



The Alliance

Bulletin

Providing key information in a no-frills format for professionals who travel to write, edit, broadcast or create images.

Mid-September 2014

Ashley Gibbins

Ashley@itwalliance.com
www.itwalliance.com

The Alliance Bulletin

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The International Travel Writers Alliance press card



The International Travel Writers Alliance Press Card is an official recognition of a journalist as a professional travel journalist.

It can also be used when seeking media accreditation for a travel event, activity or initiative or press trip.

Cardholder also :

- enjoy access to a range of specific and ongoing opportunities, attracted by the Alliance
- use the card when looking for press pass entrance to a wide range of tourism, leisure and culture attractions and entertainments worldwide, and
- enjoy Alliance support in a cardholders relationship with travel and tourism industry partners and their agencies.

Contact Ashley Gibbins at Ashley@itwalliance.com.

Job shop

The International Travel Writers Alliance Job Shop provides a range of job opportunities

The **Job Shop** has been created to enable the Alliance's partners to place - and journalists to receive - information on in-house jobs, special assignments or one-off projects.

Addition services through Job shop

The Alliance's travel journalists can also :

- create an anonymous job seeker profile or upload a CV for potential employers to search through
- set up **Job Alerts** so as to be notified if a job is posted that matches the journalists skills or interests, and
- access job searching tools and tips

Visit : www.jobtarget.com/home/home.cfm?site_id=14773

The Alliance Syndication Network

The **Alliance Syndication Network** enables Alliance journalists to syndicate their features (or links to these features) through the other members in the Network.

By working together in this way, **Syndication Network** journalists can achieve a far higher circulation for their features.

It will also increase the willingness of travel industry representatives to work with **Syndication Network** journalists, knowing they will be able to 'deliver' a far greater potential readership reach.

Working with the Alliance

The following travel industry partners and agencies have registered with the Alliance and are keen to work with Alliance travel writers, editors, broadcasters and photographers.

Other Alliance partners and agencies can be found at www.itwalliance.com.

Partners

The Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO)

The CTO is the Caribbean's tourism development agency comprising membership of over 30 countries and territories including Dutch, English, French and Spanish, as well as a myriad of private sector allied members.

Its primary objective is to provide to and through its members the services and information necessary for the development of sustainable tourism for the economic and social benefit of the Caribbean people.

Visit : www.onecaribbean.org. Contact : Johnson JohnRose at johnsonjohnrose@gmail.com.

Cave Hotels Ksagan (Turkey)

Cave Hotel Saksagan is an old house in Goreme, which has been completely restored as a boutique hotel.

Rooms are decorated in the Ottoman Style and located within fairy-chimneys and carved into the rocks.

With a history going back to Hittite times (+4000 years) and once a province of the Roman Empire, Cappadocia is now the area of central Turkey which lies between Aksaray in the west, Kayseri in the east and Nigde in the south.

It is criss-crossed with valleys and dotted with dramatic rock formations.

Visit : www.cavehotelsaksagan.net. Contact : Numan Atak at torcun@hotmail.com.

CIRE Travel (USA)

CIRE Travel offers corporate, leisure and group travel concierge with the perks and upgrades that comes from great connections.

Visit : www.CIREtravel.com. Contact : Eric Hrubant at ehrubant@ciretravel.com.

The Tourism Society (UK)

The Tourism Society is the professional membership body for people working in the tourism and travel industry, whether directly or indirectly, in the UK and overseas.

Existing members represent tour operators, hotel chains, PR, marketing and representation companies, tourist attractions, national, regional and local tourist boards, restaurants, trade media, charities, consultants, academics, students and educational establishments, among others.

The Tourism Management Institute (TMI) and Tourism Consultants Network are professional sections within the Society.

The Society organises 20+ events throughout the year and publishes a quarterly journal examining a wide range of topics relevant to the industry as a whole.

Visit : www.visitdublin.com. Gregory Yeoman at gregory@tourismsociety.org.

Adventure Travel Trade Association

The Adventure Travel Trade Association (ATTA), is a global membership organization and home to a thriving community of more than 700 responsible, profitable businesses, destinations and media who transform customers and businesses alike into advocates for sustainability and justice worldwide.

Its members leaders include tour operators, destination marketing organizations, tourism boards, specialty travel agents, guides, accommodations, media and service providers.

Visit : www.adventuretravel.biz. Contact : Nicole Petrak at nicole@adventuretravel.biz.

The American Society of Travel Agents

The American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA) is the world's largest association of travel professionals and is the leading advocate for travel agents, the travel industry and the travelling public.

Its members include travel agents and the companies whose products they sell such as tours, cruises, hotels, car rentals, etc.

ASTA's mission is to enhance the professionalism and profitability of members worldwide through effective representation in industry and government affairs, education and training, and by identifying and meeting the needs of the travelling public.

Visit : www.asta.org. Contact : Jennifer Michels at pr@asta.org

Ecotourism Australia

Ecotourism Australia was formed in 1991 and is the peak Australian body for the ecotourism and sustainable tourism industry.

The Association has a diverse membership that includes key industry sectors and including ecotourism accommodation, tour and attraction operators; tourism planners; protected area managers; academics and students; tourism, environmental, interpretation and training consultants; local and regional tourism associations and travellers.

Ecotourism Australia owns and manages four certification programs for the Australian tourism industry

- ECO certification
- Respecting Our Culture (ROC) certification
- Climate Action certification, and
- EcoGuide certification.

Visit : www.ecotourism.org.au. Contact : eco@ecotourism.org.au.

ANTOR

ANTOR is the principal lobbying organisation for the world's tourist offices. Its UK membership comprises national and regional tourist offices which are represented in Britain.

ANTOR's objectives include providing a fraternal forum for its members to meet and exchange ideas, to forge close relationships with all other sectors of the travel industry.

It also looks to be recognised as one of the foremost advocates of responsible tourism and to comment on a wide range of issues affecting worldwide travel and tourism.

Visit : www.antor.com. Contact : Alison Cryer at secretariat@antor.com

Leipzig Tourism and Marketing

Leipzig Tourism and Marketing (LTM) promotes Leipzig as a travel destination worldwide. In the course of its impressive history, many tags have been attached to Leipzig – the “Mother of Trade Fairs”, the “City of Music” or the “City of Heroes” because of the Peaceful Revolution in 1989.

LTM offers journalists and editorial offices assistance with their travel reports and can provide information on virtually any topic connected with Leipzig.

Services include press releases, research texts in various languages, an online photo archive with 2,000 pictures. LTM organizes individual and group press trips, photo and filming permissions or interview partners.

Visit : www.ltm-leipzig.de/press. Contact : Steffi Gretschel at s.gretschel@ltm-leipzig.de.

Florida's Historic Coast

Florida's Historic Coast is located on the Sunshine State's northeastern shore.

It features historic St. Augustine, the nation's oldest city, along with the luxurious seaside resorts and outstanding golf opportunities of Ponte Vedra Beach.

The destination features some of America's most historic sites, outstanding dining, upscale accommodations, fine art galleries, and 42 miles of pristine beaches.

It is home to the World Golf Hall of Fame, the PGA Tour headquarters and more than 60 other attractions.

Visit : www.FloridasHistoricCoast.com. Contact : Barbara Golden at bgolden@floridashistoriccoast.com.

The Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership Corporation

The Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership Corporation collaborates with tourism partners and colleagues at home and internationally to develop and deliver integrated, research-driven marketing programs that reinforce Ontario as a strong tourism economy and a premier, four-season travel destination.

Visit : www.ontariotravel.net Contact : Lydia McCourt at lydia.mccourt@ontario.ca.

The Global Hotel Alliance

The Global Hotel Alliance (GHA), the world's largest alliance of independent hotel brands, officially launched GHA Discovery.

This new loyalty programme is the first-ever to unite independent luxury hotel brands including Kempinski, Doyle Collection, Leela, Anantara and Omni to deliver experience-based rewards to its members globally.

The programme, which runs across 12 brands and nearly 300 hotels, aims to turn a business trip or weekend getaway into a one-of-a-kind adventure.

With a heightened level of personalised service, the programme also provides access to more than 1000 Local Experiences, which provide exclusive access to off-the-beaten path activities around the world.

Visit : www.gha.com Contact : Haitham Assem at haitham.assem@gha.com.

Agencies

News

Chewton Glen, The New Forest, Hampshire UK

Chewton Glen has been voted the UK's Number 1 Holiday Hotel in this years' Conde Nast Traveller Readers Awards with its spa recognised as the 5th Best UK Spa.

Both the hotel and spa were also listed in the World's Top 100.

Chewton Glen is a five red star privately-owned luxury hotel and spa situated on the edge of the New Forest and a short walk from the sea and is two hours' drive from central London. It has 70 luxurious bedrooms, suites and tree houses.

Visit : www.chewtonglen.com. Contact : Angela Day at ADay@ChewtonGlen.com.

Tunisia introduces departure tax

A departure tax stamp of 30 dinars (equivalent to 11 Pound Sterling/13 Euros) now has to be purchased by each tourist visiting Tunisia.

The stamp can be purchased from any airport, port, local revenue office or border checkpoint in Tunisia. It can be purchased at any time during a stay in the country.

The tax stamp is affixed to the passport and retained by the authorities on departure.

Visit : www.cometotunisia.co.uk. Contact : Moncef Battikh at moncef.battikh@cometotunisia.co.uk.

The Marco Beach Ocean Resort, Marco Island, Florida

The Marco Beach Ocean Resort announced that it has earned an *Expedia Insiders Select Award* for 2014.

The resort is one of just 650 winners worldwide from an annual survey of more than 2 million guest reviews from Expedia customers based upon criteria including service and value for the money.

Overlooking the Gulf of Mexico, the all-suite Marco Beach Ocean Resort is located on Marco Island, one of the so called *Ten Thousand Islands* located between Naples and the Florida Everglades along Southwest Florida's Gulf Coast.

The Marco Beach Ocean Resort features a variety of dining options, including the Beachfront Bar & Grill and authentic Italian cuisine at the Sale e Pepe restaurant.

There is a full-service spa and fitness centre amenities, a swimming pool, white sandy beaches and nearby golf.

Visit : www.marcoresort.com. Contact : Jennifer Nicholson at nicholsonj@fiddlerscreek.com.

Memphis the Musical comes to London

Following a Broadway run and a 55-city North American tour, the musical *Memphis* is to open in London's Shaftsbury Theatre on 23 October 2014.

In the underground nightclubs of 1950s Memphis, Tennessee, the soul of a new era is dawning as the first sounds of rock 'n' roll, blues and gospel are emerging into the mainstream.

The production stars Beverley Knight (*The Bodyguard*) and Killian Donnelly (*The Commitments*, *Billy Elliot the Musical*, *Les Miserables*), with original songs by Grammy winner and Bon Jovi co-founder David Bryan.

Visit : www.memphisthemusical.com. Contact : Jonathan Mountford at jonathan@made2010.com.

Melbourne is World's Most Liveable City

Melbourne has been named the best city in the world to live in for the fourth year running in the Economist Intelligence Unit's (EIU) Global Liveability Index.

The EIU's *Liveability Ranking* measures living conditions in 140 countries across five overarching criteria of stability, healthcare, culture and environment, education and infrastructure.

Melbourne achieved perfect scores of 100 on healthcare, education and infrastructure and a perfect 100 in the sub-category of sport.

The report reveals that, since 2009 average 'liveability' across the world has fallen by 0.7%, led by a 1.3% fall in the score for stability and safety, with over 50 of the cities surveyed have seen declines in liveability over the last five years.

Recent conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East have underlined continuing fallout from a decade of destabilising events ranging from the war in Iraq to the Palestinian Intifada and the Arab Spring.

Visit : www.melbournecb.com.au and (for a copy of the report) www.eiu.com/public/topical_report.aspx?campaignid=Liveability2014. Contact: Nicole Beasley at nicole.beasley@melbournecb.com.au.

Cancun Tourist Board cancels Dolphin tours

A row sparked by a travel bloggers' convention, in Cancun Mexico, which was offering dolphin tours to its delegates has ended with a tourist board cancelling the tours.

The TBEX convention, taking place in Cancun, Mexico, in September, offered delegates the chance to take part in dolphin activities offered by the local tourist board.

However, some of its members complained about the activities, saying that TBEX shouldn't be offering captive-dolphin activities because they were cruel.

Wildlife charity Care for the Wild, which runs the RIGHT-tourism.org campaign on animal tourism, also got involved and, as a result, the Cancun Tourist Board has cancelled the tours as part of the TBEX convention.

Care for the Wild believe that keeping dolphins captive for people's entertainment is no longer something that should be blindly accepted.

Visit : www.RIGHT-tourism.org. contact : Chris Pitt at chris@Careforthewild.com.

Leads

Camping in the Yukon

The Yukon is the westernmost and smallest of Canada's three federal territories. Whitehorse is the territorial capital and Yukon's only city.

The territory has 41 government operated campgrounds complete with fire pits, picnic tables, out houses, fire wood and hand pumped water.

The Yukon government is ensuring all of its visitor information centres and key campgrounds will be open for the fall and spring shoulder season.

Full services will be available until 30 September at 10 government campgrounds. Although gates at most of the remaining 31 campgrounds will remain open until October, they will not be offering full services after 8 September.

Visit : www.env.gov.yk.ca/camping-parks/campground_availability. Contact : Lisa Chamberlain at lisa.chamberlain@btinternet.com.

Magic Holidays

Magic Holidays, has published a *First-Timer's Guide to Orlando*, providing unbiased advice on what to do, what to look out for and how to make the most of a stay in the theme park capital.

Visit : www.magicholidays.com/the-magic-first-timers-guide-to-orlando. Contact : David Wilson at david.wilson@kbctravelgroup.com.

Lee Valley VeloPark, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, London

The Lee Valley Regional Park is a 10,000-acre, 26 miles long linear park, much of it green spaces, running through the northeast of Greater London, Essex and Hertfordshire, in an area generally known as the Lea Valley.

Lee Valley VeloPark on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park is a venue with four types of cycling.

Ride the fastest track in the world inside the iconic velodrome, fly around the remodelled Olympic BMX track, race across the 1.6km, flood-lit road circuit or tackle the 8km of mountain biking trails available for all ability cyclists.

Visit : www.visitleevalley.org.uk/velopark and www.visitleevalleypark.org. Contact : Contact : Joanne Curtis at joannecurtis@leevalleypark.org.uk.

Experience Argentina

Experience Argentina is a destination management company based in Buenos Aires that provides bespoke tours and a customised travel service throughout Argentina (and neighbouring countries) to independent clients.

Popular destinations and experiences include :

- Buenos Aires
- Iguazu Falls
- the Perito Moreno Glacier
- whale watching in Puerto Madryn
- wine tasting in Mendoza
- horseback riding at traditional estancias, and
- glacier cruises.

Visit : www.ExperienceArgentina.com. Contact : Kieran Rooney at info@ExperienceArgentina.com.

Rooney's

Rooney's is a boutique hotel located a few blocks from the Obelisco in the heart of Buenos Aires.

The former residence of the writer and poet, Leopoldo Lugones and set among milongas, tango schools, cafes, restaurants and theatres, the building has long been part of Buenos Aires' cultural landscape.

Rooney's Boutique Hotel has 14 individual suites, a lounge bar, cafe and tango patio.

Visit : www.RooneysBoutiqueHotel.com. Contact : Kieran Rooney at info@ExperienceArgentina.com.

Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado

Colorado's Rocky Mountain National Park, which celebrates its 100th anniversary in September 2014, offers visitors more than 300 miles of outdoor activities.

These include hiking trails, fishing, backcountry camping and campgrounds, scenic drives, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and a variety of ranger-led programs and instructional classes.

Visit : www.nps.gov/romo. Contact : Laura Goldie at laurag@cellet.co.uk.

Trogir, Croatia

Trogir's medieval walls and maze-like streets make it a good day trip from nearby Split for those keen to experience the town's range of Romanesque and Renaissance architecture.

The historic centre of Trogir, which dates from the 13th and 15th centuries, has been included in the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites.

The grandest building is the Cathedral of St. Lawrence, with the main portal by master Radovan, and the most significant work of the Romanesque-Gothic style in Croatia.

Trogir is closely connected to the island of Čiovo, where the mega yacht Marina Trogir is located.

Visit : www.trogironline.com and www.croatia.hr. Contact : Tim Thackray at Tim.Thackray@Rooster.co.uk.

The Ramblers Festival of Winter Walks, UK

20 December 2014 to 4 January 2015

The Ramblers annual Festival of Winter Walks is geared to enabling people to walk Britain's wintry landscapes.

Ramblers groups will be leading hundreds of free walks from short festive strolls passing carol singers and Christmas markets to heartier rambles. The also caters for those preferring to take their own walks.

Information on walks can be downloaded from Ramblers Routes, an online library of hundreds of Britain's best walks.

Walking for Health, England's largest network of health walk schemes, run by the Ramblers and Macmillan Cancer Support, will also be leading short, free walks across England during the festival.

Visit : www.ramblers.org.uk/winterwalks and www.Ramblers.org.uk/ramblersroutes. Contact : Ellie Chelow at Ellie.Clelow@ramblers.org.uk.

Tropical Sails

Tropical Sails is offering a 'once in a lifetime' solar eclipse cruise to Singapore, Jakarta, Komodo, Java and Bali, in March 2016, that will allow travellers to clearly see the moon's chasing shadow as it blocks the sun.

Tropical Sails Corp has been offering solar eclipse travel. Since 1991 with cruises to Turkey, China, Africa, South Pacific and the Caribbean.

The company also offers tall ship, ocean and river cruising.

Visit : www.tropicalsails.com. Contact : Daniel Oppliger at info@tropicalsails.com.

Dukes St James, London

Dukes St James, London has been voted 'England's Leading Hotel 2014' in the European Travel Awards.

The Awards acknowledge, reward, and celebrate excellence across all sectors of the tourism industry in Europe, and the winners are automatically shortlisted for the World Travel Awards (WTA).

Dukes St James is located in a cobbled court yard off St James' and is a member of the prestigious, Small Luxury Hotels of The World.

Visit : www.Dukeshotel.com. Contact : Nadia Walford at Nadia@grifcopr.com.

Portland, USA - beer city

Portland has more breweries than any other city in the world (55 at last count).

These include the Ex Novo Brewing Company in North Portland, a 10-barrel non-profit brewery donates 100 percent of net profits to organizations effecting social change.

In addition, Baerlic Brewery & Taproom dispenses standard beers as well as specialty concoctions with ingredients like fruit, coffee, bourbon, cocoa nibs and beech wood.

The Pearl District will welcome two new breweries in the coming weeks.

Bend's 10 Barrel Brewing Co. comes to Portland with its third brewery; the on-site brew house will allow for more experimentation with small-batch and one-off beers.

Fat Head's Brewery, based in Pittsburgh, Pa., will bring award-winning fresh and locally made brews to the same part of town.

Visit : www.travelportland.com. Contact : journalistsonly@travelportland.com.

Worldwide Rail Journeys

Worldwide Rail Journeys is India's leading rail tour operator including the luxury trains, :

- Palace on Wheels
- Royal Rajasthan on Wheels
- Maharajas Express'
- Golden Chariot, and
- Deccan Odyssey.

Visit : www.worldwiderrailjourneys.com. Contact : ManishSain at manish.saini@worldwiderrailjourneys.com.

Victoria Cruises, Yangtze River, China

Victoria Cruises operates the largest fleet of vessels on China's Yangtze River and has a five-star rating from the China National Tourism Administration.

Victoria's seven vessels include the Victoria Empress, Prince, Lianna, Selina, Katarina, Anna, and the new Victoria Jenna (198 cabins, 396 passengers), the largest and most technologically advanced luxury vessel in the fleet.

Visit : www.victoriacruises.com. Contact : Josh Kahn at Kahn@KTCpr.com.

Horizon Horseback, South Africa

Horizon Horseback offers horse riding holidays and safaris in South Africa.

The company was established in 1993 and is based in the malaria free Waterberg Biosphere Reserve in northern South Africa.

This is an unspoilt part of the country with varied topography, from bushveld savannah to rocky outcrops and mountains.

Over the years Horizon Horseback has developed a collection of horse riding safaris which offer close encounters with game riding experiences including polocrosse, western games, jumping, cattle mustering and swimming with your horse.

Visit : www.ridinginafrica.com. Contact : Laura Dowinton at laura@ridinginafrica.com

What's on

Annual fall events in the USA

The 8th Annual American River Music Festival, Lotus, CA

12 to 14 September 2014 (annual)

The Annual American River Music Festival features vintage rock, blues, new and old grass, sweet jam and folk on the South Fork of the American River in the Sierra Nevada foothills.

Visit : www.americanrivermusic.org. Contact : Paul at paul@mckenziepr.com.

San Francisco Fringe Festival, California

5 to 20 September 2014 (annual)

The 23rd San Francisco Fringe Festival offers surprising and often over-the-top new theatre including sketch comedy, Russian-style Vaudeville and Belgian cabaret.

Visit : www.sffringe.org. Contact : Gary Carr at carrpool@pacbell.net.

Third Annual Key Largo Songfest, Downtown Key Largo 10 to 12 October 2014 (annual)

The 3rd Annual Key Largo Songfest is held in Downtown Key Largo at the waterfront venues of Bayside Grille, Pilot House, and Key Largo Fisheries.

The event sees the Downtown Key Largo Association hosting a group of professional songwriters.

Visit : www.keylargosongfest.com. Contact : Paul at paul@mckenziepr.com.

The Annual International Route 66 Mother Road Festival and Car Show, Springfield, Illinois

26 to 26 September 2014

The 13th Annual International Route 66 Mother Road Festival and Car Show, held in Downtown Springfield attracts 1,000 cars, live music, food and over 80,000 spectators.

The event celebrates the golden age of automobiles, and America's love of the open road on the legendary Route 66.

Visit : www.Route66Fest.com. Contact : Paul at paul@mckenziepr.com.

Paradise City Arts Festival, Northampton, Massachusetts

11 to 13 October 2014 (annual)

The 20th Annual Paradise City Arts Festival is held at the Three County Fairgrounds on Columbus Day Weekend..

It is a world-class arts festival, in the cultural heart of New England, which attracts 275 painters, sculptors and fine craft makers from every corner of America. There is also live music and peak fall foliage.

Visit : www.paradisecityarts.com. Contact : Paul at paul@mckenziepr.com.

Guernsey Tennerfest

1 October to 11 November 2014 (annual)

Guernsey's 17th annual Tennerfest, will see over 180 restaurants in Guernsey and its sister island Sark offer all inclusive menus starting from £10, with savings of almost 50% on normal prices.

This gives the islands' restaurants the chance to promote their quality gastronomic product and local specialities for value prices.

All Tennerfest participants offer innovative menus focusing on local produce, freshly caught fish and Guernsey specialties such as :

- Guernsey Gâche, a fruit loaf often served with Guernsey butter
- the traditional 'bean jar', a one pot meal cooked overnight and made of beans, pork belly and onions, and
- Gâche Méléé, which is similar to an apple cake; crab patties, Guernsey cheese and locally brewed beer.

Tennerfest is Guernsey's most popular culinary event with an estimated five million Tennerfest meals consumed since the events inception in 1998.

Visit : www.tennerfest.com and www.visitguernsey.com. Contact : Jules Ugo jules@lotus-uk.co.uk.

Flower Bulb Market, Keukenhof Gardens, Holland

10 to 12 October 2014 (annual)

The annual Flower Bulb Market is the only time of the year, outside of the spring season, that Keukenhof is open to the public offering the opportunity to see the park in its autumn colours.

The Keukenhof Flower Bulb Market takes place in the Oranje Nassau Pavilion, where dozens of bulb growers offer their products for sale.

Visit : www.keukenhof.nl/en. Contact : Simone Sagi at sSagi@holland.com.

British Polo Day, Garangula, Australia

26 October 2014

British Polo Day - presented by Land Rover – launches in a sixth continent, with its first Australian event at Garangula, the private estate of the Schwarzenbach family.

One of three brand new events in the 2014 British Polo Day calendar, British Polo Day Australia will be a day of fast-paced polo in the foothills of the Blue Mountains.

British Polo Day comprises a network of 10 annual events in Abu Dhabi, Australia, China, Dubai, India, Mexico, Morocco, Russia, USA and Great Britain.

In addition to polo the events showcase over 30 top British luxury brands.

Visit : www.britishpoloday.com. Contact : Violet Manners at violet@britishpoloday.com.

Taste of St.Barth Gourmet Festival, Caribbean

30 October to 4 November 2014

The 1st Taste of St. Barth Gourmet Festival will see seven host restaurants presenting innovative, multi-course menus created by seven visiting chefs from France, Brazil, Japan, USA and Sweden.

During the festival's four days they will present a total of 28 dinners in tandem with some of the talented chefs from local kitchens.

Visit : www.saintbarth-tourisme.com. Contact : Martha Morano at martha@moranopr.com.

27th Annual Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival

7 to 23 November 2014

The Annual Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival (FLIFF) has over 200 films and 30 parties in Lauderdale, Hallandale, Hollywood, Weston, Sunrise, Pompano as well as aboard yachts on the IntraCoastal Waterway.

Visit : www.fliff.com. Contact: Jan Mitchell at janpubpromo@yahoo.com

The Reiterlesmarkt in Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Germany

30 November to 23 December 2014

The medieval town of Rothenburg, Germany has been staging its Christmas Market since the 15th century and the event, which has changed little in 500 years, takes over the market square area during the festive season.

The highlight of the market is the appearance of the *Rothenburger Reiterle*. At one time the thought of this mythical, wild horseman arriving brought trepidation and dread to the towns folk. Today a friendlier version is used to attract thousands to the market.

Rothenburg is a town in the Franconia region of Bavaria, Germany.

Visit : www.rothenburg.de. Contact : Annemieke Böttger at annemieke.boettger@rothenburg.de.

Mountain Mandarin Festival, Auburn, California

21 to 23 November 2014

The annual Mountain Mandarin Festival celebrates the new crop of foothills-grown Mandarin oranges, a Mandarin recipe cooking contest, professional chef demonstrations, food, crafts and activities featuring the Mandarin orange.

Placer County growers will sell thousands of pounds of fresh Mandarin oranges and gift baskets accompanied by all the free samples you like.

The Festival is held under the autumn-leaved trees of the Gold Country Fairgrounds and their golds, rusts and burgundies are punctuated with the bright orange globes of Mandarins everywhere you turn.

More than 200 vendors of quality gift items also sell Mandarin scented lotions, soaps, and candles, along with artist-crafted jewelry, home accessories, and holiday items.

Visit : www.mandarinfestival.com. Contact : Karen Spencer at kspencer@ncbb.net

Saratoga Restaurant Week

5 to 11 December 2014

Saratoga is a city in Santa Clara County, California and directly west of San Jose, in the San Francisco Bay area.

The Saratoga Restaurant Week has establishments throughout the city offering prix fixe menus consisting of three items for one price plus tax & tip! Three-Course Dinner for \$10, \$20 or \$30. Lunch Specials for \$5 or \$10

Visit : www.discoversaratoga.org/restaurantweek. Contact Connie at connie@discoversaratoga.org

The Sydney Festival

January 2015 (annual)

Every January, the Sydney Festival enlivens Sydney with a cultural celebration that can well include burlesque circus, Chicago rap, Dutch theatre; contemporary dance and family programmes

The Festival embraces 400 performances in 140 events performed by more than 1000 artists in more than 30 venues.

The Festival prides itself on inclusive programming, a broad range of free events and accessible pricing policies.

Visit : www.sydneyfestival.org.au. Contact : Jessica Keirle at jessica.keirle@sydneyfestival.org.au

Montréal Igloofest

15 January to 7 February 2015

The 7th annual edition of Igloofest returns to Montréal this winter with nine days of dance rave.

Taking place in sub-zero temperatures, the Igloofest is held on the Jacques-Cartier Pier and showcases performances from some of the best artists on the electro scene.

Visit : www.igloofest.ca and www.tourisme-montreal.org. Contact : Robyn Margetts at robyn.margetts@citizenrelations.com.

Sapporo Snow Festival, Japan

05 February to 11 February 2015

The Sapporo Snow Festival, one of Japan's largest winter events, attracts a growing number of visitors from Japan and abroad every year.

Every winter, about two million people come to Sapporo to see the hundreds of snow statues and ice sculptures which line Odori Park, the grounds at Community Dome Tsudome, and the main street in Susukino.

Visit : www.snowfes.com/english. Contact : Kylie Clark at kylie@jnto.co.uk.

Womadelaide, Adelaide, South Australia

6 to 9 March 2015

WOMAD is the World of Music, Arts & Dance, founded by the musician Peter Gabriel in 1982, and WOMADelaide, the Australian WOMAD festival launched in 1992.

Over the past 21 years it has become one of the nation's favourite outdoor festivals because of the music it presents and its friendly vibe.

Families are welcome (kids 12 and under get free entry) and the diversity of the audience is almost as astounding as the line-up.

WOMADelaide runs over four days in Botanic Park in inner-city Adelaide. The program features performances and workshops on seven stages by the world's best traditional and contemporary musicians, dancers and DJs, a KidZone activity area, street theatre and visual artists, the Taste the World cooking program.

Visit : www.womad.org/festivals/womadelaide. Contact : Nicola Prime at apadmin@artsprojects.com.au.

Tribeca Film Festival, New York, USA

15 to 26 April 2015

This film festival screens over 400 new and independent films, and features panel discussions with filmmakers and actors, and an outdoor family festival.

Organised by Robert De Niro's production company Tribeca Productions. Renowned festival brings local, national and international talent to downtown New York.

Visit : www.tribecafilm.com. Contact : Tammie Rosen at trosen@tribecaenterprises.com

New Orleans Jazz And Heritage Festival, Louisiana, USA

24 April to 3 May 2015

The birthplace of jazz celebrates its heritage with live music, food and crafts. Runs over two weekends. Over 500 acts perform in total.

Visit : www.nojazzfest.com and www.jazzandheritage.org. Contact : Matthew Goldman at matthew@nojazzfest.com.

Beale Street Music Festival, Memphis, Tennessee, USA

May 1015 (dates tbc)

A major multi-genre music festival featuring over 60 acts performing on three outdoor stages and a blues tent. Organised as a part of the Memphis in May International Festival

Visit : www.memphisinmay.org/musicfestival. Contact : Diane Hampton at dhampton@memphisinmay.org.

Reasons to write about

East Bali with Tour de Manggis

The East Bali landscape around the resort of Alila Manggis is where green rice terraces meet lush forested hillsides, dominated by Mount Agung, Bali's highest mountain.

The Alila Manggis resort has created the new 'Tour de Manggis' that allows guests to explore the landscape on foot or by bike.

Walking routes include the half-day river hopping and trek through thick forests and plantations dotted along the Jangga riverside, followed by a swim at the Tirta Gangga Water Palace.

Other treks included :

- the Grand Panoramic Trek, which journeys from the small village of Sidemen up to the sacred and secluded Hindu temple located on top of Sangkan mountain, and
- the Mount Agung Trek, which provides an irresistible adventure for experienced trekkers.

For cyclists, Mountain to Sea covers 42 kilometres at a leisurely pace from Sogra Village down the forested slopes of Mount Agung, past salak plantations and mountain vistas, with a chance to explore local villages along the way.

Visit : www.alilahotels.com. Contact : Louise Ferrall at alila@verypcc.com.

Hiking in New York States, Catskill Park

Known as America's First Wilderness, the Catskill Mountains in New York State offer some of the best hiking trails in the world.

More than 300 miles of marked and maintained trails are networked through the state's Catskill Park, which encompasses approximately 700,000 acres, about half of which is public Forest Preserve that has been protected as "forever wild."

Although rivaling Yosemite National Park in size, Catskill Park is visited by only about half a million people each year, making it ideal for hikers looking for spectacular, uninterrupted vistas and wildlife.

Among some of the best hiking to be found is in the Great Northern Catskills in Greene County – an easy two-hour drive or train ride north of New York City.

The landscape in Greene County is so beautiful that it has inspired generations of painters, including some of the greatest names in 19th-century American art.

Visitors here can see spectacular cascading waterfalls, explore the legendary "cloves" where famed storybook characters Rip Van Winkle took his marathon nap, and climb roads that still follow Native American footpaths to dizzying summits for breathtaking five-state views.

Visit : www.greatnortherncatskills.com/. Contact : Daniela Marino at dmarino@discovergreene.com.

The El Pahuma Orchid Reserve, Ecuador

The El Pahuma Orchid Reserve is a 650 hectare cloud forest reserve located one hour from the Ecuador capital of Quito.

The lush vegetation is fed by abundant moisture from the mist-laden air and provides home to a multitude of epiphytes ("air plants") including bromeliads, orchids, mosses and ferns.

The diversity of species that make up the reserve will reward visitors interested in orchids, birdwatching or taking in the sights and sounds of the forests and its three spectacular waterfalls.

It is also possible to spot 170 species of birds, including the Andean toucan and 12 species of hummingbirds.

For the more adventurous, a strenuous hike to El Pahuma's gentle summit (El Pahuma in Quichua means "flattened peak") offers panoramic views of the Pichincha volcano and verdant forested valleys.

Lodging is available in the Nature Center, in the rustic "Guarida del Oso" (Bear's Den cabin) or at the summit's campsite.

The Pahuma, an Orchid Reserve, is located just one hour from Quito. It is the only reserve

Visit : www.ceiba.org/elpahuma and www.quito.com.ec/en/. Contact : Rodolfo Milesi at rmilesi@brandinglatinamerica.com.

Val d'Isère, France

Val d'Isère, in south eastern France, has unveiled its new winter events calendar of mountain activities.

Regarded as one of the world's top skiing resorts, Val d'Isère enjoys a spectacular setting with luxury chalets, lively après-ski and some of the most exciting skiing around.

The opening weekend starts on Saturday 29th November 2014.

FIS Mens Alpine Word Cup

12 to 14 December 2014

FIS Ladies Alpine World Cup

19 to 21 December 2014

Val d'Isère offers two spectacular weekends of international racing, with free entry for all.

The Alpine World Cup showcases the most talented winter sports stars.

An Enchanted Christmas

22 to 28 December 2014

Val d'Isère celebrates Christmas with giant snow sculptures, a life-size nativity and shows and concerts.

Instructors from the National French Ski School will present their brand new show, with highlights including ski demonstrations, fireworks and a candle-lit descent.

22nd Classical Music Festival

20 to 22 January 2015 and 10th to 12th March 2015

The festival presents outstanding musicians and beautiful music staged in the Baroque church of Saint Bernard de Menthon.

Frost Gun Invitational

10th – 12th February 2015

This freestyle Big Air competition sees the world's best freestyle skiers performing to their absolute best.

3rd Annual Winter Golf

25 to 29 March 2015

Snow Street golf session on the Olympique Avenue starts in the early evening featuring seven holes through the shops and bars of Val d'Isère, with a welcome cocktail at the first hole, hot wine and a concert at the fourth hole, and many other treats in between.

The next day, in the early morning, teams head to the Manchet Vallet golf course for a day of putting, chipping, and teeing off from the glorious, snowy Alps.

3rd Annual Yoga Festival

1 to 3 May 2015

This three day mountain-top yoga event sees a choice of yoga disciplines are practiced, demonstrating the range of influences.

Visit : www.valdisere.com. Contact : Charlie Fox at Charlie@grifcopr.com.

Ranch Riders, North America

Ranch Rider has a ranches across North America that cater specifically to grown ups including :

Siwash Lake Luxury Guest Ranch

Based in British Columbia, the ranch has a strong focus on health and wellness, with a tented Siwash Spa set in a tranquil forest clearing.

Guided hiking, horseback riding and wild swimming in the lightly mineralised waters of Siwash Lake are available.

Paradise Guest Ranch

Located in the valley of the Big Horn National Forest, the Paradise Guest Ranch offers varied terrain and trails in Wyoming's wilderness, with meadows, wooded paths, creeks, steep mountain sides and the Hunter Mesa, a grass covered plateau.

Red Horse Mountain Ranch

At Idaho's Red Horse Mountain Ranch, guests can pair the beauty of the fall colours with over 30 regional wines.

The Elk Mountain Guest Ranch

Located two hours from Denver, the Elk Mountain Guest Ranch is the highest ranch in Colorado, with views of the Collegiate and Indian Peaks and the Mollie Kathleen Gold Mine, located 1,000 feet underground.

The McGinnis Meadows Cattle & Guest Ranch

The McGinnis Meadows Cattle & Guest Ranch is located in 75-acres of Northwest Montana, with rides across, mountains, lakes and rivers.

Visit : www.ranchrider.com. Contact : Siobhan Erum-Credo at siobhan@tionlondon.co.uk.

The National Forest, UK

The National Forest is a new, wooded landscape covering 200 square miles of central England.

It is being developed by a non-departmental public body sponsored by the UK Government's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

The area in the Midlands which is known as The National Forest was chosen in part because the woodland cover was very low (about 6%). There was also a great need for regeneration after the end of mining and, importantly, incredible public support for the idea.

Since then, the 200 square miles of The National Forest have been transformed through the planting of over eight million trees and the creation of many other valuable habitats.

It has many new attractions and forest-based activities and has stimulated many woodland-linked businesses. While more than 200,000 people live in the Forest, it is also within just 90 minutes' journey time for about 10 million people.

This is now well under way with woodland cover having increased from around 6% in 1991 to 19.5% in 2013, with 86% of woodlands accessible.

The National Forest Way explores the highlights of The National Forest, between the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire and Beacon Hill Country Park in Leicestershire.

Visit : www.nationalforest.org. Contact : Carol Rowntree Jones at crowntreejones@nationalforest.org.

Orlando in autumn and winter

Magic Holidays have launched a new guide for travellers who may not have been to Orlando before, providing adults with advice on how to make the most of their time in the city.

This includes :

Food festivals

The Epcot Food & Wine Festival at Epcot Theme Park To 10 November 2014 (annual)

The Epcot Food & Wine Festival celebrates the diversity of food in the area with celebrity chefs, live cooking demonstrations and concerts.

September is also Magical Dining Month, with select restaurants offering gourmet three course menus from just \$33.

Downtown Orlando, the district of Restaurants Row and Winter Park all have restaurants and eateries participating during the festive season.

Arts and culture

The Harmony Music & Arts Festival takes place on 27 and 28 September and the 41st Winter Park Autumn Art Festival on 11 and 12 October.

In addition

- the Orlando Science Center has exhibitions, theatre displays and wine and laser shows
- the Orlando Museum of Art showcases international art from the 19th century and one of the largest collections of art of the ancient Americas, and
- the Orange County History Centre offers exhibits detailing the journey of the city from a small town to a thriving metropolitan city.

Visit : www.harmonyfl.com, www.winterpark.org, www.osc.org, www.omart.org and www.thehistorycentre.org.

Golf

The Orlando area has 176 golf courses with the Grand Cypress Academy of Golf providing training courses for those new to the sport.

Golf courses include the Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Lodge, widely regarded as one of the best in Central Florida, and the Champions Gate Golf Club, home of the David Leadbetter Golf Academy.

The Orlando Film Festival

22 to 26 October (annual)

The Orlando Film Festival this autumn in Downtown Orlando, showcases independent films from around the world.

Visit : www.orlandofilmfest.com.

Visit : www.visitorlando.com and www.magicolidays.com. Contact : David Wilson at david.wilson@kbctravelgroup.com.

Desert Islands, United Arab Emirates

Desert Islands is a nature-based destination offshore the Al Gharbia (Western Region), in Abu Dhabi, the capital of United Arab Emirates.

It is a collection of eight islands where visitors can get close to nature and wildlife, discover past civilizations and immerse themselves in Arabic traditions.

Sir Bani Yas Island, the largest island at the heart of the destination is the vision of the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, and plays a key role in Abu Dhabi's efforts of developing and nurturing a sustainable future in tourism while conserving and promoting local traditions.

It is the first of the Desert Islands to welcome tourists and we take pride in sharing this unique island and its rich cultural history, as we take you on an enriching journey through the scenic landscape, dynamic wildlife reserve, diverse marine ecosystem and ancient archaeological sites.

The Arabian Wildlife Park, which was conceived as a wildlife reserve to ensure the survival of Arabia's most endangered species, covers three quarters of this 87 square kilometre island.

It is home to around 23 species of free-roaming animals, including giraffes, a variety of antelope and one the world's largest herd of critical endangered Arabian Oryx.

Visit : www.desertislands.com. Contact : George Chakar at gchakar@tdic.ae.

A place to stay

Glazebrook House Hotel, South Devon, UK

Glazebrook House Hotel is a family run hotel, hotel, owned by Pieter and Fran Hamman, that showcases the very best in British revival décor.

The decor includes a flamingo and oversized fountain pen in the lobby, a spitfire wing reception desk, bowler hats lining the wall in the hallway and a peacock sitting in the bar area.

The eight bedrooms are inspired by Alice in Wonderland and named after its characters.

Visit : www.glazebrookhouse.com. Contact : Hayley Reynolds at hayley@rawprandmarketing.co.uk.

Nira Montana, Italy

Luxury hotel group Nira Hotels and Resorts will open the Nira Montana, in north Italy in December .

Located in La Thuile, in the popular tourist region of Val d'Aosta and at the foot of Mont Blanc, the new property is near to the ski slopes and hiking trails of the Italian Alps.

The 55-room luxury hotel will feature an authentic Italian restaurant and its bar will feature an extensive wine cellar.

La Thuile is close to the major airports of northern Italy including Milan, Turin and Genoa, as well as to Geneva in Switzerland.

Nira Hotels & Resorts will open Nira Yana on Pemba Island, Zanzibar, in early 2015.

The two new hotels will join the group's three existing properties:

Shanti Maurice in Mauritius

Nira Alpina in St. Moritz, and Nira Caledonia, Edinburgh.

Visit : www.niramontana.com and www.nirahotelsandresorts.com. Contact : kkay@prco.com.

Lee Valley camping and caravanning, London

The Lee Valley Regional Park is a 10,000-acre, 26 miles long linear park, much of it green spaces, running through the northeast of Greater London, Essex and Hertfordshire, in an area generally known as the Lea Valley.

Lee Valley Caravan Park, Hoddleston, Hertfordshire is 30 minutes from London by train and surrounded by the countryside of Hertfordshire and Essex.

This campsite offers touring and camping pitches and deluxe and classic pre-pitched tents.

The Lee Valley Camping and Caravan Park, Edmonton is a peaceful site within easy reach of both central London.

The Lee Valley Campsite, Sewardstone is a family friendly campsite for tents and caravans, or cocoon or family woodland cabins.

This 1,000 acre park has traffic-free cycling and walking trails, boating, rare wildlife and even white water rafting, and Epping Forest with its mountain bike tracks is also close by.

Visit : www.visitleevalley.org.uk/wheretostay and www.visitleevalleypark.org. Contact : Contact : Joanne Curtis at joannecurtis@leevalleypark.org.uk.

The Oetker Collection

European luxury hotel group the Oetker Collection has added the Hotel Saint-Barth Isle de France to its portfolio. The property, which is located on Flamands Bay, known as one of the world's pristine beaches in the world, is set in tropical gardens overlooking the sea.

The Oetker Collection includes :

- Brenners Park-Hotel & Spa in Baden-Baden
- Le Bristol Paris
- Hôtel du Cap Eden-Roc located on the Mediterranean at the tip of the Cap d'Antibes
- Château Saint-Martin & Spa located in Vence on the French Riviera
- Palais Namaskar in Marrakech, Morocco
- Hotel Saint-Barth Isle de France in Flamands Bay

Visit : www.oetkercollection.com. Contact : Julia Perowne at oetker@verypcc.com.

The Nivaria Gran Hotel,Tenerife

The family-run 5* Roca Nivaria Gran Hotel is located in the Playa Paraíso area on the Southern coast of Costa Adeje, a short drive from Tenerife South's international airport and popular family beaches, restaurants, water and theme parks.

The hotel has 289 rooms with balconies, an infinity pool with Balinese chill-out beds with views of the Atlantic Ocean, open air Jacuzzi and large sun terrace on the property's top floor.

Visit : www.adrianhoteles.com. Contact : Enrique Martin at enrique@humewhitehead.co.uk.

Hotel Sumaq Machu Picchu Hotel, Peru

Luxury Peruvian Hotel Sumaq Machu Picchu Hotel is to undertake a major refurbishment to its 5 star Hotel at the foot of World Heritage site, Machu Picchu.

On the banks of the Vilcanota River and at the foot of Machu Picchu, the Sumaq Machu Picchu Hotel 60 rooms and suites with views of the river or the rainforest mountain.

Visit : www.machupicchuhotels-sumaq.com. Contact : Byron Shirto at byron@talkingstickmktg.co.uk.

Tiara Yaktsa and Tiara Miramar Beach Hotel & Spa, Cote d'Azur, France

Tiara Yaktsa and Tiara Miramar are two two sister properties located elegant boutique hotels on the Cote d'Azur coastline, Southeast France.

Located in a rocky mountainside in a quiet sheltered cove, Tiara Yaktsa and Tiara Miramar are a short walk from the village of Théoule-sur-Mer, 16 km from Cannes and 40 km from Nice.

The surrounding area is dotted with local coffee shops and restaurants offering French and Mediterranean cuisine.

In the beachside village of Théoule-sur-Mer has views over to the Lerins islands.

Visit : www.yaktsa.tiara-hotels.com/en and www.miramar-beachspa.tiara-hotels.com/en. Contact : Emily Wilson at Emily@grifcopr.com.

Grand Hotel Tremezzo, Lake Como

Dating back to 1910 and Art Nouveau in style and decoration, the family owned Grand Hotel Tremezzo commands one of the most enchanting positions on Lake Como with panoramic views of both the town of Bellagio, the Riviera delle Azalee and the stunning Grigne Mountains.

The historic hotel has 92 rooms and suites, all of which offer views of the lake or the hotel's century-old 20,000 sq.m park and gardens.

Visit : www.grandhoteltremezzo.com. Katie O'Lone at katie@masonrose.com.

Nisbet Plantation Beach Club, Nevis, the Caribbean

Nevis is a 36-square-mile Caribbean island lies near the top of the Lesser Antilles archipelago, about 200 miles south of Puerto Rico and just west of Antigua.

This island is approximately seven miles long and five miles wide, with natural vegetation, and one of the remaining unspoiled places on earth.

From the top of the 3,232-foot Nevis Peak created by the only shield volcano in the Caribbean to the depths of the clear waters offshore, there is a world of flora and fauna to explore.

The Nisbet Plantation Beach Club is the Caribbean's only resort plantation inn located directly on the beach, with 36 cottage-style units and a restored Great House that dates from 1778 set on 30 acres of tropical foliage.

Visit www.NisbetPlantation.com. Contact : Amy Kerr at amy@madiganpratt.com

Camping at Sveta Nedelja, Croatia

A new luxury camping site has opened on the northern bank of Rakitje Lake, in the small town of Sveta Nedelja.

Located 30 minutes from Zagreb, the ten thousand square metre-sized camp has been awarded four-star status and will have fifty spots for campervans and vehicles, four bungalows, a wine cellar, lounge bar, mini wellness facility and a children's playground.

Guests will be able to make the most of the countryside location by taking up the walking, cycling and fishing opportunities.

Those looking to explore the surrounding areas can visit the nearby nature parks, Medvednica and Zumberak and the castles and museums of the Zagorje region.

Visit : www.croatia.hr. Contact : Tim Thackray at Tim.Thackray@Rooster.co.uk.

Downtown Disney Resort Hotels, Lake Buena Vista, Florida

The seven Downtown Disney Resort Hotels, within Walt Disney World, are located an easy walk to the shopping, dining and entertainment venues at the Downtown Disney itself.

The hotels also provide complimentary shuttle transportation every 30 minutes to all four Walt Disney World theme parks, its two water parks and to the Downtown Disney area itself.

The hotels are :

- B Resort & Spa
- Best Western Lake Buena Vista Resort Hotel
- Buena Vista Palace Hotel & Spa
- DoubleTree Suites by Hilton
- Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista Holiday Inn Orlando, and
- Wyndham Lake Buena Vista Resort

Upcoming special events at the Walt Disney World Resort include:

- Mickey's Not-So-Scary Halloween Party at the Magic Kingdom
- 1 September to 31 October 2014 (select nights)
- Epcot International Food & Wine Festival and Eat to the Beat
- 19 September to 10 November 2014

Visit : www.DowntownDisneyHotels.com. Contact : Karen Lamonica at klamonica@chisano.com.

The Pullman Hotel, Bar and Restaurant, Sunderland, UK

Three railway carriages, which catered for travellers during the golden age of steam, have been restored to their original glory – and purpose.

Throughout the early 1900s, Pullman carriages Sapphire, Rosalind and Padua played host to Edwardian railway passengers in Britain and overseas.

Now, the luxurious carriages have been restored by the Pullman Hotel, with two turned into a tearoom and the third into the hotel's reception and Platform 5 restaurant, overlooking the seafront.

All three carriages, which originally belonged to the British Pullman Company, were bought by The Pullman Hotel in 1989 and have been carefully and authentically restored to give visitors a glimpse into the most glamorous period in the history of rail travel.

Visit : www.thepullmansunderland.co.uk. Contact : Claire Buchan at claire@sortedpr.com.

The British Polo Day Global Series launches in Australia, hosting the prestigious 2014 Garangula High Goal Final

Silhouette Island, Seychelles

Silhouette Island is A combination of tropical forest and an imposing mountain whose peak

Located along a 2.5 km stretch of beach, Hilton Seychelles Labriz Resort & Spa offers trekking through one of the largest National Parks in Seychelles, or exploring the surrounding National Marine Park.

Visit : www.hiltonseychelleslabriz.com. Contact : Maya Mahir at genevieve@goodresults.co.uk.



MASSACHUSETTS
IT'S ALL HERE.

An Alliance focus on :

Thrill seeking activities in Massachusetts

Massachusetts, in the heart of New England, has a range of activities to thrill including night cycling in Boston, kiteboarding on Cape Cod and ziplining in the Berkshires.

Stand-Up Paddle board on the Charles River (Cambridge, MA)

Visitors can get the best view of Boston's skyline from a stand-up paddleboard on the Charles River.

After leaving Broad Canal near Kendall Square, the group will paddle underneath the Longfellow Bridge to the Boston shore. The guide will help you battle the wind and boat wakes that present an even greater challenge.

Visit : www.PaddleBoston.com.

Bike at Night by Urban Adventours (Boston)

As the sun begins to set, the air cools, and the city begins to calm, a bike is a good way to see the city of Boston in lights.

Urban Adventours offers a Bikes at Night tour that allows you to tour during a time of day tourists usually do not see, focusing especially on the waterfront.

Ride to Long Wharf, past the John Joseph Moakley Federal Courthouse, past the Boston ICA and more, while taking in breathtaking views of the evening skyline.

Visit : www.Urbanadventours.com.

Ride the waves on Codzilla (Boston)

Zip around the Boston Harbour at speeds up to 40 miles per hour during a wild 40-minute ride.

Many refer to Codzilla as a water coaster as the boat swerves, curves and rips through the harbour.

Visit : www.BostonHarborCruises.com/Codzilla.

Sea Kayak on Cape Cod's National Sea Shore (Chatham)

Discover the water trails of Cape Cod's National Seashore, bays and tidal rivers by kayaking among seals and shore birds.

Paddle through narrow channels that wind through the long grasses, past sand flats and over an ecosystem teeming with life.

Visit : www.CapeKayaking.com

Take a ride through Art's Dune Tours (Provincetown)

A tour of the peaked sand dunes on the Provincetown Cape Cod National Seashore protected lands. Wispy beach grass, dark green pine trees and deep red beach plums nestled in hollows combine to form this picturesque setting.

Visit : www.ArtsDuneTours.com.

Kiteboard on the Cape (Wellfleet)

Cape Cod's consistent winds and long coastline make it an ideal place to develop your kite-handling skills. Kiting is one of the fastest-growing watersports in the US.

The kiteboard controls the kite with a harness/handle connected by nylon lines. The board is pulled by the kite over open water quickly. Mastering control of the kite, air, board and water simultaneously is the ultimate challenge.

Visit : www.Funseekers.org.

Canoe with Still River Outfitters (Bolton)

Still River Outfitters offer their signature QuickStart class, which is a brief, three-hour introduction to paddling.

Students will learn about boat control, hazards and rescues. Paddle down the rivers of Massachusetts including Sudbury and Assabet River during your course.

Visit : www.stillriveroutfitters.com.

Hike through the Swift River Reservation (Petersham)

Seven miles of trails weave through forest, swamp, fields and upland, all linked by the East Branch of the Swift River, the largest tributary of the Quabbin Reservoir.

The reservation's varied topography and flora support an abundance of wildlife, including deer, beaver, raccoon, porcupine, bear, bobcat and coyote, as well as numerous songbirds, owls and birds of prey.

Visit : thetrustees.org/places-to-visit/central-ma/swift-river-reservation.html

Misty River Ballooning (Florence)

There's a chance to soar over the beautiful Pioneer Valley and the foothills of the Berkshires in a hot air balloon.

The balloons launch early in the morning, just after sunrise or a few hours before sunset when the wind is the calmest.

Visit : www.mistyriverballooning.com.

Zip line and white water rafting

The Deerfield Valley has 11 zip lines, two sky bridges and three rappels suspended in the trees of.

The three-hour zip line tour was the first canopy tour in New England.

There's also white water rafting on the Deerfield River. Beginners to advanced rafters alike are welcome, accompanied by a skilled guide provided by Zoar Outdoor

Visit : www.ZoarOutdoor.com

Bike through the farms of Pioneer Valley on a Mount Major Adventure (Northampton)

Bike Farm Table weekends combine the farm-to-table movement with the fun of exploring by bicycle. Ride to local farms, meet the farmers and harvest food at the peak of its season.

Visit : www.mountmajor.com

Jump into the sky at Skydive Pepperell (Pepperell)

Skydive Pepperell goes by the saying, "There's only so much fun you can have on land." Experience the ultimate thrill of soaring through the air. Skydive Pepperell offers tandem skydiving or accelerated freefall training for students to become licensed divers.

Visit : www.Skyjump.com

View the North Shore Coast from a helicopter with Now City Tours (Revere)

Helicopter flights up the Northern Coast to Cape Anne with views of Revere Beach, Nahant, Marblehead, Beverly Harbor, Manchester-By-The-Sea and Singing Beach.

Visit : www.NowCityTours.com

Visit : www.massholiday.co.uk. Contact : Kirsty Dillury at Kirsty@ttmworld.co.uk

Travel guides

The following travel publishers will provide review copies to Alliance members.

AA Travel Guides

www.shop.theaa.com/store/travel-guides. Katie Stephens at katie.stephens@theaa.com.

Anova Books

www.anovabooks.com. Helen Ponting at hponting@anovabooks.co

Bradt Travel

www.bradtguides.com. Rachel Fielding at rachel.fielding@bradtguides.com

Brit's Guide

www.foulsham.com. Margaret Lashbrook at margaret.lashbrook@lineone.net or Sue Wilkins at wilkins@foulsham.com.

Cicerone

www.cicerone.co.uk. Sarah Spencer at sarah@cicerone.co.uk

Eland Publishing

www.travelbooks.co.uk. Barnaby Rogerson at barnaby@travelbooks.co.uk.

Fisher's Travel SOS

www.fisherstravelsos.com. Furgan Syed at furqan.syed@fisherstravelsos.com.

Global Travel Publishers

www.africa-adventure.com. Kate Bandos at kate@ksbpromotions.com.

Globetrotters LogBook

www.globetrotterslogbook.com. Giedo Claes at giedo@globetrotterslogbook.com

Hudson's Historic Houses and Gardens

www.hudsonsheritage.com. Tanya Aspinwall at tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk

Inn House Publishing

www.innhousepublishing.com. Kathryn McWhirter at kathrynmcwhirter@btopenworld.com.

Insight

www.insightguides.com. Julia Spence at julia.spence@ukonline.co.uk.

In your pocket guides

www.inyourpocket.com. Craig Turp at editor@inyourpocket.com.

Jane's Smart Art Guides

www.JanesSmartArt.com. Jane McIntosh at MJM@JanesSmartArt.com

Jonglez Publishing

www.jonglezpublishing.com. Alexandre Thery at alexandre@editionsjonglez.com.

Kuperard Publishers

www.kuperard.co.uk. Geoffrey Chesler at geoffreychesler@btinternet.com.

Morris Communications

www.themilepost.com. Kate Bandos at kate@ksbpromotions.com.

Odyssey Books & Guides

www.odysseypublications.com. Caroline Eden at caroline@odysseypublications.com

The Official (UK) Tourist Board Guides

www.visitor-guides.co.uk. Tanya Aspinwall at tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk

Oxygen Books city-lit

www.oxygenbooks.co.uk Malcom Burgess at malcolm@oxygenbooks.co.uk

Rough Guides

www.roughguides.com. press@roughguides.com

The Signpost

www.signpost.co.uk. Tanya Aspinwall at tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk

Summersdale travel publications

www.summersdale.com. Dean at dean@summersdale.com.

Take two Books

www.taketwobooks.com. Sarah Duvalle at Sarah@taketwobooks.com.

Turnleft

www.turnleftguides.com. Nick Buteau at nick@turnleftguides.com

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The International Travel Writers Alliance is the world's largest association of professional travel writers, editors, broadcasters and photographers.

www.itwalliance.com

Ashley Gibbins FCIPR, MCIOJ
Chief Executive
The International Travel Writers Alliance
0776 419 8286
Ashley@itwalliance.com



AllWays traveller is the consumer travel features 'arm' of the Alliance providing independent travellers with views of the world from the professional travel journalists in the Alliance

www.allwaystraveller.com

Ann Mealor FCIPR
Commissioning Editor
AllWays traveller
07971 596 925
Ann@itwalliance.com