



The Alliance

Bulletin

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

Mid-May 2014

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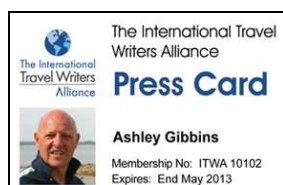
Appendix one

Registering with the Alliance

To register with the Alliance visit : 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.

Join and follow



http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=2978414&trk=hb_side_g



@writersalliance

The Alliance 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

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

Brad and Sofies Scandinavia

Brad and Sofies Scandinavia is a film production company based in Sweden. We specialize in TV documentaries on traveling the Nordic countries and learning About the culture.

The company also has a monthly magazine promoting the culture as well as interesting articles in English and Swedish on the culture and interesting people.

The company will shortly be providing travel consulting on visiting the locations in our shows and other destinations in our magazine and social media features.

Visit : www.bradandsofiesscandinavia.com. Contact : Brad Thornton at bradleyjthornton@yahoo.com.

1066 Country, UK

1066 Country Marketing is a public private partnership which has been running since 1993.

Funding is provided by Hastings Borough Council, Rother District Council, Wealden District Council, English Heritage, National Trust and private membership subscriptions of 1066 Country attractions, accommodation providers and businesses.

Visit : www.visit1066country.com. Contact : Jane Ellis at jmellis@hastings.gov.uk

Huntsville, Alabama USA

The high-tech city of Huntsville which sprawls at the foot of a mountain in North Alabama is equally at home in the 19th century or the 21st.

Huntsville's tourist attractions reflect the heritage of Alabama's first English-speaking city, the strife of the American Civil War and the accomplishments of America's rocket scientists.

The city is nicknamed "*The Rocket City*" for its close history with U.S. space missions. Huntsville has been important in developing space technology since the 1950s.

Huntsville Botanical Garden, home to the nation's largest open-air butterfly house.

Visit : www.huntsville.org. Contact : Charles Winters at cwinters@huntsville.org.

Festivals Edinburgh, Scotland

Festivals Edinburgh is the umbrella organisation for the city's 12 Festivals.

- Imagine Festival
- Edinburgh Art Festival
- Edinburgh Festival Fringe
- Edinburgh's Hogmanay & New Year Party
- Edinburgh International Book Festival
- Edinburgh International Festival
- Edinburgh International Film Festival
- Edinburgh International Science Festival
- Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival
- Edinburgh Mela
- Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, and
- Scottish International Storytelling Festival

Festivals Edinburgh lead on promoting the 'Edinburgh Festivals' brand.

The group press office works with travel and lifestyle outlets and can help with imagery, broadcast, press visits and general information requests."

Visit : www.edinburghfestivals.co.uk . Contact : Joe Walton at Media@festivalsedinburgh.com.

Destination British Columbia, Canada

Destination British Columbia has been mandated to fulfill several key marketing and leadership responsibilities critical to the long-term, sustainable growth of the provincial tourism industry

Visit : www.destinationbc.ca. Contact : Clare Mason at clare.mason@gov.bc.ca

Agencies

ADPR (UK)

ADPR devises and delivers smart, creative and tactical PR campaigns that really reach and engage target audiences.

Whether your need is to launch a new product, revitalise or change perceptions of an existing brand, or protect your reputation in a crisis, you can rely on ADPR to deliver excellent results.

Visit : www.adpr.co.uk. Contact : Eloise Evans at eloise@adpr.co.uk

News

Waldorf Astoria Jerusalem

Hilton Worldwide's Waldorf Astoria Hotels & Resorts is to open the Waldorf Astoria Jerusalem in 2015.

Located within a uniquely preserved ottoman façade, the new luxury hotel is located on the site of the former Palace Hotel, previously one of Jerusalem's most renowned properties, which last received guests in 1935.

It is within walking distance of the walls of the Old City and the Jaffa Gate, Waldorf and adjoins Jerusalem's upscale shopping centre, Mamilla, and overlooks Independence Park.

Visit : www.waldorfastoria.com. Contact : Nicole Lovett at nicole@grifcopr.com.

Seven Oaks Golf Course, Hamilton, NY

Colgate University has selected Billy Casper Golf, the US owner-operator of golf courses, country clubs and resorts, to manage its Seven Oaks Golf Course (Hamilton, NY).

Located one hour southeast of Syracuse, NY, the 6,915-yard, par 72 Seven Oaks is open to the public with memberships available.

Billy Casper currently has 150 properties in 28 US states.

Visit : www.seveoaksgolf.com and www.billycaspergolf.com. Andy DeKeuster at adekeuster@billycaspergolf.com.

Anthem of the Seas

Anthem of the Seas, Royal Caribbean International's newest and most technologically developed cruise ship, will start cruising in April 2015.

Sailing from Southampton, Anthem of the Seas is due to feature a number of "firsts at sea" including a Jamie's Italian, a skydiving experience called RipCord by iFLY and the North Star, a capsule that extends 300 feet above the ocean to deliver 360-degree views for guests.

Anthem of the Seas will offer 19 Mediterranean sailings beginning on 22 April 2015 before heading to Cape Liberty in November 2015.

The new itineraries range from three to 16 nights with a strong focus on 'taster' cruises designed attract a new breed of British holidaymaker who hasn't previously considered a cruise holiday.

Visit : www.royalcaribbean.co.uk. Contact : Katie Wright at katie.wright@sirencomms.com.

Former KGB House in Rīga, Latvia

The former building of the Committee for State Security of the Soviet Union in Rīga is now open.

The building known as the Corner House and the KGB house was where Latvians were imprisoned, interrogated and even shot.

The KGB house, which stood empty for many years, will now stage exhibitions and cultural events designed to enable people to tackle their personal histories associated with this building.

Visit : www.riga2014.org. Anna Muhka at anna.muhka@riga2014.org.

New hotels in Macau, China

More than 12,000 new hotel rooms are planned over the next three years in Macau. Brands looking to open properties include :

- J W Marriot and Ritz-Carlton's first all-suite hotel as part of Phase 2 of the Galaxy Macau integrated resort
- The Parisian Macao which will feature a half size replica of France's most iconic symbol, the Eiffel Tower
- the opening of the Hollywood Roosevelt Macau
- the MGM Cotai
- the Lisboa Palace resort which will include The Lisboa Palace Hotel
- the Palazzo Versace Macau, and
- the world's first KARL LAGERFELD Hotel.

Visit : www.macaotourism.gov.mo. Contact : Lucy Mayes at lucy@humewhitehead.co.uk.

Walking tours and films in Macau, China

The Macau Government Tourist Office has launched four new short films to accompany its collection of recently created walking tours.

Available online the films are designed to give visitors a taste of what to expect on each walking tour and also create a greater travel experience by complementing the walking tours iOS app and maps that can be downloaded for free via the MGTO website.

The four walking tours cover Historical Trails, Nature and Creativity, East meets West', and 'Arts and Culture and are intended to be leisurely strolls.

Visit : www.en.macaotourism.gov.mo/plan/walking_tours.php?id=549. Contact : Lucy Mayes at lucy@humewhitehead.co.uk.

Brody House, Budapest, Hungary

Brody House, founded in 2009 by British entrepreneurs Will Clothier and Peter Grundberg, operates as a guesthouse come boutique hotel with 11 unique and individually designed bedrooms for short term stays.

Brody House was built in 1896 for Dr. Vilmos Tauffer, a pioneering medical practitioner, who used it as his city residence, office and practice in what was the glamorous and exclusive 'Palace Quarter'.

Brody Stables

This town house in the heart of Budapest was built by Count Blaskovich as his city residence and stables for his race horse, Kincsem (the word for 'my treasure' in Hungarian). The building is currently undergoing renovation and is set to have approximately 22 luxury bedrooms.

Brody Studios

Brody Studios in the heart of Budapest was built at the end of the 1800s as a residential property. Today it houses artist studios, a gallery and event space.

Visit : www.brodyhouse.com. Contact: Sarah Taylor at sarah@taylormadepr.com.

Fred. Olsen's Black Watch's 'Rugged & Rural Canada' cruise

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines *Black Watch's* 'Rugged & Rural Canada' is an 11-night cruise, which departs from Liverpool on 14 August 2015.

Visit : www.fredolsencruises.com. Contact : Ruth Ryland at ruth.ryland@fredolsen.co.uk.

The English Hall of Fame

VisitEngland has announced the winners of its search for entries into the country's Hall of Fame.

History & Heritage

Bronze : The four surviving original copies of Magna Carta, sealed in 1215 at Runnymede, Surrey, and regarded by historians as the foundation of constitutional liberty in the English-speaking world

Silver : The smooth lawns and sweeping vistas of England's landscaping master, Capability Brown, as seen at Northumberland's Kirkharle Lake and Courtyard

Gold : Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, the world's oldest industrial complex and a crucial part of England's naval heritage

The Great, the Good and the Notorious

Bronze : Elusive graffiti artist Banksy, whose original murals can be spotted on a guided tour of Bristol's street art

Silver : Robin Hood, England's outlaw, whose world-famous legend is rooted in Sherwood Forest on the outskirts of Nottingham

Gold : Founder of the National Trust, Octavia Hill, whose birthplace museum in Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, is dedicated to her life and social reforms

Food & Drink

Bronze : The Bakewell Pudding, first made at a local inn in Derbyshire during the 19th century.

Silver : England's oldest working gin distillery in Plymouth, whose guided tours provide a glimpse into the centuries-old process of gin making

Gold : The sandwich, an essential part of afternoon tea, which was named in honour of its ingenious inventor, John Montagu, the 4th Earl of Sandwich.

Enjoy them cut up into dainty fingers at Woburn Abbey, where the tradition of afternoon tea was popularised around 1840.

Inventions & Discoveries

Bronze : England as the birthplace of the steam locomotive, whose steam train attractions can be found throughout the country.

A working replica of the world's first operational steam locomotive can be seen in action at Blists Hill Victorian Town in Ironbridge, Shropshire.

Silver : Sir Isaac Newton's family home at Woolsthorpe Manor in Lincolnshire, where the English physicist and mathematician first discovered his theory of gravity

Gold : Isambard Kingdom Brunel's engineering achievements in Bristol, including the magnificent Clifton Suspension Bridge and SS Great Britain passenger steamship

Sport & Leisure

Bronze : The annual BNY Mellon Boat Race (known also as the Oxford vs Cambridge Boat Race), established in 1829 and one of the world's oldest sporting events

Silver : The home of tennis, from Hampton Court Palace in Richmond-upon-Thames, where the sport is thought to have been invented, to Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum

Gold : The incidental birth of modern rugby during a football game at Rugby School in Warwickshire

Culture & Entertainment

Bronze : Glastonbury, the pinnacle of all festivals held at Worthy Farm in Somerset

Silver : Hampshire's Highclere Castle, the real-life location of the hugely successful Downton Abbey

Gold : The Beatles,

Visit : www.visitengland.org. Contact : Natalie Ashworth at Natalie.Ashworth@visitengland.org.

Leads

Ham Yard Hotel, London

The Ham Yard Hotel in Soho, London opens on 1 June 2014.

The development includes the hotel's 90 bedrooms and suites, 24 apartments, 13 shops and a restaurant and bar with outdoor dining and drinking.

There is a drawing room and library as well as the Soholistic Spa and Gym, 176 seat theatre, several and a 50's style bowling alley.

The rooftop garden has views of the London skyline. Interiors have been designed by Kit Kemp in modern British style.

Ham Yard, previously a deserted ¾ acre site, has an all-new village feel and connects Great Windmill and Denman Streets via a tree-filled public thoroughfare.

Set between the elegant sophistication of Mayfair and the edgy buzz of Soho, this is an inclusive space for local residents, workers and hotel guests to shop in the individual specialist stores, visit the theatre, eat, drink and entertain in style.

Visit : www.hamyardhotel.com. Contact : Sally Swadling at SallySwadling@firmdale.com.

Celebrity Cruises wine cruises

Celebrity Cruises and wine expert Oz Clarke host two cruises focussing on Europe's rich wine heritage.

On board Oz will offer a series of masterclasses, food and wine pairings and bespoke shore excursions.

The 12-night cruise takes in renowned vineyards throughout France, Spain and Portugal during the annual grape harvest.

Visit : www.celebritycruises.com. Contact : Louise James at LouiseJames@celebritycruises.com.

The Bloor St. Culture Corridor, Toronto, Canada

Twelve Toronto arts and culture organisations have set up the Bloor St. Culture Corridor to Market this area of the city.

Partners in the Bloor St. Culture Corridor include :

- the Bloor Hot Docs Cinema, a historic century-old cinema and one of the world's only documentary-focused theatres
- Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir and The Toronto Consort
- the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre and the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto,
- the Royal Ontario Museum, Gardiner Museum and the Bata Shoe Museum.

Visit : www.bloorstculturecorridor.com. Contact : Heather Kelly at info@bloorstculturecorridor.com.

Herdtracker : Discover Africa

Discover Africa has launched HerdTracker, a real time Google map which shows instant updates of the Serengeti's great migrations.

Real time updates are sourced from pilots who fly over the Serengeti and Masai Mara, safari guides on the ground, Tanzania National Parks Authority rangers and lodges in the Masai Mara in Kenya.

The migration map allows those planning their safari to see a month-by-month prediction, ensuring safari travellers are in the right place at the right time.

HerdTracker was started by Discover Africa's Carel Verhoef, a qualified safari guide who has lived in the Serengeti for ten years.

Visit : www.discoverafrica.com/herdtracker. Contact : Victoria Holmes at victoria@pragencyone.co.uk.

Dolomite Mountains bike tours

Italy's guided mountain travel company, Dolomite Mountains, is offering seven-day bicycle tours of fine wines and dining in the Dolomites.

The Dolomites is a UNESCO World Heritage Site embracing the northern Italian Alps where Italian, German and Ladin cultures and traditions overlap.

A professional bike guide provides a trip briefing, orientation and maps before participants cycle east through the fields, meadows and forests of the Alta Val Pusteria toward San Candido at 3,855 feet in the Sesto Dolomites Natural Park.

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

The chimps of Kyambura, Uganda

Kyambura Gorge, a deep and ancient forested gorge that runs through Uganda's Queen Elizabeth National Park, is home to a single community of 24 chimpanzees.

The Kyambura chimpanzees became isolated from neighbouring chimps in Kashoya-kitomi forest due to an increase in the local human population and habitat destruction over the past 15 years.

It is now an isolated chimpanzee community, cut off from the rest of the jungle, which must keep to the safety of the gorge or face the predator-ridden surrounding savannah.

The Kyambura Gorge Lodge is a modern eco-luxury lodge with eight bandas, all with views of Queen Elizabeth National Park and the Rwenzori Mountains in the distance.

Wildlife activities range from chimpanzee trekking in the Kyambura Gorge, to spotting a wide variety of savannah game and a selection of bird species, often best seen on the banks of the Kazinga Channel and on the open plains of Uganda's second-largest National park.

There are also volcanoes-only activities at the lodge, run by the Volcanoes Safaris Partnership Trust (VSPT), which connects guests to the conservation of wildlife and the nearby communities.

Visit : www.volcanoessafaris.com. Contact : Ros Boycott at ros@masonrose.com.

Largo Looker, Key Largo, Florida

Key Largo tour operator Largo Looker has opened in the Florida Keys and offers glass-bottom tours in its high-speed hydrofoil-design vessel.

Visit : www.largolooker.com and www.fl-keys.co.uk. Contact : Jo Thomas at jo.thomas@kbc-pr.com.

The Garden Theatre, Winter Garden, Florida

The Garden Theatre stages its 2014 Summer Movie Series, running from 12 June 12 to 31 August with a line-up includes 20 feature-length films, Thursday Vintage Favorites and Friday Cult Classics.

Located in the historic downtown Winter Garden on Plant Street, the Garden Theatre is a not-for-profit community organization. The theatre, which reopened 2008, showcases its productions in a Mediterranean Revival style venue.

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

Wild Planet Adventures'

Wild Planet Adventures' has received a "Top Tours of a Lifetime" award from the editors of National Geographic Traveler for its On the Jaguar's Trail - a jaguar spotting trip to Brazil.

Wild Planet operates wildlife eco-tours and safaris in nine countries and has now won this top honor for an unprecedented five of its nine destinations.

In addition to sighting jaguars in Brazil, guests on Wild Planet's trips can look for tigers in the wild in India; lions, leopards and cheetah in Zambia; jaguars of Peru on tours into the Amazon region; elusive clouded leopards in Thailand and clouded leopards and marbled (small wildcats) cats in Borneo.

Visit : www.wildplanetadventures.com. Contact : Dave Wiggins at dave@travelnewssource.com.

ITC Luxury Travel

ITC Luxury Travel has launched its new Europe and North Africa brochure, featuring a new collection of short haul and mi-haul destinations.

The collection includes countries and islands including Spain, Portugal and Madeira, the Greek islands, Cyprus, Turkey, Italy, France, Egypt, Morocco, Switzerland and Tunisia.

The hotels featured in the new ITC Luxury Travel Europe & North Africa Collection include:

Conrad Algarve, Quinta do Lago, Portugal

Styled on an 18th century palace, Conrad Algarve is located in Quinta do Lago, southern Portugal.

A popular golfing destination as well as a dining and spa retreat.

Princesa Yaiza Suite Hotel Resort, Lanzarote, Spain

Princesa Yaiza is a 5-star resort on the coast of Lanzarote. Designed in a traditional colonial style with eight outdoor pools, floral gardens and panoramic sea views, this relaxing retreat is ideal for families.

Royal Palm Marrakech, Morocco

A new opening in Morocco, the Royal Palm Marrakech faces the Atlas Mountains and lush Menara Gardens.

Set within palm and olive trees and the hotel has its own 27-hole championship golf course.

Hotel Arts Barcelona, Spain

This Ritz-Carlton hotel is known for its contemporary design. Including five restaurants, with the two Michelin-starred Enoteca restaurant, and a health and beauty centre.

Visit : www.itcluxurytravel.co.uk. Contact: Hannah Summers at Hannah@grifcopr.com.

Spring birding in Alaska

Alaska stages a number of birding festivals in spring.

During May, as many as five million shorebirds rest and feed in Cordova and this coincides with the Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival.

Visit : www.cordovachamber.com

Birders also head to the Kenai Peninsula for the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival and the and Kenai Birding Festival.

Visit : www.homer.alaska.org and www.kenaibirdfest.com.

In the north, there is the Tanana Migratory Bird Festival which equips while the Yakutat Tern Festival celebrates one of the largest and southernmost breeding colonies of Aleutian Terns.

Visit : www.alaskacenters.gov.

Visit : www.adfg.alaska.gov. Contact : Anne Sutton at anne.sutton@alaska.gov.

Care for the Wild International

Care for the Wild International is a charity dedicated to the conservation and welfare of wildlife around the world.

RIGHT-tourism stands for Responsible, Informed, Guilt-Free and Humane tourism and its website offers detailed, factual information on animal-related tourist attractions in every country of the world.

Visit : www.careforthewild.com and www.RIGHT-tourism.org. Contact : Chris Pitt at chris@Careforthewild.com.

The Abbotsbury Swannery, Dorset UK

The Abbotsbury Swannery is the only place in the world where visitors can walk through a colony of mute swans, see cygnets hatching and participate in mass feedings.

The Swannery was first established in the 11th century by Benedictine monks, who farmed the swans for lavish banquets. Each year about 100 breeding pairs of swans produce around 500 eggs.

Its swan population can double in June and July, when moulting swans become flightless and seek sanctuary.

In November and December, the population triples when freshwater weeds are dying off and hundreds of other swans come to Abbotsbury to feed on the plentiful eel grass.

Visit : www.abbotsbury-tourism.co.uk/swannery. Contact : Emily Pykett at emily@watershedpr.co.uk.

Deep Creek Lake, Maryland

Deep Creek Lake, in Garrett County, Maryland is the largest inland body of water in Maryland.

Like all lakes in the state, it is man-made and home to a wide variety of freshwater fish and aquatic birds. Fishing is extremely popular on the lake, for species such as largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and walleye.

Visit : www.deepcreek.com. Contact: Emily Tobin at emilyt@deepcreek.com.

What's on in 2014

Hello Indonesia, London

31 May 2014

Hello Indonesia will be a free one-day festival of Indonesia to be held in Trafalgar Square, London.

It will celebrate the cultural destination of Indonesia with a programme of entertainment.

The Republic of Indonesia is the largest archipelago in the world, comprising more than 17,000 tropical islands fringed with white sandy beaches.

Among the most well-known islands are Bali, Java, Kalimantan (formerly Borneo), Papua, Sulawesi (formerly Celebes), Sumatra, and the Maluku Islands (or better known as Moluccas, the original Spice Islands).

Visit : www.tourism-indonesia.co.uk. Contact : Sarah Habicht at sarah@humewhitehead.co.uk.

The 2014 Islay Festival, Scotland

23rd to 31st of May 2014

Fees Ile, the Islay Festival of Malt and Music, was founded to celebrate the heritage and culture of Isle of Islay.

Since 2000 Feis Ile has run in conjunction with the distilleries of Islay and Jura and Port Ellen Maltings.

Each distillery has its own open day, putting on special events and there is a diverse programme featuring traditional music, ceilidhs, Gaelic lessons, golf, bowling and whisky tasting.

The Festival is held in the last week of May every year.

Visit : www.theislayfestival.co.uk. Contact : Glenda Reid at Glenda.Reid@visitscotland.com.

Three boutique European festivals in June

SunSplash, Turkey

1 to 6 June 2014

Returning for its 6th year SunSplash is staged at Aspat Beach on the Turkish Mediterranean.

Located within a private bay, the festival site features a private palm fringed beach, a tropical style beach bar, a natural creek shaded by enormous eucalyptus trees, beach bungalow accommodation, historic ruins and the Aspat Mountain.

Visit : www.sunsplash-festival.com.

Meadows In The Mountains, Bulgaria

13 to 15 June 2014

Meadows In The Mountains is an annual music festival staged in Polkovnik Serafimovo, 850m above sea-level, and close to the Greek border in the Rhodope Mountains.

During the festival there are horse and cart taxis, mountain zip line, creative arts collectives & installations, downhill grass bob-sleighbing, horse riding and mountain rambling.

Visit : www.meadowsinthemountains.com

Weekend At The Edge Of The Lake, the Géronde Lake, Sierre, Switzerland

27 to 29 June 2014

The 8th edition of the Weekend At The Edge Of The Lake Festival is three days and three nights of concerts, live sets, DJ sets and visual art performances on the shore of this small Alpine lake.

There will be a visual arts programme with film screenings, photography, sculpture and theatre, trips to local vineyards and hill walks.

Visit : www.aubordeleau.ch.

Contact : Georgia at georgia@easytigerltd.com.

The Royal Highland Show, The Highland Showgrounds, Edinburgh, Scotland

19 to 22 June 2014

The Royal Highland Show is a celebration of Scottish farming, food and rural life. Over 100 Scottish food and drink exhibitors will attend alongside gourmet suppliers from across the UK.

Visit : wroyalhighlandshow.org. Contact : Judith O'Leary at judith@olearympr.co.uk.

Czech Castles Festival, Czech Republic

July and August 2014

The Czech Castles Festival is pop, rock and alternative music festival over the summer weekends at different historic locations.

www.ceskehrady.cz/cs. Contact : Martina Reková at martina.rekova@4press.cz

Zoofest, Montréal

10 July to 3 August 2014

The 6th Zoofest is a festival spotlighting emerging talents through burlesque, circus, alternative comedy, theatre and cabaret. Zoofest selects only the craziest and most disturbing, acts.

Visit : www.zoofest.com/en. Contact : Jo Wiggall-Lazarus at dquk@destinationquebec.co.uk.

Sand Blast, Atlantic City

18 to 20 July 2014

The 2014 Sand Blast, the largest mid-Atlantic summer gay and lesbian beach party, will be held in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Sand Blast originated in 2002 when a small group of New York City's gay and lesbian weekend homeowners in Asbury Park, NJ, decided to create a summer beach weekend so they could invite friends to the once thriving destination, with the goal of increasing its popularity.

It has grown into the largest mid-Atlantic summer gay and lesbian beach party.

The event's impact on Asbury Park created a thriving historic downtown, a boardwalk lined with shops, beaches packed with visitors and a vibrant and involved gay and lesbian community of over 600 households and thousands of LGBT visitors.

With the event outgrowing Asbury Park, Atlantic City with its many hotels, attractions, and party venues was seen as a natural relocation choice.

Visit : www.SandBlastWeekend.com. Contact: David Jefferys at Jefferys@altusagency.com.

The Positivus Festival, Salacgriva, Latvia

18 to 20 July 2014

The Positivus Festival is a three-day music festival held in the coastal town of Salacgriva is the largest music and arts festival in the Baltic States.

Visit : www.positivusfestival.com/en. Contact : Clare Dover at clare@globalpublicity.co.uk.

Second World Winter Masters Games, Québec, Canada

31 January to 8 February 2015

Québec City will host the second Winter World Masters Games in January 2015.

The sports included in the Games are :

- Alpine Skiing
- Cross-Country Skiing
- long track Speed Skating
- Ice Hockey
- Curling
- Winter Triathlon
- Snow Shoeing, and
- Climbing.

Visit : www.bonjourquebec.com. Contact : Jo Wiggall-Lazarus at dquk@destinationquebec.co.uk.

Events in Macau, China

Macau also spelled Macao, is one of the two regions of the People's Republic of China

25th Macau Arts Festival

To 8 June 2014

Performance artists from across the world gather in Macau for the annual Macau Art Festival.

Over the course of a month, audiences can enjoy a programme of local and international theatre, traditional and modern dance, Chinese and Western music, visual arts including circus at several UNESCO-listed auditoriums across Macau.

Macau International Dragon Boat Festival

31 May to 2 June 2014

The Dragon Boat Festival combines a traditional celebration with a sporting event.

Huge crowds gather to watch elaborately-designed dragon boats race to the sound of beating drums.

Macau Golf Open

23 to 26 October 2014

The Macau Golf Open will be hosted by the Macau Golf & Country Club in Coloane.

Visit : www.macaotourism.gov.mo. Lucy Mayes at lucy@humewhitehead.co.uk.

Events in Helsinki, Finland

The summer season of tourism in Helsinki, the capital of Finland, in the beginning of May and finishes at the end of September.

Helsinki Samba Carnaval

13 to 15 June 2014

Helsinki's annual Samba Carnaval brings the parades of the Samba schools to the city centre

Tuska

27 to 29 June 2014

Tuska is a heavy metal music festival.

The Jazz-Espa festival and Autumn Jazz Festival

28 July to 3 August 2014

The annual Jazz-Espa festival is staged in Esplanade Park and includes an open-air event when six Finnish bands perform.

The Jazz Finland festival takes place on 18-21 September 2014.

The Helsinki Festival

The annual Helsinki Festival is Finland's biggest multi-arts festival during which everyone is invited to create their own arts. Own events can be submitted to the Helsinki Festival before 19 August. Also a part of the

The Helsinki Design Week

4 to 14 September 2014

The annual Helsinki Design Week includes the biggest design warehouse sale in the Nordic countries.

Visit : www.visithelsinki.fi. Contact : Laura Itävaara at laura.itavaara@hel.fi

In Holland**Summer Carnival Rotterdam**

12 to 19 July 2014

The annual Summer Carnival in Rotterdam sees the city become a tropical street party.

The Battle of Drums is a contest between the 4 best brass bands in Holland and is held on Friday evening. On the Saturday, there is a street parade and music throughout the city centre where Latin artists and DJ's perform at specially organised parties.

Visit : www.zomercarnaval.nl.

Gaudeamus Musical Week

10 to 14 September 2014

The Gaudeamus Musical Week is an international festival for young composers and new music.

Visit : www.muzyiekweek.nl.

World Port Days, Rotterdam

5 to 7 September 2014

The World Port Days is an opportunity for visitors to get a behind the scenes tour of the largest port of Europe.

Visit : www.wereldhavendagen.nl.

Amsterdam Dance Event

17-21 October 2012

Europe's leading electronic music conference and the world's biggest club festival.

Visit : www.amsterdam-dance-event.nl.

Crossing Border, The Hague

15 to 19 October 2014

Crossing Border Festival in The Hague is one of the most popular international festivals for music and literature in Europe. During this controversial event, writers, musicians, poets and other artists combine spoken word, music, film and visual arts.

Visit : www.denhaag.com

Visit : www.holland.com. Contact : Simone Sagi at ssagi@holland.com

Southport Air Show, UK

20 and 21 September 2014

The 21st Southport Air Show is the biggest event of its kind in the North West with skilled pilots demonstrating some stunning aerobatics.

The flying programme this year includes The Red Arrows and the Typhoon (Eurofighter) already confirmed with other military and civilian to be announced in the coming weeks.

Visit : www.visitsouthport.com. Contact : Steve Christian at steve@visitsouthport.com.

Reasons to write about

The London Festival of Architecture

1 to 30 June 2014

The London Festival of Architecture (LFA) is an annual, city-wide festival featuring over 150 activities.

The 2014 theme CAPITAL provides the framework for the festival to explore London in its role as a major architectural capital, covering culture, people, the economy and the environment.

The LFA is delivered through a programme of events organised by London's leading cultural and academic institutions including :

- the Royal Academy of Arts
- Design Museum
- Serpentine Galleries
- the National Trust, and
- associated projects by architects, artists, designers and curators.

LFA Initiating Partners

The Architecture Foundation

The non-profit Architecture Foundation promotes contemporary architecture, urbanism and culture.

Involvement in the London Festival of Architecture aligns with its mission statement to help cultivate new talent and new ideas whilst stimulating engagement amongst professionals, policy makers and the broader public, and shape the quality of the built environment.

Visit : www.architecturefoundation.org.uk.

The British Council

The British Council is a Royal Charter charity, established as the UK's international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural relations.

As part of the global Arts team, the Architecture, Design, Fashion department develops exhibitions, seminars, workshops, collaborative projects and educational initiatives.

Visit : www.britishcouncil.org.

New London Architecture

New London Architecture (NLA) is the centre for London's built environment and provides an independent forum for debate about the future shape of the city.

As a key part of London's architectural community, promoting better buildings and places in the capital, its participation in the festival is clear – to promote change for the better and to encourage people to enjoy the city's architectural riches.

Visit : www.newlondonarchitecture.org.

RIBA London

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) champions better buildings, communities and the environment through architecture and its members.

The city-wide celebration of architecture in the capital is an important and relevant part of RIBA's activity. Participation in the festival enables RIBA to support architects and ambassadors for architecture and good design.

Visit : www.architecture.com/ribalondon.

Visit : www.londonfestivalofarchitecture.org. Contact : Nam Kha Tran at press@londonfestivalofarchitecture.org.

Adventures Cross-Country

Adventures Cross-Country (ARCC) is a leading provider of Community Service, Service Learning and Adventure Travel programs for youth ages 13 to 19.

For over 30 years ARCC has been offering life-changing experiences to students who participate in two- to four-week small group programs in 21 countries on six continents.

From teaching primary school English and building water purification projects in Africa to running whitewater rapids in Costa Rica or enhancing fluency in Spanish or Mandarin in Spain or China, ARCC brings youth face to face with the challenges, realities and beauties of nature and our global community.

For post-high school students ARCC operates Gap Programs in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

These offer an educational and cultural bridge between high school and college combining a rich academic curriculum with the experiential benefits of international travel.

ARCC projects include :

The Thailand Elephant Service

In Thailand students work alongside the mahout, a traditional elephant caretaker, bathing, feeding and riding elephants deep into the jungle while embarking on a journey to protect and care for these animals in their native land.

Students volunteer in a hill-tribe village, learn how to cook Thai food, spend the night among monks at a Buddhist monastery, explore the temple wonderland of Chiang Mai, scuba dive multi-colored coral reefs, whitewater raft the Pai gorges, teach English and make friendships with children in a local primary school.

The Costa Rica Service Ultimate

Student travelers embrace Costa Rican culture by working with school children and rural farmers on community service projects.

On route they whitewater raft through the jungle on the Pacuare River, surf an unspoiled coastline, patrol turtle nesting beaches, help a community build a shelter, do daily chores with a family and help educate village youth.

The Costa Rica Service Classic

Students teach English in a local school, whitewater raft through the jungle on the Pacuare River, engage in conservation and ecological preservation, come together with a rural community to build a shelter, plant a vegetable garden, explore lush rainforests, untouched beaches, and a rainbow of exotic wildlife, and surf the friendly waves of the Pacific Coast.

The Hawaii Service

Students engage with communities in helping preserve natural and cultural environments while sharing a laugh with local children at a boys and girls club, surfing, swimming and hiking the Na Pali coast.

Visit : www.adventurescrosscountry.com. Contact : Sara Widness at sara@widnesspr.com.

Michigan, USA

The US state of Michigan offers visitors the world's longest fresh water coastline, 100 wineries, 11,000 lakes and 1,300 miles of bike trails.

Harbor Springs which is located along the deepest harbour in the Great Lakes region is a 100 year old waterfront community and the start of the Michigan Highway 119 scenic drive.

Visitors can also explore one of the state's wine trails or tours including the Leelanau Peninsula Wine Trail, Lake Michigan Wine Trail near New Buffalo or the Wineries of Traverse City's Old Mission Peninsula.

There are over 800 public golf courses in Michigan including Sweetgrass in the Upper Peninsula, the par-three course at Treetops Resort in the Northern Lower Peninsula, and the Thousand Oaks Gold Club at Grand Rapids.

Visit : www.michigan.org. Contact Laura Mason-Byers at laura@cellet.co.uk.

Emilia-Romagna, Italy

Emilia-Romagna is a region of Northern Italy, comprising the historical regions of Emilia and Romagna, with its capital Bologna.

Enzo Ferrari Museum

A new contemporary gallery dedicated to Ferrari's founder has opened in Modena and showcases some of the company's finest vintage works.

In addition to the cars visitors are taken through 100 years of Ferrari history.

Visit : www.museocasaenzoferrari.it/en.

The Gelato Museum Carpigiani

The Gelato Museum Carpigiani in the company's headquarters just outside of Bologna, charts the rise of what the English term ice cream, and the Italians call gelato.

Visit : www.gelatomuseum.com.

Rimini

Rimini, the premier seaside resort on the Adriatic Riviera, has an historical and cultural centre.

The 'Biennale del disegno' until June 2014 sees 20 exhibitions set up in some of Rimini's most prestigious public places.

Visit : www.riminiturismo.it and www.biennaledisegnorimini.it.

Mille Miglia 2014

15-18 May

The Mille Miglia sees more than 400 historical automobiles celebrating the endurance road race on the secondary roads of Italy.

It runs from Brescia to Rome and return, passing through Bologna, Modena and Reggio Emilia.

Only vehicles that could have run in the original 24 races are eligible to enter, and only the most distinguished of those classic cars are chosen.

Visit : www.1000miglia.eu/2014-Edition.

Antiques in Ravenna, Rimini and Ferrara

Spring is the best time to wander the streets of Emilia Romagna and visit some of the many eclectic antiques markets, before they close up for the hotter months of July and August.

Mercato dell'Antiquariato in Lugo, Ravenna takes place in the Pavaglione, a former 19th century covered market that was built to house the thriving silk worm market.

Today, the building hosts a highly regarded antiques market with over 75 sellers offering their wares, from furniture and fabrics to ornate glassware and collectables.

Visit : www.romagnadeste.it

Rimini Antiqua

Rimini Antiqua transforms the historic city centre into a bustling marketplace, with antiques, tapestry and a vintage exchange market.

Visit : www.riminiturismo.it

Mercatino D'altri Tempi

Mercatino D'altri Tempi is located at the Piazza Savonarola and Piazza Castello in the historical centre of Ferrara, a UNESCO City of Art.

Visit : www.ferraraterraeacqua.it.

Visit : www.emiliaromagnaturismo.it/en and www.artcityemiliaromagna.com. Contact : Sam Hooper at Samantha.hooper@fourbgb.com.

The World Outgames

Miami Beach will stage the 2017 *World Outgames*, which is sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian International Sport Association (GLISA) and takes place over 10 days every four years in a different global city.

World Outgames are open to all who wish to participate, without regard to sexual orientation, and all competitions are arranged according to the skill level of the athletes.

Visit : www.glisa.org. Contact : Daniel Vaudrin at daniel@vaudrin.ca and Suzie Sponder at Suzie@gmcvb.com.

Micro-breweries in Colorado, USA

Colorado is home to more micro-breweries - or craft breweries - per capita than any other US state.

Thousands of different beers are produced in 230 small artisan brew houses and sold only in the state.

Brews carry names such as Fat Tire and Blue Moon to Big Bad Baptist and Modus Hoperandi.

The states success in craft beer lies within its topography - water is an essential ingredient in beer and the natural waters that make their way down the Colorado Rockies make for a good brew.

Visitors to the Rocky Mountain State can combine a holiday with an organised brewery tour.

The 18th Annual Colorado Brewers Rendezvous, organised by the Colorado Brewers' Guild is held in Salida, Colorado on the second Saturday in July where 75 Colorado craft brewers showcase world-class beers.

The Great American Beer Festival is held in Denver each autumn and has 2000 different brews from brewers from across the US.

Visit : www.colorado.com/english. Contact : Melissa at melissa@cellet.co.uk.

Wilderness Safaris' Pafuri Walking Trails, South Africa

Wilderness Safaris' Pafuri Walking Trails are open for the 2014 season, offering excursions in the private Makuleke Concession in the northern Kruger National Park.

Held from April to October each year, the three-night, four-day trails take place in Kruger's remote northern area.

Led by skilled guides and trackers, the trails follow paths made by Pafuri's animal inhabitants.

Habitats include the Limpopo and Luvuvhu rivers, floodplains, seasonal pans, baobab-dotted kopjes, woodland and ethereal riverine forest.

The Pafuri region is known for its seasonal large herds of elephant, buffalo, while hippo, and crocodile are abundant on the Luvuvhu River.

The area has the highest density of nyala in Kruger and species such as eland, Sharpe's grysbok and yellow-spotted rock dassie are present.

Impala, kudu, baboon, waterbuck, warthog and perhaps grey duiker or bushbuck can also be seen, as well as elusive lion and leopard.

The area is a lure for birdwatchers with species including the Böhm's spinetail, mottled spinetail, racket-tailed roller and grey-headed parrot.

A Pel's Fishing-Owl Census is also undertaken around June each year.

Wilderness Safaris operates camps and safaris in wildlife and wilderness reserves in Botswana, Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Visit : www.wilderness-safaris.com. Contact : Charlotte Rous at Charlotte@grifcopr.com.

Summer in New England, USA

While New England is known for its fall foliage, the State in summer offers over 6,000 miles of coastline with sandy beaches, scenic mountains, forests and lakes and warm weather.

Some of New England's summer activities include :

Whale Watching and Authentic Lobster Boat Fishing in Maine

The state of Maine is larger than all of the other New England states combined with 3,500 miles of coastline and a string of fishing harbors. Visitors can go whale watching 20 miles off the coast of Maine, where species of whales include Humpback, Minke, Pilot whales and occasionally Sperm and Orca.

'Bike and Boat Tour' of the Thimble Islands, Connecticut

The popular "Connecticut Shoreline Bike/Boat Tour" starts on the historic green in the town of Guilford, about 25 minutes east of New Haven (home to Yale University).

The 20 mile bike ride passes tidal marshes and sea estuaries and finishes at Stony Creek, a former world famous quarrying centre whose pink granite blocks were used as the base for the Statue of Liberty.

Island Cruises Onboard the Oldest Operating Mail Boat in the US – Lake Winnepesaukee, New Hampshire The US Mail boat, Sophie C., which is the oldest floating post office in the USA, offers visitors an opportunity to join island cruises that deliver mail to five of the islands around Lake Winnepesaukee.

Bike and Hike around Rhode Island

The southern coast of Rhode Island, the smallest U.S. state, has 100 miles of beaches. Visitors to South County can hike and bike and enjoy salt water fishing, camping, canoeing, kayaking, sailing, surfing, skiing, horseback riding and birding.

Walking Boston, Massachusetts

Boston is a walking city, with many incredible museums such as the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, the newly expanded Boston Tea Party Ships and Museum and the Old State House.

The 2.5 mile Freedom Trail includes 16 national historic sites followed by a 40 minute journey aboard Codzilla – a twin-turbo charged, 2,800 horse power speedboat.

Discover New England represents the six American states of Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Vermont.

Visit www.discovernewengland.co.uk. Contact: Jo Thomas at jo.thomas@kbc-pr.com.

Callaway Gardens, Georgia

Callaway Gardens located on 6,500 acres in Pine Mountain, Georgia includes a resort, preserve and residential community.

Highlights include a butterfly conservatory, horticultural center, discovery center, chapel, inland beach, nature trails, a zip line/obstacle course and special events throughout the year.

This conserved, sustainably-managed land is used for biological studies and environmental education programs.

Visit : www.callawaygardens.com. Contact : Rachel Crumbley at rcrumbley@callawaygardens.com.

A place to stay

ME hotels in Mallorca and Ibiza

ME Mallorca

The new ME Mallorca, which opens in May 2014, is located on the outskirts of Calvià along the beach front among pines and Mediterranean palms.

It is 8 km from Puerto Portals and 9 km from Port Adriano.

The resort has 246 rooms and 78 ME+ suites and there is the SkinC spa, evening dining centred around the garden and pool area with the combination of Mediterranean views and international cuisine.

ME Ibiza

The new ME Ibiza, which opens in June 2014, is located on a bay in Santa Eulalia the north of the Spanish island

The property has 200 guest rooms, two pools with concierge service and Bali beds, an on-site fitness centre and roof top Skinc spa.

The sea view roof terrace cocktail bar and restaurant will serve international cuisine complimented by DJ's playing Ibizan classics.

ME by Meliá

ME by Meliá is a contemporary brand from Meliá Hotels International with ME Hotels in London, Madrid, Cancun and Cabo.

Meliá Hotels International:

About Meliá Hotels International is one of the world's largest resort hotel chains with more than 350 hotels in 39 countries on 4 continents under its brands:

- Gran Meliá Hotels & Resorts
- Meliá Hotels & Resorts
- ME by Meliá
- Paradisus Resorts
- INNSIDE by Meliá
- Sol Hotels
- TRYP by Wyndham, and
- Club Meliá.

Visit : www.me-by-melia.com and www.melia.com. Contact : Sophie Kelk at Sophie.kelk@luchfordapm.com.

The Waldorf Astoria Amsterdam

The Waldorf Astoria Amsterdam opens on 1 May 2014 in the UNESCO area of Herengracht

The hotel is comprised of six historic town houses dating back to the 17th and 18th century.

First constructed in the 1600's, the buildings have been home to wealthy and influential residents and offer Rococo interiors, some of which are attributed to acclaimed artist Jacob Maurer (the Italian room).

The exterior of the six canal side patrician houses has been completely restored.

Visit : www.waldorfastoria.com/amsterdam. Contact : Lallie Fraser at lallie@grifcopr.com.

Anantara Emei Resort & Spa, China

Anantara Hotels, Resorts & Spas' has opened the Anantara Emei Resort & Spa, its third resort in China and the only luxury international hotel in this corner of southwest China.

The new 150-room resort is located at the foot of majestic Emei Mountain in Sichuan Province.

Mount Emei is the highest of China's Four Sacred Buddhist Mountains and a UNESCO World Heritage Site of sanctuaries, ancient trees, waterfalls, streams and springs.

Visitors to the area can either hike or take the cable car up to the summit of Mount Emei.

They can also see the world's highest golden Buddha statue, whose 48 metre height represents the 48 wishes of Amitable Buddha.

The area is also home to hot springs and those visiting in the autumn can enjoy the spectacle of red leaves from a series of excellent vantage points.

Exiu Lake is two kilometres away and provides a picturesque escape for walking, jogging and fishing.

One and a half hours drive from the resort, China's giant pandas can be found living in their natural habitat in the Chengdu Plain.

Anantara Emei Resort & Spa joins Anantara Xishuangbanna Resort & Spa which opened in Yunnan Province in January 2013 and Anantara Sanya Resort & Spa on Hainan Island which opened in November 2012.

Additional Anantara resorts are currently under development in Guiyang in Guizhou Province; Quindao Lake in Zhejiang Province; Baoting on Hainan Island; Dong Guan in Guangdong Province and Shanghai.

Visit : www.anantara.com. Contact : Hannah Summers at Hannah@grifcopr.com.

Minor Hotel Group

The Minor Hotel Group, operator of 100 hotels, resorts and serviced suites in 14 countries across Asia Pacific, the Middle East, Africa and the Indian Ocean, has added three properties in Mozambique to its portfolio.

The three properties are located on the northern coastline of Mozambique, operating as part of the Rani Resorts portfolio.

On the mainland, the 185-key Pemba Beach Hotel & Spa will be rebranded to AVANI Pemba Beach Hotel & Spa.

Located in the Quirimbas Archipelago, the boutique island properties – Medjumbe Private Island with 13 chalets and Matemo Island, currently with 24 villas – will both be rebranded to Anantara.

Matemo Island is currently closed for an extensive renovation and the addition of more keys.

Visit : www.minorinternational.com. Contact : Hannah Summers at Hannah@grifcopr.com.

St Mawes Retreats, Cornwall, UK

St Mawes Retreats is a boutique collection of private holiday houses sleeping four to 12 along the Cornwall's Roseland peninsula.

Visit : www.stmawesretreats.co.uk. Contact : Charlotte Rous at Charlotte@grifcopr.com.

Mountain Lodge, the Dolomites, Italy

Mountain Lodge, Adler Resorts' fourth hotel, opens at a height of 1800m in the heart of the Dolomites UNESCO World Heritage area in July.

The first hotel, the then Hotel Mezdi, was built in 1938 three years after one of the Dolomites' first cable cars began carrying visitors from the mountain resort of Ortisei up to Alpe di Siusi.

The Sanoner family pulled down the Hotel Mezdi, which had fallen into a state of disrepair, and have replaced it with a central wooden lodge and an arc of 12 small chalets, modelled on old Tyrolean mountain huts.

These are located just below Col da Mezdi (Midday Peak) and in the middle of the piste, within walking distance of the lift station.

Guests stay on a full-board basis, including soft drinks and a selection of Italian fine wines and liquors, as well as access to the spa and wellness facilities, together with a full programme of activities including guided skiing, hiking and mountain biking, plus yoga at sunset.

Visit : www.adler-lodge.com. Contact: Martha Morano at Martha@moranopr.com.

The Gleneagles Hotel, Perthshire, Scotland

The Gleneagles Hotel first opened to high society in 1924, when it was described as 'A Riviera in the Highlands' and remains a five star hotel experience.

Set within 850 acres of Perthshire countryside, the hotel is home to three championship golf courses, an award-winning spa and fine dining including Andrew Fairlie - Scotland's only two Michelin star restaurant.

As part of our 90th birthday celebrations the Gleneagles has created a whisky experience where guests can discover the art of whisky blending.

Opening in 1924, Gleneagles soon became a fixed part of high society's calendar. Following the London "season" it was yachting at Cowes, polo at Deauville and golf and grouse shooting at Gleneagles.

Gleneagles will host the 40th Ryder Cup on The PGA Centenary Course between 26 and 28 September 2014.

Visit : www.gleneagles.com. Contact : Fiona Oshomuvwe at Fiona@nevilleemccarthy.com.

Places to stay in Cornwall, UK

Pentillie Castle

The castle, which has won awards for its quality B&B offer, was built in 1698 and has grounds designed by the famous landscape designer Humphry Repton.

It overlooks the River Tamar, and Dartmoor, and has gardens with rhododendron-studded lawns as well as the restored Mausoleum, where last year the body of Sir James Tillie was discovered in a hidden vault.

Visit : www.pentillie.co.uk

The Vean

The Vean is a restored Georgian country house in the grounds of the Caerhays Castle Estate. Caerhays is known for its Spring gardens and home to a National Magnolia Collection.

Visit : www.thevean.co.uk.

Contact : Simon at simonwhittam@weareonshore.com.

Hoteles Charleston, Columbia

The three hotels in the Hoteles Charleston portfolio are members of the Leading Hotels of the World.

Santa Teresa, Cartagena

Santa Teresa, built in the 17th Century, the Santa Teresa was originally intended as a Carmelite convent located at the heart of Cartagena's walled Old Town.

Retaining many of the original 400 year old features, the 89 rooms and suites which offer views of the Caribbean coastline.

The Pershing 62 yacht – The Charleston – has a crew of three and is available for daily outings or private parties.

Casa Medina, Bogotá

Casa Medina in the Colombian capital, Bogotá, is one of the city's most iconic buildings and is located in the commercial and financial district.

Built in 1945 as a private home, the architectural influences are European, with flagstone floors, clay tiles, stone columns and hand-carved wooden doors.

Hotel Charleston, Bogotá

The Hotel Charleston is located Zona Rosa an area known for its bars and restaurants and luxury shopping. Recently renovated, the hotel has minimalist design in its 64 contemporary rooms and suites.

Visit : www.hotelescharleston.com. Contact : Francesca at Francesca@francescatarrant.com.

Travelodge Southport, UK

Travelodge has opened its first hotel in the popular North West seaside resort, Southport.

The 101 room hotel is located in a grade II listed building.

Southport, a popular UK seaside resorts is located 17 miles north of Liverpool and offers beaches, unspoilt coast line and golf.

Travelodge

The first budget hotel brand to launch in the UK in 1985, Travelodge now operates over 500 hotels and 38,000 rooms across the UK, Ireland and Spain.

Visit : www.travelodge.co.uk. Contact : Sophia Mead at sophia.mead@travelodge.co.uk.

Sandy Beach Non Nuoc Resort Da Nang Vietnam

The Sandy Beach Non Nuoc Resort Da Nang Vietnam is located on the beach within 42 acres of gardens.

The resort is close to the heritage sites of Hoi An and Hue, the scenic beauties of Marble Mountain are within easy reach.

There are two championship golf courses nearby and the beach itself offers a range of watersports including surfing, body boarding, windsurfing, jet skiing and kayaking.

Da Nang Airport is just 20 minutes away.

Visit : www.centarahotelsresorts.com/cdv. Contact : Sharan Berry at sharanb@avenuesales.co.uk.

Travel guides

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

AA Travel Guides

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

Anova Books

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

Bradt Travel

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

Brit's Guide

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

Cicerone

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

Eland Publishing

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

Fisher's Travel SOS

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

Global Travel Publishers

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

Globetrotters LogBook

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

Hudson's Historic Houses and Gardens

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

Inn House Publishing

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

Insight

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

In your pocket guides

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

Jane's Smart Art Guides

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

Jonglez Publishing

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

Kuperard Publishers

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

Morris Communications

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

Odyssey Books & Guides

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

The Official (UK) Tourist Board Guides

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

Oxygen Books city-lit

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

Rough Guides

www.roughguides.com. press@roughguides.com

The Signpost

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

Summersdale travel publications

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

Take two Books

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

Turnleft

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

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



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

www.allwaystraveller.com

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AllWays traveller