

PRESS RELEASE

**FROM GATWICK TO THE HIMALAYA 2010**

**RAFT. TREK. BIKE...**



**London Gatwick, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2010** - The 'Staff Outing' with a difference: an intrepid and like-minded team from the Sofitel London Gatwick are embarking on a true voyage – rafting, hiking and biking their way across the mountains and valleys of Nepal in support of two community aid projects.

The hotel team members are creating a unique opportunity to visit the snow-capped Himalayan country of Nepal in combination with an exercise in corporate social responsibility. Travelling along ancient trade routes, the team of mixed ages and abilities will experience breathtaking panoramic views and capture every opportunity to interact with the locals and experience some very different cultures. In December the nine-strong team will head for Kathmandu and the Himalayas to support a rural community school for underprivileged children and a hospital catering for patients with disabilities.

“Project-managing the expedition has been a challenge and pleasure alike and demonstrates the unique team strength and resourcefulness our staff are displaying across all the Arora Hotels in these difficult times”, said Matthew Lindenfelser, tour organizer and Head of Department at the Sofitel London Gatwick. He further added: “The team members are absolutely determined to make a difference to other people’s lives and have been busy raising funds for the past few months.” Information about the expedition and how to support the project is available on the team’s blog, located at <http://sofitelgatwick.blogspot.com>.

The team are mostly based at the 4 star deluxe Sofitel London Gatwick, which is connected directly to the North Terminal by covered walkway offering convenient access. Matthew commented: “Working at this truly cosmopolitan property at one of the world’s busiest airports created the idea of putting something back into society by way of inter-departmental team-building and initiating a small Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) project supported by a number of businesses, including, but not limited to, Arora Hotels Ltd., Sofitel London Gatwick, Arora Hotel Gatwick/Crawley and Mercure London Gatwick.”



For information and booking visit: [www.sofitelgatwick.com](http://www.sofitelgatwick.com)

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### **Sofitel, World Class Hotels & French Elegance**

*Sofitel is the only French luxury hotel brand with a presence on five continents with 120 addresses, in almost 40 countries (more than 30 000 rooms). Sofitel offers contemporary hotels and resorts adapted to today's more demanding and more versatile consumers who expect and appreciate beauty, quality and excellence. Whether situated in the heart of a major city like Paris, London, New York or Beijing, or nestled away in a country landscape in Morocco, Egypt, Fiji Islands or Thailand, each Sofitel property offers a genuine experience of the French "art de vivre".*

### **About Arora Hotels – [www.arorahotels.com](http://www.arorahotels.com)**

*Arora Hotels is an independent hotel company owned and founded by Surinder Arora in 1999. It is the UK's leading specialist hotelier to the airline industry and one of the fastest growing private hotel companies in the UK.*

*The company has made a name for itself through the design, construction and operation of luxury hotels, with exceptional levels of hospitality.*

*Their portfolio currently comprises seven hotels with over 2500 bedrooms. Prime locations include the Arora Hotel – Heathrow, Arora Park – Heathrow, Arora Hotel – Gatwick/Crawley, Arora Hotel – Manchester city centre, the recently opened 605 bedroom Sofitel London Heathrow, directly connected to the iconic Terminal 5 (recently voted 'Best New Business Hotel In The World' at the Business Traveller Awards 2009 and 'Best Airport Hotel In The World' at the Business Traveller US Awards 2009), Sofitel London Gatwick at the North Terminal and Mercure London Gatwick. Both Sofitels and Mercure London Gatwick are operated under a franchise agreement with Accor Hospitality.*

*At The Brit Oval, Arora is currently working in partnership with Surrey County Cricket Club on the development of a four-star, 168 bedroom hotel.*

*The property arm of the Arora Group – Arora Management Services – is involved in property asset management of a portfolio of landmark office buildings at key UK airports*

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