

New Fast-Train Service From Edinburgh to London

By JEFF MILLS

Fast track from Scotland: Corporate travelers with business in both Scotland and Southeast England can now enjoy a fast rail service linking Edinburgh and London. Rail company **East Coast** has launched a new early-morning “Flying Scotsman” service between the two cities, stopping only at Newcastle, which takes just four hours.

The new service departs from Scotland’s capital at 5:45 a.m. and arrives at London’s King’s Cross station at 9:40 a.m. to allow a day’s work. If you are based in Newcastle you will also be able to join the train at 7:03 a.m.

More choices from Germany: There will be a greater choice of flights between Dubai and Germany from Jan. 1 next year when UAE-based airline **Emirates** puts an Airbus A380 on its morning Dubai to Munich service. The new flight is expected to leave Dubai at 9:10 a.m. each day, arriving in Germany at 12:45. Emirates currently operates 49 flights a week between Dubai and Germany. In addition to Munich, the airline flies to Frankfurt, Düsseldorf and Hamburg.

Stylish stay in Beirut: If you’re going to Beirut on business, look out for the 87-room, boutique-style Le Gray Beirut hotel, run by **CampbellGray Hotels**, which is being expanded with the addition of new rooms, a lobby lounge, Japanese restaurant, cinema, ballroom, art gallery and even a chocolate shop. The hotel company, which lists London’s One Aldwych hotel as part of its portfolio, plans to build two more hotels in Lebanon, though details haven’t yet been released.

Jumeirah hotel for Frankfurt: Fans of Dubai-based **Jumeirah** hotels may want to look out for the 218-room Jumeirah Frankfurt, which becomes the first of the group’s hotels in continental Europe when it

opens its doors in August—ahead of the official opening in September. The newly built 25-story hotel is attached to Frankfurt’s MyZeil shopping center, and is part of the city’s PalaisQuartier redevelopment project, which is also made up of a 135-meter office tower and the reconstructed 18th-century Palais Thurn und Taxis. The hotel will be particularly convenient if you have business at the Frankfurt Stock Exchange, a short distance away.

Stay at the City’s brewery: If it makes sense to stay in the City of London, rather than in the West End, there’s another hotel to add to the mix. The first 100 rooms at the five-star **Montcalm** Hotel, just by the Barbican theater complex, are now open; the remaining 135 are scheduled to be ready for the official opening in September. Facilities likely to appeal to business travelers include butler service if you stay in a suite or apartment, an executive club lounge and the Chiswell Street Dining Rooms, all on the site of the old Whitbread & Co. brewery, which dates from about 1750.

