



# The Alliance

---

# Bulletin

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

June 2014

Ashley Gibbins

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

# The Alliance Bulletin

Issue 163 : June 2014

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

## Contents

### Job shop

Enabling the Alliance's partners to place - and journalists to receive - information on in-house jobs, special assignments or one-off projects.

### Working with the Alliance

Travel industry partners and agencies have registered with the Alliance.

### News

News items of interest to travel journalists.

### Leads

Story ideas and angles from travel partners and their agencies.

### What's on

Annual or special events, celebrations and commemorations.

### Reasons to write about

More detailed information on potential features

### A place to stay

New, unusual, interesting or convenient accommodation worldwide.

### Travel guides

Travel guide publishers offering review copies to Alliance members.

### Appendix one

A focus on *Glasgow 2014 the Commonwealth Games*

## Registering with the Alliance

To register with the Alliance visit : [www.itwalliance.com](http://www.itwalliance.com), and register as a :

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

## 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.

For more information contact Ashley Gibbins at [Ashley@itwalliance.com](mailto:Ashley@itwalliance.com).

## Join and follow



[http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=2978414&trk=hb\\_side\\_g](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=2978414&trk=hb_side_g)



@writersalliance

## 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.

Alliance travel journalists can also upload a CV for potential employers to search if and when they need freelance support.

Alliance journalists can also :

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

Although in its infancy, we hope the **Job Shop** will become a valuable addition to the range of services offered by the **International Travel Writers Alliance**.

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

#### Greengrowth.travel

Greengrowth.travel is the operating arm of global partnership network greenearth.travel, an EU-based global research and commercial network to advance Green Growth & Travelism (Travel and Tourism) as a key engine of trade and development.

Visit : [www.greengrowth.travel](http://www.greengrowth.travel). Contact : Marie-Julie Chaput at [mjchaput@greengrowth.travel](mailto:mjchaput@greengrowth.travel).

#### The International Coalition of Tourism Partners

The International Coalition of Tourism Partners (ICTP) is a grassroots travel and tourism coalition of global destinations committed to Quality service and Green Growth.

ICTP engages communities and their stakeholders to share quality and green opportunities including tools and resources, access to funding, education, and marketing support.

Visit : [www.ictp.travel](http://www.ictp.travel). Marie-Julie Chaput at [mjc@ictp.travel](mailto:mjc@ictp.travel)

#### Holiday Lettings (UK)

Holiday Lettings is a one-stop shop for holiday rental accommodations around the World.

With 210,000+ retreats in 150+ countries worldwide, helps to find the perfect place to stay & book it directly with the holiday home owner or property manager.

Visit : [www.holidaylettings.co.uk](http://www.holidaylettings.co.uk). Contact : Zohaib Saleem at [zohaib.saleem@holidaylettings.co.uk](mailto:zohaib.saleem@holidaylettings.co.uk).

## Genuine Jersey

Jersey is famous worldwide for its own breed of cow, superior quality milk and the prized Jersey Royal, but the Island can also be proud of an abundance of fresh, seasonal produce and a variety of skilled craftsmen and artists who create a range of excellent products.

Genuine Jersey was launched in 2001 to promote the diversity and quality of local produce and products.

Since the Association started it has attracted a loyal and enthusiastic membership. While some members ensure the survival of Jersey's heritage and traditions others are at the forefront of introducing pioneering farming methods, new crops or exploring untapped international markets.

Visit : [www.genuinejersey.com](http://www.genuinejersey.com). Contact : John Garton at [john.garton@jersey.com](mailto:john.garton@jersey.com).

## Lloret de Mar

Lloret de Mar is a coastal town in Catalonia on the Mediterranean. It is adjacent to Blanes and Tossa de Mar and is 75 kilometres from Barcelona. With a population of 29,445 (as of 2005) it is the second largest town in the Selva comarca (county) of Catalonia.

For decades it has attracted summer visitors, mainly from northern Europe and it is now the most important resort in the Costa Brava. In addition to five main beaches and seven km of coastline, there is a medieval fort on the outskirts of the town (Lloret was founded in 1001 AD).

Visit : [www.lloretdemar.org](http://www.lloretdemar.org). Anna Arieria at [ariera@lloret.org](mailto:ariera@lloret.org).

## The Palm Beaches, Florida

Come explore The Palm Beaches, and experience what so many loyal visitors have already discovered to be the best way to experience Florida.

Enjoy a fascinating array of cultural venues, sample the culinary masterworks of celebrity chef-owned restaurants, and take in one of dozens of internationally renowned destination events.

Fish or dive in the Gulf Stream-warmed waters, take pleasure in the breathtaking beauty of the unique Florida ecosystem, and make memories at some of the many family-friendly attractions.

Visit : [www.palmbeachfl.com](http://www.palmbeachfl.com). Scott Schoenen at [sschoenen@mypalmbeachfl.com](mailto:sschoenen@mypalmbeachfl.com).

## South Dakota, USA

South Dakota offers Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Badlands National Park and three additional parks and monuments plus Old West and pioneer history, Native American culture, and a wide variety of landscapes, wildlife and adventures

Visit : [www.travelsd.com](http://www.travelsd.com). Maureen Droz at [maureen.droz@travelsd.com](mailto:maureen.droz@travelsd.com).

## Tourism Whistler

Canada Tourism Whistler is the member-based marketing and sales organization representing Whistler, operating the Whistler Conference Centre, Whistler Golf Club, Whistler Visitor Centre, as well as 1.800.WHISTLER and [whistler.com](http://whistler.com) – Whistler's official source for visitor bookings and information.

As the convention and visitors bureau for the Resort Municipality of Whistler, Tourism Whistler represents more than 7,000 members who own, manage and operate properties or businesses on resort lands including hotels, restaurants, activity operators and retail shops.

Visit : [www.tourismwhistler.com](http://www.tourismwhistler.com). Breton Murphy at [bmurphy@tourismwhistler.com](mailto:bmurphy@tourismwhistler.com).

---

## News

### Marco Polo guides

A new range of French, German, Italian and Spanish phrasebooks from the travel guide publisher Marco Polo features a wide range of slang and colloquial phrases, plus an entire section on 'Ranting, Bitching and Swearing'.

Marco Polo promises to equip travellers with the language that is really spoken on the streets.

The books also feature local knowledge and advice on how to blend in, including 'insider tips' on how to pass for a native, not just a tourist.

Visit : [www.marco-polo.com](http://www.marco-polo.com). For review copies contact : Serena Stent at [serena@marcopolouk.com](mailto:serena@marcopolouk.com).

### The Naples Beach Hotel, Florida

The Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club will host its 29th annual *Summer Jazz on the Gulf* concert series. The free jazz concert series are held in the hotel grounds with views of the Gulf of Mexico.

Visit : [www.NaplesBeachHotel.com](http://www.NaplesBeachHotel.com). Contact : Karen Lamonica at [klamonica@chisano.com](mailto:klamonica@chisano.com).

### Botswana's National Rhino Coordinator

Wilderness Safaris Map Ives has been appointed Botswana's National Rhino Coordinator by the country's Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism.

Map is a founder and former chair of the Botswana Rhino Management Committee, and was also active in the development of the Okavango Delta Management Plan and is the current chair of the Moremi Game Reserve Management Committee.

Wilderness Safaris is an ecotourism company that specialises in wildlife experiences in some of the most remote and pristine areas in Africa.

It operates camps and safaris across nine different countries: Botswana, Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Visit : [www.wilderness-safaris.com](http://www.wilderness-safaris.com). Contact : Belinda Glenn at [belinda@lscpr.co.za](mailto:belinda@lscpr.co.za).

### The Georgia Radio Museum and Hall of Fame, St Marys, GA

The Georgia Radio Museum and Hall of Fame has opened in in downtown St. Marys.

Visitors can view dioramas depicting a 1940's living room with the radio as the entertainment centerpiece and a typical radio control room, with items of interest including antique radios, vintage microphones, records and station memorabilia.

The Hall of Fame annually inducts members in four categories that honor Georgia radio professionals.

Visit : [www.grhof.org](http://www.grhof.org). Contact : Angela Wigger at [angela.wigger@stmaryswelcome.com](mailto:angela.wigger@stmaryswelcome.com).

### Croatia's ferry service

Croatia's state-owned ferry company Jadrolinija is to bring back its ferry service which travels the length of the Croatian coast.

The route will begin at the start of June and run until the end of September and will operate twice weekly, leaving Rijeka on Monday's and Friday's, and Dubrovnik on Thursday's and Sunday's.

Visit : [www.croatia.hr](http://www.croatia.hr). Contact : Tim Thackray [tim.thackray@rooster.co.uk](mailto:tim.thackray@rooster.co.uk).

## Star Trek: The Exhibition, Mall of America, Bloomington, Minnesota

*Star Trek: The Exhibition*, which has opened at the EMS Exhibit Center in Mall of America, will run until the end of the year.

It provide visitors with the opportunity to enjoy an interactive, museum-style experience of one of the largest collections of authentic *Star Trek* artefacts and information from the television series and films.

The Mall of America and near St. Paul and Minneapolis attractions and attracts domestic and international visitors.

Bloomington is located ten minutes from Minneapolis and St. Paul, and 5 km from the MSP International Airport. Bloomington

Visit : [www.mallofamerica.com/attractions](http://www.mallofamerica.com/attractions) and [www.exploreminnesota.com](http://www.exploreminnesota.com). Contact : Melissa at [melissa@cellet.co.uk](mailto:melissa@cellet.co.uk).

## New Vegas VIP

New Vegas VIP features the newest most exclusive activities and venues across Las Vegas.

Visitors are able to book :

- the world's only zombie apocalypse store where guests can participate in shooting zombies and zombie targets
- Battlefield Vegas where guests can fire weaponry from machine guns to handguns
- extreme sky-diving, and
- limousine tours to the hottest nightclubs and top spots.

Visit : [www.newvegasvip.com](http://www.newvegasvip.com). Contact : Anette Lachowski at [lottiesparty@yahoo.com](mailto:lottiesparty@yahoo.com).

## The London Pass Dining Guide

The Leisure Pass Group, operator of the London Pass sightseeing card, has teamed up with the Gourmet Society to launch a greatly expanded London Pass Dining Guide offering visitors savings on meals at 169 restaurants across the city.

The new dining guide features restaurants located in and around popular tourist spots, with a special offer available at each.

The London Pass Dining Guide is published in English with translations in eight languages - French, Spanish, German, Italian, Russian, Japanese, Chinese and Brazilian Portuguese.

It can be purchased with or without the London Pass.

Visit : [www.dining-guide.londonpass.com/](http://www.dining-guide.londonpass.com/) and [www.londonpass.com](http://www.londonpass.com). Contact: David Ezra at [david.ezra@kbc-pr.com](mailto:david.ezra@kbc-pr.com).

## The Monogram Collection

The Monogram Collection is a soon to be launched portfolio of global hotels with individual, historic, stylish or unique character.

The Chelsea Harbour Hotel, London, is the first Monogram Collection hotel to launch, with additional hotels to be added in Europe this year. London's only 5 star all-suite hotel, it is annexed to the Chelsea Design Centre.

Visit : [www.themonogramcollection.co.uk](http://www.themonogramcollection.co.uk) and [www.thechelseaharbourhotel.com](http://www.thechelseaharbourhotel.com). Contact : Kathryn Peel at [kathryn@ophirpr.co.uk](mailto:kathryn@ophirpr.co.uk).

## Meadows Farms Golf Course, Locust Grove, VA

Meadows Farms Golf Course has selected Billy Casper Golf, the largest owner-operator of golf courses, country clubs and resorts in the USA, to manage the 27-hole, championship layout.

Its 841-yard par 6 is recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records as the longest hole in the United States.

Meadows Farms is located 60 minutes from both Washington DC and Richmond, 45 minutes from Charlottesville and 15 minutes from Fredericksburg, VA.

Visit : [www.meadowsfarmsgolfcourse.com](http://www.meadowsfarmsgolfcourse.com) and [www.billycaspergolf.com](http://www.billycaspergolf.com). Contact : Andy DeKeuster at [adekeuster@billycaspergolf.com](mailto:adekeuster@billycaspergolf.com).

## The Discovery Channel's top 25 must-do life experiences

The Discovery Channel has produced, what it calls, the *ultimate Wonder List* of 25 must-do life experiences to celebrate the channel's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of.

These are :

- Visit the North Cape in Norway to see the Aurora Borealis, one of the best spots on Earth for seeing the lights
- Diving or snorkelling along the largest living structure, the Great Barrier Reef in Australia
- A road trip down Route 66, starting at Illinois and experiencing other great destinations along the route from The Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona to The Barringer Crater
- Climbing/ hiking or visit the skywalk at the Grand Canyon
- A gondola ride down the Grand Canal, Venice
- Explore The Forbidden City in China
- Marvel at the Pyramids of Giza
- Witness the sunrise and changing colours of Ayers Rock, Australia
- A boat trip round the Galapagos Islands
- Walk The Inca Trail, Machu Picchu, Peru
- A helicopter Tour of Niagara Falls
- Yellowstone National Park, USA and see the Yellowstone Caldera – the largest supervolcano on the continent
- Visit the Moai statues on Easter Island
- Visit the Normandy War Graves and pay respects to the fallen British of World War 1 / visit the Somme Battlefields
- Tour the Terracotta Army, China
- Experience dawn at the Taj Mahal
- Jungle trekking and river kayaking at the Amazon Basin, South America
- Visit Stonehenge for the Summer Solstice
- Island hopping in Greece by boat
- Camping and hiking in Yosemite National Park, USA
- Take the Trans-Siberian Railway, Russia
- Watch the Masai Mara Great Wildebeest migration, Kenya
- Celebrate Hogmanay in Edinburgh
- Marvel at Michelangelo's artwork in the Sistine Chapel, Italy
- Go on a train trip/ tour the Rocky Mountains, Canada

Visit : [www.discovery.com](http://www.discovery.com). Contact : Fiona Raisbeck at [FR@taylorherring.com](mailto:FR@taylorherring.com).

### Three Scottish hotels named among best in Europe

Three Scottish hotels have been named among the best rated in Europe and the UK for customer service in the Travellers' Choice Hotels with Exceptional Service awards, announced by TripAdvisor.

Edinburgh's The Chester Residence is fourth best hotel for service in the UK and twelfth in Europe.

The Atholl Villa in Pitlochry takes fifth place in the UK and seventeenth in Europe, while Castlecroft in Stirling is ranked seventh in the UK and 24th in Europe.

[www.chester-residence.com](http://www.chester-residence.com), [www.athollvilla.co.uk](http://www.athollvilla.co.uk), [www.castlecroft-uk.com](http://www.castlecroft-uk.com) and [www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com). Contact : Louise Purves at [Louise.Purves@visitscotland.com](mailto:Louise.Purves@visitscotland.com).

### Park Hyatt Milan, Italy

The work of Anish Kapoor, one of the finest contemporary artists, is on permanent display in the Park Hyatt Milan's Lobby Lounge.

Turner Prize winner, Anish Kapoor, has works displayed at the Rockefeller Centre in New York, the Millennium Park in Chicago and the Guggenheim in Bilbao.

The Park Hyatt Milan is a 106-room city centre hotel overlooking the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, a short stroll from the fashion houses and boutiques of Via Montenapoleone and Via della Spiga. The hotel features a Michelin starred Restaurant, the VUN.

Visit : [www.milan.park.hyatt.com](http://www.milan.park.hyatt.com). Contact : Charlotte Rous at [charlotte@grifcopr.com](mailto:charlotte@grifcopr.com).

### Swarovski Optik and World Land Trust

Swarovski Optik, the producer of long-range optical devices, and international conservation charity, World Land Trust (WLT), have announced a partnership to work together to support the Trust's Keepers of the Wild ranger programme.

The Keepers of the Wild programme was founded in 2011 to support the Trust's overseas conservation partners when monitoring and safeguarding the habitat and wildlife in reserves created with funding from WLT.

Swarovski Optik has donated a number of their SLC binoculars for the rangers.

Visit : [www.swarovskioptik.com](http://www.swarovskioptik.com) and [www.worldlandtrust.org](http://www.worldlandtrust.org). Contact : Sarah Salord at [swarovskioptik@mccluskey.co.uk](mailto:swarovskioptik@mccluskey.co.uk).

### Tyddyn Mawr, Dolgellau, Wales

Tyddyn Mawr, a farmhouse B&B run by Olwen Evans near Dolgellau has been named AA Guest Accommodation of the Year for Wales for the second time.

Tyddyn Mawr is an 18th century farmhouse located at the foot of Cader Idris amid wild scenery three miles from the market town of Dolgellau in the Snowdonia National Park. The area is popular with photographers, walkers, ramblers, birdwatchers and artists.

Visit : [www.snowdonia-farm-cottages.co.uk](http://www.snowdonia-farm-cottages.co.uk). Contact : Duncan Foulkes at [duncan.foulkes@btinternet.com](mailto:duncan.foulkes@btinternet.com).

### Wineries and vineyards in Arizona

The Verde Valley is a region of Arizona and an exceptional place to grow the grapes that make Arizona wine.

The Verde Valley Wine Trail links the communities of Cottonwood, Sedona, Camp Verde, and Jerome,

Visit : [www.vvWineTrail.com](http://www.vvWineTrail.com). Contact : [info@vwinetrail.com](mailto:info@vwinetrail.com).



## The Hoftramm, The Hague

The Hoftramm, Holland's first tram restaurant, has opened in The Hague.

It is a mobile restaurant in a converted tram that passes various tourist attractions in The Hague during a four-course dinner.

Visit : [www.hoftramm.nl](http://www.hoftramm.nl). Contact : Simone Sagi at [ssagi@holland.com](mailto:ssagi@holland.com).

## The Holste, North Norfolk

The Hoste, a four-star luxury hotel in the centre of Burnham Market, North Norfolk has been a hotel since 1651.

Originally built as a manor House and also a court house, it is now a boutique hotel with a 2 AA Rosette Restaurant serving seasonal, locally-sourced food with an extensive wine cellar.

There is a luxurious beauty spa and the Tottering Bar, recently launched by Tottering-By-Gently cartoonist Annie Tempest.

### Remember Nelson

The hotel is currently hosting the *Remember Nelson* exhibition (to 2016) in partnership with the Nelson Museum in Great Yarmouth, which features exhibits including letters written by Admiral Lord Nelson.

Nelson was born and brought up in Norfolk and he often visited The Hoste, which was then known as The Pitt Arms.

Visit : [www.thehoste.com](http://www.thehoste.com) and [www.nelson-museum.co.uk](http://www.nelson-museum.co.uk). Contact : Katie Murphy at [katie.murphy@junglepr.com](mailto:katie.murphy@junglepr.com).

## Hightail it to Highgrove with The Ritz London

Highgrove, the private residence of *Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall* and The Ritz London have created *Hightail it to Highgrove* this Summer.

The experience includes: two nights accommodate at The Ritz London, an English breakfast each morning, champagne and canapés on Sunday evening, dinner in The Ritz Restaurant on Monday evening, as well as a private tour and lunch at Highgrove.

Visit: [www.theritzlondon.com](http://www.theritzlondon.com). Contact :Kate Downie at [Kate@saucecommunications.com](mailto:Kate@saucecommunications.com).

## Leads

### Wet 'n' Wild Palm Springs

Wet 'n' Wild Palm Springs, previously known as Knott's Soak City Park, is a 21-acre water park in the Californian desert.

The park's latest water-based attraction, *The Flow Rider*, is a surfing stimulator that features a thin sheet of water under high pressure to create an artificial wave that guests can surf or board on. Located beneath California's San Jacinto Mountains, Palm Springs is known for its Hollywood legacy, Native American heritage and mid-century modern architecture.

The desert offers adventurous hiking trails and canyon tours, golf courses and the chance to stay in the former homes of Marilyn Monroe and Elvis Presley.

Visit : [www.wetandwildpalmsprings.com](http://www.wetandwildpalmsprings.com) and [www.visitpalmsprings.com](http://www.visitpalmsprings.com). Sarah Habicht at [sarah@humewhitehead.co.uk](mailto:sarah@humewhitehead.co.uk).

## The Aquarium Adventure Park, Virginia Beach, USA

The Aquarium Adventure Park, which has opened, is a joint venture between the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center's non-profit foundation and the Outdoor Venture Group.

Located on the campus of the aquarium in Virginia Beach, the park will feature multiple zip lines and 12 different aerial ropes challenge courses containing 160 platforms in the trees.

Visit : [www.virginiabeachadventurepark.com](http://www.virginiabeachadventurepark.com) and [www.CapitalRegionUSA.co.uk](http://www.CapitalRegionUSA.co.uk). Contact : Lisa Cooper at [lisa.cooper@kbc-pr.com](mailto:lisa.cooper@kbc-pr.com).

## The National Trust Coastal Tourism Centre of Excellence

The new National Trust Coastal Tourism Centre of Excellence has opened in Aberdaron, North Wales to highlight the beauty and variety of activities available on the Llŷn Peninsula.

Visit : [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/henfaes-centre/visitor-information](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/henfaes-centre/visitor-information).

Visit : [www.visitwales.co.uk](http://www.visitwales.co.uk). Contact : Carolyn van Vliet at [Carolyn.vanVliet@fourbgb.com](mailto:Carolyn.vanVliet@fourbgb.com).

## Savannah, Quads & Camels, Kenya

Cheli & Peacock, one of Kenya's longest established safari operators, is offering a safari experience : *Savannah, Quads & Camels*, which takes in some of the most unusual and unexplored corners of Kenya, aboard quad bike and camel back!

This new 14-day adventure takes in some of Kenya's top boutique properties in the Maasai Mara, the wild and rugged Northern Frontier District and the Mathews Mountain Range.

The trip takes in the following properties:

- Elephant Pepper Camp
- Sasaab Camp
- Kitich Camp
- Sarara Fly Camp
- Sarara Camp, and
- House of Waine (Nairobi).

Visit : [www.chelipeacock.com](http://www.chelipeacock.com). Contact : Rosie Kempson at [rosie.kempson@live.co.uk](mailto:rosie.kempson@live.co.uk)

## Slow Food tours of Tuscany, Venice, the Amalfi Coast and Sicily, Italy

Sceptre Tours' has three new Slow Food escorted vacations in Italy which focus on the regions of Tuscany, Venice, the Amalfi Coast, and Sicily.

The Slow Food movement was founded in 1989 to counter the rise of fast food in an effort to slow down the fast-paced lifestyle and encourage people to eat more local food. Today, there are more than 200 Italian Slow Food Presidia in Italy including fishers, butchers, shepherds, cheese makers, bakers, and pastry chefs.

Visit : [www.sceptretours.com/slow-food-italy](http://www.sceptretours.com/slow-food-italy). Contact: Jane Coloccia at [Jane@JCCommunicationsllc.com](mailto:Jane@JCCommunicationsllc.com).

## Galleries of Justice Museum, Nottingham

Nottingham's Galleries of Justice Museum has won the Gold Award in the Small Visitor Attraction of the Year category of the VisitEngland Awards for Excellence 2014.

The Galleries of Justice Museum is located in the historic Lace Market. The Shire Hall, a former courthouse and Grade II listed building opened to the public in 1995, and incorporates an 18th/19th century gothic, Victorian courtrooms, an Edwardian police station, dungeons, cafe and shop.

The *VisitEngland* Awards for Excellence celebrate the best of English tourism.

Visit : [www.experiencenottinghamshire.com](http://www.experiencenottinghamshire.com) and [www.visitenglandawards.org](http://www.visitenglandawards.org). Contact : Linda Parker at [linda.parker@experiencenottinghamshire.com](mailto:linda.parker@experiencenottinghamshire.com).

## Archers Holidays European river cruise

Archers Holidays has launched its first ever dedicated European river cruise brochure for 2015 to meet the demand for river cruise holidays.

The company features the 'MS Loire Princesse'; a purpose-built paddle wheel ship with spacious en-suite guest cabins for the Loire River and a selection of river barge holidays on French canals and waterways, aboard custom built hotel barges.

Also available for 2015 are river cruises on the Seine, Rhone, Rhine, Moselle, Danube, Douro as well as the Guadalquivir in Andalucia.

Visit : [www.archersdirect.co.uk/cruises/river-cruises](http://www.archersdirect.co.uk/cruises/river-cruises). Contact : [hmcnaught@cosmos.co.uk](mailto:hmcnaught@cosmos.co.uk).

## Clipper Round the World Yacht Race visits Den Helder, Holland

Den Helder will serve as an official stop-over harbour during the 2013/14 Clipper Round the World Yacht Race between 2 to 10 July 2014

Twelve 70 foot clippers, with international crewmembers, participate in the world's longest ocean race.

The Clipper Round the World Yacht Race is a sailing challenge of 40,000 nautical miles and departed in London in September 2013. Den Helder is the last stopover in the leg from New York to London.

Visit : [www.clipperroundtheworld.com](http://www.clipperroundtheworld.com). Contact : Simone Sagi at [ssagi@holland.com](mailto:ssagi@holland.com).

## Botswana

Tatra Photography is offering a new photography tour in Botswana that will give photographers the chance to shoot an array of wildlife, including lions, elephants and giraffes.

The tour coincides with the prime game viewing season in September and will start in the Moremi Game Reserve on Chief's Island in the Okavango Delta.

Guests will then move on to the Chobe National Park, and the chance to see lions, leopards, jackals, elephants, buffalo, rhinos, giraffes, impalas and baboons.

Visit : [www.tatraphotographyworkshop.com](http://www.tatraphotographyworkshop.com). Contact : James Brooke at [MountainParadise@rooster.co.uk](mailto:MountainParadise@rooster.co.uk).

## Aurora Expeditions, Antarctica

Aurora Expeditions has reported a steady increase in the number of solo travellers booking on their small ship adventures, with as many as 29% of passengers travelling alone.

Carrying a maximum of 54 passengers, Aurora Expeditions' ice-strengthened vessel Polar Pioneer is suited for small groups.

Led by a team of Polar Experts, voyages lend themselves to an informal style of travel, complete with open bridge policy, guided excursions, lecture programme and a diverse range of activity options.

Aurora offers a cabin-sharing service to keep the cost down for would-be solo travellers.

Visit [www.auroraexpeditions.com.au/solotravellers](http://www.auroraexpeditions.com.au/solotravellers). Contact : Fiona Twyford at [fiona@auroraexpeditions.com.au](mailto:fiona@auroraexpeditions.com.au).

## What's on in 2014

### **The Bregenzer Festspiele, Austria**

23 July to 24 August 2014

The Bregenzer Festspiele (Bregenz Festival) is a performing arts festival held every July and August in Bregenz, Austria.

Founded in 1946, the festival presents a wide variety of musical and theatrical events in several venues with the Seebühne staging large-scale opera or musical performances on a stage over water on the shores of Lake Constance.

Visit : [www.bregenzerfestspiele.com/en/](http://www.bregenzerfestspiele.com/en/). Contact : [presse.bregenzerfestspiele.com](mailto:presse.bregenzerfestspiele.com)

### **Lumberjack World Championships, Wisconsin, USA**

24 to 26 July 2014

The annual Lumberjack World Championships in Hayward features over 21 events, including men and women's logrolling, power-sawing, speed-climbing, axe-tossing and chopping.

Visit : [www.lumberjackworldchampionships.com](http://www.lumberjackworldchampionships.com). Contact : Diane McNamer at [dianemcnamer@hotmail.com](mailto:dianemcnamer@hotmail.com).

### **The Vanishing Tastes Festival, Alacati, Turkey**

6 to 8 June 2014 and 10 to 12 October 2014

Alaçatı is an Aegean town on the western coast of İzmir Province in Turkey, which is known for its architecture, vineyards and windmills.

The first International Vanishing Tastes Festival will celebrate the traditional home cooking of the Aegean region that has been lost or is on the verge of being lost.

The first edition of this twice-annual festival in June will feature spring and summer foodstuffs from the İzmir region around Alacati, while the second festival for 2014, to be held on 10-12 October, will focus on autumn and winter recipes to delight the taste buds.

In addition to its cuisine, Alacati offers unspoilt sandy beaches and bays, lively beach clubs and an international windsurfing scene.

Explore Alacati is an umbrella association representing 27 hotels in Alacati.

Visit : [www.explorealacati.com](http://www.explorealacati.com). Contact: Serra Celikkan at [alacati@redmintcomms.co.uk](mailto:alacati@redmintcomms.co.uk).

### **The World Choir Games, Riga, Latvia**

9 to 19 July 2014

The World Choir Games 2014 will be held in Riga, this year's European Capital of Culture.

The Games, the world's largest choir music festival, aims to bring together choirs in friendly competition, regardless of nationality, race, musical style or size of the choir or ensemble. Over 20 000 singers from 57 countries will take part in competitions, concerts and workshops led by world-class musicians.

The World Choir Games have been held since 2000 and are held every two years in cities around the world. Over ten days, Riga's best concert halls and parks will host competitions in 29 categories, friendship concerts, and a parade of participants

Visit [www.singriga.lv](http://www.singriga.lv). Contact: Ilze Salna at [ilze.salna@Riga2014.org](mailto:ilze.salna@Riga2014.org).

### **Goodwood Festival Of Speed, Goodwood, West Sussex UK**

26 to 29 June 2014

The largest event of its kind in the world features the Cartier Style et Luxe competition, the Forest Rally Stage and The Bonhams Sale of fine cars, exhibition and activity areas.

Festival highlight is the hill climb competition, which takes place on a 1.16 mile course and sees cars climbing a steep and narrow estate road and heading to the top of the South Downs.

Visit : [www.goodwood.co.uk](http://www.goodwood.co.uk). Contact : Janet Bradley at [speed@goodwood.co.uk](mailto:speed@goodwood.co.uk).

### **Robeco Summer Nights, Royal Concertgebouw, Amsterdam, The Netherlands**

28 June-29 August 2014

For more than 25 years, the Royal Concertgebouw offers two months of informal and accessible performances including classical to jazz, film scores and cabaret.

Visit : [www.concertgebouw.nl/en/robeco-summernights](http://www.concertgebouw.nl/en/robeco-summernights). Contact : Simone Sagi at [ssagi@holland.com](mailto:ssagi@holland.com).

### **The Henley Festival, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire UK**

9 to 13 July 2014

The festival features riverside and floating stage performances of jazz, classical and operatic acts, firework displays, as well as visual arts, comedy and street theatre.

Visit : [www.henley-festival.co.uk](http://www.henley-festival.co.uk). Contact : Amy Rackham at [amy@amazingmedia.co.uk](mailto:amy@amazingmedia.co.uk).

### **North Sea Jazz Festival, Ahoy, Rotterdam, The Netherlands**

11 to 13 July 2014

What is billed as the biggest indoor jazz festival in the world features 200 performances from over 1200 musicians.

Visit : [www.northseajazz.com](http://www.northseajazz.com). Contact : Marly Strik at [info@northseajazz.nl](mailto:info@northseajazz.nl).

### **The 5th President Bastille Festival, Bankside, London**

13 July 2014

London's largest free Bastille Day festival will celebrate France's national day with an extravaganza of all things French on Sunday 13 July in London's historic Bankside from midday until late.

Celebrating French food, culture and music, the festival will include food and drink sampling, French artisan food stalls and Président® cheese giveaways.

Throughout the day and evening Borough Market will be joining in with celebrations with great food from their array of French traders, wandering performers and a French themed demonstration kitchen. Street entertainment include promenading performance artists and musicians.

Website : [www.bastillefestival.co.uk](http://www.bastillefestival.co.uk). Contact : Louise Errington at [le@betterbankside.co.uk](mailto:le@betterbankside.co.uk).

### **The Positivus Festival, Salacgriva, Latvia**

18 to 20 July 2014

The 2014 Positivus Festival, the largest music and arts festival in the Baltic States, takes place from in the Latvian coastal town of Salacgriva.

In addition to live bands and DJ's, the Positivus Festival Cinema will show Latvian and foreign cinema classics and the newest Latvian and foreign animation, short-film and full-length feature films.

Visit : [www.positivusfestival.com/en](http://www.positivusfestival.com/en). Contact : Clare Dover at [clare@globalpublicity.co.uk](mailto:clare@globalpublicity.co.uk).

### **The Collingwood Elvis Festival, Ontario, Canada**

24 to 27 July 2014

The Annual Collingwood Elvis Festival takes place in the town of Collingwood near Georgian Bay on the banks of the scenic great lakes and two hours North-West of Toronto.

More than 70,000 visitors come to the town to pay homage to the King of Rock and Roll and enjoy four days of food, musical entertainment and family fun. Many of those attending will dress up as Elvis.

Visit : [www.collingwoodelvisfestival.com](http://www.collingwoodelvisfestival.com) and [www.ontariotravel.net/uk](http://www.ontariotravel.net/uk). Contact : [media@collingwoodelvisfestival.com](mailto:media@collingwoodelvisfestival.com).

### **Miami Spice**

1 August to 30 September 2014

The annual Miami Spice restaurant programme has discounted three-course lunch and dinner menus in restaurants throughout the Greater Miami area.

Visit : [www.iLoveMiamiSpice.com](http://www.iLoveMiamiSpice.com) and [www.MiamiAndBeaches.com](http://www.MiamiAndBeaches.com). Contact : Juliet Velazquez at [jvelazquez@gmcbv.com](mailto:jvelazquez@gmcbv.com).

### **Cromer Carnival Week, Norfolk**

16 to 22 August 2014

Cromer, which is located on the north Norfolk coast, is known for its tasty crabs, wide beaches and a traditional pier complete with a theatre providing seaside special variety shows.

The annual Cromer Carnival week includes crowning the carnival queen, prince and princess, a bonny baby competition and a children's fancy dress parade.

Visit [www.cromercarnival.co.uk](http://www.cromercarnival.co.uk) and [www.visitnorthnorfolk.com](http://www.visitnorthnorfolk.com). Contact : Kate Morfoot at [kate@junglepr.com](mailto:kate@junglepr.com).

### **VideoFest, Dallas Museum of Art**

9 to 19 October 2014

The *VideoFest*, held at the Dallas Museum of Art, in downtown Dallas, is the oldest and largest video festival in the United States.

Visit : [www.videofest.org](http://www.videofest.org). Contact: Lisa Taylor at [info@videofest.org](mailto:info@videofest.org).

### **Unusual events in England**

#### **Cotswold Olimpicks, Gloucestershire**

Late May (annually)

The Cotswold Olimpicks were founded by local barrister, Captain Robert Dover, in 1612 at Dover's Hill, above Chipping Campden.

The annual event attracts thousands of spectators and features some well-known countryside games such as tug-of-war, obstacle races and wrestling, as well as a few bizarre ones, including shin-kicking.

This involves two contestants who first fill their trouser legs with straw to help reduce the pain.

The players then hold arms and kick each other using steel-toe capped boots until one of the contestants is so bruised that he cannot stand the pain and admits defeat (although the rules have been since amended to make it a bit safer– steel toe caps are now banned!)

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

### **World Egg Throwing Championships, Lincolnshire**

29 June 2014

Contestants have to construct a gravity-powered egg-hurling device to launch an egg to a waiting team member.

Distances to be achieved start at 30 meters but can be extended up to 150 in the knock-out competition.

Another activity is the Russian Egg Roulette where two participants select from five hard boiled eggs and one raw egg which they have to smash them on to their own foreheads.

Visit : [www.swatonvintageday.com](http://www.swatonvintageday.com) and [www.eggthrowing.com](http://www.eggthrowing.com).

### **World Pea Shooting Championships, Cambridgeshire**

12 July 2014

Now in its 43<sup>rd</sup> year, the World Pea Shooting Festival started as a means of fundraising for the village of Witcham near Ely in Cambridgeshire but has progressed to receive international recognition with contenders coming from as far afield as the USA.

Skill will shoot one expert marksman (or woman) into the slot of World Champion, while the runners-up can commiserate at the village fete that accompanies the festivities.

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

### **International Worthing Birdman, West Sussex**

12 and 13 July 2014

The Birdman is a flight competition for human-powered flying machines held each summer in the picturesque seaside resort of Worthing on England's south coast.

Many flyers take part to raise money for charities; others design complex machines to aim for the distance prizes. The event attracts contestants from all over the world.

The Birdman competition started in 1971 along the coast in Selsey and then spent 29 years in Bognor Regis before relocating to Worthing in 2008.

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

### **World Snail Racing Championships, Norfolk**

19 July 2014

More than 300 snail slug it out for the title of 'Fastest Snail in the World' at the World Snail Racing Championships which have been held at Congham, near King's Lynn, in Norfolk, for over 25 years.

Anyone with a snail can enter and a number of heats are held before the grand final.

The winner receives a silver tankard stuffed with lettuce. The world record is currently held by a snail called Archie who completed the 13-inch course (set up on top of a table) in two minutes.

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

### **World Hen Racing Championships, Derbyshire**

2 August 2014

The Barley Mow pub in Bonsall stages speediest fowl races as hens are put through their paces over a 30 feet track. Views of the Peak District and local ale while the hens compete for the title.

Visit : [www.world-championship-hen-racing.com](http://www.world-championship-hen-racing.com)



---

**World Gravy Wrestling Championships, Lancashire**

August, dates TBC

The teams competing for the title, slip and slide about in lukewarm gravy with team members winning points for pinning the opposition down in the gravy.

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

Visit [www.visitengland.com](http://www.visitengland.com). Contact : Rishika Sharma at [Rishika.Sharma@visitengland.org](mailto:Rishika.Sharma@visitengland.org)

### **Events in British Columbia, Canada**

#### **Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival**

From 11 June 2014

For 25 years the Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival has been staged at Vancouver's Vanier Park. This season's production are A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Tempest and Cymbeline.

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

#### **Williams Lake Stampede**

27 to 30 June 2014

This annual celebration of western heritage is an action-packed programme that includes a mountain race and white-knuckle bull-riding competitions. Rodeo clowns included.

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

#### **Wanderlust Whistler**

31 July to 4 August 2014

Wanderlust Whistler, is a five-day festival that celebrates mindful living.

Visit : [www.whistler.com/wanderlust](http://www.whistler.com/wanderlust)

#### **Victoria Symphony Splash**

3 August 2014

The Victoria Symphony Splash attracts 40,000 people to the city's Inner Harbour, which will be transformed into an outdoor concert hall, complete with a floating stage.

Visit : [www.victoriasymphony.ca/splash](http://www.victoriasymphony.ca/splash)

#### **The Edge of the World Music Festival**

8 to 10 August 2014

The Edge of the World Music Festival, offers a range of musical styles and performances, backed by Tlell's natural beauty.

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

#### **Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Arts**

14 to 17 August 2014

The Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Arts is the country's longest-running summer gathering of Canadian writers

Visit : [www.writersfestival.ca](http://www.writersfestival.ca)

Visit : [HelloBC.com/events](http://HelloBC.com/events). Contact : Carla Mont at [Carla.Mont@DestinationBC.ca](mailto:Carla.Mont@DestinationBC.ca).



## Reasons to write about

### Climate Change - How to manage it – the first Green Growth & Travelism Summer School

Limburg, Belgium  
25 to 29 August 2014.

In 2015 world leaders will agree new frameworks for climate response and sustainable development.

The *Green Growth & Travelism Summer School*, taking place in Hasselt University in the province of Limburg, Belgium, will help travel and tourism managers and graduates prepare for this.

The initiative is being run by the Green Growth & Travelism Institute, a non-profit international University research and development network.

A series of lectures devoted to transport and hospitality sustainability topics and case studies will be given by leading experts in the fields of climate change, green growth, *travelism*, mobility and biodiversity.

These will be completed by field trips and interactive debates, focusing on practical applications and career development for course participants.

Sessions will be led by industry experts including :

- Goldman Award winner Ignace Schops, Director of Belgium's National Park and an Al Gore Leadership fellow
- Professor Geoffrey Lipman who played a leading role in WTTC and UNWTO Sustainability and Climate initiatives will be the Course Directors
- Professor Geert Wets, Head of the Hasselt University Transportation Research Institute.

There are 20 sponsored scholarships for the Summer School covering Green Growth, and Travel & Tourism.

The Green Growth & Travelism Institute is a non-profit international University with partners in Belgium, Australia, China, Peru, Korea, Indonesia, Zambia and the UK.

Its goal is to create an academic underpinning to the Green Growth & Travelism paradigm – with shared curriculum elements, summer schools, distance learning & entrepreneurship focused programs.

Visit : [www.ggtsummerschool.be](http://www.ggtsummerschool.be). Contact : Marie-Julie Chaput at [mariejulie.chaput@gmail.com](mailto:mariejulie.chaput@gmail.com).

### Liberation Route Europe, Holland

Liberation Route Europe has been established to enable visitors to get an insight into the actions in the east of North Brabant, around Arnhem, Nijmegen and the Veluwe in 1944 and 1945.

These areas were key in the final stages of the Second World War - in Operation Market Garden and the Rhineland Offensive.

The route takes in 95 audio spots, each marked by a large boulder and each with its own interesting and often moving story about the civilians and soldiers who lived and fought there in 1944-45.

### Operation Market Garden

In September 1944, in an attempt to end the war before Christmas, the Allies launched Operation Market Garden.

## **Operation Market Garden**

(cont)

This was the code name for an enormous allied offensive that consisted of large-scale airborne landings (Market) and an infantry advance from Belgium, through North Brabant towards the Maas, Waal and Lower Rhine rivers (Garden).

British, Polish and American airborne troops were ordered to take the bridges over these three Dutch rivers. The ground forces were charged with the quick advance towards Lake IJssel in the north.

The aim was to cut off the German troops in the west of Holland so that the Allies could make their advance into the Ruhrgebiet, the industrial heart of Germany, and on to Berlin.

Despite the fact that this was one of the largest airborne operations in history, Operation Market Garden was only partially successful.

After heavy fighting, Nijmegen and large parts of North Brabant were liberated, but Arnhem was not. The winter that followed for Arnhem and the Veluwe was a terrible one.

The final push for freedom came in February 1945: Operation Veritable and with it, the start of the great Rhineland Offensive.

## **The Liberation Route Europe Foundation**

Together with over sixty international partners in England, France, Germany and Poland, the Liberation Route Europe Foundation is working on rolling out the route that the allied forces took through Europe in order to put an end to the Second World War.

Its main partners include the British tourist organisation Visit Kent, the Imperial War Museum, the French Basse-Normandie and the German Rureifel Tourismus.

The 3000-kilometre-long route starts in southern England and goes via Normandy, through Belgium and the south east of Holland on to Berlin.

From the opposite direction, the route runs from Gdansk to Berlin.

The official launch of Liberation Route Europe takes place on the beaches of Normandy on 6 June 2014, exactly seventy years after D-Day.

A travelling exhibition which tells the story of the Liberation Route Europe will travel across Europe.

Visit : [www.liberationroute.com](http://www.liberationroute.com). Contact : Simone Sagi at [ssagi@holland.com](mailto:ssagi@holland.com).

## **The Wild Turkey Distillery and the Kentucky Bourbon Trail, Kentucky**

The new \$100 million Wild Turkey Distillery Visitor Centre is located on a hill 275 feet above the Kentucky River.

As one destination on the Kentucky Bourbon Trail it expects to welcome approximately 80,000 guests this year.

Massive glass windows look down on the Kentucky River, giving visitors a chance to drink in the Commonwealth's spectacular beauty, while also sampling the whiskies.

The Wild Turkey distillery situated on a deep limestone shelf on the Kentucky River, which acts as a natural filter and provides the distillery with crystal clear water, vital to making such a high quality product.

## The Kentucky Bourbon Trail

The Kentucky Distillers' Association formed the Kentucky Bourbon Trail tour to give visitors a firsthand look at the art and science of crafting Bourbon, and the rich history and proud tradition of the states signature spirit.

It began in the 1700s with the first settlers of Kentucky. Like most farmers and frontiersmen, they found that getting crops to market over narrow trails and steep mountains was a daunting task.

They soon learned that converting corn and other grains to whiskey made them easily transportable, prevented the excess grain from simply rotting, and gave them some welcome diversion from the rough life of the frontier.

Since then, generations of Kentuckians have continued the heritage and time-honored tradition of making Bourbon, unchanged from the process used by their ancestors centuries before.

Bourbon tourism has attracted nearly 2.5 million visitors from all 50 states and 25 countries to the Kentucky Bourbon Trail tour in the last five years.

Visit : [www.kybourbontrail.com](http://www.kybourbontrail.com) and [www.wildturkeybourbon.com](http://www.wildturkeybourbon.com). Contact : Claire Clark at [claire@genuinepr.com](mailto:claire@genuinepr.com).

## The City of Vancouver, Canada

The City of Vancouver, is a coastal seaport city on the mainland of British Columbia.

### The annual Vancouver Folk Music Festival

18 to 20 July 2014

The 37th annual *Vancouver Folk Music Festival*, at Jericho Beach Park, offers 60 eclectic acts converge, including Joan Baez, Amos Lee, Seun Kuti & Egypt 80 and the Great Lake Swimmers,.

Visit : [www.thefestival.bc.ca](http://www.thefestival.bc.ca)

### Vancouver Brewery Tours

Behind-the-scenes excursions with Vancouver Brewery Tours takes a look at the city's craft breweries.

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

### Prohibition City

Forbidden Vancouver's popular *Prohibition City* tour explores Vancouver in the 1910s and 1920s — a world of bootlegging and speakeasies and showgirls.

Visit : [www.forbiddenvancouver.ca](http://www.forbiddenvancouver.ca)

### Vancouver Art Gallery

The Vancouver Art Gallery has Canadian artist and author Douglas Coupland staging the City of Glass - the first major in-depth exhibition of the artist's visual art.

Visit : [www.vanartgallery.bc.ca](http://www.vanartgallery.bc.ca)

### Burdock & Co

Main Street's Burdock & Co offers Chef Andrea Carlson's ever-changing "vegetable-focused share-plate" approach that celebrates fresh-from-the-farm leafy greens and local, pasture-raised meat in equal measures.

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

## The Loden

The Loden is a boutique hotel on Coal Harbour, with a spa suite and traditional French bistro fare.

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

Visit : [www.tourismvancouver.com](http://www.tourismvancouver.com). Contact : Carla Mont at [Carla.Mont@DestinationBC.ca](mailto:Carla.Mont@DestinationBC.ca).

## Pula, Croatia

Pula is a city located on the southern tip of the Istrian peninsula - the largest of the Adriatic Sea and the most western located region of Croatia.

The Arena of Pula is among the largest surviving Roman arenas in the world, being a fully preserved 1st century Roman amphitheatre it is still used for performances by international renowned artists.

Pula is also a good starting point for a sailing trip around the Dalmatian Coast with its 1,000 islands.

The Istria's coastline is 537km long with azure-blue sea with bays and blue flag awarded beaches

The area has seven Unesco World Heritage sites and the Brijuni national park, a collection of 14 islands which was the summer residence of Josip Broz Tito.

Istria is home to two of Europe's biggest summer music festivals :

- Outlook- a drum & bass and dance festival (3-7 September 2014, and
- Dimensions – and underground electronic festival (27-31 September).

## Park Plaza Belvedere Medulin

The Park Plaza Belvedere Medulin, which opens in June 2014 in Pula, will have 427 rooms and a 1200 square metre spa with indoor and outdoor pool.

The Park Plaza Belvedere Medulin joins Park Plaza Histria Pula, Park Plaza Verudula, Pula and Park Plaza Medulin, which were launched in 2012.

Visit : [www.pulainfo.hr/en](http://www.pulainfo.hr/en) and [www.ParkPlaza.com](http://www.ParkPlaza.com). Contact : Maria Karapandeli at [mkarapandeli@pphe.com](mailto:mkarapandeli@pphe.com).

## Branson, Missouri

Branson, which is promoted as the Live Music Show Capital of America, features more than 80 live shows every day during the season.

Silver Dollar City, features 30 rides and attractions, live shows and restaurants.

Festivals and events at Silver Dollar City this summer include:

- Bluegrass & BBQ Festival (8 May to 1 June 2014) featuring Bluegrass music's top artists
- Southern Gospel Picnic ( 22 August to 1 September 2014), featuring performances by top Southern Gospel artists; and
- Country Music Weekend from (6 and 7 September 2014), with concerts by the stars of classic country.

Branson also features the Titanic Museum Attraction, and the Branson Landing on Lake Taneycomo, in downtown Branson, which features festivals, musical events, a variety of waterfront dining options, and 400,000 sq. ft. of shops, boutiques, galleries and specialty gift shops.

## Chateau On The Lake Resort & Spa

The Chateau on the Lake Resort & Spa, a AAA Four-Diamond resort, enjoys scenic views of Table Rock Lake and surrounding mountains.

Chateau Marina offers an array of boat rentals, parasailing, catamaran and guided fishing excursions, scuba diving and snorkeling.

Visit : [www.bransontourismcenter.com](http://www.bransontourismcenter.com) and [www.ChateauOnTheLake.com](http://www.ChateauOnTheLake.com).

Contact: Karen Lamonica at [klamonica@chisano.com](mailto:klamonica@chisano.com).

## The European bison in Romania

The European bison, the continent's largest wild land mammal, used to roam across Europe until it was hunted to extinction in the wild in 1927.

Seventeen European bison have now been introduced into the Tarcu Mountain Reserve in Romania's Southern Carpathians, with a further 10 more to be released during this summer.

The initiative is a partnership between Rewilding Europe and WWF Romania.

Wildlife Worldwide offers trips to witness the further reintroduction of bison between mid-June and the end of August.

Extinct from the area for over 250 years, this new bison population has been brought in from several corners of Europe and within 10 years should see 500 European bison living in total freedom in an area spanning 59,000 hectares of remote mountains, meadows and valleys.

Visit : [www.rewildingeurope.com](http://www.rewildingeurope.com), [www.wildlifeworldwide.com](http://www.wildlifeworldwide.com). Contact : Julia Spence at [juliaspence.pr@gmail.com](mailto:juliaspence.pr@gmail.com).

## A place to stay

### Belmond La Residencia, Mallorca

The luxury Belmond La Residencia, Mallorca, is located by mountains on Mallorca's north-west coast.

One of Spain's finest luxury boutique hotels, the resort comprises twin manor houses and award-winning spa in lush gardens among olive and citrus groves on the edge of the artists' village of Deià.

Guests can enjoy a complimentary two-hour boat ride along the rugged Mallorcan coastline while exploring the secluded coves.

Belmond La Residencia is also home to one of Spain's largest permanent sculpture gardens. The displays include pieces by established international sculptors as well as up-and-coming makers.

Visit : [www.hotel-laresidencia.com](http://www.hotel-laresidencia.com). Contact : Louise Davis at [louise.davis@laresidencia.com](mailto:louise.davis@laresidencia.com).

### The Nam Hai, Hoi An, Vietnam

The Nam Hai is situated on a 1 km stretch of white beach of Ha My, near the historic town of Hoi An.

The hotel has sixty, one-bedroom villas as well as forty one-to-five bedroom pool villas, each with views across the South China Sea and nearby Cham Islands.

Facilities include a luxury spa, fitness and yoga centre, two gourmet restaurants, an Organic Farm, cookery school, Kids' Club and a Colin Montgomerie-designed 18-hole golf course.

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

### **The DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel & Residences Dubai - Al Barsha**

Hilton Worldwide and DoubleTree by Hilton have opened the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel & Residences Dubai - Al Barsha.

The hotel is located within a short walking distance of Mall of The Emirates, with its Ski Dubai attraction, the first indoor ski resort in the Middle East.

The 359 room property is the first DoubleTree by Hilton hotel to open in the Emirate of Dubai and the second to open in the United Arab Emirates this year.

Other DoubleTree by Hilton locations in the UAE are:

- DoubleTree by Hilton Ras al Khaimah
- DoubleTree by Hilton Resort & Spa Marjan Island, and
- DoubleTree by Hilton Dubai – Jumeirah Beach (will open late 2014).

Visit : [www.news.doubletree.com](http://www.news.doubletree.com). Contact : Maggie Giddens at [maggie.giddens@hilton.com](mailto:maggie.giddens@hilton.com).

### **Waterstone Resort & Marina Boca Raton**

DoubleTree by Hilton and Hilton Worldwide has opened the Waterstone Resort & Marina Boca Raton, located just 25 miles from Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport and Palm Beach International Airport.

The refurbished 139-room hotel is 300 yards from the Atlantic Ocean and overlooks the Intracoastal Waterway.

The property offers a base for those wanting to enjoy shopping in the boutiques of Boca Raton, fishing and water sports, golf on some of the region's courses and the Gold Coast beaches of South Florida.

Visit : [www.waterstoneboca.com](http://www.waterstoneboca.com). Contact : Atiya Frederick at [atiya.frederick@hilton.com](mailto:atiya.frederick@hilton.com).

### **Beachcomber's Shandrani Resort & Spa, Mauritius**

Surrounded by the Blue Bay Marine Park and 70 acres of manicured gardens, Beachcomber's Shandrani Resort & Spa in Mauritius is fringed by three white sand beaches.

Guests can explore the marine park and local nature reserve and observe the spectacular number of tropical creatures in the Indian Ocean which are endemic to Mauritius.

Visit : [www.beachcombortours.co.uk](http://www.beachcombortours.co.uk). Contact : Charlie Fox at [Charlie@grifcopr.com](mailto:Charlie@grifcopr.com).

### **Fort Young Hotel, Dominica**

Built into the original fort (first constructed in 1699), The Fort Young is one of Dominica's leading hotels and a landmark in the capital city Roseau.

The hotel has 32 original Fort rooms, 38 Oceanfront and Deluxe Oceanfront rooms, along with three suites.

The Caribbean island of Dominica enjoys an abundance of natural attractions including 365 rivers, the second largest boiling lake in the world, volcanoes, mountains, waterfalls, hot springs, black and white sand beaches.

Much of the island is protected under national parks, one of which has been given UNESCO World Heritage status.

Dominica is a popular destination for divers, hikers, birdwatchers and nature-lovers.

Visit : [www.fortyounghotel.com](http://www.fortyounghotel.com) and [www.Dominica.dm](http://www.Dominica.dm). Contact : [news@adams-pr.com](mailto:news@adams-pr.com).

# An Alliance focus on

## The Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games

**Glasgow City Marketing Bureau (GCMB), VisitScotland (VS) and VisitBritain (VB) have launched a dedicated digital newsroom for UK and International media for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.**

This online portal will be a dedicated space where all 2014 accredited media, and other UK and international consumer, lifestyle, features, news, sports, business and digital media, can source any information they require on Glasgow, Scotland and the rest of the UK.

It will also support the Destination Media Hub facility operating at the iconic IET Glasgow: Teacher Building during the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Users will have online access to the latest travel and destination news, rich multimedia content – including HD B-Roll and high-res imagery – plus a range of exciting media offers, fact sheets and other useful resources.

The registration process is quick and simple, and media are invited to sign-up.

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

[@mediahub2014](https://twitter.com/mediahub2014)

The portal is accompanied by a dedicated Twitter feed @mediahub2014.

### The Destination Media Hub

Located in St Enoch Square, in the Glasgow city centre, the DMH will operate from Sunday 20 July to Monday 4 August between 8am and 8pm.

It will serve as a 'one-stop shop' for visiting UK and international press and broadcasters with full media facilities.

### Contact :

- Amy Riddell, Glasgow City Marketing Bureau at [amy.riddell@glasgowcitymarketingbureau.com](mailto:amy.riddell@glasgowcitymarketingbureau.com)
- Michael McCuish, VisitScotland at [Michael.McCuish@visitscotland.com](mailto:Michael.McCuish@visitscotland.com)
- VisitBritain Press Office at [pressandpr@visitbritain.org](mailto:pressandpr@visitbritain.org)

### Glasgow City Marketing Bureau

Glasgow City Marketing Bureau is the official destination marketing organisation for the city of Glasgow.

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

### VisitScotland

VisitScotland is Scotland's national tourism organisation.

Its core purpose is to maximise the economic benefit of tourism to Scotland.

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

### VisitBritain

VisitBritain is the national tourism agency, responsible for marketing Britain worldwide and developing Britain's visitor economy.

Its partners include government agencies such as UKTI and the British Council, airlines and operators, as well as the official tourism bodies for London, England, Scotland and Wales.

Visit : [www.visitbritain.org](http://www.visitbritain.org) and [www.visitbritain.com/media](http://www.visitbritain.com/media).



## 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

## The International Travel Writers Alliance



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

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



AllWays traveller provides independent travellers with an equally independent view of the world from the professional travel journalists in the Alliance

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

**Ashley Gibbins** FCIPR, MCIOJ  
0776 419 8286  
Ashley@itwalliance.com

## AllWays traveller

