

## AITO welcomes three new members



The Association of Independent Tour Operators (AITO, [www.aito.com](http://www.aito.com)) is delighted to welcome three new trade-friendly tour operator members – China Links Travel, the Curzon Corporation (with its two brands, Inspired by Asia and African Pride) and Planet Holidays and Weddings.

Wimbledon-based China Links Travel ([www.chinalinkstravel.co.uk](http://www.chinalinkstravel.co.uk)) is an independent tour operator specialising in private, group and tailor-made tours to China, as well as Indochina, Japan, Myanmar and South Korea. Every team member has over 15 years of travel experience in these destinations and the company has a dedicated UK sales manager, Charlie Cooper, who works closely with travel agents.

**Charlie Cooper, UK Sales Manager of China Links Travel, says:** “We have decided to become an AITO member to increase awareness and our profile with AITO Specialist Travel Agents. We know this will give us a great opportunity to meet and work with like-minded agents who embrace the smaller independent specialist operators. We stick to single destinations and know them intimately.

“Our core principles are to offer excellent service, plus great product and value for money, to both AITO Agents and their customers when booking with China Links Travel. We are looking forward to working with all AITO members and establishing long-term and successful relationships.”

The second new AITO member, the Curzon Corporation – with its two brands, Harrogate-based Inspired by Asia ([www.inspiredbyasia.co.uk](http://www.inspiredbyasia.co.uk)) and York-based African Pride ([www.african-pride.co.uk](http://www.african-pride.co.uk)) -- organises tailor-made holidays to Southern Africa, East Africa and the Indian Ocean. The two brands work very closely with travel agents, with 90% of their business being through the trade.

**David Holland, Sales Manager at African Pride, says:** “The importance of AITO, as a respected and well-known organisation, has been recognised for a number of years, and AITO’s values of quality, expertise and consumer protection match our own. We already work with a number of AITO Agents, some of them for many years. Becoming a member will further enhance these excellent relationships and introduce us to new AITO Agents.”

The third new AITO member, Hertfordshire-based Planet Holidays and Weddings ([www.planet-holidays.co.uk](http://www.planet-holidays.co.uk) and [www.planetweddings.co.uk](http://www.planetweddings.co.uk)) is part of the Sunvil group and specialises in four and five-star holidays to Greece and Cyprus, as well as weddings in Greece, Cyprus, Italy, Croatia, Portugal, Lapland, Malta and Gozo.

**Mathilde Robert, Managing Director of Planet Holidays and Weddings, says:** “We’re so excited to be working with AITO - it really is a great association with an ethos that mirrors ours too. We pride ourselves on providing travel agents and travellers with personalised advice based on our experience and the dedication of our local suppliers, with whom we’ve been working with for many years.”

**For more information on AITO’s 120 specialist travel companies and their offering of an unrivalled collection of holiday ideas that cover every corner of the world, visit the new website at [www.aito.com](http://www.aito.com).**

**Ends/18 October, 2013**

**Press:**

**Attached image** shows China Links Travel team members (left to right): Charlie Cooper (Sales Manager), Helen Li (Owner and Director), Maria Kiss (Head of Reservations) and Gary Toshack (Business Development Manager).

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