



---

# The Alliance

---

# Bulletin

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

Mid- August 2015

Ashley Gibbins

[Ashley@itwalliance.com](mailto:Ashley@itwalliance.com)  
[www.itwalliance.com](http://www.itwalliance.com)

# The Alliance Bulletin

Issue 190 : mid-August 2015

[www.itwalliance.com](http://www.itwalliance.com)

## The Alliance press card



**The International Travel Writers Alliance Press Card now** provides Alliance journalists with formal recognition of their status and standing in the profession and a range of opportunities from Alliance travel partners.

Contact Ashley Gibbins at [Ashley@itwalliance.com](mailto:Ashley@itwalliance.com).

## Job shop

**The International Travel Writers Alliance Job Shop** 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
- 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](http://www.jobtarget.com/home/home.cfm?site_id=14773)

## 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](http://www.itwalliance.com).**

## Partners

### Brand USA

Brand USA is the public-private partnership responsible for promoting the United States as a premier travel destination and communicating U.S. entry/exit policies and procedures.

Established by the Travel Promotion Act in 2010, the organisation's mission is to increase international visitation to the United States while working in partnership with the travel industry to maximise the economic and social benefits of travel.

These benefits include creating jobs essential to the economy and fostering understanding between people and cultures.

Visit : [www.TheBrandUSA.com](http://www.TheBrandUSA.com). Contact : Polly Beech at [pbeech@thebrandusa.co.uk](mailto:pbeech@thebrandusa.co.uk).

## Ethiopia Travel

Ethiopia Travel is the new official tourist organization, with mandate for product and destination development and international marketing of this African Country.

Visit : [www.ethiopia.travel](http://www.ethiopia.travel). Contact : Carmen Altes at [carmen.altes.machin@gmail.com](mailto:carmen.altes.machin@gmail.com).

## Russia Lbl Communication Group

Russia Lbl Communication Group is a general pr-partner of the main international festivals in Russia - the "Spasskaya Tower" and the "Circle of Light"

Visit : [www.lbl.ru/eng](http://www.lbl.ru/eng). Contact : Evgeny Eremeev at [pr@lbl.ru](mailto:pr@lbl.ru).

## One World Adventure

One World Adventure is an Outdoor Education and Eco Tourism organization located in Mentone, Alabama.

Visit : [www.oneworldadventureco.org](http://www.oneworldadventureco.org) Contact : William Shugart at [wysugart@oneworldadventureco.org](mailto:wysugart@oneworldadventureco.org).

## News

### Ramside Hall Hotel, Golf and Spa, Durham

Located on the outskirts of Durham, this privately owned hotel has just completed a £16m development which includes a second championship golf course, 47 additional premier rooms and a luxury spa, featuring five pools, a beauty snug, Asian restaurant, 14 treatment rooms, sleep retreat and a whole host of other stunning features.

The hotel is happy to offer Alliance members with commissions a stay to cover any individual or all aspects of the property.

Visit : [www.ramsidespa.co.uk](http://www.ramsidespa.co.uk). Contact Bernice Salzer at [bernice@sortedpr.com](mailto:bernice@sortedpr.com).

### The Gardens, Wynward Hall, Teesside, UK

What will eventually become the largest rose garden in the UK has just opened its doors at the historic country house hotel on Teesside.

The hotel is now welcoming visitors to see the amazing gardens and its new visitor centre.

Alliance members on commission are welcome to visit the attraction and can also request stays at the hotel with use of the spa.

Visit : [www.wynyardhall.co.uk](http://www.wynyardhall.co.uk). Contact Bernice Salzer at [bernice@sortedpr.com](mailto:bernice@sortedpr.com).

### The International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association : 33rd Annual Global Convention, Cape Town

14 to 16 April 2016

The International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association will hold its 33rd Annual Global Convention at the Belmond Mount Nelson Hotel in Cape Town, South Africa.

This is the first time IGLTA's conference, the premier educational and networking event for the LGBT tourism industry, will be held on the African continent.

Visit : [www.iglta.org/convention](http://www.iglta.org/convention). Contact : LoAnn Halden at [loann.halden@iglta.org](mailto:loann.halden@iglta.org).

## Great Scenic Railways of Scotland

Scenery, wildlife and history come free on one of Scotland's six great scenic rail journeys.

Travelling around Scotland by rail takes you into the heart of some of the country's most stunning landscapes.

These include :

- the West Highland line from Glasgow to Mallaig, via Fort William
- from Kyle of Lochalsh, the gateway to Skye, to the highland capital of Inverness
- the journey between Edinburgh and Tweedbank

They offer spectacular views of some of its most famous locations from natural attractions such Loch Lomond, Torridon Peaks and Ben Nevis, to the stunning architecture of the Glenfinnan Viaduct (of Harry Potter fame) and grand castles such as Skibo and Carbisdale.

ScotRail is promoting its Great Scenic Railways of Scotland by highlighting the top six most beautiful routes around the country (including the soon to open Scottish Borders Line in September).

It is working with partner attractions and accommodation providers along the six routes as part of a press trip initiative.

Visit : [www.scotrail.co.uk/scotland-by-rail/great-scenic-rail-journeys](http://www.scotrail.co.uk/scotland-by-rail/great-scenic-rail-journeys). Contact : Ali Liddy at [ali@wire-media.co.uk](mailto:ali@wire-media.co.uk)

## Waco Mammoth in Texas becomes a National Park

President Barack Obama has issued a Presidential Proclamation making the Waco Mammoth Site a new unit of the National Park System.

This paleontological site represents the nation's first and only recorded discovery of a nursery herd of Columbian mammoths from the Ice Age, defined as 2.5million to 10,000 years ago.

Visitors can view in situ fossils, including female mammoths, a bull mammoth, and a camel that lived approximately 67,000 years ago.

Of the 24 mammoths uncovered to date, at least 18 were part of the nursery herd.

As a result of an unknown natural catastrophic event, the entire nursery herd died at the same moment in time, which left the skeletons relatively intact, giving this site a one-of-a-kind opportunity to examine the matriarchal herd structure and behaviour of this extinct species.

Visit : [www.nps.gov/waco](http://www.nps.gov/waco). Contact : Sarah Barnett at [sbarnett@thebrandusa.co.uk](mailto:sbarnett@thebrandusa.co.uk).

## Robert Redford to narrate Brand USA film

Robert Redford will narrate the new 3D Documentary, 'National Parks Adventure', which will be shown in IMAX® and giant-screen theatres worldwide to commemorate the U.S. National Park Service's 100-year anniversary.

The film, which will be released on 12 February 2016, was shot in 30 of the 407 national parks over a nine month period, with IMAX cameras enabling every vantage point of these natural wonders to be brought to audiences with vivid colours and landscapes.

Visit : [www.DiscoverAmerica.com](http://www.DiscoverAmerica.com). Contact : Polly Beech at [pbeech@thebrandusa.co.uk](mailto:pbeech@thebrandusa.co.uk).

## Wild Planet Adventures : Borneo

Wild Planet Adventures has been granted special access to lead wildlife eco-tours in the remote Maliau Basin Conservation Area, known as *The Lost World of Borneo*.

Located on the strait of Sabah, the region encompasses Malaysia's easternmost state on the island of Borneo.

The Lost World of Borneo is one of three areas left in Borneo that encompass the last stands of the oldest rainforest on earth.

Its geography, a basin surrounded by steep cliffs, has never been fully explored.

The Maliau Basin Conservation Area offers perhaps the only remotely viable chance to see some of the world's rarest animals including the clouded leopard, sun bear, pygmy elephant, Malaysian badger and the reclusive Bornean rhino.

### Wild Planet Adventures

Wild Planet Adventures offers exploration in remote wildlife habitat and study wildlife patterns in destinations not often accessible to the general public.

Tours are conducted in Africa, Baja, Belize, Borneo, Brazil, Costa Rica, Galapagos, India, Laos, Nepal, Panama, Peru, Thailand and Zambia.

Visit : [www.wildplanetadventures.com](http://www.wildplanetadventures.com). Contact : Dave Wiggins at [dave@travelnewssource.com](mailto:dave@travelnewssource.com).

## Your views on Malawi

Malawian journalist Wadza Otomani, who is currently studying in the UK, is producing a report on how Malawi promotes itself as a tourist destination and is looking for information from fellow journalists on their experiences and perceptions of the African country.

He will be delighted to hear from Alliance members regarding five questions :

1. What is your working relationship and communication with Malawi as a tourist destination?
2. How should Malawi build and maintain its relationship and communication with you as a travel writer?
3. As a travel writer, you may also write stories about other destinations in Africa. How would you rate Malawi against other destinations in terms of access to key interviewees and information but also time taken to respond to your questions.
4. As an intermediary between tourists and tourist destinations, you play a critical role in travel and tourism. How do you balance the interests of both parties?
5. How do social media platforms like Trip Advisor affect your own reviews of tourist destinations like Malawi?
6. What is the impact of stories on a destination and how can effective media relations affect tourist inflows to destinations like Malawi?

If you wish to contribute please contact : Wadza Otomani at [w.otomani1@arts.ac.uk](mailto:w.otomani1@arts.ac.uk).

## Harley Gallery, Wellbeck, Nottinghamshire, UK

A new gallery space is set to be opened at the Harley Gallery in Wellbeck in 2016.

The new building will display historic works from The Portland Collection, the fine and decorative arts collection of the Cavendish-Bentick family.

The new building will be situated next to the existing Harley Gallery, within the walls of the Victorian Tan Gallop, which was originally used for storage.

Visit : [www.harleygallery.co.uk](http://www.harleygallery.co.uk). Contact : Sophie Lemagnen at [Sophie.Lemagnen@visitengland.org](mailto:Sophie.Lemagnen@visitengland.org).

## New Orleans relaunches 'Big Easy' Power Pass

Almost 10 years after the destruction of Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans is once again a prime Deep South tourist destination.

The new sightseeing card, relaunched for smartphone and tablet offers more than 25 of the city's top attractions, tours and experiences with fast-track entry to a number of attractions and the New Orleans Bus Tour.

Attractions covered the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas, Entergy IMAX® Theatre, New Orleans Audubon Zoo (pictured), Paddleboat Creole Queen Cruise and Mardi Gras World.

Visit : [www.NewOrleansPass.com](http://www.NewOrleansPass.com) and [www.DiscoverAmerica.com](http://www.DiscoverAmerica.com). Contact : Polly Beech at [pbeech@thebrandusa.co.uk](mailto:pbeech@thebrandusa.co.uk).

## New Oxford guidebook in seven languages

Experience Oxfordshire has launched the "*Quick Guide to Oxford*" in English, German, Japanese and Chinese French, Spanish and Russian editions.

The guide provides information, designed to answer the needs of day and short break visitors to the city.

Visit : [www.experienceoxfordshire.org](http://www.experienceoxfordshire.org). Contact : Ulrike Werner at [press@experienceoxfordshire.org](mailto:press@experienceoxfordshire.org).

## Egypt opens extension to the Suez Canal

Egypt has completed the construction of the new Suez Canal extension, a multi-billion project that will boost the country's trade and economy.

The project adds 35 Kms of new channels and 37 waterways in order to allow the passage of larger ships.

Visit : [www.gotoegypt.org](http://www.gotoegypt.org). Contact : [info@gotoegypt.org](mailto:info@gotoegypt.org).

## Leads

### The Atlanta Bar-B-Q Festival, Georgia

The Atlanta Bar-B-Q Festival, Georgia, takes place each August with 50 pro teams and back yard teams battling out their grill skills with live music, food sampling and demonstrations.

Visit : [www.atlbbqfest.com](http://www.atlbbqfest.com).

Further information about Barbecue and other U.S. flavours can be found at [www.DiscoverAmerica.com/flavours](http://www.DiscoverAmerica.com/flavours).

Contact : Sarah Barnett at [sbarnett@thebrandusa.co.uk](mailto:sbarnett@thebrandusa.co.uk).

## Ukrainian culture at the St. James Theatre, London

8 to 19 September 2015

Lesya Ukrainka, Kiev's National Academic Theatre of Russian Drama, brings a festival of events celebrating Ukrainian culture to the St. James Theatre.

The festival, comprising four plays, two free film screenings and a photography exhibition, will give British audiences a chance to acquaint themselves with some of Ukraine's cultural masterpieces as well as its developing modern arts scene.

The cycle of four plays, *Ward of the Manor*, *My Mocking Happiness*, *Life's Little Nothings* and *Don Juan*, will be performed in Russian and live dubbed in to English by a translator who will be present in the auditorium.

A free photography exhibition, *Ukrainian Culture Today*, will be on display in the bar and front of house area of the theatre, showing beautiful images of the sites, architecture and people of Kiev and the Ukraine.

Press tickets are available throughout the festival.

Visit : [www.stjamestheatre.co.uk](http://www.stjamestheatre.co.uk). Contact : Julia Peach at [julia@stjamestheatre.co.uk](mailto:julia@stjamestheatre.co.uk).

## Voyages to Antiquity

Small ship cruise experts Voyages to Antiquity have unveiled its *September Sail Away* campaign, offering three cruises calling at destinations including Istanbul, Athens and Venice onboard the Aegean Odyssey.

Most shore excursions are included within the price including visits to the Acropolis (Rhodes), visiting the ancient Troy (Canakkale) and a tour of Dubrovnik (Croatia).

Visit : [www.voyagestoantiquity.com](http://www.voyagestoantiquity.com). Contact : Kelly Adams at [Kelly.Adams@sirencomms.com](mailto:Kelly.Adams@sirencomms.com).

## Moab, Utah

Moab in southeastern Utah, which was once a Uranium mining town, is now promoting itself as a location for 'iconic beauty and big adventure'.

Moab offers easy access to the Arches and Canyonlands National Parks, Dead Horse Point State Park, the Colorado River, three scenic byways, and thousands of square miles of red rock landscapes.

Some 20 miles south of Moab are the La Sal Mountains, which are part of Manti-La Sal National Forest. Attaining heights of nearly 13,000 feet, these alpine mountains are the second highest mountain range in Utah.

There is the chance to explore the back roads of Moab, many etched into canyon country as past mining roads

## Pedal Paddle Pedal

Pedal Paddle Pedal with Desert Highlights is a combination of mountain bike and pack raft.

The pack raft deflated is the size of a football. Inflated it is used for passage on a water course to connect land sections, which means covering more backcountry territory and getting a whole lot of sightseeing and exercise.

Visit : [www.deserthighlights.com/trips/packraft/packraft.htm](http://www.deserthighlights.com/trips/packraft/packraft.htm).

Visit : [www.DiscoverMoab.com](http://www.DiscoverMoab.com). Contact : Marian DeLay at [director@discovermoab.com](mailto:director@discovermoab.com).

## Murcia, Spain

The Region of Murcia, in south-eastern Spain, offers year-round sunshine with an average temperature of 19.4°C and 315 days sun a year.

Murcia enjoys a setting within the Mediterranean basin and includes 252km of coastline, known as the 'Costa Cálida' or warm coast.

Visitors can opt for sandy beaches water sports and diving; 22 golf courses and regional parks.

The Mar Menor is a saltwater lagoon with warm shallow waters, gentle wind, sheltered coastline and hotel facilities.

The region hosts events and festivals throughout the year including :

- the international music festival 'SOS 4.8' in Murcia at the beginning of May
- La Mar de Músicas in Cartagena and the International Jazz Festival in San Javier July, and
- El Cante de Las Minas Flamenco Festival in La Unión in August.

Visit : [www.murciaturistica.es](http://www.murciaturistica.es). Contact : Luke Frary at [luke@theazaleagroup.com](mailto:luke@theazaleagroup.com).

## The London Helicopter

The London Helicopter has launched a package that links the UK capital with Stonehenge.

Guests start their journey at the London Heliport, Battersea and fly across the English countryside before viewing Stonehenge from the before landing at a local airfield.

A chauffeured luxury car will take them to experience Stonehenge at ground level.

The London Helicopter is the only helicopter tour company to fly over the capital from a central London location - the London Heliport in Battersea.

Visit : [www.thelondonhelicopter.com](http://www.thelondonhelicopter.com). Contact : Anita Clements at [anita.clements@whitetigerpr.com](mailto:anita.clements@whitetigerpr.com).

## Go Washington DC Explorer Pass

The Go Washington DC Explorer Pass is a multi-attraction pass that enables travellers to save up to 35% on admission on attractions including :

- City Sights Hop-On Hop-Off Tour
- The Crime Museum
- National Geographic Museum
- Bike and Roll DC
- George Washington's Mount Vernon
- International Spy Museum
- Boating in DC
- Madame Tussauds DC
- Newseum
- Washington Monuments Cruise by Potomac Riverboat Company

Visit : [www.GoWashingtonDCCard.com](http://www.GoWashingtonDCCard.com). Conatacte : Jane Coloccia at [Jane@JCCommunicationsllc.com](mailto:Jane@JCCommunicationsllc.com).

---

## What's on

### Portobello Film Festival, London

4 to 20 September 2015

The Portobello Film Festival is the UK's biggest independent film festival.

It was created in 1996 to provide a forum for new film-makers and give exposure to movies on different formats.

Visit : [www.portobellofilmfestival.com](http://www.portobellofilmfestival.com). Contact : [pff@btopenworld.com](mailto:pff@btopenworld.com).

### The Other Mozart, St. James Studio, London

8 to 19 September 2015

Nannerl Mozart, the sister of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, was a prodigy, keyboard virtuoso and composer in her own right, who performed throughout Europe with her brother to equal acclaim.

Her true tale is featured in the Little Matchstick Factory's *The Other Mozart*, a one woman drama set in and on a five and a half meter dress, created to fill and spill over the entire stage, designed by Magdalena Dąbrowska from the National Theatre of Poland.

Visit : [www.stjamestheatre.co.uk](http://www.stjamestheatre.co.uk) and [www.TheOtherMozart.com](http://www.TheOtherMozart.com). Contact Julia Peach at [julia@stjamestheatre.co.uk](mailto:julia@stjamestheatre.co.uk).

### The Great British Food Festival, Ragley Hall & Gardens, Warwickshire, UK

12 and 13 September 2015

The Great British Food Festival 2015 will be the biggest yet and featuring new additions such as adult cookery classes and forager guided walks.

There will also be over 80 top local producers, a large serving of hot food, real ale and wine.

Chef demonstrations from the likes of Great British Bake Off finalist Luis Troyano and Master Chefs Luke Owen, stir in a cake competition and the popular Men V's Food, with lashings of excellent live music and mix together to make a lovely foodie family day out.

Visit [www.greatbritishfoodfestival.com](http://www.greatbritishfoodfestival.com) and [www.ragley.co.uk](http://www.ragley.co.uk). Contact : Tanya Aspinwall at [Tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk](mailto:Tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk).

### World Puppet Festival, Charleville Mezières, France

18 to 27 September 201

This bi-annual event sees puppetiers and enthusiasts from all over the world flock to this vibrant, colourful festival.

There is an extensive programme includes shows, photographic exhibitions, window displays, avant garde performance art, and street entertainment in a carnival atmosphere where more than 30 countries are represented, attracting an estimated 150,000 visitors.

Visit : [www.ardennes.com](http://www.ardennes.com) , [www.festival-marionnette.com](http://www.festival-marionnette.com) and [www.tourisme-champagne-ardenne.com](http://www.tourisme-champagne-ardenne.com). Contact : myra@myra.fr and Cathryn Hicks at [cathryn@douggoodmanpr.com](mailto:cathryn@douggoodmanpr.com).

## Summer festivals in Central America

Summer in Central America offers a range of annual colourful carnivals, religious festivities, national holidays and cultural events.

### **Sunjam, Honduras**

August

Sunjam is the biggest techno-house music festival in Central America.

It takes place over eight days on an uninhabited cay off the coast of the island of Utila, part of the Bay Islands a few kilometres off Honduras' Caribbean coast.

Twice daily ferry service operates between the mainland port of La Ceiba and Utila Island.

Visit : [www.sunjamutila.com](http://www.sunjamutila.com).

### **International Costa Maya Festival, Belize**

August

Every August, Ambergris Caye, Belize's biggest island in the north east of the country, celebrates the reunification of the Mayan empire with a weekend-long multicultural festival.

This comprises dance, music, pageants, food and drink from the Mayan World countries.

On the opening night of the festival, beauty queens from neighbouring Central American countries including Miss Guatemala, Miss Costa Rica, Miss El Salvador, Miss Belize and Miss Honduras, compete for the coveted title of La Reina de la Costa Maya International.

Traditionally, the final night, known as 'Noche Internacional', includes an appearance from a surprise international film star or recording artist followed by an all-night celebratory dance.

Visit : [www.internationalcostamayafestival.com](http://www.internationalcostamayafestival.com).

### **Crab Soup Festival, Nicaragua**

27 and 29 August 2015

To celebrate the end of slavery during the nineteenth century, Nicaraguans gather in the Corn Islands, located in the Caribbean Sea about 70 km from Nicaragua's east coast, to march, dance and eat crab soup.

Festivities take place on two separate days on each of the islands, beginning on 27th August on Big Corn and two days later on Little Corn, about a 45 minute water taxi ride away.

Visit : [www.bigcornisland.com](http://www.bigcornisland.com).

### **Carnival Road March, Belize**

12 September 2015

Although parties to celebrate Belize's independence take place across the country, it is in Belize City where biggest parades are seen.

The Independence Day Carnival, the highlight of the year for many Belizeans, has colours, floats and costumes, when the streets of Belize City are taken over by masqueraders dancing to music. Home to the largest concentration of Creoles in the country, the carnival road march has a dominating Afro-Caribbean theme.

Visit : [www.travelbelize.org](http://www.travelbelize.org).

## CATA

CATA is the promotional agency for the seven Central America countries of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama and Nicaragua

Visit : [www.visitcentroamerica.com](http://www.visitcentroamerica.com). Contact : Jules Ugo at [jules@lotus-uk.co.uk](mailto:jules@lotus-uk.co.uk).

## Fleet Week, San Francisco

8 to 12 October 2015

One of San Francisco's most popular seasonal events, Fleet Week takes over San Francisco during the weekend with a series of Navy-inspired events, entertainment and the Blue Angels air show.

Red And White Fleet offers special cruises during Fleet Week

Visit : [www.fleetweek.us](http://www.fleetweek.us) and [www.redandwhite.com](http://www.redandwhite.com) Contact : Molly Blaisdell at [mollyb22@gmail.com](mailto:mollyb22@gmail.com).

## Kona Coffee Cultural Festival, Hawaii, HI

6 to 15 November 2015

This is Hawaii's oldest food festival, with an international lantern parade, a Miss Kona Coffee pageant, a coffee cupping competition, cultural costumes and art exhibits, and of course, coffee tasting.

The Kona Coffee Cultural Festival is recognized as the most successful food festival in Hawaii. It offers 10 days of events that honours Kona's cultural heritage and recognizes the accomplishments of Kona coffee pioneers, farmers and artisans.

Visit : [www.konacoffeefest.com](http://www.konacoffeefest.com). Contact : Laura Aquino at [laura@current-events.com](mailto:laura@current-events.com).

## Reasons to write about

### Daytona Beach

Daytona Beach is located on Florida's northeast coast, a one-hour drive from Orlando.

Stretching from Ormond-by-the-Sea in the north to the Lighthouse Point Park in Ponce Inlet in the south, Daytona Beach curves along 23 miles of Atlantic Ocean coastline.

Its wide beach with smooth compacted sand has attracted car and motorcycle race enthusiasts since 1902 with Britain's Malcolm Campbell setting the land speed record in 1935.

In 1959 racing moved to the purpose-built Daytona International Speedway, which is currently undergoing a \$400 million transformation.

The city is also the headquarters for NASCAR and the Grand American Road Racing Association as well as the PGA.

The area is investing more than \$1 billion in renovations and construction projects, with its quintessential American Boardwalk and Pier having had an update along with several new beachfront hotels.

These include a Hard Rock Hotel, which will open in 2016.

A new 'One Daytona' shopping development will offer 1.1 million square feet of shopping, dining, accommodation, theatre and entertainment when it opens in 2016.

Visit : [www.daytonabeach.com](http://www.daytonabeach.com). Contact : Lori Campbell Baker at [lcb@daytonabeach.com](mailto:lcb@daytonabeach.com).

---

## Noah's Ark Conservation Programme, Island, Seychelles

North Island, one of Africa's private islands, is situated 30km from the main island of Mahé, Seychelles.

Isolated and with only 11 spacious guest villas, via Wilderness Collection, North Island is known for its luminous white beaches, filigree reefs and azure Indian Ocean.

North Island is also a sanctuary where natural habitats, long neglected, were rehabilitated so that endangered Seychelles fauna and flora could be reintroduced and given a place to grow and thrive.

Some of the key conservation initiatives form part of its Noah's Ark island rehabilitation programme in the Seychelles.

Now well into its second decade, the Noah's Ark project has seen substantial development towards restoring North Island to its original natural state and safeguarding the granitic island ecosystem and the indigenous biodiversity that depends on it.

Of the Island's 201 hectares (518 acres), some 60 hectares (30% of the surface area) will be restored by the end of 2015.

Work has begun on eliminating the last of the Indian myna birds from the Island – one of the most persistent (and vocal) alien species remaining.

### **The Seychelles white-eye**

In 2007, a founder population of 25 Seychelles white-eye's were introduced onto North Island. This was one of the world's rarest birds with a population of 350-400 individuals.

The most recent census of white-eyes, carried out at the end of 2014, found that this initial batch had increased to between 93 and 101 birds, making North Island a globally significant breeding habitat for these rare, small birds.

In addition, seabirds such as boobies and tropicbirds are nesting on the Island again and there has been a steady increase in the number of both the Critically Endangered hawksbill turtle and the Endangered green turtle.

### **Wilderness Collection**

The Wilderness Collection is a portfolio of destinations in iconic areas of Africa and its islands.

All of the destinations share a philosophy of building environmental, social and financial equity and of raising global awareness around sustainability.

Visit : [www.north-island.com](http://www.north-island.com) and [www.wilderness-collection.com](http://www.wilderness-collection.com). Contact : Charlotte Rous at [charlotte@grifcopr.com](mailto:charlotte@grifcopr.com).

## The Teide Observatory, Tenerife

Tenerife has boosted its position as one of the best locations for stargazing, with the introduction of eight new telescopes at the Teide Observatory.

The new telescopes will appeal to “astro-tourists” and scientists looking to unravel the mysteries of the universe.

The new, advanced solar telescopes mark the 30th anniversary of the foundation of the Institute of Astrophysics of the Canary Islands (IAC).

Of the eight introduced, six are robotic telescopes from countries including the USA, Russia, Qatar and Slovakia; and two belong to the QUIJOTE (Q-U-I-Joint Tenerife), a scientific experiment involving multiple partners from Spain and the UK.

The recently-launched Volcano Life Experience operates guided tours several days a week to the Teide Observatory, which is also home to GREGOR, the largest solar telescope in Europe.

Located at 2,390 metres above sea level and next to Mount Teide – Spain’s highest peak at 3,718 metres – Teide Observatory is perfect for studying stars at night due to its geographical location, low-light pollution and extremely clear night skies.

The Observatory rests above the clouds in the volcanic Teide National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and recognised as a ‘Starlight Tourist Destination’ by the Starlight Foundation.

### Tenerife

Tenerife is the largest of the Canary Islands and one of the most popular and easily European island holiday destinations.

Visit: [www.webtenerife.co.uk](http://www.webtenerife.co.uk). Contact : Sarah Habicht at [sarah@humewhitehead.co.uk](mailto:sarah@humewhitehead.co.uk).

## Green turtles on Velassaru, Maldives

Velassaru by Universal Resorts is a 21 acre coral island is situated in the quiet South Malé Atoll.

With its beaches a turquoise lagoon and coconut groves the five star resort has 129 villas and bungalows along with dining, leisure and spa facilities.

Velassaru has also announced that the 124 green sea turtle eggs laid on its beach in late-May hatched in July after 58 days of incubation.

One of seven species of the marine reptile, green sea turtles are mainly found in tropical and sub-tropical zones, but will often migrate hundreds of miles to forage or nest.

Upon reaching maturity, females habitually return to the beach of their own birth in order to nest. However only one in 1000 hatchlings survive to adulthood.

In an effort to combat this statistic, Velassaru has introduced new protectionist activities to its ongoing CSR commitments, including securing those environments suitable for nesting and monitoring for future eggs and hatchlings.

The resort hopes that this will make the island even safer for these amazing marine creatures and assist in the worldwide conservation effort.

Visit : [www.velassaru.com](http://www.velassaru.com). Contact : Maya Mahir at [mayam@goodresults.co.uk](mailto:mayam@goodresults.co.uk).

## The San Antonio Missions, Texas

The largest collection of Spanish colonial architecture dating back to the 1700's, has now received UNESCO World Heritage status.

Hosting millions of visitors annually, the five Missions, spanning seven miles, include the Alamo and Queen of the Missions San José.

Critical to Texas' iconic heritage and the San Antonio landscape, these sites were built to convert Native Americans to Christianity and help settle the region under the flag of Spain, shaping San Antonio as the hybrid of Latino, Native American and Western cultures it is today.

The third U.S. designation in the past two decades, the San Antonio Missions now take their place beside the Statue of Liberty and the Grand Canyon.

Visitors can explore the new World Heritage site by bike, hike or kayak along the newly expanded River Walk, following a recent £228million renovation, or take a tour of the historic grounds exploring living quarters of churches and hearing centuries-old stories from park rangers.

Visit : [www.VisitSanAntonio.com](http://www.VisitSanAntonio.com) and [www.DiscoverAmerica.com](http://www.DiscoverAmerica.com). Contact : Sarah Barnett at [sbarnett@thebrandusa.co.uk](mailto:sbarnett@thebrandusa.co.uk).

## Family breaks in La Gomera

La Gomera is one of Spain's 'botique' Canary Islands, located off the coast of Africa.

Flights are into Tenerife where visitors can take a 50 minute ferry ride to the island or board a 30 minute connecting flight to La Gomera.

La Gomera offers yearlong sunshine, natural landscapes, wildlife, secluded beaches and quaint villages. Family holidays should be enjoyed to the maximum and with the island being full to the brim of exciting experiences, there are activities for all members to enjoy.

### In the out doors

For those who enjoy nature there's trekking through rural trails in the Garajonay National Park.

Families can walk through the luscious forests and encounter 2000 species of plants and many unique invertebrates, vertebrates, amphibians, reptiles and birds, including the giant lizard which can grow up to half a metre long!

There are well-marked trails and knowledgeable rangers on hand at all times, to provide visitors with information on the parks heritage.

The small village of El Cedro, just north of the Garajonay National Park is home to traditional Canarian architecture.

### Water activities

Diving is available on the island for both the experienced diver and the beginner.

One of the most popular beaches of the island, Playa Santiago, proves a place for families who enjoy snorkelling, kayaking and stand up paddle boarding activities.

With over 92km of coastline, caves, & deep reefs the marine life of La Gomera is abundant.

Guests can take part in a night dive, to explore the underwater world and encounter nocturnal species. Families can wildlife watch species such as ospreys, shearwaters, turtles, dolphins and whales.

## On two wheels

A family bike ride around the island with rides to Valle Gran Rey, the valley of the King, which is home to terraced landscapes, palm trees and colourful gardens a highlight.

Visitors can also ride up the rural mountainous road and enjoy impressive coastline views.

## Accommodation

There is a range of boutique accommodation throughout the island with the villages in the North, offering rural apartments tucked away down crooked lanes and the southern coastline offering cliff side hotels.

Visit : [www.lagomera.travel](http://www.lagomera.travel). Contact : Phoebe Irving at [phoebe@prmediaco.com](mailto:phoebe@prmediaco.com).

## A place to stay

### Coco Reef Resort & Spa, Tobago

The Coco Reef Resort & Spa offers easy access to the three best beaches in Tobago – Store Bay, Pigeon Point, and Coconut Bay.

It is located on the south western coast of Tobago in the town of Crown Point, a short drive from Crown Point International Airport and five miles from the capital city, Scarborough.

Visit : [www.visittobago.gov.tt](http://www.visittobago.gov.tt) and [www.cocoreef.com](http://www.cocoreef.com). Contact : Claire Kunzman at [Claire@cam-pr.com](mailto:Claire@cam-pr.com).

### OBLU by Atmosphere, Helengeli Island, Maldives

OBLU by Atmosphere, which is located on Helengeli Island on the eastern rim of the North Malé Atoll, opens on 1 November 2015 after a complete refurbishment.

As one of the only east-west pieces of land that make up the group of islands within the North Malé Atoll, Helengeli's southern side forms the feeding channel into the atoll meaning an abundance of predatory marine life passes through.

This, coupled with its exotic house reef just metres from the shoreline, makes it one of the most popular locations in the Maldives for channel diving.

The waters around the island have now been declared a no-fishing zone so that resort guests will have exclusive access to explore the turtles and tropical fish.

Atmosphere Hotels & Resorts is a resort brand in the Maldives.

Visit : [www.oblu-helengeli.com](http://www.oblu-helengeli.com). Contact : Stuart Fyfe at [Atmosphere@rooster.co.uk](mailto:Atmosphere@rooster.co.uk).

### Country canine retreats in Connecticut, Vermont and Virginia

#### 506 On the River Inn, Woodstock, Vermont

*506 On the River Inn* located in the historic town of Woodstock (VT, not NY!) opened this summer with 40 upscale rooms that include two designated as dog-friendly.

Both rooms are on the ground level for easy access to the property's six acres of meadows.

Nearby 506 are many hiking trails to explore and the Ottauquechee River, which flows just behind the hotel, is ideal for splashing about.

Visit : [www.ontheriverwoodstock.com](http://www.ontheriverwoodstock.com).

### **Winvian Farm, Litchfield Hills, Connecticut**

For a more southern New England destination, Winvian Farm in the Litchfield Hills of Connecticut features 18 designer dwellings, three of which are pet- friendly.

Visit : [www.winvian.com](http://www.winvian.com).

### **The Inn at Willow Grove, Blue Ridge Mountains, Virginia**

Located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains is The Inn at Willow Grove, a former 18th century plantation that was transformed into a luxury hotel in 2010.

Guests and their four legged friend can enjoy two suites in the Overlook East and West cottages.

Visit : [www.innatwillowgrove.com](http://www.innatwillowgrove.com).

Contact : Rebecca Widness at [rebecca@widnesscopr.com](mailto:rebecca@widnesscopr.com).

### **Royal Palm Marrakech**

The Royal Palm Marrakech has won the International Hotel & Property Award in the 'Hotel 50-200 room' category.

Located just 12 km from the bustling centre of Marrakech and 8 km from the airport, this luxury six star property offers 135 suites and villas over three floors with views over the gardens, the hotel golf course and across to the snow-capped Atlas mountains.

Visit : [www.beachcombertours.co.uk](http://www.beachcombertours.co.uk). Contact : Chloe Bowditch at [Chloe@grifcopr.com](mailto:Chloe@grifcopr.com).

### **Red Planet Hotels**

Red Planet Hotels is a privately-owned regional hotel company focused on Asia's expanding value hotel sector.

The company owns and operates 24 hotels in :

- Indonesia (7)
- Japan (3)
- the Philippines (10), and
- Thailand (4).

Visit : [www.redplanethotels.com](http://www.redplanethotels.com). Contact : James Crawford at [james@foxpr.co.uk](mailto:james@foxpr.co.uk).

### **African and Asian Hotel openings**

#### **Park Hyatt Sanya Sunny Bay, Hainan Island**

Opened February 2015

Park Hyatt Sanya Sunny Bay, Hainan Island, designed by Jean-Michel Gathy, occupies an private bay inlet on the southernmost tip of the island.

The Park Hyatt evokes the feel of a private mansion by the sea, comprising 207 rooms, suites and villas, including one Chairman's Suite and 17 private butler villas.

Visit : [www.sanya.park.hyatt.com/en](http://www.sanya.park.hyatt.com/en).

**Park Hyatt Zanzibar**

March 2015

Park Hyatt Zanzibar, the first Park Hyatt in Africa is located in the UNESCO world heritage setting of Stone Town.

This luxury hotel features 67 spacious guest rooms including 11 suites with Ocean front rooms offering views of dhow boats on the harbour and the Indian Ocean.

Visit : [www.parkhyatt.com](http://www.parkhyatt.com).

**Wilderness Safaris' Linkwasha Camp, Zimbabwe**

May 2015

Wilderness Safaris' Linkwasha Camp is located far away from public access areas but close to Ngamo, which offers fine summer game viewing to add to the excellent winter viewing within the Linkwasha concession.

Visit : [www.wilderness-safaris.com](http://www.wilderness-safaris.com).

**The Reverie Saigon, Vietnam**

September 2015

The Reverie Saigon, Vietnam will be located in the 39-floor Times Square building in Ho Chi Minh City's District.

A member of The Leading Hotels of the World. With couture style and bespoke, Italian design, combined impeccable service, this highly anticipated opening will raise the bar for luxury hospitality in Vietnam.

Each of the hotel's 286 rooms will be individually furnished by some of Italy's finest design houses and will have views of the area.

Hotel features include a one-of-a-kind Bechstein grand piano, dating back to 1895, that will sit in the La Scala Grand Ballroom.

The hotel will have the longest bar in Saigon (the length of a city block), a fleet of luxury vehicles including a limited edition Rolls-Royce Phantom Dragon and five dining and nightlife options.

[www.thereveriesaiagon.com](http://www.thereveriesaiagon.com)

**Anantara Tangalle Peacehaven Resort & Spa, Sri Lanka**

October 2015

Located on the South Coast of Sri Lanka, one hour along the coast from Colombo, the new Anantara Tangalle Peacehaven Resort & Spa close to the Yala National Park with its leopards and sloth bears!

Visit : [www.tangalle.anantara.com](http://www.tangalle.anantara.com)

**Anantara Salalah Resort, Oman**

Late 2015

The Anantara Salalah Resort will be located on the Arabian Sea in Salalah City, Dhofar Coast, in the south of Oman.

The new resort will be adjacent to a natural canal and will have direct access to the beach, a botanical garden and the Al Baleed UNESCO archaeological sites. It will be 10 km from the city centre and 15 km from the airport.

Visit : [www.anantara.com/salalah](http://www.anantara.com/salalah).

**Anantara Jabal Al Akhdar, Oman**

Late 2015

The 5- star Jabal Akhdar Anantara Hotel Resort & Spa will be atq Plateau on Oman's fabled Green Mountain, Anantara Jabal Al Akhdar Resort will be located almost 3,000 metres above sea level on the curving rim of a great canyon.

As such it will be the highest five star resort in the Middle East and the second highest in the world.

Visit : [www.anantara.com/jabal-al-akhdar](http://www.anantara.com/jabal-al-akhdar).

**AVANI Bangkok Riverside**

Late 2015

AVANI Bangkok Riverside will be located 15 minutes by luxury shuttle boat to the heart of Bangkok and opposite Asiatique, the city's largest night market.

Visit : [www.avanihotels.com/bangkok-riverside](http://www.avanihotels.com/bangkok-riverside).

**Dorsett Putrajaya, Malaysia**

Late 2015

The Dorset Putrajay, Malaysia will be located 30km south of capital Kuala Lumpur in the South-East Asian country.

It is known as a garden city and for its Islamic-Mogul architecture shown in its pretty-in-pink 15,000-worshipper capacity mosque, and tranquil Putrajaya Lake which lies in the city centre.

Visit : [www.dorsetthotels.com/malaysia/putrajaya](http://www.dorsetthotels.com/malaysia/putrajaya).

**Andaz Sanya Sunny Bay, Hainan Island**

2016

The 183-room Andaz Sanya Sunny Bay, Hainan Island will neighbour the new Park Hyatt Sanya Sunny Bay, and will feature five restaurants, a 2,500 square-foot ballroom signing privileges at Park Hyatt Sanya's Spa Village, beach club, fitness centre, restaurants, and Tea House.

Visit : [www.sanya.park.hyatt.com](http://www.sanya.park.hyatt.com).

**One&Only Sanya, Haitang Bay, Hainan Island**

2016

The One&Only Sanya, Haitang Bay, Hainan Island, which will be the One&Only groups first resort in China, curves through 11 hectares of coconut palms and ancient rosewood trees along an exclusive 380m white-sand coastline.

Visit : [www.sanya.oneandonlyresorts.com](http://www.sanya.oneandonlyresorts.com).

Contact Charlotte Rous or Flora Beaumont on 0207 385 7090 or email [Charlotte@grifcopr.com](mailto:Charlotte@grifcopr.com); [Flora@grifcopr.com](mailto:Flora@grifcopr.com)

## Park Bosphorus Hotel, Istanbul

The Park Bosphorus Hotel Istanbul, in the city's Taksim Gümüssuyu district, is in a building that formerly served as the Foreign Affairs Palace 120 years ago.

The hotel offers Turkey's largest presidential suite and is recognised as one of the finest hotels in Istanbul.

In addition to the 385 room hotel, Park Bosphorus Hotel Istanbul has 65 exclusively designed luxury flats, all with views of the Istanbul Bosphorus.

Visit : [www.cvkhotelsandresorts.com](http://www.cvkhotelsandresorts.com). Contact : Mason Rose at [pr@masonrose.com](mailto:pr@masonrose.com).

## The Sun Siyam Iru Fushi, Maldives

The Sun Siyam Iru Fushi, which is located in the Noonu Atoll, a 45-minute seaplane journey from Male, the resort features 221 beachfront and over-water lagoon villas.

A range of leisure activities and excursions include a fully-equipped PADI five star dive facility and a water sports centre, tennis and badminton courts, kids club and multiple swimming pools.

The tropical spa comprises 20 treatments rooms, each dedicated to a different Eastern or Western wellness philosophy for a wide range of health, relaxation and beauty options.

Offering 180 degree views of the ocean, the resort's wine cellar has launched its Wine Academy 2015, which offers adventurous and unique wine and food pairings.

The cellar has almost 2000 bottles spanning 80% of the wine regions globally.

Visit : [www.thesunsiyam.com/irufush](http://www.thesunsiyam.com/irufush). Contact Jonathan Williams at [Jonathan@ophirpr.co.uk](mailto:Jonathan@ophirpr.co.uk).

## NH Collection, Rome

NH Hotel Group, will open its sixth hotel in the Italian capital city of Rome at the end of 2015.

The new hotel, operated under the NH Collection premium brand, will be located in the heart of Piazza Cinquecento, will be located in a heritage-protected historical building close to Termini - Rome's central train station.

NH Hotel Group is Europe's third-ranked business hotel chain, operating 400 hotels in 29 markets across Europe, the Americas and Africa, including city destinations :

Amsterdam	Düsseldorf	Munich
Barcelona	Frankfurt	New York
Berlin	London	Rome and
Bogota	Madrid	Vienna.
Brussels	Mexico City	
Buenos Aires	Milan	

Visit : [www.nh-hotels.com](http://www.nh-hotels.com). Contact : Guy Hough at [guy@humewhitehead.co.uk](mailto:guy@humewhitehead.co.uk).

## New Orleans, Louisiana

**New Orleans is a Louisiana city on the Mississippi River, near the Gulf of Mexico.**

Nicknamed the *Big Easy*, it's known for its nightlife, vibrant live-music scene and spicy, singular cuisine reflecting its history as a melting pot of French, African and American cultures.

Mardi Gras, the late-winter carnival is famed for raucous costumed parades and public partying.

### One of the top US cities

New Orleans has been named the number two *World's best city*, in the U.S. and Canada by readers of *Travel + Leisure* for the second consecutive year.

Visit : [www.travelandleisure.com/worlds-best/cities#us-canada](http://www.travelandleisure.com/worlds-best/cities#us-canada)

### The tenth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina

The tenth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, on 29 August 2015 will be marked in New Orleans with a series of events, including wreath laying ceremonies, a conference and prayer services.

A decade after the storm, New Orleans tourism has bounced back with new hotels, restaurants and entertainments returning to the city.

New areas, like Freret Street and the Bywater, have also flourished in post-Katrina New Orleans, offering new cultural destinations in the city.

Visit : [www.katrina10.oorg](http://www.katrina10.oorg)

### Annual August and September events

#### Coolinary New Orleans Restaurant Month August

The Coolinary New Orleans Restaurant Month sees, each August, sees more than 80 award-winning restaurants across the city offering three course brunch meals at \$39 or less; two-three course lunch menus for \$20 or less and three course dinner menus at \$39 or less.

Visit : [www.coolinaryneworleans.com](http://www.coolinaryneworleans.com).

### New Orleans Museum Month

August

The annual New Orleans Museum Month is a collaboration between museums across the greater New Orleans area, whereby museum members can use their membership to allow two people admission to all other participating institutions, free of charge, throughout August.

Visit : [www.touristathome.com/new-orleans-museum-month](http://www.touristathome.com/new-orleans-museum-month).

### Southern Decadence

2 to 7 September 2015

Southern Danadence, the largest annual gay event in New Orleans, will be a week of parties, parades and revelry in the French Quarter.

Now in its 44<sup>th</sup> year, Southern Decadence attracts 160,000 participants. The Bourbon Street Extravaganza is a free outdoor concert on the corner of Bourbon and St. Ann Street on Saturday 5 September .

The festival also features two parades: Friday night's Southern Decadence Float Parade and Sunday's Southern Decadence Walking Parade.

Visit : [www.southerndecadence.net/](http://www.southerndecadence.net/)

### Louisiana Seafood Festival

4 to 6 September 2015

The annual Louisiana Seafood Festival is a free weekend of seafood, live music, celebrity chef cooking demonstrations, family activities and more to the City Park Festival Grounds

Visit : [www.louisianaseafoodfestival.com](http://www.louisianaseafoodfestival.com).



(Cont)

## Hotels

### The Old No 77 Hotel and Chandlery

The Old No 77 Hotel and Chandlery opened in April 2015 in the Warehouse and Arts District, at 535 Tchoupitoulas.

The hotel has partnered with New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts (NOCCA) to feature student artwork in every room as well as in a lobby gallery, with works available for purchase.

Chef Nina Compton of *Top Chef: New Orleans* acclaim has opened her first restaurant Compère Lapin in the hotel.

Old No. 77 places a focus on local goods, including partnerships that offer guests Old New Orleans Rum, Sucre treats and more.

Visit : [www.old77hotel.com](http://www.old77hotel.com).

The New Orleans Convention & Visitors Bureau is 1,100-member destination marketing organization and the largest and most successful private economic development corporation in Louisiana.

**Visit : [www.neworleanscvb.com](http://www.neworleanscvb.com). Contact : Kelley Pettus at [kpettus@neworleanscvb.com](mailto:kpettus@neworleanscvb.com).**

### The Aloft New Orleans Downtown

The Aloft New Orleans Downtown HRI Lodging's newest property, opened in New Orleans' Central Business District in March 2015 with 188 guest rooms, 2,500 square feet of meeting space and cocktail bar.

Starwood's Aloft brand spans fourteen countries and is known for its popularity among young tech travellers.

Visit : [www.aloftneworleansdowntown.com](http://www.aloftneworleansdowntown.com).

## Nottingham, UK : The October festival city

**Nottingham has a range of festivals during October with** 15 plus festivals and events taking place across the city.

Highlights include a week-long celebration of Robin Hood, culminating in a three-day medieval pageant at Nottingham Castle and the 10 GameCity Festival, a celebration of all things gaming.

### **Major events during October in Nottingham include:**

#### **Spiegel Tent in Old Market Square, Nottingham** 29 September to 4 October 2015

A Belgian 20th Century travelling dance hall, made of wood and with ornate decoration and mirrors, in the Old Market Square.

It hosts live music comedy and burlesque shows.

#### **Goose Fair, Forest Recreation Ground, Nottingham** 30 September to 4 October 2015

The UK's oldest travelling fair, with more than 700 years of history, the Goose Fair has more than 500 attractions, from the latest white knuckle experiences to family rides and old favourites.

#### **Halloween at Galleries of Justice Museum, Nottingham** 3 to 31 October 2015

The Galleries of Justice Museum is the home of Halloween at half term in Nottingham, with Ghost Tours, Terror Tours and Spirits of the Dungeons Tours.

Visit : [www.galleriesofjustice.org.uk](http://www.galleriesofjustice.org.uk)

#### **Robin Hood Beer & Cider Festival, Nottingham Castle** 7 to 10 October 2015

A festival with the world's biggest selection of draft cask condition beers, with more than 1,000 on offer, enjoy the very best beer and cider in the picturesque grounds of Nottingham Castle.

Visit : [www.beerfestival.nottinghamcamra.org](http://www.beerfestival.nottinghamcamra.org)

#### **Canal Festival, Waterfront, Nottingham** 10 October 2015

Castle Wharf hosts this festival of working boats with activities on and off the water, including canoeing, angling, boat trips and live music.

#### **Hockley Hustle, various venues, Nottingham** 11 October

A city-wide music festival taking place at more than 15 venues across Nottingham from cafes to art galleries.

One ticket gets entry to all venues with the city streets hosting buskers and live entertainment throughout the day.

[www.hockleyhustle.co.uk](http://www.hockleyhustle.co.uk)

#### **Mayhem Film Festival, Broadway Cinema** 15 to 18 October 2015

With an international reputation, Mayhem showcases the best horror, sci-fi and cult features and shorts from around the world.

Taking place at Broadway Cinema, Nottingham's independent cinema, Mayhem features premiere screenings, short films, old favourites and horror-themed events.

Visit : [www.broadway.org.uk/mayhem](http://www.broadway.org.uk/mayhem)

#### **Nottingham International Microfilm Festival, various venues** 15 to 20 October 2015

Nottingham welcomes the UK's first international microfilm festival.

As well as industry events, members of the public will be able to enjoy microfilm screenings at various cinemas and cultural venues across the city.

---

## Experience Nottinghamshire now

---

(Cont)

### **International Robin Hood Day and Robin Hood Week, various venues, Nottingham** 17 to 25 October 2015

A week-long series of events and performances, kicking off with International Robin Hood Day on Saturday 17 October.

### **Robin Hood Pageant, Nottingham Castle** 23 to 25 October 2015

A celebration of Nottingham's legend, the Robin Hood Pageant transforms the grounds of Nottingham Castle into a medieval village, complete with Robin Hood and his Merry Men, King Richard in his royal camp, living history demonstrations and jousting tournaments.

On Friday and Saturday there are night time joust events, complete with fire artists and jesters.

### **Game City 10, National Videogame Arcade, Nottingham** 22 Oct and 31 October 2015

Europe's biggest and best-loved cultural videogaming festival returns for its tenth year, taking place at the new National Videogame Arcade and at venues across the city, with the mission to get Nottingham having fun.

Visit : [www.gamecity.org](http://www.gamecity.org).

**Visit : [www.experiencenottinghamshire.com/october](http://www.experiencenottinghamshire.com/october). Contact : Erin Huckle at [erin.huckle@experiencenottinghamshire.com](mailto:erin.huckle@experiencenottinghamshire.com).**

### **Rockingham, Rock City, Nottingham** 23 to 25 October 2015

Three days of the melodic hard rock from around the world, featuring bands including Gotthard, Dokken and Eclipse, at Nottingham's live music venue, Rock City.

Visit : [www.rockinghamlive.com](http://www.rockinghamlive.com)

### **Nottingham Oktoberfest 2015, Forest Recreation Ground, Nottingham** 28 October to 2 November 2015

Enjoy a taste of Bavaria in Nottingham when the huge Oktoberfest beer tent arrives on the Forest Recreation ground, offering giant beers, German food and live music, making for a fantastic night out.

Visit : [www.nottingham-oktoberfest.co.uk](http://www.nottingham-oktoberfest.co.uk).



## Wellington, New Zealand

**The self-styled the world's 'coolest little capital', Wellington is known for its vibrant arts scene, café and restaurant culture and active outdoor lifestyle.**

A creative, cosmopolitan city, set around its waterfront, Wellington combines the sophistication of a capital with the warmth and personality of a village.

### **Wellington is celebrating its 150th anniversary as New Zealand's capital city.**

Auckland was the original choice of capital for the first European settlers, but by 1865, just 25 years after their arrival, Parliament was moved and Wellington officially took over capital status.

Visit : [www.wellingtonnz.com](http://www.wellingtonnz.com) and [www.newzealand.com](http://www.newzealand.com). Contact : Paul Charles at [newzealand@verypcc.com](mailto:newzealand@verypcc.com).

### **Coffee**

Wellington is credited as being the birthplace of the 'Flat White' and the art of 'cupping' is offered at coffee house Mojo with insights into everything from green beans, to roasting and blending.

Visit : [www.mojocoffee.co.nz](http://www.mojocoffee.co.nz).

### **Craft beer**

Wellingtonians has a growing craft beer scene of young internationally acclaimed brewers.

The Craft Beer Capital Garage Project, housed in a converted petrol station, won the prestigious Beer World Cup this year.

Its Cellar Door is open for tours, tastings and sales [www.garageproject.co.nz](http://www.garageproject.co.nz).

Visit : [www.wildaboutwellington.co.nz](http://www.wildaboutwellington.co.nz).

### **The Papa Museum**

Also celebrating 150 years is Te Papa Museum, New Zealand's national museum, which recently added taonga Maori (cultural treasures) tours including the chance to visit Bush City, a living exhibition that brings New Zealand great outdoors in to the city.

Visit : [www.tepapa.govt.nz](http://www.tepapa.govt.nz).

### **Cycling**

Wellington has a range of urban and off-road cycling opportunities.

Built by local riders, Makara Peak Mountain Bike Park is just 30 minutes ride from the city centre with more than 60km of track and 360-degree views stretching as far as the South Island.

Visit : [www.makarapeak.org](http://www.makarapeak.org).

For a scenic ride, the 115km two/three day Rimutaka Cycle Trail is part of the new New Zealand Cycle Trail, which takes in spectacular coastline and bush, as well as Wellington Harbour itself.

A shorter two to three hour 'Around the Bays' ride is perfect for a sightseeing tour of Wellington's vibrant refurbished waterfront areas with numerous opportunities for cake and coffee stops en route

Visit : [www.wellingtonnz.com/rimutaka-cycle-trail](http://www.wellingtonnz.com/rimutaka-cycle-trail).



(Cont)

### Film locations

Wellington is the centre of New Zealand's film industry and has world-renowned production facilities on Miramar Peninsula.

There is the chance to visit the sites where filming began for The Lord of the Rings trilogy including the summit of Mount Victoria, which provides 360-degree views of Wellington city and its environs.

### Kapiti Island Nature

Kapiti Island Nature has partnered with Canopy Camping to provide an overnight experience on Kapiti Island, a short ferry ride from Paraparaumu Beach.

The night tour is a combination of island nature and Maori culture with private, secluded accommodation.

Kapiti Island is one of the best places in New Zealand to spot a Kiwi in the wild with over 1,200 Little Spotted kiwis living on the island.

[www.kapitiislandnaturetours.co.nz](http://www.kapitiislandnaturetours.co.nz)

### Zealandia

The eco-sanctuary of Zealandia, 10 minutes from downtown, is a place to spot the elusive Kiwi bird and other native species with new night tours now available.

The reserve is home to some of New Zealand's most rare and extraordinary wildlife is now offering day and night tours.

There's the chance to explore the bush land on a guided tour and be lucky enough to see kiwi foraging on the forest floor, tuatara hunting for food, glow-worms shining, tiny Maud Island frogs in their enclosure, pāteke (brown teal) feeding at night, or kākā (parrots) coming in to roost.

Visit : [www.visitzealandia.com](http://www.visitzealandia.com).

### Hotels

The Sofitel Wellington, opening late 2015, will be located in the heart of Wellington in Bolton Street.

Visit : [www.sofitel.com](http://www.sofitel.com)

The InterContinental Wellington has recently received a huge refurbishment.

Visit : [www.intercontinental.com/wellington](http://www.intercontinental.com/wellington).

**Visit : [www.wellingtonnz.com](http://www.wellingtonnz.com) and [www.newzealand.com](http://www.newzealand.com). Contact : Paul Charles at [newzealand@verypcc.com](mailto:newzealand@verypcc.com).**

## The International Travel Writers Alliance



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

[www.itwalliance.com](http://www.itwalliance.com)

**Ashley Gibbins** FCIPR, MCIOJ  
Chief Executive  
The International Travel Writers Alliance  
0776 419 8286  
[Ashley@itwalliance.com](mailto: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](http://www.allwaystraveller.com)

**Ann Mealor** FCIPR  
Commissioning Editor  
AllWays traveller  
07971 596 925  
[Ann@itwalliance.com](mailto:Ann@itwalliance.com)