

# OPODO ANNOUNCES SPECIAL MARDI GRAS

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London, 23 April 2002. Opodo, the new on-line travel portal, today announced that it will be offering special summer air fares to some of the best known Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras and Pride destinations around the globe.

Jenny Taylor, UK Country Manager for Opodo said:

"I am delighted that we are offering incredible fares to each of these exciting destinations. Alongside great flight deals, Opodo has over 30,000 fabulous international hotels available to book through the site.

Mardi Gras is a unique time of the year and we know that an increasing number of revellers are choosing to combine the celebrations with a holiday.

To really make the most of travelling to such exotic destinations, Opodo also provides inspired recommendations on the best things to see and do if anyone decides to stay beyond the celebrations."

These special fares are available for travel to each of these destinations in good time for the celebrations:

## APRIL

Philadelphia, Pridefest – 29th April - 5th May

London Gatwick to Philadelphia (US Airways) - £299, book by 30th April

Amsterdam, Queens Day – 30th April

London Heathrow to Amsterdam (BMI ) - £81, book by 31st Dec

## MAY

Brussels – 4th May

Manchester – Brussels (BMI) - £72, book by 31st Dec

Cancun International Gay Festival – 2-6 May

London Gatwick- Cancun (Continental) - £455, book by 14th Dec

JUNE

Paris Pride – 22nd June

London Heathrow and East Midlands Airport – Paris Charles de Gaulle (BMI), £88, book by 14th Dec

Opodo.co.uk is the new online travel service that launched in January in the UK offering fares that are cheaper than the UK average online fare for 85% of top destinations from the UK .

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Notes to editors

Key features of Opodo.co.uk are:

·Opodo is created by nine of Europe's leading airlines – Aer Lingus, Air France, Alitalia, Austrian Airlines, British Airways, Finnair, Iberia, KLM and Lufthansa.

·30,000 pages of useful expert information integrated with special fares covering 1,300 destinations, including interactive maps, guides and daily weather updates - all on an easy to view and use site – covering more than 80 per cent available capacity in every market.

·Can book and fly the same day

·Reserve flights for up to 24 hours

·Don't have to register to use

·Can request your preferred seat on booking

·Advanced search capability – by destination or holiday themes

·Hundreds of thousands of maps to find specific locations anywhere in the world

·Guides to 180 of the world's busiest airports

·Quick search tool gives time-sensitive consumers speedy access straight to booking

·Explore the World – provides consumers with the tools and inspiration

[1] NOP Survey January 2002