



Press release: 2nd November 2009

New day trip options from Antigua to Montserrat unveiled

Holidaymakers in Antigua can take advantage of an exciting excursion to Montserrat with lower-priced day trip packages by air now available. A ferry service will also return between the two islands in December 2009, providing further options for day-trip, short-stay and longer-term visitors.

Current day trip packages by air now start from US\$200 per person (approx. £122) including return air travel, transport within Montserrat, a guided island tour, entrance to the Montserrat Volcano Observatory and lunch at a local restaurant. During the excursion, visitors will be able to view the active Soufrière Hills Volcano and the buried capital Plymouth – the modern-day Pompeii – as well as take a trip through the unspoilt north of Montserrat with its green, verdant landscapes and spectacular coastal views. Day-trippers will receive Montserrat's distinctive green shamrock stamp in their passports upon arrival – a testament to the island's Irish heritage.

The five tour operators offering day trip packages are Carib World Travel (info@carib-world.com), D&J Forwarders (001 268 773 9766) and Jenny's Tours (davistrs@hotmail.com) in Antigua and RTT Travel and Tours (www.rtttravelandtours.com) and Runaway Travel Ltd (runaway@candw.ms) in Montserrat.

Christmas Festival

Visitors in December will also have the chance to experience Festival – Montserrat's carnival – which takes place from 4th December – 1st January 2010.

This event is one of the highlights of the year in Montserrat, showcasing the island's culture and performing talent.

Amongst the many events taking place are masquerade performances, informal street dancing, a night of steelpan, pageant shows, a Calypso competition and also carol singing on Christmas Day.

The festival will climax on New Year's Day with a street parade and jump up in the festival village. The full festival calendar is available to view at www.VisitMontserrat.com.

Ferry service resumes

Improving access to Montserrat even further, the Government of Montserrat is pleased to announce the return of a ferry service between Antigua and Montserrat from early December 2009. The new service will provide Montserrat with two daily return trips on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Ticketing and timetable information will be available soon at www.visitmontserrat.com.

For further information about Montserrat and the December Festival visit www.visitmontserrat.com or call 020 7928 1600.

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For media information or images, please contact Kate Popham or Kylie Jenkins at The Saltmarsh Partnership on 020 7928 1600 or email kate@saltmarshpr.co.uk or kylie@saltmarshpr.co.uk