

ISLAND CONNECTIONS

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Gig of the year?



ELTON JOHN

Some uncertainty still surrounds Elton John concert

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Agatha in Puerto



FESTIVAL

The first international Agatha Christie Festival in Puerto

Page 29

China and back



UPDATE

News from Debbie Bliss on her walk and an update on Josh's condition

Pages 18-19

Welcome ABTA

From 28th to 30th of November Tenerife are hosts for the Association of British Travel Agents annual Convention (ABTA). The venue chosen for this event is none other than the stunning, multi-function, Magma Arts and Congress Centre in Adeje, a fitting setting for this very important get together.

This year's convention has a revamped content and formula which is hoped is more in line with the needs of the tourism sector in today's market. Around 1,300 delegates, representing 5,500 travel agents and 850 tour operators have confirmed that they will attend the event, which the island council worked very hard to bring to Tenerife.

Many of the specialist agencies will already be aware that the island now offers much more than sun and sand holidays, but excursions have been laid on to underline the point. In addition water babes can plump for scuba diving, deep sea fishing, submarine rides, whale and dolphin watching, water skiing or wind and kite surfing.

Those who enjoy adventure sports can enjoy paragliding, mountaineering, or go off the



Justin Vandermere Fleming, ABTA President

beaten track on foot, by bike or with a Quad. Shopping facilities are equal to the best in Europe with top named manufacturers and designers available in some of the classiest stores you're ever likely to visit, at well below UK purchase tax levels and the island's theme

parks, such as Puerto de la Cruz's Loro Parque and the soon to be opened Siam Park, offer some of the most spectacular shows and exhibits in the world. It is to be hoped that the delegates will also find time to visit the rapidly modernising capital city with

its landmark auditorium, the green and lovely north of the island from Puerto de la Cruz to the less developed and wilder reaches of the Isla Baja and Teide, which was recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site this year. Whatever they choose to do, let's give a warm

tinerfeñan welcome to the ABTA Convention delegates and speakers. We hope you will take home some wonderful memories of your stay on the island and tell your friends and clients of course. (Interview with Justin Fleming, pages 6-7)

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