



Press release: 3rd August 2009

News from the 'Emerald Isle' of Montserrat

Passengers on a Fred. Olsen cruise this autumn will be able to hear all about life in Montserrat before and after the volcanic activity through a series of lectures. For more on this and other news from Montserrat, please read on.

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1. Fred. Olsen cruise to offer insight into life in Montserrat

Broadcaster and writer Sarah Dickinson will be giving four illustrated lectures about Montserrat during Fred. Olsen's transatlantic Braemar cruise, which departs Dover for the Caribbean on October 27th 2009.

The four lectures will be titled *I heard the mountain groaning*, a brief history of Montserrat and the first eruption; *Shovelling*, about the history of the volcano and the Montserrat Volcano Observatory; *Have a little faith*, featuring songs, poems and art which emerged from the crisis; and *Still nice, still home*, on how Montserrat has come to terms with living with the volcano and the ten year plan to build its new capital.

Sarah Dickinson started visiting Montserrat with her husband John over 20 years ago following a near fatal car accident when they were searching for somewhere warm to recover.

The lectures will detail Sarah's life on the island before and after the volcanic eruptions, which began in 1995.

The Braemar transatlantic Caribbean cruise will depart Dover on October 27th 2009 bound for the Caribbean. The cruise will dock at St Maarten, Antigua, St Lucia, St Vincent and Barbados during its voyage.

The cruise costs from £946 per person based on two sharing a twin cabin. This price includes accommodation; food and entertainment on board, including the lectures, port and airport taxes; and a return flight to the UK from Barbados. For more information visit www.fredolsencruises.co.uk

2. Montserrat to hold its first literary festival in November

Montserrat will be holding its first literary festival from 13th-15th November 2009.

The Alliouagana Festival of the Word will include presentations and readings by invited authors, storytelling under the stars, a calypso lime and cultural performance, open mike sessions and literary workshops.

The featured authors include Carolyn Cooper, Rachel Manley, Merle Hodge, Yvonne Weekes, Howard Fergus, Earl Lovelace, Hollis Liverpool and many more.

The Cultural Centre Court Yard will also hold daily activities including a craft market, food court, bookstall and pampering sessions.

For more information about the festival visit www.litfest.ms or email scsmontserrat@candw.ms.

3. New Centre Hills guide launched

A new guide to the Centre Hills area of Montserrat has just been launched. The 140-page full colour book provides an insight to the unique flora and fauna that can be found in Montserrat, including the endemic Montserrat Oriole.

The guide also provides information about the eight hiking trails in the Centre Hills area, and what can be seen on each hike.

Steve Holliday from the Royal Society of the Protection of Birds (RSPB) authored the guide along with a number of supporting contributions from other writers.

Copies of the book are available for sale at EC\$40 or US\$15 (approx. £9) per copy. All proceeds from the sales will go towards maintaining the trails network in Centre Hills.

For more information on purchasing *A Guide to the Centre Hills*, contact the Montserrat Tourist Board on 001 664 491 2230 or email info@montserratourism.ms.

For more information about Montserrat visit www.visitmontserrat.com or call 020 7928 1600.

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