

# The Alliance

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# Bulletin

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

Mid-June 2015

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# The Alliance Bulletin

Issue 186 :mid-June 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** 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](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

### Hotel Bon Sol Resort and Spa, Mallorca

A classic 4\* Superior hotel in the resort of Illetas, near Palma, offering a chilled out spa, gym & wellness area with complimentary yoga & tai chi, 3 pools, secluded cove, excellent dining and superb hospitality.

Visit [www.hotelbonsol.es](http://www.hotelbonsol.es). Contact : Cathryn Hicks [Cathryn@dougoodmanpr.com](mailto:Cathryn@dougoodmanpr.com).

## Champagne-Ardenne Tourism

The Regional Tourist Board covers four French departments offering :

- Historic UNESCO sites, battlefields and châteaux
- Walking & cycling routes with a variety of sports
- Lakes, mountains and national parks
- Festivals
- Superb gastronomy, regional produce - and wines of course!

Visit : [www.champagne-ardenne-tourism.co.uk](http://www.champagne-ardenne-tourism.co.uk). Contact: Cathryn Hicks at [cathryn@douggoodmanpr.com](mailto:cathryn@douggoodmanpr.com).

## The Bright Consortia

Bright is a group of 14 specialist tour operators, cruise companies and tourist boards that provide networking and training opportunities through a series of workshop dinners across the UK.

The *Bright Consortium* also provides gateway access to its partners.

### **Bright Consortia partners include :**

**Attraction World** : the UK's No. 1 travel trade specialists for the best holiday attractions, shows, tours & experiences.

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

**1st Class Holidays** : an award winning, independent operator offering the widest selection of holidays to Canada, New Zealand, Australia and the USA.

Visit : [www.1stclassholidays.com](http://www.1stclassholidays.com).

**Cox & Kings** : the longest established travel company in the world, offering tailor-made private travel, escorted small-group tours, short breaks and relaxing holidays to a wide range of destinations.

Visit : [www.coxandkings.co.uk](http://www.coxandkings.co.uk).

**Kirker Holidays** : the specialist tour operator, with over 25 years experience, in creating tailor-made itineraries across Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, Southern Africa and India.

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

**Veloso Tours** : a specialist tour operator dedicated to providing high quality holidays to Latin America.

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

**Viking Cruises** : the worlds leading river cruise line plying the main rivers of Europe, Russia and Asia.

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

**Islas Canarias** : the Canary Islands offer a year round spring like climate, idyllic beaches, spectacular volcanoes and a remarkable cultural heritage.

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

**Hurtigruten** : the original Norwegian coastal voyage company offering cruises from the magnificent Norwegian fjords to the ice-filled bays of Antarctica.

Visit : [www.hurtigruten.com/uk](http://www.hurtigruten.com/uk).

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**Mosaic Holidays** : a high quality, specialist tour operator to the Middle East, including Jordan, Arabia, North Africa including Egypt, North Cyprus and the Indian Ocean.

Visit : [www.mosaicholidays.co.uk](http://www.mosaicholidays.co.uk).

**Jersey** : the island with its unspoiled landscape, and blend of British and French influences.

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

**Sunvil** : holidays, short breaks and multi-centre itineraries to Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, the Azores, Portugal & Madeira, Italy & Sicily, Scandinavia and Latin America.

Visit : [www.sunvil.co.uk](http://www.sunvil.co.uk).

**Silversea Cruises** : eight luxury small ships covering more than 800 destination, including some of the most remote places in the world.

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

**Prom Peru** : Travel & tourism portal for Peru Tourism.

Visit : [www.peru.travel](http://www.peru.travel)

Visit : [www.brightconsortia.com](http://www.brightconsortia.com). Contact Doug Goodman [doug@douggoodmanpr.com](mailto:doug@douggoodmanpr.com).

### **Hotel Tres, Palma, Mallorca**

Stylish 4 \* hotel in central Palma close to historic sites, shopping, bars & restaurants. 41 rooms with rooftop sundeck, sauna & plunge pool.

Visit [www.hoteltres.com](http://www.hoteltres.com). Contact : Cathryn Hicks [Cathryn@douggoodmanpr.com](mailto:Cathryn@douggoodmanpr.com).

### **The San Francisco Travel Association**

The San Francisco Travel Association is an independent, not-for-profit destination marketing organization with more than 1,600 business members.

Its mission is to enhance the local economy by marketing San Francisco and the Bay Area as the premier destination for conventions, meetings, events and leisure travel.

Visit : [www.sanfrancisco.travel](http://www.sanfrancisco.travel). Contact : Laurie Armstrong at [larmstrong@sanfrancisco.travel](mailto:larmstrong@sanfrancisco.travel).

### **Panoramic Villas**

Panoramic Villas offers superb holiday villas and apartments to rent in popular destinations around the world.

Visit : [www.panoramicvillas.com](http://www.panoramicvillas.com). Contact : Robert Skupski at [rob@panoramicvillas.com](mailto:rob@panoramicvillas.com).

## **Agencies**

### **Guest Public (USA)**

Guest Public is a boutique communications firm servicing travel/hospitality, fine art, music and talent markets.

Its core focus is delivering public relations, publicity, social media, content production and management services.

Visit : [www.guestpublic.com](http://www.guestpublic.com). Contact : Jason Guest at [jzg@guestpublic.com](mailto:jzg@guestpublic.com).

## AllWays travellers to Alabama

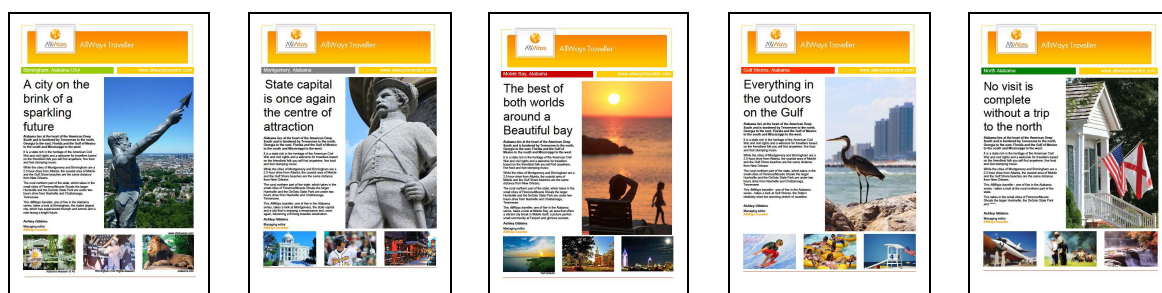
Alabama lies at the heart of the American Deep South and is bordered by Tennessee to the north, Georgia to the east, Florida and the Gulf of Mexico to the south and Mississippi to the west.

It is a state rich in the heritage of the American Civil War and civil rights and a welcome for travellers based on the friendliest folk you will find anywhere, fine food and foot stomping music.

While the cities of Montgomery and Birmingham are a 2.5-hour drive from Atlanta, the coastal area of Mobile and the Gulf Shore beaches are the same distance from New Orleans.

The rural northern part of the state, which takes in the small cities of Florence/Muscle Shoals the larger Huntsville and the DeSoto State Park are under two hours drive from Nashville and Chattanooga, Tennessee.

### AllWays traveller to Alabama



The *AllWays traveller* series to Alabama are now available on the *AllWays traveller* website and in a PDF format for tablets and iPhones :

- ***AllWays traveller to North Alabama :***  
[http://www.allwaystraveller.com/AllWaysOnline/ao\\_an\\_USA\\_Alabama\\_NorthAlabama.html](http://www.allwaystraveller.com/AllWaysOnline/ao_an_USA_Alabama_NorthAlabama.html).
- ***AllWays traveller to Gulf Shores Alabama :***  
[http://www.allwaystraveller.com/AllWaysOnline/ao\\_an\\_USA\\_Alabama\\_GulfShores.html](http://www.allwaystraveller.com/AllWaysOnline/ao_an_USA_Alabama_GulfShores.html)
- ***AllWays traveller to Mobile Bay, Alabama :***  
[http://www.allwaystraveller.com/AllWaysOnline/ao\\_an\\_USA\\_Alabama\\_MobileBay.html](http://www.allwaystraveller.com/AllWaysOnline/ao_an_USA_Alabama_MobileBay.html)
- ***AllWays traveller to Montgomery, Alabama :***  
[http://www.allwaystraveller.com/AllWaysOnline/ao\\_an\\_USA\\_Alabama\\_Montgomery.html](http://www.allwaystraveller.com/AllWaysOnline/ao_an_USA_Alabama_Montgomery.html)
- ***AllWays traveller to Birmingham, Alabama :***  
[http://www.allwaystraveller.com/AllWaysOnline/ao\\_an\\_USA\\_Alabama\\_Bham.html](http://www.allwaystraveller.com/AllWaysOnline/ao_an_USA_Alabama_Bham.html)

Visit : [www.alabama.travel](http://www.alabama.travel).

For more information on and press trips to Alabama contact : Della Tully at [della@globaltravelmarketing.org](mailto:della@globaltravelmarketing.org).

### AllWays traveller

***AllWays traveller***, which is the consumer travel features 'arm' of the **International Travel Writers Alliance**, produces high profile, long-life and wide-reach travel features to destinations and travel pursuits worldwide.

***AllWays traveller*** combines a traditional travel feature with a detailed visitor guide.

Visit : [www.allwaystraveller.com](http://www.allwaystraveller.com). Contact : Ashley Gibbins at [Ashley@itwalliance.com](mailto:Ashley@itwalliance.com).

## News

### London the world's most visited city

London is the world's most popular travel destination, according to the annual MasterCard Global Destinations Cities Index.

Britain's capital will welcome 18.82million international overnight visitors who will spend a total of £13.3billion (\$20.23billion) in 2015, the research shows.

The index puts London in pole position for the fifth time in seven years with the Thai capital Bangkok and the French capital Paris into second and third respectively.

Dubai is ranked fourth, followed by Istanbul, whose rapid rise in visitors knocks New York out of the top five this year.

The Global Destinations Cities Index provides a ranking of the 132 most visited cities around the world and delivers deeper understanding of how people move around the world.

The world's top 10 cities, ranked by overnight visitor numbers are:

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1 London – 18.82million             | 6 New York – 12.27 million visitors     |
| 2 Bangkok – 18.24 million           | 7 Singapore – 11.88 million visitors    |
| 3 Paris – 16.06 million visitors    | 8 Kuala Lumpur – 11.12 million visitors |
| 4 Dubai – 14.26 million visitors    | 9 Seoul – 10.35 million visitors        |
| 5 Istanbul – 12.56 million visitors | 10 Hong Kong – 8.66 million visitors    |

In 2015, international travellers will make 382.9million visits by air to the world's top 132 cities, collectively spending £236billion (\$360billion).

The report predicts a 6% rise in international overnight visitors to London in 2015 and a 2.3% increase in spending, compared to last year.

This underlines London's dominance as a global hub for international business and tourism and a gateway to the rest of the country.

Across the globe, a few key trends stand out, including:

**Asia/Pacific** – The region is home to three of the top four fastest-growing destination cities between 2009 and 2015 – Colombo, Chengdu and Osaka.

**Europe** – Istanbul is the most diversified destination, with 50 percent of its international overnight visitors coming from 33 feeder cities.

**Latin America** – Lima is both the top destination and the fastest growing city in the region, featuring almost 50 percent more international overnight visitors than second-ranked Mexico City.

**Middle East and Africa** – Dubai continues to be one of the fastest growing cities in the global top ten while Abu Dhabi is the third fastest growing destination city overall between 2009 and 2015.

**North America** – Houston is the fastest growing in North America since 2009 and is the only destination city in North America with double-digit growth.

### The MasterCard Global Destination Cities Index

The *MasterCard Index of Global Destination Cities* ranks cities in terms of the number of their total international overnight visitor arrivals and the cross-border spending by these same visitors in the destination cities, and gives visitor and passenger growth forecasts for 2015.

Visit : [www.mastercard.com](http://www.mastercard.com). Contact : James Thorpe at [James\\_Thorpe@mastercard.com](mailto:James_Thorpe@mastercard.com).

## Shakespeare's England, UK

Shakespeare's England, the tourism organisation for Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwick, Kenilworth, Royal Leamington Spa and surrounding areas, has produced its destination management plan.

The tourism plan outlines the shared statement of intent of how the industry, local authorities and the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership can develop the area as a visitor destination over the next decade.

Latest figures underline the importance of tourism to the local economy and indicate that from 2012 to 2013, the tourism spend in the Shakespeare's England area rose by 15% to £631 million per annum, employing over 11,000 people.

Visit : [www.shakespeares-england.org](http://www.shakespeares-england.org). Contact : Robin Tjolle at [robin@shakespeares-england.co.uk](mailto:robin@shakespeares-england.co.uk).

## The Borders Railway, Scotland

VisitScotland is investing £367,000 in an international marketing campaign to promote the new Borders Railway.

The Railway will open on the 4 September 2015 with a 3 day celebration including music, performances and a special steam train excursion.

The funding has been given to the national tourism organisation by the Scottish Government, Scottish Borders Council and Midlothian Council to bring attention to the longest new domestic railway to open in the UK for over a century.

The campaign, which will launch this summer, will include outdoor, radio, and digital advertising in the UK, Germany and North America.

Press trips and PR activity will focus on core markets in the UK, France, Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, North America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Key themes used within the campaign will be 'soft adventure' (cycling, walking, mountain biking), food and drink, events, mining, textiles and literature.

Visit : [www.visitscotland.org/borders-railway-toolkit.aspx](http://www.visitscotland.org/borders-railway-toolkit.aspx). Contact : Kate Turnbull at [kate.turnbull@visitscotland.com](mailto:kate.turnbull@visitscotland.com).

## Celebrity Cruises

Celebrity Cruises is introducing additional overnight stays on 43 Caribbean sailings from January 2016.

This gives guests the chance to enjoy evenings in destinations such as Cartagena (Colombia), Philipsburg (St. Maarten), Cozumel (Mexico), Aruba, Curacao and Barbados.

Celebrity Cruises' fleet currently consists of eleven ships, including the new Celebrity Reflection, and offers cruises in Alaska, Australia/New Zealand, Canada, Europe and South America.

Visit : [www.celebritycruises.co.uk](http://www.celebritycruises.co.uk). Contact : Kirsten Ferguson at [kferguson@celebritycruises.com](mailto:kferguson@celebritycruises.com).

## Cape Town Tourism

Cape Town Tourism has launched the Official Guide to Cape Town as a mobile app.

Targeted predominantly at first time visitors it features hundreds of Cape Town sightseeing landmarks, practical visitor information and user-friendly maps.

Visit : [www.capetown.travel/officialapp](http://www.capetown.travel/officialapp). Contact : Tammy White at [tammy@rabbitinahat.co.za](mailto:tammy@rabbitinahat.co.za).



## BBC Britain

BBC Worldwide, the commercial arm of the BBC, and VisitBritain, the UK's national tourism agency, have set up a new partnership known as BBC Britain.

Sitting within BBC.com, the international version of BBC.co.uk, BBC Britain will combine specially commissioned articles, videos and images with relevant content drawn from across BBC.com's specialist feature sites.

British Airways has been confirmed as the first company to join the partnership.

Visit : [www.bbc.com/britain](http://www.bbc.com/britain). Contact : Lucy Philippon at [lucy.philippon@bbc.com](mailto:lucy.philippon@bbc.com).

## Oman

Oman has maintained its reputation as being one of the safest countries for tourists, according to the Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report for 2015.

The latest statistics from the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) report, place the Sultanate at 9th out of 141 countries worldwide under the security and safety criteria.

The Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Report 2015 ranks 141 countries across 14 separate dimensions through the Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI), revealing how well countries could deliver sustainable economic and societal benefits through their travel and tourism sector.

Oman's rank in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region is sixth and 65th overall.

The report also states that the UAE and Qatar have maintained their positions in providing safe destinations for tourists.

Visit : [www.omantourism.gov.om](http://www.omantourism.gov.om) and [www.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_TT\\_Competitiveness\\_Report\\_2013.pdf](http://www.weforum.org/docs/WEF_TT_Competitiveness_Report_2013.pdf). Contact : Alison Cryer at [oman@representationplus.co.uk](mailto:oman@representationplus.co.uk).

## Leads

### Peaks of Gastronomy, Alta Badia, South Tyrol, Italy

The Alta Badia region runs its annual Peaks of Gastronomy, which are four themed gourmet itineraries. This year it will be called GourMete (gourmet destination).

Peaks of Gastronomy brings together a series of events that combine life in the open air with the pleasures of good food, in the heart of the Dolomites, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Eight Michelin-starred chefs have been matched with the same number of trails in Alta Badia, with each chef creating a gourmet dish, based on the theme of the trail.

Visit : [www.altabadia.org](http://www.altabadia.org). Contact : Nicole Dorigo at [press@altabadia.org](mailto:press@altabadia.org).

### Cliff camping with Gaia Adventures, Wales

Cliff camping with Gaia Adventures has campers sleeping high above the sea, suspended in mid-air on a vertical cliff face in Beaumaris, Anglesey.

The experience starts with guests journeying down the cliff in time to catch the sunset. In the morning, campers wake to the sunrise.

Depending upon the location, Gaia Adventures offers the opportunity to either rock climb out, or simply climb the rope using ascenders.

Visit : [www.gaiaadventures.co.uk](http://www.gaiaadventures.co.uk). Contact : Felicity Thompson at [Felicity.Thompson@fourbgb.com](mailto:Felicity.Thompson@fourbgb.com).



## Stewart Island, New Zealand

Stewart Island is New Zealand's southernmost isle measures 674 square miles and is the third largest of New Zealand's landmasses.

A key conservation area, it one of New Zealand's great walks, the Rakiura Track.

A short boat ride from Stewart Island, Ulva Island is a pest-free bird sanctuary where visitors can see and learn about species that wouldn't survive on the mainland.

Visit : [www.newzealand-indepth.co.uk](http://www.newzealand-indepth.co.uk). Contact : Mark Hayward at [mark@swaycommunications.co.uk](mailto:mark@swaycommunications.co.uk).

## The Lemon Tree House, Tuscany, Italy

The Lemon Tree House is a writer's residency program situated in the Cetona Foothills of Tuscany, Italy.

Founded in 2013 by Julie Jolicoeur and Erinn Beth Langille, two Canadian writers, the Lemon Tree House offers one to four week residency opportunities for eager writers at any stage in their careers.

The programme includes solo writing time, weekly craft talks by the visiting Writers-in-Residence (wiR) and one-on-one copy or line edits and editorial advice.

Nightly dinners with WiR and fellow residents offer further opportunity for creative dialogue.

There is also weekend day-trips to a nearby Tuscan destination, such as Florence, Siena or Montepulciano.

Located at the private Camporsevoli estate in Southern Tuscany, residents are free to wander the pine forest, rolling farmland and vineyards that surround the medieval village.

Visit : [www.thelemontreehouse.org](http://www.thelemontreehouse.org). Contact : Julie Jolicoeur at [thelemontreehouse.writers@gmail.com](mailto:thelemontreehouse.writers@gmail.com).

## Tuolumne, California

Tuolumne County, located 133 miles east of San Francisco, is a pristine, scenic expanse reaching into the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

The main highways leading to the picturesque drive from the San Francisco and East Bay Area are Highways 108 and 120 from the west and Highway 49 from the north.

The State Highway 120 entrance to Yosemite National Park is considered the "front door" of the park for the San Francisco Greater Bay Area.

The Stanislaus National Forest, Yosemite National Park, and other surrounding areas provide natural vistas and settings for hiking, water skiing, horseback riding, rafting, camping, snowmobiling, boating, snow skiing, fishing and other outdoor activities.

The county has seven restored historic hotels, four golf courses, a range of dining options, historic saloons, wineries and a hard cider distillery, train rides, casino, seven museums, two state historic parks, five live theaters and many bed-and-breakfast inns.

Visit : [www.YosemiteGoldCountry.com](http://www.YosemiteGoldCountry.com). contact : Susan Wilson at [susanwilson12@gmail.com](mailto:susanwilson12@gmail.com).

## G Adventures

G Adventures has announced a new cruise itinerary sailing the coast of South America from Ushuaia, Argentina to Cartagena, Colombia, onboard G Expedition.

The trip visits 21 ports in six countries - Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru - and includes a three-day land-based trip to visit world wonder Machu Picchu.

The voyage is 38 days in total, with travellers able to join sectors of the trip for as few as 12 days.

Visit [www.gadventures.co.uk](http://www.gadventures.co.uk). Contact : Casey Mead at [caseym@gadventures.com](mailto:caseym@gadventures.com).

## Jules Verne's Around the World in 80 Days, St. James Theatre, London

A new production of Jules Verne's classic 1873 novel, Around the World in 80 Days, will open at the St. James Theatre from 26 November 2015 – 16 January 2016 (press night on 03 December 2015).

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

## Go City Card, US cities

Go City Card is a multi-attractions access pass with over 400 attractions on Go City Cards in Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, New York City, Oahu, Orlando, San Diego and San Francisco.

Other cities are to be added.

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

## What's on

### Carsten Höller: Decision, the Hayward Gallery, Southbank Centre, London

to 6 September 2015

This major exhibition at Hayward Gallery presents a wide range of Höller's works and bring together sculptures, videos, installations and light works that are designed to profoundly re-orientate awareness of time and space.

Decision involves its visitors in a series of experimental environments, reflecting Höller's wide-ranging interest in the nature of consciousness.

- **Pill Clock** (2011-15), a ceiling-mounted timepiece will drop over one million pills onto the gallery floor during the course of the exhibition.
- **Flying Mushrooms** (2015), is a new large-scale work of an upside-down mobile with giant psychedelic mushrooms
- **Moving Beds** (2015), a pair of robotic beds that restlessly roam the galleries like 'insomniac twins'
- **Flying Machines** (2008/2015) installed on one of the Hayward's outdoor terraces, opposite Waterloo Bridge, offering visitors the sensation of soaring above city traffic.

The exhibition offers a climax by giving visitors with a final choice between several dramatic ways to exit Hayward Gallery, including climbing up through the gallery's glass pyramid roof lights and descending via Höller's new Isomeric Slides (2015).

Alliance members wishing to visit the exhibition should contact [press@southbankcentre.co.uk](mailto:press@southbankcentre.co.uk) at least two days in advance of your planned visit to request a complimentary ticket.

Visit : [www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk). Contact : Harriet Black at [harriet.black@southbankcentre.co.uk](mailto:harriet.black@southbankcentre.co.uk).

## **Fabergé: Jeweler to the Tsars, Oklahoma City Museum of Art**

To 27 September 2015

More than 230 rare treasures created by the House of Fabergé will be celebrated in a new exhibition at the Oklahoma City Museum of Art.

*Fabergé: Jeweler to the Tsars* will see the Oklahoma City Museum of Art showcasing the largest Fabergé collection outside of Russia.

It will include Imperial Easter eggs, delicate flower ornaments and animal sculptures, cigarette cases, photograph frames and desk clocks.

The “Imperial Tsesarevich Easter Egg” of 1912, which will be on view was a gift to Empress Alexandra from her husband, Emperor Nicholas II.

Visit : [www.okcmoa.com](http://www.okcmoa.com) and [www.VisitOKC.com](http://www.VisitOKC.com). Contact : Tabbi Burwell at [tburwell@visitokc.com](mailto:tburwell@visitokc.com).

## **The Annual Whitesbog Blueberry Festival: Browns Mills, New Jersey**

27 June 2015

The Whitesbog Blueberry Festival celebrates all things blueberry – the official state fruit of New Jersey – and is considered to be one of the finest “old-fashioned” festivals in the tri-state region.

The Festival honors the work of Whitesbog’s own Elizabeth C. White to domesticate the very first blueberry.

The festival combines traditional Pinelands musicians, artists and crafters, festival food, wagon and walking tours, lectures, living history actors, demonstrations and children’s activities.

Visit : [www.whitesbog.org](http://www.whitesbog.org). Contact : Susan Phillips at [whitesbogpreservationtrust@comcast.net](mailto:whitesbogpreservationtrust@comcast.net).

## **Summer events in Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate, Kent UK**

The seaside and coastal resorts of Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate stage a summer long programme of events including Broadstairs Folk Week, which this year is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

### **Comedy Gigs at Ramsgate Music Hall**

18 June to 30 July 2015

Every Thursday evening this intimate venue stages its comedy nights including previews for the Edinburgh Festival.

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

### **Skagate Margate**

3 to 5 July 2015

This is described as the ‘Original 60’s Ska, Reggae and Soul Festival’ and celebrates the historical connection of Margate to the British Skinhead subculture and its continued relationship with the original late 50’s Jamaican music genre known as Ska.

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

### **Ramsgate Seaside Fair**

4 and 5 July

The seaside fair includes music, food, drink and local crafts from skilled artisans

[www.ramsgateseasidefair.uk](http://www.ramsgateseasidefair.uk)

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**Broadstairs Folk Week**

7 to 14 August 2015

Folk Week takes place throughout Broadstairs with over 500 events during the week. Concerts, workshops, dances, parades, craft fair, children's festival and Morris dancers in venues ranging from the 600 seater concert marquee in the town's park to the intimate sailing club on the seafront.

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

**Ramsgate Sprint Revival**

15 and 16 August

Held twice annually from 1956-1968 Ramsgate Sprint was one of the country's leading events playing host to the nation's top riders.

Half a century later the Ramsgate Sprint Revival will relive the sights, sounds and smells of the original events when classic bikes of the period return to Ramsgate's Western Undercliff.

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

**Play Margate**

21 to 23 August

The Arcade, Indie and Retro video gaming expo will be held at Margate Winter Gardens, with hundreds of games, consoles, arcades, traders and exhibitors.

Visit : [www.margatewintergardens.co.uk](http://www.margatewintergardens.co.uk).

Visit : [www.visitthanet.co.uk/events](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk/events). Contact : Julie Edwards at [Julie.edwards@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:Julie.edwards@thanet.gov.uk).

**Prisoner of Age, Alcatraz Island, San Francisco**

July to December 2015

The US National Park Service is bringing its Prisoner of Age photographic back to Alcatraz Island.

The exhibition is an evocative series of photographs and chronicles of elderly men and women, taken over a period of 18 years, at prisons and prison-wards for geriatric offenders in the United States and Canada.

Prisoners of age comprise the fastest growing age group in the United States. One-in-ten inmates is 55 or older.

It features 60 larger than life photographs and revealing narratives from conversations with the inmates, guards and prison officials.

Tickets to Alcatraz are only available through Alcatraz Cruises, the official park concessionaire for ferry service.

Visit : [www.alcatrazcruises.com](http://www.alcatrazcruises.com). Contact : Molly Blaisdell at [molly@hooklineandthinker.com](mailto:molly@hooklineandthinker.com).

## **The Gion Matsuri Festival, Kyoto, Japan**

July (annual)

The Gion Matsuri Festival puts the spotlight on the city Kyoto during July

The month-long celebration has over 30 carnival-style traditional festivities and a host of parades and traditional celebrations.

The Gion Matsuri Festival is named after Kyoto's Gion district, Japan's most exclusive Geisha entertainment district. It was originally a religious ritual to calm the plague that spread all over the country in 869AD.

### **Kyoto**

The City of Kyoto is located 25 minutes from Osaka and 2hrs 15 minutes from Tokyo.

It home to the Imperial Palace and is a place where 'real' geishas can still be seen. It also has old temples and Zen gardens.

Visit : [www.kyoto.travel/en](http://www.kyoto.travel/en). Contact : Fiona Anderson at [kyoto@mccluskey.co.uk](mailto:kyoto@mccluskey.co.uk).

## **Solva Festival of Cycling, Pembrokeshire, Wales**

4 to 7 July 2015

This new festival will see serious road cyclists gather in Hereford on Friday 3 July to pedal their way across Wales to a beach barbecue at the town of Solva in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.

Over the weekend there will be a biathlon, a 55 mile sportive along the coast and a 10 mile family ride.

Visit : [www.solvacyclefest.com](http://www.solvacyclefest.com). Contact : Felicity Thompson at [Felicity.Thompson@fourbgb.com](mailto:Felicity.Thompson@fourbgb.com).

## **Fausto Pirandello, The Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art, London**

8 July to 6 September 2015

The Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art is internationally known for its collection of Futurist works comprising some 120 paintings, drawings, watercolours, prints and sculptures by many of the most prominent Italian artists of the Modernist era.

There are six galleries, two of which are used for temporary exhibitions.

Fausto Pirandello (1899 – 1975) was one of the most important and influential painters working in Italy between the 1930s and the 1950s.

This is the first exhibition to be devoted to his work in the UK.

Visit : [www.estorickcollection.com](http://www.estorickcollection.com). Contact : Alison Wright at [alison@alisonwrightpr.com](mailto:alison@alisonwrightpr.com).

## **The Anthem Libertarian Film Festival, Sin City Theater, Planet Hollywood, Las Vegas**

8 to 11 July 2015

Discover the New American Dream is one of the themes filmgoers will be considering at the Anthem Libertarian Film Festival.

Anthem, as a libertarian festival, seeks the best stories and documentaries about individuals who choose their own paths and make things happen for themselves.

Visit : [www.anthemfilmfestival.com](http://www.anthemfilmfestival.com). Contact : Jo Ann Skousen at [jskousen@anthemfilmfestival.com](mailto:jskousen@anthemfilmfestival.com).

## 24th Annual Celebration of Zimbabwean Music and Dance, Monmouth, Oregon

13 to 16 August 2015

The festival offers three days of workshops on diverse aspects of Zimbabwean culture, free afternoon concerts, an African Marketplace and ticketed evening concerts.

Visit : [www.2015.zimfest.org](http://www.2015.zimfest.org). Contact : Claire Jones at [claire@zimfest.org](mailto:claire@zimfest.org).

## Reasons to write about

### Operation Redsand Forts, the Thames Estuary UK

The Redsand Forts were built in 1942 for anti-aircraft defence off the Essex coast in the Thames Estuary,

There are seven forts, originally with interconnected steel platforms, of which six forts had mounted guns arranged in a semicircle around the control centre with one being used as a searchlight tower.

During WW2 the forts guns shot down many aircraft and flying bombs. In the late 1950s the MoD decommissioned the site.

In the 1960s various forts were re-occupied and used as pirate radio stations. Since then the Forts have been unused and lying idle.

At the end of 2014 David Marriot Cooper was asked by Project Redsand Trust to try to help do something to make use of the Forts, instead of letting them slowly deteriorate and Operation Redsand Forts was set up.

The resulting proposal is for the forts to be restored and preserved as a hotel, leisure and museum complex with catamaran and helicopter access.

While this is coming to fruition, an X-Pilot tug boat leaves from Queenborough Isle of Sheppey every weekend at 10.30am and takes visitors on a four hour trip to the Forts sailing in and out of the Forts for 30 minutes before returning.

Alliance members able to feature the Redstone Forts are invited to request a tour of the complex.

Visit : [www.operationredsandforts.com](http://www.operationredsandforts.com) and [www.project-redsand.com](http://www.project-redsand.com). Contact : David Marriot Cooper at [davidmarriot@gmail.com](mailto:davidmarriot@gmail.com).

### Birding in the lakes of Champagne, France

France's wine region is encouraging visitors to head to its great lakes in the centre of the region to observe spectacular displays of birds and to enjoy outdoor activities.

Common Cranes, Greylag Geese, White Fronted and Bean Geese, White Tailed Eagles, Whooper and Bewick's Swans, Goldeneyes and many other species of migrating birds can be spotted here.

The Common Crane stops off in tens of thousands in Champagne. These elegant birds come in to rest at the great lakes en route from their nesting grounds in Scandinavia to overwinter in the warmer climes of Spain.

In Autumn and early Spring, the sight, sound and sheer quantity of cranes leaving and arriving here is spectacular.

The largest of the Champagne lakes is the Lac du Der with 4800 ha of water and 77 km of shoreline.

### **Over 300 species of bird**

In the Der area, there are over 300 species of bird (many rare and endangered), 40 species of mammals, 45 varieties of dragonflies, 20 kinds of amphibians and more than 200 different plants.

Lac du Der has been listed as a wildlife reserve since 1978, and is one of the most important sites in France for birdwatching.

Visit : [www.lacduder.com](http://www.lacduder.com) and [www.champagne-ardenne-tourism.co.uk](http://www.champagne-ardenne-tourism.co.uk). Contact : Doug Goodman at [doug@douggoodmanpr.com](mailto:doug@douggoodmanpr.com).

### **One Ocean Expeditions**

Specialist in small ship adventure cruises, One Ocean Expeditions (OOE) has released its new programme of voyages in the Canadian Arctic for the Arctic 2016 season.

They include two different routes along the Northwest Passage and a new trip to Baffin Island.

#### **The Northwest Passage**

The Northwest Passage - Wildlife Encounter, is a seven-night expedition with highlights including Prince Leopold Island, home to one of the largest migratory bird sanctuaries in the world.

Here thick-billed murrelets, black guillemots, northern fulmars and black-legged kittiwakes can be seen in the thousands.

This is also a great area in which to spot ringed seals, the main prey of polar bears, which means there's every chance of seeing the magnificent hunters of the north, too. Sightings of beluga whale and narwhal are also frequent here.

#### **Northwest Passage - Finding Franklin**

Northwest Passage - Finding Franklin is an expedition from Resolute on 20 August 2016.

The principal focus of this trip to Cambridge Bay, travelling in the footsteps of the great explorers including Sir John Franklin, is the history of Arctic exploration and the early quest for the Northwest Passage.

This route is expected to be of even greater interest to lovers of history since the successful find in September 2014 of HMS Erebus, one of the two missing ships that were led by Franklin in his 1845 expedition.

#### **Baffin Island**

This 12-night Jewel of the High Arctic itinerary explores the untouched wilderness and national parks of Baffin Island and covers the entire east coast of Baffin Island and into Lancaster Sound, dubbed by many the wildlife 'super highway' of the Arctic,

Passengers will visit wildlife hotspots in search of beluga, bowhead and the elusive narwhal, as well as walrus and polar bear.

The itinerary includes Monumental Island, a well-known location for walrus, and Isabella Bay, an important summer habitat and feeding area of endangered bowhead whales.

One Ocean Expeditions is a Canadian expedition cruise operator that operates two purpose built ships, each with a Lloyd's 1A ice-class and a maximum capacity of 100 guests.

These research vessels are specifically designed for polar exploration and combine modern comforts and amenities with all safety features.

Visit : [www.oneoceanexpeditions.com](http://www.oneoceanexpeditions.com). Contact Debra Taylor at [debra@toucanmoon.com](mailto:debra@toucanmoon.com).



## Hawaii

*Jurassic World*, the sequel in the 'Jurassic Park' movie franchise was, like the previous three instalments, shot extensively in Hawaii.

World Expeditions now offers two trips that allow visitors to explore the Pacific archipelago on foot or by bike.

### Hawaii : Hiking the Aloha Islands

Rising out of the deep blue waters in the midst of the Pacific Ocean, the Hawaiian Islands are one of the most diverse destinations.

Hawaii's attractions range from white, green and black sand beaches, stunning waterfalls and ancient rock art sites to giant craters, frozen lava lakes and lava sputtering volcanoes.

This trip follows paths that lead to viewpoints overlooking the North Shore of Kauai, through tropical swamps and cloud forests, as well as the lunar-like landscape of Haleakela National Park in Maui.

### Oahu by Bike

This cycle trip goes from Honolulu's landmarks Waikiki Beach and Diamond Head, through the lush Manoa Valley, the Tantalus Loop to Hanauma Bay.

Visit : [www.worldexpeditions.co.uk](http://www.worldexpeditions.co.uk). Contact : Tom Panagos at [pr@worldexpeditions.co.uk](mailto:pr@worldexpeditions.co.uk).

## Robinson Crusoe Island, Chile

Robinson Crusoe Island is the main island of the Juan Fernández Archipelago, which also consists of Santa Clara and Alejandro Selkirk (also called Isla Más Afuera).

The three main islands are designated a National Park and a Biosphere Reserve by the Unesco.

When first discovered by Spanish navigator Juan Fernández in 1574, it became a place of refuge for corsairs and pirates, who would use the island to stock up on supplies.

It was also the place where Scotch navigator Alexander Selkirk was stranded for four years and four months beginning in October 1704. His story inspired the Daniel Defoe novel Robinson Crusoe.

The island's single town, San Juan Bautista, has 500 inhabitants and is on the road to recovery after the devastating tsunami that hit in 2010.

The island is a place for trekking, land and submarine photography, snorkeling, and diving in one of the waters with best visibility in Chile (over 20 meters), with abundant marine life.

There are no trails for vehicles, so everything must be done on foot or horseback riding.

Visit : [www.experiencerobinson.com](http://www.experiencerobinson.com). Contact : [comunicaciones@turismochile.travel](mailto:comunicaciones@turismochile.travel).

## A place to stay

### Ramside Hall Hotel, County Durham, UK

The Ramside Hall Hotel on the outskirts of Durham city has just completed a £16m development, which includes a new suite of rooms and the largest presidential suite in the North East; two championship golf courses and a state-of-the-art spa.

Formerly the home of the Pemberton family, Ramside Hall was transformed into a hotel in 1963. Ramside Hall Hotel is the largest privately-owned luxury hotel in County Durham.

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

## Crillon le Brave, Provence, France

Located 25 miles north-east of Avignon at the foot of Mont Ventoux, the 34-bedroom Crillon le Brave is surrounded by vineyards and olive groves, and offers views from all of its rooms, terraces, and gardens.

A former country house to a Parisian family, the hotel has slowly expanded over the years to encompass six further village buildings and has been a member of the "Relais & Châteaux" group since 1995.

As one of Provence's finest hill top retreats, Crillon le Brave, has announced a special three night cycling package (10 to 13 September 2015).

Surrounded by lush vineyards and countryside olive groves, Crillon le Brave is located amongst some of the most beautiful and challenging cycling routes in Provence.

Moderate level cyclists are welcome to participate in the three day event, with the big challenge being Saturday's 1,600 metres of vertical climb over 22 kilometres up Mont Ventoux!

Visit : [www.crillonlebrave.com](http://www.crillonlebrave.com). Contact : Cecile Tootell at [Cecile@grifcopr.com](mailto:Cecile@grifcopr.com).

## Hotels with fine gardens

### La Mamounia, Marrakech, Morocco

La Mamounia is set in royal gardens is styled with Moorish opulence,

Surrounded by 700 year old olive trees in this 18th century garden that Sultan Mohammed III gave to his son, Prince Moulay Mamoun, for a wedding gift.

The gardens make up 20 acres of lush grounds and were once described by Winston Churchill as "the most lovely spot in the whole world,".

Visit : [www.mamounia.com/en/marrakech](http://www.mamounia.com/en/marrakech). Contact : Katie O'Lone at [katie@masonrose.com](mailto:katie@masonrose.com).

### Grand Hotel Tremezzo, Lake Como, Italy

Like all historical villas on Lake Como, Grand Hotel Tremezzo is located in a beautiful century-old park which offers a blaze of flowers and plants during all seasons.

The 20,000 sq. m park encloses Grand Hotel Tremezzo with footpaths that wind up the hill to the Belvedere, where it adjoins the gardens of Villa Carlotta.

Rare ancient magnolias stand among an abundance of palms in this wondrously Riviera-like climate. Clouds of azaleas, tulips and geraniums, hedges of rhododendron and beds of hydrangea provide an alternating palette with explosions of pinks and reds, purples and blues that leave breath-taking glimpses of the lake beneath.

Visit : [www.grandhoteltremezzo.com](http://www.grandhoteltremezzo.com). Contact : Katie O'Lone at [katie@masonrose.com](mailto:katie@masonrose.com).

### The Little Nell, Aspen, Colorado

Busy Beavers Gardening look after all of the outdoor flowers and plants at The Little Nell, with Arabella Beavers, originally from the UK, inspired by the gardens in Dorset and south-west England.

At The Little Nell, she manages all of the gardens – including those surrounding the front of the hotel and within the courtyard. There's a hillside garden, a clipping garden for fresh cut flowers and an edible herb garden for their fine dining restaurant, element 47.

Visit : [www.thelittlenell.com](http://www.thelittlenell.com). Contact : Katie O'Lone at [katie@masonrose.com](mailto:katie@masonrose.com).

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### **Baur au Lac, Zurich, Switzerland**

Situated in the heart of Zurich, the beautifully appointed Baur au Lac enjoys a location overlooking Lake Zurich and the Alps and a few minutes' walk to the shopping street Bahnhofstrasse.

The hotel lies within its own private park, which is the setting for the annual 'Art in the Park' exhibition where monumental sculptures are showcased by artists, as a prelude to the 'Art Basel' show.

Visit : [www.bauraulac.ch](http://www.bauraulac.ch). Contact : Katie O'Lone at [katie@masonrose.com](mailto:katie@masonrose.com).

### **Wynyard Hall Hotel, Teesside**

The stunning Wynyard Hall Hotel will be unveiling the UK's largest rose garden this summer, the vision of owner Sir John Hall, former Chairman of Newcastle United Football Club and creator of the Metrocentre shopping centre.

Set within 150 acres of historical landscaped parkland, this impressive four-star hotel, on the fringes of Durham in the Tees Valley, offers elegant grandeur and contemporary comfort.

Its renowned two AA rosette restaurant, The Wellington, offers an ever changing menu of modern British dishes created with the finest local ingredients, while those looking to unwind can enjoy a range of beauty and body treatments in the tranquil surroundings of the lakeside Spa.

With some of the North's most popular and historic attractions – such as Durham Cathedral - on its doorstep, Wynyard Hall is the perfect base from which to explore the region or simply escape from

Visit : [www.wynyardhall.co.uk](http://www.wynyardhall.co.uk). Contact : Emma at [emma@sortedpr.com](mailto:emma@sortedpr.com).

### **Hotel openings in Maldives**

#### **Outrigger Maldives**

Outrigger Konotta Maldives Resort, which opens in August 2015, is located within the crystal waters of Gaafu Dhaalu Atoll, a 20-minute speedboat journey from Kaadedhdhoo Airport. It comprises 31 Beachfront Villas, 21 Over-water Villas and a Presidential Villa.

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

#### **Loama Resort, Maamigili Island**

Loama Resort's new hotel on the island of Maamigili, which comprises beach villas, has also established the Maldives' first gallery of contemporary Maldivian art in an over-water pavilion near the resort's main arrival pier.

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

Visit : [www.visitmaldives.com](http://www.visitmaldives.com). Contact : Judy McCluskey at [Maldives@mccluskey.co.uk](mailto:Maldives@mccluskey.co.uk).

### **The Sun Siyam Iru Fushi, Maldives**

Located in the Noonu Atoll, a 45-minute seaplane journey from Male, the resort features 221 beachfront and over-water lagoon villas inspired by traditional Maldivian architecture.

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.

Visit : [www.thesunsiyam.com](http://www.thesunsiyam.com). Contact : Alexandra Delf at [Alexandra@ophirpr.co.uk](mailto:Alexandra@ophirpr.co.uk).

### **Meads Bay, Anguilla**

Meads Bay on the Caribbean island of Anguilla is a mile-long beach strip of bars and upscale restaurants anchored by two 5-star resorts.

Opening in June 2015 is Kishti on Meads, a collection of luxury villas each with two gardens (rooftop and patio).

Visit : [www.rickettsluxury.com](http://www.rickettsluxury.com). Contact : Martha Morano at [martha@moranopr.com](mailto:martha@moranopr.com).

### **Pentillie Castle, Cornwall UK**

Pentillie Castle has received a TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence award.

Pentillie Castle was built in 1698 and is located in the Tamar Valley, a designated area of 'outstanding natural beauty'.

Situated on the banks of the River Tamar, the castle was remodeled by William Wilkins and the gardens, designed by Humphry Repton, feature rhododendron-studded lawns, woodlands sweeping down to the River, steep valleys and an avenue of lime trees.

Visit : [www.pentillie.co.uk](http://www.pentillie.co.uk). Contact : Sarahjane Funnell at [sarahjanefunnell@weareonshore.com](mailto:sarahjanefunnell@weareonshore.com).

### **Ashford Castle, Co Mayo, Ireland**

Ireland's 5 Star Ashford Castle has just completed a \$75 million-dollar two-year refurbishment .

The hotel is located in 350 acres, on the shores of Lough Corrib.

Dating back to 1228, the castle now enters a new chapter in its history, as part of The Red Carnation Hotel Collection.

The renovation at Ashford Castle has preserved the historic elements of the 800-year-old property, while adding new amenities including a movie theater, billiards room, cigar terrace, lakeside cottage, boutique wine cellars for private dining, and a children's game room.

The outdoor areas were also expanded, including the School of Falconry, the equestrian center, the nine-hole golf course, tennis courts and the only Orvis-endorsed fishing property in Ireland.

In July 2015, a spa featuring five treatment rooms; an indoor, ozone-filtrated swimming pool; and a gym will open.

Sceptre Tours is featuring the luxurious five-star accommodation as part of its Ireland packages.

Visit : [www.ashfordcastle.com](http://www.ashfordcastle.com) and [www.sceptretours.com](http://www.sceptretours.com). Contact : Jane Coloccia at [Jane@JCCcommunicationsllc.com](mailto:Jane@JCCcommunicationsllc.com).

### **Martinhal Quinta Family Resort, Quinta do Lago, Algarve, Portugal**

The Martinhal Quinta Family Resort opens in June 2015 in the Quinta do Lago area of the Algarve.

The Martinhal Quinta Family Resort will be a 4-star private collection of independently owned luxury villas comprising 2 and 3 bedroom townhouses, and 3 and 4 bedroom villas – each with a private garden and pool area.

It is close to Faro airport and the Algarve's best golf courses.

Visit : [www.martinhal.com/quinta/en](http://www.martinhal.com/quinta/en). Contact : Abi Ogden at [abi@lemongrassmarketing.com](mailto:abi@lemongrassmarketing.com).

### Linley Castle, Chester-le-Street, County Durham

Lumley Castle, overlooking the Emirates Cricket Ground at Chester-le-Street, is a four star hotel set within a 14th century castle.

The Hotel is a fine base for area attractions such as The Angel of the North, Durham Cathedral and Castle and the Metrocentre shopping mall.

Visit : [www.lumleycastle.com](http://www.lumleycastle.com). Contact : Emma Walker at [emma@sortedpr.com](mailto:emma@sortedpr.com).

### Hotel Cort, Mallorca

The Hotel Cort, located in Palma de Mallorca, is teaming up with the Port Adriano Sailing Club to offer guests days out sailing around the coastline of Mallorca.

Mallorca is known as a sailing destination due to its ideal year-round weather conditions, warm, but windy, with over 300 days of sunshine annually.

Hotel Cort is a boutique hotel, located 19th century building in the heart of Palma.

The 'Private Sailing Package' offers sailing on a high performance X-Yacht, with its own professional skipper.

Visit : [www.hotelcort.com](http://www.hotelcort.com) and [www.portadrianosailing.com](http://www.portadrianosailing.com). Contact : Charlotte Rous at [Charlotte@grifcopr.com](mailto:Charlotte@grifcopr.com).

### The Kinloch Club, Lake Taupo, New Zealand

The Kinloch Club, located in 600 acres on the shores of Lake Taupo, will open a 5-star luxury lodge and 26 luxury villas in late 2014.

These will be situated around the par 72 championship Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course.

Operated in conjunction with the nearby Treetops Lodge and Estate, the new lodge will have panoramic views over Lake Taupo and the course.

Kinloch's lakefront has 3km of sandy beach and the area provides some of the best fishing in the world and the geothermal and Maori cultural heartland of Rotorua.

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

### Hotel Sant Francesc

The Hotel Sant Francesc is a conversion of an old manor house into a luxury boutique hotel in the historic centre of Palma de Mallorca.

The 43-room hotel, part of *Small Luxury Hotels of the World*, has a rooftop terrace with a pool, patio bar, garden restaurant, gym and spa.

Visit : [www.hotelsantfrancesc.com](http://www.hotelsantfrancesc.com) and [www.slh.com](http://www.slh.com). Contact : Maria Costa Lobo at [maria@lotus-uk.co.uk](mailto:maria@lotus-uk.co.uk).

### Park Hyatt Sanya Sunny Bay Resort, China

The new Park Hyatt Sanya Sunny Bay Resort is located on a five-mile long, crescent-shaped sandy strip overlooking the South China Sea.

Set amid lush landscaping and located next to Nan Hu Lake, the property comprises six buildings interlinked by wide walkways and decorated with paintings and sculptures.

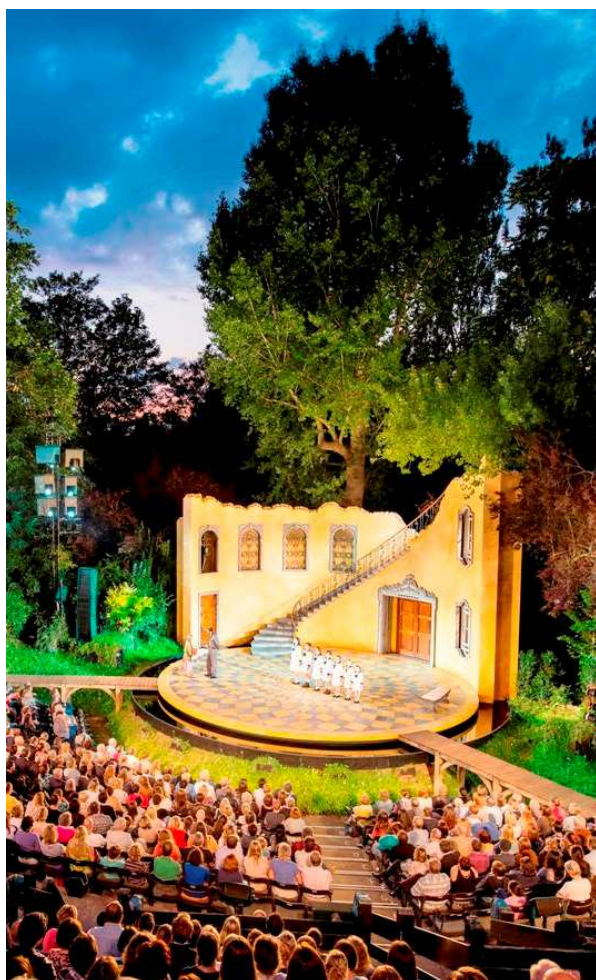
Visit : [www.parkhyatt.com](http://www.parkhyatt.com). Contact : Joanna Cadbury at [joanna@grifcopr.com](mailto:joanna@grifcopr.com).



## A focus on : The Regent's Park Open Air Theatre , London UK

**Regent's Park Open Air Theatre**, which is located within the Inner Circle of Regent's Park was founded in 1932 by Sydney Carroll and Robert Atkins.

It has been one of London's unique theatrical attractions ever since, and is the UK's largest permanent professional outdoor theatre.



During the summer months, stages a programme of drama, comedy and musicals complimented by one off evenings of comedy, musical concerts and screenings of film classics.

The theatre itself is surrounded by woodland, which is used to great effect as a stage backdrop.

Although enjoying one of the largest audience auditoriums of any London theatre, the tiered seating and overall ambience gives the *Regent's Park Open Air Theatre* a real intimacy and special atmosphere.

The best way to make the most of a visit is to arrive early with a hamper and chilled wine (or opt for the theatre's selection of food and drinks).

A bring your own, pre-theatre, picnic in the 'forest glade' foyer is a very popular option.

### The 2015 season

#### Peter Pan

The 2015 season at the *Regent's Park Open Air Theatre*, began to huge acclaim with J. M. Barrie's *Peter Pan*.

George Llewelyn Davies, killed in action in WW1, was one of the children who inspired this character.

In remembering Davies, and a generation of lost boys, Timothy Sheader and Liam Steel re-imagined Barrie's stage play to great effect.



(Cont)

### **The Seagull By Anton Chekhov**

19 June – 11 July 2015

First preview: 19 June. Press night: 24 June (7.45pm)

As guests assemble at a country house for the staging of an avant-garde open air play, artistic temperaments ignite a more entertaining drama behind the scenes, with romantic jealousies, self-doubt and the ruthless pursuit of happiness confusing lives, loves and literature.

Directed by Matthew Dunster and featuring Olivier Award-winner Janie Dee, *The Seagull* was the first of Chekhov's great works and is celebrated as one of the most important plays of the nineteenth century.

Visit : [www.openairtheatre.com](http://www.openairtheatre.com). For information and press ticket requests contact : Jonathan Mountford at [jonathan@made2010.com](mailto:jonathan@made2010.com).

### **AllWays traveller to the Regent's Park**

[http://www.allwaystraveller.com/AllWaysOnline/ao\\_eur\\_UK\\_OpenAirTheatre.html](http://www.allwaystraveller.com/AllWaysOnline/ao_eur_UK_OpenAirTheatre.html)



The **AllWays traveller to the Regent's Park Open Air Theatre** is available on the **AllWays traveller** website and in a PDF format for tablets and iPhones :

### **AllWays traveller**

**AllWays traveller**, which is the consumer travel features 'arm' of the **International Travel Writers Alliance**, produces high profile, long-life and wide-reach travel features to destinations and travel pursuits worldwide.

**AllWays traveller** combines a traditional travel feature with a detailed visitor guide.

Visit : [www.allwaystraveller.com](http://www.allwaystraveller.com). Contact : Ashley Gibbins at [Ashley@itwalliance.com](mailto:Ashley@itwalliance.com).

### **Seven Brides for Seven Brothers**

16 July – 29 August 2015

First preview: 16 July. Press night: 23 July

From the Golden Age of the movie musical, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* is ideally suited to the *Open Air Theatre*.

This much-loved musical includes *Bless Your Beautiful Hide*, *Goin' Courtin'*, *Wonderful*, *Wonderful Day*, and the dance spectacular, *Barn Dance*.

Featuring Alex Gaumond as Adam and Laura Pitt-Pulford as Milly, director Rachel Kavanaugh reunites the creative team behind the 2014 award-winning production of *The Sound of Music*.

### **William Golding's Lord of the Flies**

3 September – 12 September 2015

The *Open Air Theatre's* 2011 production of *Lord of the Flies*, returns to the *Open Air Theatre* for 14 performances prior to a UK tour.

William Golding's classic story of survival, superstition and immorality is adapted for the stage by Nigel Williams.



## A focus on : Greenwich, London UK

Located alongside the river Thames in south east London, the Royal Borough of Greenwich is one of London's most popular visitor destinations.

It stretches from the Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site eastwards to cross the Prime Meridian of the World to Greenwich Peninsula.

Also in the borough is The O2 entertainment complex, the Emirates Air Line cable car, the historic Royal Arsenal at Woolwich and Eltham, Charlton and Blackheath.

### Visit Greenwich

Visit Greenwich works with local visitor attractions, accommodation providers, transport operators, meetings and events venues, the hospitality and retail sector and local businesses to promote Greenwich as a visitor destination for leisure and business.

### The Line

The Line, which opened in May 2015, showcases the works of artists such as Damien Hirst, Anthony Gormley, Martin Creed and Abigail Fallis.

The three mile walking and cycling trail from the Greenwich Peninsula to Stratford, was co-founded by urban regeneration expert Clive Dutton OBE and art dealer Megan Piper.

From *The O2*, it passes through the Royal Docks to Three Mills in East London follows the Meridian Line through the west side of the Greenwich peninsula, across the Thames and around the River Lea towards the Olympic Park.

Visit : [www.the-line.org](http://www.the-line.org).

### Events in Greenwich

**Greenwich + Docklands International Festival**  
20 to 28 June 2015

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

### Kids Week

Free and discount theatre tickets in London throughout August

Visit : [www.kidsweek.co.uk](http://www.kidsweek.co.uk)

### Sail Royal Greenwich

29 and 30 August 2015

Visit : [www.sailroyalgreenwich.co.uk](http://www.sailroyalgreenwich.co.uk).

### Totally Thames

September 2015

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

### Greenwich Comedy Festival

6 to 12 September 2015

Visit : [www.greenwichcomedyfestival.co.uk](http://www.greenwichcomedyfestival.co.uk)

### On Blackheath Festival

12 and 13 September 2015

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

### Open House London

19 and 20 September 2015

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

### ATP at The O2

15 to 22 November 2015

Visit : [www.greenwich.co.uk/barclays-atp-world-tour-finals/](http://www.greenwich.co.uk/barclays-atp-world-tour-finals/)

**National Maritime Museum - Samuel Pepys: Plague, Fire and Revolution**

20 November 2015 to 28 March 2016

Visit : [www.rmg.co.uk/about/press/exhibitions-2015](http://www.rmg.co.uk/about/press/exhibitions-2015).

Visit : [www.visitgreenwich.org.uk](http://www.visitgreenwich.org.uk) : Contact : Laura Young at [laura@showponyevents.co.uk](mailto:laura@showponyevents.co.uk)

## Registering with the Alliance

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- **Editor :** commissioning editors
- **Partner :** travel and tourism industry organisations, or
- **Agency :** agency representatives with travel or tourism clients



**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)

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**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)

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