

GUIDED TOURS AT HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

The popular tours of the Houses of Parliament have recently been made available year round with the introduction of Saturday tours. At an exclusive event in Mr Speaker's State Rooms in the Houses of Parliament on June 22nd 2010, the Speaker of the House of Commons and Lord Speaker of the House of Lords officially launched the Saturday Opening of the Houses of Parliament. Taxi Globe was delighted to be invited to this event in these wonderful State Rooms.

The 75 minute 'Blue Badge' guided tours run throughout the day. Tour guides describe the fascinating blend of history and politics that lie within one of the most instantly recognisable buildings in the world. The tours begin by following the processional route that Her Majesty the Queen takes when she performs the State Opening of Parliament. Visitors also get to see the Lords and Commons Chambers plus other highlights such as Westminster Hall, the Queen's Robing Room, the Royal



Gallery, Peers' Lobby, Central Lobby, Members' Lobby and St Stephen's Hall.

Summer opening dates for guided tours of the Houses of Parliament have been extended. They will now be available for 14 extra days, August 31st to September 4th and September 20th to 30th, following the Prime Minister's confirmation of the length

of the summer recess of parliament. Head of Visitor Services at the palace, Victor Launert commented: 'With August already selling well these extra dates are more than welcome. We are now expecting a record number of well over 100,000 visitors for this our 10th Summer Opening.'

Tickets are priced at £14 for adults while for OAPs, students and the armed forces they cost just £9. Tickets for children under 16 are available for £6.

Prices for groups of over 10 start from just £8 but vary depending on the time of day. Prices are set to cover operating costs. Information and reservations are available from Ticketmaster on 0844 847 1672, by visiting www.ticketmaster.co.uk/housesofparliament, or via the link on the Parliamentary website www.parliament.uk

TOUGHING IT OUT FOR MAGICAL TAXI TOUR

Tough Guy Challenge 2011 will be taking place on Sunday January 2011 at a venue near Wolverhampton. The course is around 8.5 miles long and the 2011 challenge is named 'Year of Braveheart Hero II'. A team organised by Carlos Oliveira is planning to take on the challenge. Carlos says: "We'd like to seek sponsorship and run the course on behalf of the Disney Trip 2011. This event is described by the organizers as 'The Worlds safest, most dangerous taste of mental and physical pain, fear and endurance'. Teams with a minimum of 8 competitors will take part, at a cost of £129.50 inc vat per person. We're not expecting to break any records, we will just be happy to complete the course."

So if you fancy taking on the Tough Guy Challenge and bravely face the original and toughest test of its kind anywhere in the World, just get in touch with Carlos on 07956 504 585. You will need both mental and physical strength to face the heights, tight spaces, fire, water and electricity which will test the teams to the max. Everyone bar the very toughest will be beaten..... If the Challenge is not for you then perhaps sponsoring the team to raise funds for The Magical Taxi Tour would be the best alternative!

BLACK CAB COLLECTION GETS A NEW WEBSITE, NEW PRICES & NEW PRODUCTS

LTI Vehicles Black Cab Collection of special London Taxi themed gifts has been improved and is available again with better than ever service and prices. Drivers have always expressed an interest in being able to buy taxi gifts; this collection offers a wide range of items, including useful items such as multi tools and flasks, as well as model taxis, watches and pens. The range also appeals to tourists and overseas customers, all wanting to buy a little memento of the best taxi in the world.

Now LTI have re-launched the range with new low prices an easier to use website and new products in the near future. The improved service is thanks to LTI's new partner, Arcadia. To visit the new website click www.blackcabgifts.co.uk and check out the lower prices. Online ordering couldn't be simpler and your gifts will be with you in 2-3 days.

LTI will be introducing new items and special offers to the range as the old ones sell out so save the website to your favourites and visit regularly to see what else is new.



CAMPAIGN AGAINST PRIVACY GLASS WINDOWS IN PH VEHICLES

Jim Thomas, known to many as Thomas the Taxi, recently wrote to Taxi Globe. He wants to ask for help from taxi drivers in regard to the tinted windows in many private hire vehicles. He says: "Help us cut the amount of Sexual Assaults/Rapes in mini cabs with blacked out windows."

"Many years ago, it was deemed unfitting for London's licensed black cabs to have dark glass in the rear window. Reports of prostitutes using Taxis to service their clients "twice round the outer circle, slowly driver" had been wildly exaggerated in the press, but the powers that be thought it enough reason to ban darken rear windows fitted in London's Taxis.

"Over the past six years, we have seen the rise in use of PHV people carriers with black glass on rear and side windows. In the same period of time, there has been a shocking rise in the numbers of sexual assaults, including rapes, which is now running at 8-10 a month. This is just the victims that report the crime, it is thought to be a much higher figure and it's not just women that are being sexually attacked. Passengers have also been the victims of personal robberies, mainly women, have reported having phones, handbags and other property taken whilst being held prisoner in a blacked out vehicles.

"We have concerns that it is "unethical" that minicabs have blacked out windows in the rear and side windows of their vehicles. Combined this with central locking, an attacker just flicks a switch and imprisons a lone female. No one is aware of this passenger's dangerous predicament.

"The responsibility of the Public Carriage Office should have been not to allow "Blacked out Windows" in Private Hire Vehicles in the first instance. However, lack of insight has and will continue to be detrimental to the travelling public, especially women late at night. Cost should not be an issue as in most cases these black windows are just a sheet of film applied to the vehicle's glass.

Please go to www.bit.ly/aqiifb and join the campaign by signing the petition."