1 day meetings during this period.

### Budget Allocation (exclusive of VAT)

- Cost to attend BIM with CODE23VBRITBIM (or as member) £699
- Cost to attend ETMNA as ETOA member £699
- Additional Consultancy hours January March (e.g. 1 day BIM, 1 day ETMNA). £250 credit goes towards Explore GB consultancy hours. Recommended additional cost 2 days @ £350 per day = £700.
- Consultancy days April 2023 March 2024 recommended minimum level of support of 1 day a month based on £350 per day rate Total £4,200

### • Total - £6,298 plus VAT.

Please note that if additional trade activity is required e.g. missions, events later in the year etc. then this will incur additional costs. ETOA membership for supporting DMOs will be separate to these costs.





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