

The Alliance

Bulletin

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

Mid- March 2015

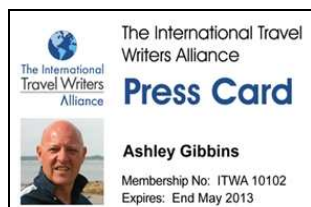
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www.itwalliance.com

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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.

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

Working with the Alliance

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

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

Partners

Guest Public (USA)

Guest Public is a boutique communications firm servicing travel/hospitality, fine art, music and talent markets. Our core focus is delivering public relations, publicity, publishing and social media services.

Its firm is dedicated to building passionate relationships between clients and their audiences.

Visit : www.guestpublic.com. Contact : Jason Guest at jzg@guestpublic.com.

The Bremerhaven Tourist Board, Germany

Bremerhaven is a city in the state of Lower Saxony located at the mouth of the River Weser on its eastern bank, opposite the town of Nordenham.

Though a relatively new city, it has a long history as a trade port and today is one of the most important German ports, playing a crucial role in Germany's trade.

The Bremerhaven Tourist Board offers travel packages for groups and corporate travel as well as for individual travellers and families. Sail trips and ship charters for groups and individuals - in cooperation with longstanding partners and specialized operators all brought together in Bremerhaven's offers."

Visit : www.bremerhaven-tourism.de. Contact : Susan Rienitz at rienitz@erlebnis-bremerhaven.de.

News

Anantara Tangalle Peace Haven Resort & Spa, Sri Lanka

Located on the South Coast of Sri Lanka, one hour along the coast from Colombo, the new Anantara Tangalle Peace Haven Resort & Spa will open in fall of 2015.

Located in a well-established upmarket area known for its tranquil yoga retreats, the resort is designed like a temple structure with 152 guest rooms.

The Yala National Park housing leopards and sloth bears is close by.

Visit : www.anantara.com. Contact : Lallie Fraser at Lallie@grifcopr.com.

The Royal Horseguards Hotel, London

The Royal Horseguards Hotel has been named as a Five Star Hotel by Forbes Travel Guide.

The hotel has operated on the banks of the Thames since 1884, and its architectural heritage has earned it Grade I listed status.

The Royal Horseguards has had a varied history, with the Headquarters of the Secret Service based there during the First World War.

It also has links to the British military, through a shared history with the Household Cavalry and the Blues and Royals.

Visit : www.guoman.com/en/hotels/united_kingdom/london/the_royal_horseguards and www.ForbesTravelGuide.com. Contact : Naomi Atkins at natkins@surgery-group.com.

Devon & Cornwall campaign for overseas visitors

Counties Welcome Government's £5 Million Support for the South West

The English counties of Devon and Cornwall will benefit from an investment of £5 million to boost international tourism in the UK's South West.

Visit England will administer the fund, by using the money to back initiatives aimed at increasing awareness of the South West of England as a tourist destination in Europe and beyond.

Money will be allocated for marketing activity, travel itineraries and to promote the transport links between Bristol, Exeter and Newquay. There will also be a focus on business development, with smaller businesses getting help to make their products and services relevant to international audiences.

Contact : Simon Whittam at simonwhittam@visitdevon.co.uk.

Peter Island, British Virgin Islands

Peter Island, the largest private island resort in the British Virgin Islands at 1,800 acres, has completed a major beautification programme.

The improvements have been made to the hotel's ocean front cottages and marina.

Visit : www.peterisland.com. Contact : Emily Wilson at Emily@grifcopr.com.

Siesta Beach in Sarasota, Florida

Siesta Beach in Sarasota County on Florida's Gulf Coast has won the 2015 TripAdvisor Travellers' Choice award for Beaches, ranking first out of 25 in the US, for the third year.

Visit : www.visitsarasota.org/beaches-places/siesta-key. Contact : Ela Ayhan at ela@goshpr.co.uk.

Air side rooms at London Heathrow

No1 Traveller and the Plaza Premium lounges now offer airside rooms for passengers who have a connecting flight.

The Heathrow No1 and Plaza Premium lounges offer private relaxation rooms with beds and shower facilities alongside the chance to enjoy a wellness spa with treatments.

Lounge rooms are bookable for up to six hours, with prices from £100 a person.

A recent Holiday Extras' survey revealed that 37% of airline passengers had recently experienced an airside wait of 3 - 10 hours for a connecting flight.

Visit : www.holidayextras.co.uk/heathrow-airport-lounges. Contact : Max Irvine at max@lucre.co.uk.

Anglian Country Inns, UK

Anglian Country Inns has been identified as one of London Stock Exchange's 1000 Companies to Inspire Britain.

The report is a celebration of the UK's fastest-growing and most dynamic small and medium sized businesses.

To be included in the list, companies needed to show consistent revenue growth over a minimum of three years, significantly outperforming their industry peers.

Anglian Country Inns operates six diverse establishments and a microbrewery throughout East Anglia. It's establishments include :

- **The White Horse, Brancaster Staithe, Norfolk** - a coastal inn with 15 rooms
- **The Jolly Sailors, Brancaster Staithe, Norfolk** - a traditional Norfolk pub
- **The Fox, Willian, Hertfordshire** - a village locals pub with fine dining restaurant
- **Water Lane Bar & Restaurant, Bishop's Stortford** - a high street casual dining restaurant and cellar bar
- **The Cricketers, Weston, Hitchin, Hertfordshire** - a village pub with real ales and hearty menu, and
- **The Brancaster Brewery**, a 5-barrel microbrewery producing small batches of high quality real ale.

Visit : www.acinns.co.uk and www.1000companies.com. Contact : Pamela Farrell at marketing@angliancountryinns.co.uk.

Preferred Hotels & Resorts

The Preferred Hotel Group, a global collection of independent luxury hotels, has been rebranded, Preferred Hotels & Resorts.

Each property within the new brand portfolio has been aligned with one of five collections – Legend, LVX, Lifestyle, Connect, and Preferred Residences.

Visit : www.PreferredHotels.com. Contact : Terri McCollin at tmccollin@preferredhotels.com.

Leads

The Mary Celestia, Bermuda

A 150 year old bottle of wine recovered from an American Civil War-era ship which sank off the coast of Bermuda, has been uncorked and tasted.

The bottle, one of five found intact on blockade runner Mary Celestia four years ago, was sampled by a panel of experts at a food and drink festival in Charleston, South Carolina to commemorate 150 years since the end of the US Civil War.

The grey coloured contents, thought to have been a Spanish fortified wine , tasted of "a combination of crab water, gasoline, salt water and vinegar with hints of citrus and alcohol".

In 1864, the Mary Celestia was loaded with supplies for the Confederate States when it struck a reef off the coast of Bermuda and sank into the Atlantic Ocean in just six minutes.

Bermuda has some of the World's best diving sites and visitors can dive the Mary Celestia wreck for themselves.

Visit : www.gotobermuda.com/Reefs_Wrecks_and_Sails.

Visit : www.gotobermuda.com. Contact : Ela Ayhan at ela@goshpr.co.uk.

Jazzfest at Sea

The 12th Annual JazzFest at Sea cruise takes place onboard the MSC Divina departing Miami to the Southern Caribbean on November 11, 2015 for 10 nights.

The cruise presents Classic Jazz, Chicago Jazz, Traditional Jazz and other jazz styles which emerged during the first half of the 20th century.

Visit : www.JazzFestatSea.com. Contact : Bret Bradford at JazzFest@CruiseCafe.com.

Park Hyatt Maldives Hadahaa

The 50th anniversary of independence for the Maldives is in 2015 and, to celebrate, the five-star hotel Park Hyatt Maldives Hadahaa has launched a special Journey to Culture, Crafts and History experience.

Aside from the normal attractions of the island, which has white sandy beaches and turquoise blue lagoons, the Maldives has a rich history and culture dating back some 300 years BC.

This is due to the country's strong trade links between India, Europe via Africa and the Middle East.

The Park Hyatt Maldives Hadahaa Journey give guests the chance to explore a local island with a guide, learn about the unique social structure on these tiny pieces of land, and the traditional ways of living of the Maldivian people.

Visit : www.maldives.hadahaa.park.hyatt.com. Contact : Joanna Cadbury at joanna@grifcopr.com.

London Morgan's British Bespoke Hire Experience

London Morgan's British Bespoke Hire Experience enables individuals to hire of a unique Morgan car.

London Morgan, based in South Kensington, is the London dealer of The Morgan Motor Company and opening 18months ago is looking to transform the Morgan marque into a truly international brand.

The cars that are available to hire are specially built for a more cultural, sophisticated clientele who appreciate iconic design and the raw power Morgan cars embody.

Visit : www.bespokes.co.uk. For a test drive a car from London Morgan for a travel feature contact : Natasha Mudhar at Natasha@sterlingmedia.co.uk

Pure Adventures cycling through Ireland

Bicycle vacation specialist Pure Adventures is offering supported and self-directed cycle options through Ireland with the services of a trip leader and a sag wagon to transport luggage.

This enables adventurous cyclists the chance to enjoy the open road on their own terms on a supported, self-directed itinerary in the country.

Pure Adventures was created to meet North America's growing demand for high-quality, self-guided cycling tours.

This company pioneered self-guided tours in Europe in 1994 and recently launched its first itineraries in North America.

Its 2015 tours take in :

Austria	England	Ireland	Slovenia
Belgium	France	Italy	Spain, and
Croatia	Germany	Portugal	Switzerland.
the Czech Republic	Hungary	Scotland	

Pure Adventures also has 20 cycle itineraries in the USA.

Visit : www.pure-adventures.com. Contact : Sara Widness at sara@widnesspr.com.

Acacia Africa

Acacia Africa's East Africa Accommodated Overland collection includes stays at lodges, tented camps and hotels.

Its 2015 brochure features three new small group tours across South Africa's remote Western Cape and Northern Cape provinces.

The itineraries include opportunities to get active on walking safaris and game drive in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

The Park is far from the mainstream and safaris here are usually enjoyed minus the crowds.

The desert backdrop rivals the better known Kruger National Park for its big cat numbers and amongst other rare species it is home to the black maned Kalahari lion.

Leopard sightings in the park are frequent and herds of blue wildebeest and other antelope migrate to the life giving waterholes in wet season.

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

Audio guide app to US National Parks

Just Ahead's app and audio guides offer information to those cruising through a national park.

Just Ahead apps are available for :

- Yosemite
- Zion and Cedar Breaks
- Bryce Canyon
- Joshua Tree, and Death Valley.

An additional 12 national park guides are in production, including :

Grand Canyon
Sequoia
Kings Canyon
Yellowstone

Grand Teton
Capitol Reef
Arches
Canyonlands

Petrified Forrest
Canyon De Chelly
Monument Valley, and
Mesa Verde.

Just Ahead's audio guides work without an internet connection or phone service and use a smartphone's GPS to deliver hands-free, customized audio tours based on a vehicle's location.

Visit : www.justahead.com. Contact for a complimentary Code for product r review: Sara Widness at sara@widnesspr.com.

Argentina Fishing package tours

Experience Argentina offers three different types of fishing tours in Patagonia and Corrientes designed for experienced anglers to enjoy the best fishing Argentina has to offer.

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

The Stratford Butterfly Farm, Stratford-upon-Avon, UK

The Stratford Butterfly Farm, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary is Britain's largest butterfly farm, attracting over 100,000 visitors each year.

Set in a large tropical greenhouse, thousands of exotic butterflies from all over the world fly free.

Over the years the Farm has continually added to its non-butterfly inhabitants and now has a green Kakariki Parrott which originates from New Zealand.

Other birds include Rosey Bourkes, Cockatiels, Mousebirds, Green Ring-necked Paraquets and the flightless Chinese Painted Quails.

There is also Insect City and Arachnoland with a Goliath Bird Eating Spider.

Visit : www.butterflyfarm.co.uk. Contact : Tanya Aspinwall at Tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk.

Music Concierge

Music Concierge designs bespoke music concepts for country house hotels to reflect their individual personality and create the right ambience to enhance a guest's experience.

Music Concierge's team has provided musical experiences for Calcot Manor, Chewton Glen, Barnsley House, Dormy House, Whateley Manor and the newly opened Lord Crewe Arms.

The music consultancy creates a unique audio identity or 'musical DNA' for each client. Tracks are expertly tailored to the target audience and the property's personality.

Visit: www.musicconcierge.co.uk. Contact : pr@masonrose.com.

What's on

Festival of Steam, The Historic Dockyard Chatham, Kent UK

5 and 6 April 2016

A full programme of street entertainment with walkabout acts and live music will create a carnival atmosphere at the annual Festival of Steam and Transport at The Historic Dockyard Chatham.

This year, the annual event will see jugglers, stilt walkers, unicyclists, bubble acts and street bands entertaining visitors alongside static and working steam displays, a free steam funfair and Dockyard locomotives.

In addition, there will be hundreds of classic cars and motorbikes, a modelling zone, animal corner, Steampunk village and, new for 2015, a farmers market.

Visit : www.thedockyard.co.uk/steamandtransport. Contact : Gail Jamee at gjames@chdt.org.uk.

Skiathos Princess Hotel stages Greece's first YOGAfest

1 to 8 May 2015

The first YOGAfest festival will offer daily expert yoga instruction and three days of paddleboard yoga, fresh and locally sourced Greek cuisine, daily beach visits, boat tours around the island, live music entertainment and a moonlight paddle excursion to co-inside with the first full moon of the season.

The Skiathos Princess Hotel has a distinct focus on healthy living and offers a range of Spa Rituals, Herb Hikes and YOGAqua classes.

Visit : www.skiathosprincess.com and www.curacao.com. Contact : Alyson Marks at curacao@diamondpr.com.

Curaçao International BlueSeas Festival

7 to 9 May 2015

The Dutch Caribbean island of Curaçao will host its inaugural Curaçao International BlueSeas Festival as a celebration of traditional and gentrified jazz music.

During the first two nights of the BlueSeas Festival nine artists will perform free concerts on the streets of "Blues Village" in Pietermaai Smal, an up-and-coming neighborhood in Willemstad.

On closing night, the main stage at Kleine Werf in downtown Punda will feature the festival headliners, the Original Blues Brothers and Buddy Guy, for a ticketed performance.

Curaçao offers 35 beaches and a diverse heritage spanning 55 different cultures.

Its capital city, Willemstad – a UNESCO World Heritage site – enjoys a Handelskade backdrop and range of museums, monuments, restaurants and shopping.

Curaçao's natural beauty, pristine diving and snorkelling sites are a favourite with divers and adventure seekers as are its beaches and weather, with the island situated on the outer fringes of the Hurricane Belt.

Visit : www.curacaoblueseasfestival.com and www.curacao.com. Contact : Alyson Marks at curacao@diamondpr.com.

BNP Paribas Tennis Classic 2015, The Hurlingham Club, London

23 to 26 June 2015

The BNP Paribas Tennis Classic will feature some of the best tennis players of today and the legends of the game. It will be a warm up for Wimbledon with World No.5 and Kei Nishikori and World No.9 Tomáš Berdych are the first ATP players to confirm their participation at this year's tournament.

Set in 42-acre grounds of *The Hurlingham Club*, the event will be a series of singles exhibition matches.

Visit : www.bnpparibastennisclassic.com. Contact : Claire Menary at claire@akhcommunications.com.

Manchester International Festival, UK

2 to 19 July 2015

Manchester International Festival is the world's first festival of original, new work and special events and takes place biennially, in Manchester, UK.

The Festival launched in 2007 as an artist-led, commissioning festival presenting new works from across the spectrum of performing arts, visual arts and popular culture. The programme includes world premieres, unique concerts and one-off events, including a number of free events across the festival.

Throughout MIF15, Manchester's Albert Square becomes Festival Square, home to the Pavilion Theatre, Festival Pavilion, The Glass House and MIF Box Office.

Visit : www.mif.co.uk. Contact : Nadja Coyne at nadja.coyne@mif.co.uk.

The Manchester Jazz Festival, UK

31 July to 9 August 2015

The 20th Manchester Jazz Festival is the longest-running music festival in the city.

The first jazz festival was scheduled for 15 June 1996, the day that the IRA bomb devastated Manchester city centre. It was re-staged in August and has now grown to a 10 day festival attracting over 60,000 people.

Showcasing the best contemporary jazz , *mjf 2015* will be a celebration featuring some of the best jazz talent from the North West, UK and internationally.

Visit : www.manchesterjazz.com. Contact : Diane Herrod at marketing@manchesterjazz.com.

The Classic Open Airs, Nuremberg, Germany

26 July and 8 August 2015

The Classic Open Airs are free music festivals that attract thousands of fans of classical music to Nuremberg's Luitpoldhain Park.

The Nuremberg State Philharmonic perform at the July event and the Nuremberg Symphony on 8 August.

Visit : www.klassikopenair.de/2015/index_en.php. Contact : presse@presse.tourismus.nuernberg.de.

SoulFest, Gunstock Mountain Resort, Gilford, NH

6 to 8 August 2015

SoulFest is New England's Premier Christian Music Festival representing all musical genres on four separate stages, guest speakers and authors from across the globe.

Visit : www.TheSoulFest.com. Contact Rachel Ramey at rramey@thesoulfest.com.

Cycling Experience, The Little Nell, Aspen, Colorado

17 to 20 August 2015

The Little Nell's second annual "Clip in with Christian" VIP cycling experience will coincide with Colorado's USA Pro Challenge, one of the largest cycling events in USA.

The Little Nell's bespoke biking experience is led by Christian Vande Velde, the 2012 USA Pro Challenge champion,

The Little Nell is also Aspen's only ski-in/ski-out, five star, five diamond hotel.

Visit : www.thelittlenell.com. Contact : pr@masonrose.com.

The Garden Theatre, Winter Garden, Florida

The Garden Theatre, which is located in downtown Winter Garden, is a not-for-profit professional performing arts venue in a Mediterranean Revival style theatre.

It hosts live plays, concerts and movies and hosts the international StarLite Film Festival and the Bluegrass Concert Series each summer.

The Garden Theatre's 2015-2016 Theatre Season runs from September 2015 to May 2016.

Productions include :

La Cage Aux Folles

25 September to 25 October 2015

Miracle on 34th Street

4 to 20 December 2015

Hands on a Hardbody

29 January 29 to 21 February 2016

StarLite Film Festival

25 to 28 February 2016

This festival screens films made for \$200,000 USD and under.

Visit : www.starlitefilmfest.com.

The Whale

18 March to 3 April 2016

Singin' in the Rain

29 April 29 to 29 May 2016

Visit : www.gardentheatre.org. Contact : Matt Heim at matt@gardentheatre.org.

Reasons to write about

Birdwatching in the Extremadura region, Spain

Lying just north of Andalucia - south of Castille, and east of Portugal - the wild and remote Spanish region of Extremadura is known by ornithologists as one of the top birding places in southern Europe.

Birds that can be spotted include :

- 600 pairs of Griffon Vulture
- 400 pairs of Eurasian Black Vulture
- the rare Spanish Imperial Eagle
- Black Stork, and
- the Egyptian Vulture.

On Headwater's NEW 6-night birding holiday, guests will be accompanied by expert bird and wildlife guides.

Extremadura

This comprises open woodland, traditional dehesa (huge forested grazing pastures scattered with cork and holm oaks) and rolling steppe (vast grassy plains cloaked in sweet-smelling herbs and colourful wild flowers).

Specific highlights will include the "big sky" landscape of the Sierra de Montánchez - a site for Bonelli's Eagle, Cirl Bunting and Golden Oriole - and UNESCO-listed Monfragüe National Park, an EU-designated Special Protection Area and home to more than 300 species of bird and animal life.

The region has a history with traces left from the Moors and Romans, and Headwater guests spend their first 3 nights in Trujillo staying in a converted C16 palace built from the wealth brought back from South America by the Conquistadores born here.

The town's Plaza Mayor is considered one of the most beautiful squares in Spain, with its mediaeval churches, ancient walls and magnificent Arab castle.

Established in 1985, Headwater offers walking and cycling holidays in Europe and beyond with 130 holidays on offer for 2015 in a mix of self-guided and small group trips;

Visit : www.headwater.com. Contact : Catherine Crone at Catherine.press@headwater.com.

Travel the World Volunteering

Global Vision International

Global Vision International helps volunteers see the world while helping local communities but, until now, those involved have had to limit themselves to one country.

GVI has now announced new combination projects whereby volunteers can add more than one standard volunteer programme.

Some may want to work on similar programmes in several countries, others may wish to experience different types of projects in the same region.

Volunteers can consider (for example) projects that allow travel between Playa del Carmen in Mexico and Quepos in Costa Rica.

Giving aid to valuable initiatives with partner Save the Children in Mexico, volunteers will work with children to help with their homework, teach about social issues and play games with them at a children's centre.

In Costa Rica, there's an opportunity to work in a school organising art workshops, games and sports sessions while brushing up on Spanish.

Global Vision International (GVI) provides support and services to international charities, NGO's and governmental agencies to support critical conservation and humanitarian projects around the globe.

Visit : www.gvi.co.uk. Contact : Nicole Lovett Nicole@grifcopr.com.

Gane and Marshall, Australia

Gane and Marshall has launched a series of Australian self-drive adventures and guided tours.

The family-run operator now offers a series of journeys in the key regions of New South Wales, the Northern Territory, Queensland, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia.

They offer self-drive itineraries, guided tours and a combination of the two and features Pumphouse Point, a new, boutique hotel in the heart of Tasmania's World Heritage wilderness.

Pumphouse Point

Situated on Lake St Clair, Pumphouse Point is a 1939 pumping station transformed into a unique, luxurious hotel and located in the middle of the lake that is accessed via a long boardwalk.

Gane and Marshall is also offering the chance for travellers to discover the beauty of New South Wales at their own pace in a 'Silver Bullet' Airstream trailer on the 'New South Wales Glamping Adventure itinerary.

In addition :

The Best of Western Australia is a five-night self-drive holiday that takes travellers from the lively urban centres of Fremantle and Perth to the Margaret River Wine Valley and the spectacular Coral Coast

The Red Centre & Top of Australia is an 11-night tour that ventures into Australia's northernmost wilderness parks, including calls at Uluru, a journey on the Ghan train to Alice Springs and a visit to the rugged Kakadu National Park

Wildlife, Beach and Sydney is a two-week, part-guided, part self-drive tour that focuses on the cultural and scenic highlights of the country's eastern and southern regions, including the Coral Sea, the Great Barrier Reef, Kangaroo Island, and the Atherton Tablelands.

Gane and Marshall is a leading provider of tailor-made wildlife and adventure holidays, with off-the-beaten-track travel experiences provides bespoke holidays to Africa, Antarctica, Indo-China, the Galapagos, India, Costa Rica, Scandinavia, Indian Ocean Islands and Canada.

Visit : www.ganeandmarshall.com. Contact : Cat Hamilton at cat@hamilton-pr.com.

Frankfurt Museum's in 2015

Frankfurt's museums, which enjoy world renown, are presenting a variety of shows and exhibitions highlighting the work of internationally renowned artists.

The Museum of Applied Arts has an exhibition entitled "Buddha – 108 Encounters", displaying Buddhist sculptures from India, China, Tibet, Southeast Asia, Korea and Japan (to 7 July 2015).

The Städel Museum will be celebrating its 200th anniversary with an exhibition called "Monet and the Birth of Impressionism", which is the first time that a Germany-based exhibition is dedicated solely to the creation and early development of the Impressionist movement (to 21 June 2015).

The MMK1 Museum of Modern Art's exhibition on Isa Genzken highlights one of Germany's most internationally renowned artists. Since early 2000, Genzken has been integrating objects of the consumer world into her works, combining them with industrial materials as well as photographs and image fragments taken from popular media. (to 31 May 2015).

The Museum of Communication is staging "Around the World in 80 Things. The Jules Verne Code" with items like a portable desk, a walking stick with an integrated compass, a length of underwater cable and many more artefacts (to 30th August 2015).

Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt will present "Daniel Richter. Hello, I Love You", an exhibition featuring his images (9 October 2015 to 17 January 2016).

The Museum of World Cultures will be showing the exhibition, "State of Emergency. Art, Collectives and Politics in South Africa", focussing on the early years of opposition and the prospects of a young generation of artists in South Africa (2 December 2015 to 24 July 2016).

On the last Saturday of every month, admission to the Frankfurt's museums and their guided tour are free of charge.

Visit : www.frankfurt-tourismus.de. Contact : Elena Holschier-Rupprecht at presse@infofrankfurt.de.

Natural Retreats

Luxury travel company Natural Retreats has added Tybee Island, Georgia, Steamboat Springs, Colorado, and Teton Springs, Idaho, in the USA to its portfolio.

Tybee Island, Georgia

Tybee Island is a small island, just three miles long, which sits on the Atlantic Seaboard – one of the most naturally beautiful of the Georgia coastline.

Its name means “salt marsh,” the abundance of which is one of the many attractions and developers seek to preserve the unspoiled natural beauty of the beaches, creeks and their native wildlife.

This small town hosts many gourmet restaurants, high-end shops and fine art galleries, while the atmosphere remains laid-back.

Guests in any one of the 35 charming homes are stone's throw from the seaside and will share the location with some of the U.S.' most beautiful wildlife whether it's a blue heron waiting for the day's catch or endangered sea turtles making their nests.

Teton Springs, Idaho

Teton Springs is located 40 minutes from both Jackson Hole and Grand Targhee - two of the most popular ski resorts in North America.

The Teton Springs Lodge & Spa is a year-round resort with mountain views, where guests can enjoy outdoor activities and adventures including golf and fly-fishing.

There are miles of hiking, horse-riding and bike trails in the Caribou-Targhee National Forest and white-water rafting trip down the Snake River.

Steamboat Springs, Colorado

Located high up in the Colorado Rockies, below one of the largest ski mountains in North America, Steamboat Springs is a small ranching community.

Natural Retreats operates in 18 destinations across Europe and the USA.

Visit : www.naturalretreats.com/us. Contact : Joanna Cadbury at Joanna@grifcopr.com.

Moviment, The Dolomites, the Italian Alps

Moviment is located at the heart of the Dolomites UNESCO Heritage.

The Dolomites comprises a mountain range in the northern Italian Alps with peaks which rise to above 3,000 metres and cover 141,903 ha.

It features some of the most beautiful mountain landscapes with vertical walls, sheer cliffs and a high density of narrow, deep and long valleys.

Located at a height of two thousand meters Moviment is a car-free mountain park approachable only by path through the woods or cableways. Five themed areas are located in the area.

Parks themed on the black bear and the microcosm of the Dolomites provide the chance for young people to learn while having fun.

Rocky walls offer a challenge for rookie and skilled climbers and there is paragliding; fitness treks; slackline; archery; mountaineering; speed hiking and Nordic walking.

Visit : www.moviment.it/en and www.visitdolomites.com/en. Contact : Tani Burns at tburnsarts@gmail.com.

White water rafting in Los Glaciares National Park, Patagonia

Say Hueque, the Argentina and Chile tour operator specialising in authentic experiences for independent travellers, arranges a whitewater rafting adventure in Los Glaciares National Park accessed from either El Chaltén or El Calafate.

The trip begins on the Las Vueltas River, later merging with the Fitz Roy River, in the Los Glaciares National Park.

This is the first time rafting has been available inside the park. Say Hueque is the only company licensed to make the arrangements.

Established in 1999, Say Hueque creates customized tours for independent travelers throughout Argentina's and Chile's national parks and cities.

Popular destinations and experiences include Buenos Aires, Iguassu Falls, Perito Moreno Glacier, hiking in Patagonia, wine tasting in Mendoza, horseback riding at traditional estancias and glacier cruises.

Visit : www.sayhueque.com. Contact : Alexia Nestora at alexia@lassocommunications.com.

A place to stay

Ynyshir Hall, Wales

Ynyshir Hall is located between the sea and Cambrian mountains close to Cardigan Bay off West Wales.

The 10 bedroom hotel was once home to Queen Victoria and guests can still admire trees she planted within the grounds, which share their border with the RSPB Ynys-hir Reserve.

Ynyshir Hall's, Chef Gareth Ward was awarded a Michelin Star in 2014 while the hotel was awarded AA Hotel of the Year, Wales 2014 - 2015.

Guests can use the hotel to explore the surrounding area and spend time at Artists Valley which inspired Led Zeppelin's Stairway to Heaven, the deserted golden sands of Borth Beach or the village of Machynlleth, the seff-styled new antiques capital of Britain.

Visit : www.ynyshirhall.co.uk. Contact : Peter da Silva at peter@boutiquedasilva.com.

Oliva Luxury Hotel, Montevideo, Uruguay

The Oliva Luxury is Montevideo's newest boutique hotel.

Located in Punta Carretas, one of the city's most buzzing neighbourhoods, the hotel is within walking distance from the Golf Club of Uruguay, the Punta Carretas shopping mall and a promenade that stretches along Montevideo's River Plate coast.

Nearby attractions include the Juan Zorrilla de San Martín Museum, which commemorates a "National poet of Uruguay", and the Punta Brava lighthouse, which was built in 1876 to navigate ships to Montevideo's port.

The hotel is also half an hour's drive from the airport and 15 minutes from downtown Montevideo.

Visit : www.olivahotel.com. Contact : Ines Gamarra at ines@brandinglatinamerica.com.

On Scotland's canals

Scotland holiday lets company Cottages & Castles have added to their portfolio of canal-side properties :

Bona Lighthouse is located on the edge of the north end of Loch Ness where the Caledonian Canal runs north to Inverness, is a listed building and one of only two inland lighthouses in Scotland.

Seaview Cottage is set on the banks of the Crinan Canal in the Argyll area.

Bannatyne Cottage sits on Lock 11, on the Crinan Canal which is one of the prettiest canals in Scotland on the Argyllshire Coast. The cottage was originally built in the 19th century as a lock keeper's cottage.

Sandray Cottage is a former lock keepers cottage situated on the Caledonian Canal in the Great Glen of Scotland. Kytra Lock is one of the prettiest of locks hidden up the canal path and is a retreat to explore the Highlands and west coast.

Laggan Bridge Cottage, in Invergarry, is an 18th century former canal worker's house located on the mini peninsula where the Caledonian Canal spreads out into Loch Oich. The cottage is surrounded on three sides by water and enjoys views of the surrounding Highlands.

Cottages and Castles offers 600 self-catering properties in its portfolio including holiday cottages, large houses, holiday castles, Scottish mansions and country lodges.

Visit : www.cottages-and-castles.co.uk. Contact : Rachel Woodford at rachel@mediahouse.co.uk.

Grand Resort Bad Ragaz, Switzerland

One of Europe's leading wellbeing and medical health resorts, the Grand Resort Bad Ragaz in Eastern Switzerland is celebrating the 175th anniversary of piping the natural healing waters from Switzerland's Tamina Gorge directly to the resort.

Visit : www.resortragaz.com. Contact : Emily Wilson at Emily@grifcopr.com.

The Gainsborough Bath Spa, Bath

The Gainsborough Bath Spa is set to open in summer 2015.

YTL Hotel's first UK Classic Hotel and the UK's first hotel to have direct access to the thermal waters, The Gainsborough Bath Spa is also the first hotel to offer Neal's Yard treatments.

Three Spa Bedrooms will have direct access to the thermal waters, with a special tap in the bathtub allowing guests to enjoy the waters privately. It is going to be an international retreat in one of Britain's most ancient cities when it opens later this year.

Visit : www.thegainsboroughbathspa.co.uk. Contact : Emily Wilson Emily@grifcopr.com.

VILA VITA Parc, The Algarve, Portugal

VILA VITA Parc is situated 35 minutes by car from Faro, on a cliff top location with ocean views, as well as direct access to a secluded beach.

The hotel offers a 2 Michelin star restaurant, an impressive wine cellar and top beach seafood restaurant as well as the Herdade dos Grous organic wine farm in the Alentejo.

Visit : www.vilavitaparc.com. Contact : Elisa Grimaldi at elisa@masonrose.com.

Dorsett Hotels & Resorts, China and Malaysia

Dorsett Hotels new property in Chengdu, China will open in the summer of 2015.

The groups Malaysia hotel – currently being refurbished and rebranded, opens in the autumn.

Visit : www.dorsett.com. Contact : Thea Harley Thea@grifcopr.com.

ME Hotel Group

Hotel group Meliá Hotels International has received four awards at the International Hotel Awards 2014 :

- Best Hotel UK for ME London
- Best Hotel Renovation/Reburbishment for Spain and Europe for ME Ibiza Best Golf Resort in Spain for Meliá Villaitana.

ME by Meliá officially launched its flagship hotel, ME London in 2013. It is a design-led, lifestyle hotel located at the centre of the capital's diverse art and culture district.

Located on a bay near Santa Eulalia, ME Ibiza has modern and minimalist Ibizan interiors together with spacious design and stunning sea views.

Located 20 minutes from Alicante, Meliá Villaitana was designed to simulate a Mediterranean village.

It is located between two eighteen-hole golf courses designed by Nicklaus Design and has views of the Gran Bahía on the Costa Blanca.

Other ME hotels are located in Madrid, Mallorca, Cabo and Cancun with ME Miami and ME Milan opening in 2015 and ME Dubai and ME Barcelona in 2016.

Meliá Hotels International has 378 hotels open or in the process of opening in 41 countries on four continents.

Visit : www.melia.com. Contact : Mark Shand at Mark.shand@luchfordapm.com.

The Headland, Fistral Beach, Cornwall UK

The Headland sits on Fistral Beach surrounded by 3,000 miles of Atlantic Ocean on three sides.

The Headland Spa covering an area of around 8880 sq ft features six luxury spacious treatment rooms, a couples treatment room with its own hydrotherapy bath and a rhassoul mud room.

Fistral Beach is widely regarded as one of Europe's finest surfing beaches.

Conservation work by the hotel, with an optional guest contribution to the National Trust of £1, has helped improve access between Bedruthan Steps and Holywell Bay.

Visit : www.headlandhotel.co.uk. Contact : Peter da Silva at peter@boutiquedasilva.com.

Rancho Valencia, San Diego, USA

Since its opening in 1989, the Rancho Valencia Resort and Spa has garnered a reputation as one of Southern California's luxury resorts.

Spanning 45 lush acres of gardens, trails, olive groves and casitas, this Mediterranean inspired, all-suite property offers guest casitas with private patios, a three-bedroom Hacienda with a private pool and backyard, a spa, fine dining restaurant and tennis programme.

Visit : www.ranchovalencia.com. Contact : Elisa Grimaldi at elisa@masonrose.com.

Thompson Miami Beach, Miami Beach, USA

Following a multi-million dollar investment, Thompson Miami Beach opened in November 2014 as a 380-room lifestyle hotel is located between 40th and 41st Street on Collins Avenue just north of South Beach.

Interiors by designer Martin Brudnizki take inspiration from the building's 1950s heritage alongside original Art Deco features.

Visit : www.thompsonhotels.com. Contact : Elisa Grimaldi at elisa@masonrose.com.

Hotel Football, Manchester, UK

GG Hospitality and former Manchester United players Ryan Giggs and Gary Neville, have opened the world's first Hotel Football, in Manchester.

Located opposite Manchester United's Old Trafford stadium, the four-star 133 bedroom hotel, event and conference facility offers bespoke hospitality packages, as well as being home to The Old Trafford Supporters Club.

Visit : www.hotelfootball.com. Contact : Lisa Hale at hotelfootball@tangerinepr.com.

Port Ferdinand Marina and Luxury Residences, Barbados

Port Ferdinand Marina and Luxury Residences has opened on the northwest coast of Barbados.

It comprises a collection of luxury homes for ownership and rental within a marina.

Guests staying at will be able to enjoy a water sports centre, spa, a golf simulator, entertainment centre and gym.

Port Ferdinand has just opened its own restaurant, 1359, named after the latitude and longitude of Barbados and featuring natural, organic produce from the island.

Guests can also take advantage of amenities at Port Ferdinand's sister resort, Saint Peter's Bay Luxury Resort & Residences, near Speightstown, using the complimentary UNNA water taxi service.

Visit : www.portferdinand.com. Contact: Annabel Hillary at annabel@prwhenyouneedit.co.uk

Hastings Hotels, Northern Ireland

Hastings Hotels has six luxurious hotels across Northern Ireland, including the historic Ballygally Castle, five star Culloden Estate & Spa and the Slieve Donard Resort and Spa.

The Gobbins Path

The Gobbins Path, located just 30 minutes from Ballygally Castle is a spectacular cliff path in east Antrim, once more popular than the Giant's Causeway until its closure in 1964.

This year it is to be restored to its former glory, complete with visitor centre, café, playground, a tubular bridge and a 25-metre suspension bridge.

Professionally guided tours that detail local history, heritage and culture will also be on offer providing vistas of Belfast Lough and the Causeway Coastal Route.

When it reopens in summer 2015 The Gobbins Path is set to be one of Northern Ireland's biggest attractions.

Ballygally Castle

Ballygally Castle dates back to 1625 and is the only 17th century building still used as a residence in Northern Ireland.

The hotel is reputedly haunted by a friendly ghost and brave guests can visit the 'ghost room' in one of the towers to see for themselves.

The Castle also has a wealth of family activities within easy reach and can serve as a base for exploring this stunning area of natural beauty. Carrickfergus Castle, the Glens of Antrim and the Giant's Causeway are all close at hand.

The Culloden Estate & Spa and Mount Stewart House & Gardens

The five star Culloden Estate & Spa, which was originally built as an official Palace for the Bishops of Down, stands in 12 acres of gardens and woodland.

Mount Stewart, which is 20 minutes drive away, is a National Trust property known for its glorious landscaping and ranked among the top five gardens in Ireland.

The Slieve Donard Resort & Spa

The Slieve Donard Resort & Spa is located at the foot of the Mourne Mountains.

Known as wild walking territory, there is the chance to enjoy the rugged beauty of the natural terrain.

Visit : www.hastingshotels.com. Contact : Kathryn Peel at Kathryn@ophirpr.co.uk.

A place to stay in Portland, Oregon

The Society Hotel

An 1880s building in Old Town Chinatown, which is being transformed into a 36-room budget boutique hotel and hostel in the thick of the city's nightclub scene, will open in summer 2015.

The Society Hotel will house a lobby, café and bunk room on the ground floor, rooms with shared and en suite baths above, and a rooftop terrace.

Visit : www.thesocietyhotel.com.

Hotel Eastlund

In the Lloyd District, Hotel Eastlund will open in May 2015, featuring a street-level café and wine bar and a rooftop restaurant by Portland restaurateur David Machado.

Visit : www.hoteleastlund.com.

2016 openings

The historic Cornelius and Woodlark buildings on S.W. Alder St. will retain their distinct external features when they convert into a 150-room hotel in a \$30 million renovation by Provenance Hotels.

In addition, Hilton is building a luxury hotel at S.W. Jefferson St. and Second Ave. as part of its new boutique brand, Curio.

Hilton is also breaking ground on a Canopy hotel in the Pearl District, the Oregon Pioneer Building is being converted into a boutique hotel and the Grove Hotel will be a 52-room lifestyle hotel in a renovated building at N.W. Fourth Ave. and Burnside St.

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

An Alliance focus on :

Puglia, Italy

Puglia is a region of Southern Italy bordering the Adriatic Sea in the east, the Ionian Sea to the southeast, and the Strait of Otranto and Gulf of Taranto in the south.

Puglia, the heel of Italy's boot, which is promoted as the natural Italian gate to the East of the Mediterranean area, sits between two seas - the Adriatic to the East and the Ionian to the south.

This position, combined with more than 800 kilometers of coastline, has shaped the region's history and development.

It is an area of ancient history and civilisations, with archaeological Roman and Greek remains and medieval architecture including castles and palaces, historic quarters and baroque architecture.

UNESCO sites

Puglia has three UNESCO World Heritage sites :

- Frederick of Hohenstaufen's mysterious Castel del Monte
- the Trulli of Alberobello, and
- the Lombard Sanctuary of Monte Sant'Angelo.

Puglia is also a landscape green rolling hills and small historical towns surrounded by lush green olive groves and vineyards.

The coastline of white sandy beaches is dotted with small harbours, fortresses and lighthouses.

Outdoor activities

The mild weather allows the region to offer year round outdoor activities including with trekking paths, cycling routes, horse riding and golf.

There are diving centres, and beaches equipped for windsurfing, sailing and kite surfing.

Puglia has two National Parks - Gargano and Alta Murgia - and many other regional parks and reserves.

The region is also a destination for golf enthusiasts with four 18-hole golf courses and a certified 9-hole course.

Restaurants in Puglia offer the best of the traditional local cuisine and stores display food products originating from land and sea.

Visitors receive a warm welcome from Puglia residents and there is an annual calendar of summer events and festivals.

Praise

Puglia has been listed in National Geographic's "Best Trips for 2014" among the top destinations worldwide and among Lonely Planet's best value travel destinations for 2014.

The international airports of Bari and Brindisi are the two hubs of the region.

Visit : www.viaggiareinpuglia.it:80/hp/en. Contact : Bianca Tricarico at ufficiostampa@viaggiareinpuglia.it.

An Alliance focus on :

Macau

The Macau Government Tourist Office has announced that 2014 visitor arrivals topped a record-breaking 31.5 million, representing a 7.5% year-on-year increase.

Located 40 miles from Hong Kong on China's South coast, Macau is 11 square miles with an abundance of historical buildings, beaches, gardens, museums, spas, shopping malls, entertainment and activities ranging from golf to bungee jumping.

Macau chosen in top 10 Lonely Planet regions

In selecting Macau, Lonely Planet highlights its Portuguese heritage, its Macanese fusion cuisine and broad range of attractions, from Buddhist temples to glitzy shows and the world's highest bungee jump to Michelin starred dining.

Four new "Step out, Macau" walking tours launched

The Macau Tourist Office has added four new walks to its "Step Out, Macau" walking tour routes and has also redesigned its four existing ones.

The new routes will take visitors to lesser-known districts including :

- the Parish of the Nossa Senhora de Fátima and Parish of the Santo António, in areas of Macau Peninsula
- the Parish of the Nossa Senhora do Carmo in Taipa, and
- the Parish of São Francisco Xavier in Coloane.

Hotel openings in 2015

Harbourview Hotel

The four-star Harbourview Hotel, modelled after the 18th century architecture of Prague, opened in February 2015.

Located in Fisherman's Wharf, close to the Macau ferry terminal, the hotel has 444 rooms and suites along with a Praha bar and restaurant, indoor swimming pool and gymnasium.

Visit : www.harbourviewhotelmacao.com

The Crowne Plaza Macau

Opening in the second quarter of 2015, the Crowne Plaza Macau is located in the oldest part of the city in the north end of the Macau peninsula.

This contemporary styled hotel will offer 208 modern guestrooms, all with sea views.

Visit : www.crowneplaza.com.

Galaxy Macau

The completion of phase two of the expansion of Galaxy Macau will be completed in May 2015 with the opening of three major hotels and a new entertainment district.

Set to open are Asia's largest JW Marriot with over 1,000 rooms, The Ritz-Carlton's first all-suite hotel with over 250 suites and Broadway Hotel, offering family travellers 320 well-appointed rooms to choose from.

At the same time, The Broadway at Galaxy Macau will be a new street and entertainment district featuring hawker-style vendors, live entertainers and world class performances showcasing the best of traditional and contemporary Asian culture, as well as housing the 3,000-seater Broadway Theatre.

Galaxy Macau's collection of quality restaurants, bars and lounges will increase to 120 outlets and the retail space will also be expanded to over 100,000 sq m with 200 luxury stores.

Visit : www.galaxymacau.com/en.

An Alliance focus of Macau (cont)

Studio City Macau

Studio City Macau, set to open in the middle of the year, is a cinematically-themed leisure and entertainment complex, which will integrate a family entertainment centre, TV studio, five-star hotel, extensive dining venues and shopping mall.

The art-deco style complex will feature 1,600 hotel rooms located between two towers and will boast Asia's highest Ferris wheel, the "Golden Eye" at 130 metres.

The entertainment centre will also play host to a virtual-reality Batman Dark Flight ride, which will allow fans to soar over Gotham City and a Wonder Woman go karting track.

Visit : www.studiocity-macau.com/en.

Other openings in the pipeline for 2015 include, the St. Regis Macau within the Sands Cotai Central resort, which will add 400 additional rooms and the Hollywood Roosevelt Macau, whose style has been described as a modern take on 'Hollywood's glam with a 1950s retro twist design.

Visit : www.starwoodhotels.com/stregis.

Visit : www.macautourism.gov.mo. Contact : Enrique Martin at enrique@humewhitehead.co.uk.

An Alliance focus on :

The Isle of White, UK

The Isle of Wight is a county and the largest and second most populous island of England.

It is located in the English Channel, about 4 miles off the coast of Hampshire and is separated from mainland Great Britain by the Solent. The island has several resorts which have been holiday destinations since Victorian times.

Shades of Wight

The Isle of Wight has launched Shades of Wight, a new campaign which highlights some of the experiences on offer in the destination.

Shades of Wight is aimed at discerning travellers, who want to discover - or perhaps rediscover - the UK's "holiday island".

A campaign brochure highlights some of the best the hotels, guest houses, cottages and romantic tree-houses on the Island as well as the attractions on offer.

Top reasons for visiting in 2015 include :

Julia Margaret Cameron

2015 is the bicentenary of the birth of pioneer photographer Julia Margaret Cameron.

Dimbola Lodge, her former home highlights Cameron's work and has portraits of celebrities of that time. A year of exhibitions and events is planned for Dimbola.

The anniversary will also be marked elsewhere in the UK, with a major exhibition of her work at the V&A Museum in London.

Visit : www.dimbola.co.uk.

Annual music festivals

Acoustic Isle

February/March

The Acoustic Isle music festival is an "unplugged" music event featuring hundreds of musicians coming together to perform a series of relaxed gigs in Isle of Wight pubs, bars, cafes, restaurants and on board selected ferries.

The Isle of Wight Festival

11 to 14 June 2015

Visit : www.isleofwightfestival.com.

Bestival

10 to 13 September 2015

The Island also stages two of the biggest events on the summer calendar in The Isle of Wight Festival and Bestival.

Visit : www.bestival.net.

In the outdoors

May is the main month for outdoor events on the Island as new adrenalin-fuelled events join events that include :

- Walk the Wight (10 May),
- the Isle of Wight Challenge (2 and 3 May) and
- the Isle of Wight Randonee (3 May).

Rise of the Ronin (3rd May) is a warrior-themed obstacle race over an assault course specifically designed for the Island.

Walk the Wight

2015 is the 25th anniversary of the annual Walk the Wight, a 26.5 mile sponsored walk across the island from Bembridge in the east to Alum Bay in the west.

The annual Isle of Wight Walking Festival, with its Speed Dating Walk, will this year take place from 2 to 17 May 2015.

Visit : www.isleofwightwalkingfestival.co.uk.

400 years of Northcourt Manor

The house at Northcourt Manor in Shorwell will be celebrating its 400th birthday during 2015.

Historic Quarr Abbey near Ryde is also promoting itself as a visitor attraction and one of the most unusual places to stay on the Island.

Visit : www.northcourt.info and www.quarrabbey.org.

Seafaring festivals

The Isle of Wight's Festival of the Sea will be from 22 to 29 June to coincide with the Round Island Yacht Race on 27 June.

Cowes Week will be held from 8 to 15 August.

2015 will also mark the 200th anniversary of The Royal Yacht Squadron.

Visit :

- www.visitisleofwight.co.uk/events/isle-of-wight-festival-of-the-sea.
- www.roundtheisland.org.uk
- www.aamcowesweek.co.uk
- www.rys.org.uk

Visit : www.visitwight.co.uk. Contact : Sue Emmerson at sue@visitwight.org.

The Isle of Wight's "national dish"

The Isle of Wight's "national dish" is Crab On Chips, which is 100% freshly caught crab meat on hot chips.

Other dishes include Lobster On Chips; Prawns (in mayonnaise) On Chips and a "Triple Combo" of all three.

New attractions in 2015

New attractions on the island include :

- A re-vamped Cowboy Village at Blackgang Chine
- www.blackgangchine.com.
- The introduction of new monkeys and meerkats at the Owl & Monkey Haven www.owlmonkeyhaven.co.uk
- Climbing wall, circus skills, bush skills as well as water activities at Isle of Wight Zoo
- www.isleofwightzoo.com.



Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines

An Alliance focus on :

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines is a UK-based, Norwegian-owned cruise shipping line with four cruise ships : Balmoral, Braemar, Boudicca and Black Watch

These ships will be visiting 253 destinations in 84 countries around the globe during 2016/17, from ten regional UK departure ports in 2016/17 :

Southampton	Liverpool
Dover	Newcastle
Harwich	Edinburgh
Tilbury	Glasgow, and
Falmouth	Belfast.

Fred. Olsen's new 2016/17 cruise programme will include 23 maiden calls:

- Arendal (Norway)
- Baltimore (Maryland, USA)
- Fort William (Scotland, UK)
- Tasiilaq (Greenland)
- Pyramiden (Svalbard)
- Holy Loch (Scotland, UK)
- Laguna San Rafael (Chile)
- Isla de San Andrés (Colombia)
- Gloucester (Massachusetts, USA)
- Klaksvik (Faroe Islands)
- Charlotte Amalie (St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands)
- Falmouth (Jamaica)
- Banana Coast (Trujillo, Honduras)
- Tampa (Florida, US)
- Rosslare (Ireland)
- Aabenraa (Denmark), and
- Rovinj (Croatia).

The 2016/17 cruise programme will also include :

The Arctic Explorer' cruise, exclusively for adults, with Black Watch visiting the remote lands of Greenland and Svalbard, as well as Iceland and Norway.

Visit : www.fredolsencruises.com. Contact : Rachael Jackson at rachael.jackson@fredolsen.co.uk.

Cruising the Waterways of Scandinavia

voyage, with Braemar offering a 14-night and a three-night 'Rouen & the Seine River Mini-Cruise'.

A 15-night **Exploring the Fjords of Greenland** cruise taking in over 16 hours of scenic cruising through Greenland's fjords

A nine-night **Maiden Call Mystery Cruise**, where every destination that Braemar visits is a maiden port of call! All that guests will know is that this 'cruise to the unknown' will take in six destinations, four countries and five UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Two US cruises on Balmoral with a 34-night 'Old England to New England' sailing, which incorporates two calls in Bermuda, six American states, three maiden calls and three overnight stays.

These will include Boston and the 'Big Apple' and a 46-night 'Central America & the Mardi Gras' cruise, where guests can visit the NASA rocket launch sites, enjoy traditional Southern hospitality and join in the fun at the colourful and vibrant 'Mardi Gras' in New Orleans.

The Wonders of Spitsbergen cruise, with a maiden call to Pyramiden, in Spitsbergen (where the new Sky Atlantic blockbuster 'Fortitude' is based), which was once a Russian mining town, but is now eerie and deserted.

Travel guides

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

AA Travel Guides

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

Anova Books

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

Bradt Travel

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

Brit's Guide

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

Cicerone

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

Eland Publishing

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

Fisher's Travel SOS

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

Global Travel Publishers

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

Globetrotters LogBook

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

Hudson's Historic Houses and Gardens

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

Inn House Publishing

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

Insight

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

In your pocket guides

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

Jane's Smart Art Guides

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

Jonglez Publishing

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

Kuperard Publishers

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

Morris Communications

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

Odyssey Books & Guides

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

The Official (UK) Tourist Board Guides

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

Oxygen Books city-lit

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

Rough Guides

www.roughguides.com. press@roughguides.com

The Signpost

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

Summersdale travel publications

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

Take two Books

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

Turnleft

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

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