



# The Alliance

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# Bulletin

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

Mid-June 2014

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# The Alliance Bulletin

Issue 164 : mid-June 2014

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

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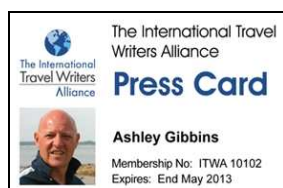
- A focus on Wales, and
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## Registering with the Alliance

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.

### Current jobs on the Job Shop

**Job Shop** jobs currently include :

- Copywriter for *All Leisure Holidays Group* based in Market Harborough, UK
- Reporter position for NBC News based in UK.
- Managing Editor at Bentley University, Waltham, Massachusetts, and
- Staff Editor at the Association of American Medical Colleges

### Uploading the CV

As well as searching for jobs, Alliance travel journalists can also upload a CV for potential employers to search if and when they need freelance support.

The Alliance is getting an increasing number of potential employers reviewing these CVs each week.

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

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

#### The Luxembourg City Tourist Office

The Luxembourg City Tourist Office is Luxembourg city's official Destination Management Organisation and acts as a tourist board, Luxembourg Convention Bureau (MICE) and festival organizer (500 concerts/year).

The Office journalists to discover Luxembourg as the perfect short break destination off the beaten track.

We facilitate press programs including sightseeing highlights, culinary tours and festival vibes for commissioned reporters, photographers and cameras.

Visit : [www.lcto.lu](http://www.lcto.lu). Contact : Cathy Giorgetti at [cathy.giorgetti@lcto.lu](mailto:cathy.giorgetti@lcto.lu).

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## Suitcase Media

Suitcase Media is a global facilitator for travel brands and destinations looking to connect with the highly influential bloggers.

Social networking has created huge opportunities for marketers to communicate with their audience in a more personal and direct fashion.

One of these opportunities is to work with top bloggers who have the respect of their readers to advertise and endorse your brand or destination.

Visit : [www.suitcasemedia.com.au](http://www.suitcasemedia.com.au). Contact : Nicole Connolly at [info@suitcasemedia.com.au](mailto:info@suitcasemedia.com.au).

## Team San Jose (USA)

Team San Jose, Inc. is an economic development organization and San Jose's official Convention and Visitors Bureau, unifying the destination, hotels and venues to deliver an exceptional visitor experience.

San Jose offers all you would expect from a big city destination with small town charm and serves as the gateway to Northern California attractions.

Team San Jose provides full management services for seven venues on behalf of the City of San Jose including :

- the San Jose McEnery Convention Center
- Parkside Hall and South Hall and Arts
- California Theatre
- the Center for the Performing Arts
- Montgomery Theater, and
- City National Civic.

Visit : [www.sanjose.org](http://www.sanjose.org). Contact : Kyle Schatzel at [kschatzel@sanjose.org](mailto:kschatzel@sanjose.org).

## travel4corners (USA)

travel4corners organises trips to travel destinations in the four corners areas of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Arizona

Visit : [www.travel4corners.us](http://www.travel4corners.us). Contact : Leona St.Louis at [travel4corners.us@gmail.com](mailto:travel4corners.us@gmail.com)

## Tourism for All UK

Tourism for All UK (TfA) is an independent charity supporting leisure and tourism opportunities for all, operating an information service to disabled and older people, and working with the industry and government to raise the standards of welcome to all guests.

TfA provides information to disabled and older people on accessible accommodation and other tourism services in the UK and overseas.

Every year they respond to thousands of people who may need help and support to enable them to take a break they may not have previously believed possible.

Visit : [www.tourismforall.org.uk](http://www.tourismforall.org.uk). Contact : Carrie-Ann Lightley at [carrie-ann@tourismforall.org.uk](mailto:carrie-ann@tourismforall.org.uk).

## Scotland's Personal Hotels

Scotland's Personal Hotels is a selection of family run hotels located across Scotland. The portfolio ranges from city centre to deluxe country house hotels and country inn and restaurants with rooms.

Launched in 1997 with 12 hotels, Scotland's Personal Hotels now comprises over 50 properties. Its website offers information and easy booking on select hotels in each region.

Visit : [www.scotland-hotels.com](http://www.scotland-hotels.com). Contact : Mark Linklater at [mark@scotland-hotels.com](mailto:mark@scotland-hotels.com)

## HistoricBritain.com

HistoricBritain.com is an accommodation website with over 500 B&Bs and small hotels with heritage, and listings of 700 places to visit.

Historic Britain generates revenue for those who incur the cost of maintaining Britain's heritage, through online booking of :

- hotels, inns, bed and breakfasts, and private houses that admit paying guests
- visitor tickets for museums, monuments, castles, houses and gardens that are open to the public, and
- guided tours.

HistoricBritain.com offers the lowest prices for all properties advertised, and up-to-date availability of its B&Bs - an accommodation sector not traditionally accessible online.

Visit : [www.historicbritain.com](http://www.historicbritain.com). Contact : Leila Stocker at [leila@turtle-pr.com](mailto:leila@turtle-pr.com).

## Alta Badia, Italy

Alta Badia is a ski resort in the Dolomites of northern Italy, in the upper part of the Val Badia in South Tyrol offering a mix of skiing, scenery and gourmet food.

The climate in Alta Badia is a typical alpine microclimate with mild summers and winters long and cold. From December to February average temperatures are below zero and night time temperatures can fall to minus 20°C.

Although winters are snowy there is an average of 100 days of sunshine between December and March is the norm.

Visit : [www.altabadia.org](http://www.altabadia.org). Contact : Lynsey Devon at [lynsey@heavenpublicity.co.uk](mailto:lynsey@heavenpublicity.co.uk).

## News

### International Medieval Jousting Tournament, Arundel Castle, West Sussex, UK 22 to 27 July 2014

Arundel Castle in West Sussex is inviting Alliance members to the international medieval jousting tournament at Arundel Castle on 22-27 July 2014.

With knights competing from Norway, The Netherlands, France and Poland, this is one of the largest tournaments in Europe.

Alliance members are invited to attend on a day of their choice, with gold+ entry to Arundel Castle – a stunning ancient castle and stately home set within 40 acres of gardens and grounds.

(See also *What's on*)

Visit : [www.arundelcastle.org](http://www.arundelcastle.org). Contact : Jessica Beales at [arundel@midnight.co.uk](mailto:arundel@midnight.co.uk).

## **Birding on Saint Lucia**

Anse Chastanet, the Caribbean resort in Saint Lucia has announced five day birdwatching excursions.

Set within 600 acres of lush vegetation and luminous greenery on the tropical island, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Anse Chastanet and its surrounding area near the southwest town of Soufriere attracts a wide range of tropical wildlife.

Across the wider island, the dramatic landscape changes of dry coastal areas, lush rainforest, scrub forests and sea cliffs are home to a whole host of local species that are present.

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

## **The Australian Tourism Exchange, 2015**

Melbourne will host the Australian Tourism Exchange (ATE), the country's premier tourism trade show, in 2015.

ATE brings together around 600 travel wholesalers and agents from 38 countries to meet and do business with 1,500 Australian tourism seller delegates from 500 companies.

Visit : [www.tourism.australia.com](http://www.tourism.australia.com). Contact: Kim Moore at [kmoore@tourism.australia.com](mailto:kmoore@tourism.australia.com).

## **Sandals Resorts, Jamaica**

Sandals Resorts will open its Royal Caribbean Spa Resort & Offshore Island in Jamaica in 2015.

The project will see five Maldivian-style over-the-water suites added to its private offshore island, with all including personal butler service via the Guild of Professional English Butlers.

Sandals has resort properties on the islands of Jamaica, Antigua, Saint Lucia, The Bahamas, Barbados and Grenada.

Visit : [www.sandals.co.uk](http://www.sandals.co.uk). Contact : Holly Barnett at [holly.barnett@sandals.co.uk](mailto:holly.barnett@sandals.co.uk).

## **Puerto Vallarta, Mexico**

The Pacific Coast port of Puerto Vallarta in the Mexican state of Jalisco offers 40 miles of coastline and a diverse topography, including tropical jungles, river beds, steep mountain sides and arid flatlands.

It encompasses all of Banderas Bay on the Pacific coast of Mexico.

Riviera Nayarit, Mexico's newest destination, is located ten minutes north of accessible Puerto Vallarta International Airport and stretches along the coast and is framed by the Sierra Madre Mountains just.

Visit : [www.visitpuertovallarta.com](http://www.visitpuertovallarta.com). Contact: Elena.Andreou@mediacofss.com.

## **The Old Rectory Hotel, Martinhoe, Exmoor National Park, Devon UK**

The Old Rectory Hotel has been awarded Best Small Hotel in England' at the VisitEngland Awards for Excellence 2014.

The hotel is located in the tiny hamlet of Martinhoe on Exmoor and has 11 rooms and is one 15 hotels in the UK to be awarded a Michelin Red Pavilion.

The Old Rectory Hotel was also named Devon Hotel of the Year 2014 by the Good Hotel Guide.

Visit : [www.OldRectoryHotel.co.uk](http://www.OldRectoryHotel.co.uk). Contact : Jennette Baxter at [pr@baxter1.clara.net](mailto:pr@baxter1.clara.net).

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## Wildthings Publishing

Wildthings Publishing has published :

### **Hidden Beaches (Explore the secret coast of Britain)**

Britain has some stunning coastline, yet many of its most beautiful beaches remain hidden and unvisited .

Aimed at families, walkers, swimmers and explorers this new edition features 50 new secret beaches and recommendations for beach camping, seafood cafes, foraging and sea kayaking.

Visit : [www.wildthingspublishing.com/hiddenbeaches](http://www.wildthingspublishing.com/hiddenbeaches)

### **Wild Running (150 adventures on the trails and fells of Britain)**

Wild Running is Britain's first guidebook for runners who enjoy hill, woodland and coastal trails.

It picks up on the rising trends in running and the outdoors and features a history of wild running, health benefits, getting fit, must-do races and top 10 selections.

Visit : [www.wildthingspublishing.com/wildrunning](http://www.wildthingspublishing.com/wildrunning)

### **Wild Swimming Italy (Rivers, lakes, waterfalls and hot springs of Italy)**

Hot springs, lakes, secret river beaches and waterfalls, Italy has many beautiful wild natural areas and this is also a guide to those areas.

Visit : [www.wildthingspublishing.com/wildswimmingitaly](http://www.wildthingspublishing.com/wildswimmingitaly)

### **Only Planet (A flight-free adventure around the world)**

Ed Gillespie takes anything but a plane to circumnavigate the globe. From cargo ships to camels, hitch-hiking to hovercrafts, Ed proves that getting there really is half the fun.

Visit : [www.wildthingspublishing.com/onlyplanet](http://www.wildthingspublishing.com/onlyplanet)

### **France en Velo (The ultimate cycle journey from Channel to Med, St Malo to Nice)**

Celebrating the Tour de France - this guide charts a 1000 mile coast to coast odyssey / challenge route, through gorges, peaks, stopping at charming places to eat and stay, visiting epic point on the Tour, and enjoying the best of French cycling culture.

Visit : [www.wildthingspublishing.com/franceenvelo](http://www.wildthingspublishing.com/franceenvelo)

Visit : [www.wildthingspublishing.com](http://www.wildthingspublishing.com). For review copies contact : Sarah Jones at [wildthings@wildthingspublishing.com](mailto:wildthings@wildthingspublishing.com).

## Jamaica

The Jamaica Tourist Board has launched *It's a Jamaican Ting*, a campaign encouraging first to fourth generation Jamaicans to share short, personal anecdotes highlighting the best things about being Jamaican.

Visit : [www.VisitJamaica.com](http://www.VisitJamaica.com). Contact : Fiona Anderson at [Jamaica@mccluskey.co.uk](mailto:Jamaica@mccluskey.co.uk).

## Blythswood Square Hotel, Glasgow, Scotland

Glasgow's Blythswood Square Hotel is the winner of the bar of the Scottish year 2014 as awarded by the Scottish Hotel Awards.

Contenders for this award must offer knowledgeable staff with expertise in a particular area of beverage operation such as whisky, gin or wine, a varied menu and stock.

Blythswood Square is an award winning 5 star spa hotel in Glasgow, with 100 guest rooms and a central location.

Visit : [www.townhousecompany.com/blythswoodsquare](http://www.townhousecompany.com/blythswoodsquare) and [www.ScottishHotelAwards.com](http://www.ScottishHotelAwards.com). Contact : Christopher Coates at [Christopher@paragraphpublishing.com](mailto:Christopher@paragraphpublishing.com).

## Foyles launches literary tours

Foyles, the UK National Bookseller has launched two new literary tour packages, offering book-lovers the opportunity to get closer to the lives of their favourite writers.

From July 2014, a series of day trips and overnight stays in partnership with Cambria Literary Tours will take readers to some of the UK's greatest literary locations including:

- Haworth, the home of the Brontë family
- Shakespeare's Stratford
- the village where Roald Dahl lived and wrote for much of his life; and
- various locations in South Wales where Dylan Thomas worked and wrote.

A list of suggested reading will be provided for each tour and each participant will receive a 30% discount voucher valid for a purchase within any Foyles store.

In January 2015, award-winning novelist and broadcaster Marcel Theroux will lead a passage to India, the first excursion for Foyles Literary Tours International in partnership with escorted tours specialist Arblaster & Clarke.

During the 13-day VIP voyage, adventurous readers will experience the world-renowned Jaipur Literary Festival, with exclusive access to author parties.

Visit: [www.foyles.co.uk](http://www.foyles.co.uk). Contact : Christina Neou-North at [Christina.neou-north@fourcolmangetty.com](mailto:Christina.neou-north@fourcolmangetty.com).

## Whistler, British Columbia, Canada

The British Columbia resort of Whistler has been named Best Ski Resort in the World by readers of luxury travel magazine, Ultratravel.

Whistler is located in the Coast Mountains 120 kilometres (75 miles) north of Vancouver.

Consistently rated the top ski resort in North America, Whistler was the Host Mountain Resort of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

The resort offers activity options from skiing and snowboarding, mountain biking and golf, to hiking and rock climbing.

The resort offers an extensive range of accommodations totaling 10,000 bedrooms among 24 hotels as well as townhomes, condos, B&Bs and chalets.

Whistler also has more than 100 restaurants and bars, 200 retail shops, 25 spas and countless .

Visit : [www.whistler.com/media](http://www.whistler.com/media) and [www.BritishColumbia.travel](http://www.BritishColumbia.travel). Contact : Louise Petter at [LPetter@DestinationBC.co.uk](mailto:LPetter@DestinationBC.co.uk).



### Three Glens, Dumfriesshire, Scotland

The Three Glens in Dumfriesshire has been awarded five-star rating by *VisitScotland*.

The carbon-negative, sustainable property built by a Green Energy farmer of the year, combines the latest in eco-technology with superior comfort as well as full time concierge services.

Some of its sustainable, eco-friendly features are:

- the turf roof
- electricity from a 100kW turbine
- ground-source heating
- biomass stove (the Austrian Kachelöfen)
- water from a bore hole
- solar thermal water heating (and underfloor heating)
- triple glazing
- heat recovery system that cleans the air and redistributes it around the house
- oak cladding from wind-felled trees on the surrounding land, and
- sheep's wool insulation (from the farm's own sheep)

The reclaimed fittings are over 80 years old including cast-iron baths and the porcelain sinks and loos, old disused railway sleepers are used outside and inside for furniture and reclaimed slate flag stones upcycled from a Victorian Greenhouse.

Guests can experience a luxury ski-chalet service at this stylish property with 360 views of Dumfriesshire's countryside.

Visit : [www.3glens.com](http://www.3glens.com). Contact : Renata Parolari Fernandes at [info@fivestarmagazine.co.uk](mailto:info@fivestarmagazine.co.uk).

## Leads

### New Beach Club at Scheveningen, The Hague

The BLISS Beach Club, the largest beach club in Holland, has opened close to the Zwarte Pad and Scheveningen Pier.

The beach pavilion offers lounging corners with large cushions, VIP beds and deluxe 'cabanas'.

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

### The Tampa Bay CityPASS

The new Tampa Bay CityPASS provides discounts on admission to top regional attractions including :

- Busch Gardens Tampa
- the Florida Aquarium
- Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo
- the Clearwater Marine Aquarium.

The CityPASS is available in New York City, Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Seattle, Southern California, Tampa Bay and Toronto.

Visit : [CityPASS.com](http://CityPASS.com). Contact : Deborah Walker at [deborah@citypass.com](mailto:deborah@citypass.com).

### The Tschuggen Grand Hotel, Arosa, Switzerland

The Tschuggen Grand Hotel in Arosa will be opening the Urdenhahn cable car, connecting Arosa to Lenzerheide.

This will allow walkers to more easily explore the Swiss mountain range in the summer months.

Visit : [www.tschuggen.ch](http://www.tschuggen.ch). Contact : Alexandra at [alexandra@annscott.co.uk](mailto:alexandra@annscott.co.uk).

## Electric-assisted mountain bikes, France

Electric-assisted mountain bikes are now widely available in the mountain resorts of France, enabling even complete beginners to enjoy riding in the mountains.

For seasoned riders, the French mountains continue to strengthen their position as the MTB mecca, with a number of new developments and a raft of international events on offer this summer.

First introduced in France three years ago, electric-assisted mountain bikes are now available in a range of French mountain resorts.

### France Montagnes

France Montagnes is an agency that promote the mountains of France as a tourist destination.

Visit : [www.en.france-montagnes.com](http://www.en.france-montagnes.com) and [www.atout-france.fr](http://www.atout-france.fr). Contact Matt Carr at [matt.carr@atout-france.fr](mailto:matt.carr@atout-france.fr)

## 2by2 Holidays, Africa

Southern and east Africa specialist 2by2 Holidays has introduced a new tour that offers golfers the opportunity to explore South Africa and play six of its championship golf courses.

2by2 features South Africa, Botswana, Kenya, Lesotho, India, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zanzibar, Uganda, Zambia and Victoria Falls and Zimbabwe.

Visit : [www.2by2holidays.co.uk](http://www.2by2holidays.co.uk). Contact : Angie Cronin at [angie@loubird.co.uk](mailto:angie@loubird.co.uk).

## UniversityRooms.com

UniversityRooms.com was set up in 2007 with Keble College Oxford and St Catharine's in Cambridge the first two colleges to join.

From the grandeur of Oxford, Cambridge and Durham to the more modern but equally conveniently located halls in London, Edinburgh, Newcastle, Leeds, Manchester, Cardiff and Exeter – there's a university room in most of the major UK cities, as well as over 40 cities in Europe, Canada and Australia.

The site now has availability in over 400 university colleges and student residences in 75 cities around the world.

Visit : [www.universityrooms.com](http://www.universityrooms.com). Eveleen Hatch at [Eveleen@seriouslypr.co.uk](mailto:Eveleen@seriouslypr.co.uk).

## Backyard Travel, Vietnam

Backyard Travel, has launched a new Vietnam tour giving travellers the chance to explore the undiscovered, Bai Tu Long Bay.

Bai Tu Long Bay is situated to the north of Ha Long Bay and is more off the beaten track and quieter than its more famous neighbour.

Bangkok based Backyard Travel is an online travel company specializing in tailor-made tours to Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Indonesia, Japan and China.

Visit : [www.backyardtravel.com](http://www.backyardtravel.com). Contact : Maeve Nolan at [marketing@backyardtravel.com](mailto:marketing@backyardtravel.com).

## In The Saddle

*In The Saddle* specialises in horse riding holidays from ranches in the Rocky Mountain states of Montana and Wyoming, beach and mountain rides in Europe, horseback safaris in Africa and riding expeditions to remote and unexplored parts of the world.

Among these :

### Castellare di Tonda, Italy

Located in Italy's Tuscan hills, *In The Saddle's* Castellare di Tonda is 800 acre working wine estate and Quarter horse stud farm.

This countryside resort and spa provides the chance to 'ride like a cowboy' and become accustomed to Western tack, while exploring the varied terrain.

### The Kiskunsági National Park, Hungary

Located in the Kiskunsági National Park, Hungary in an area of over 53,000 hectares, *In The Saddle's* El Bronco ranch provides offers riding on a mixture of Quarter horses, Appaloosas and Paints, ridden in traditional Western tack.

Visit : [www.inthesaddle.com](http://www.inthesaddle.com). Contact: Lauren Barber at [lauren@g-gee.com](mailto:lauren@g-gee.com).

## Biscarrosse-Plage and Biarritz, Aquitaine, France

Biscarrosse-Plage and Biarritz are two coastal towns in the Aquitaine region of France and Lagrange Holidays have new self-catering properties in both resorts.

### Biscarrosse-Plage

Located in the Landes area of Aquitaine, Biscarrosse-Plage boasts fine, sandy beaches for the wide variety of water-sports on offer, such as surfing, as well as fresh water lakes and lush pine forests filled with walking trails and cycle paths.

The Les Balcons de l'Océan apartments in the Lagrange Confort+ range, is located 150m from the beaches and 400m from the centre of the resort.

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

### Biarritz

The most known resort on the Basque coastline, Biarritz is a lively seaside town and surfer's destination.

Biarritz is also a good base from which to explore the Basque region and the northern Spanish coast.

The Les Patios Eugénie apartments are in the heart of Biarritz and is 400m from the resort's Grande Plage beach.

Visit : [www.tourisme.biarritz.fr/en/home](http://www.tourisme.biarritz.fr/en/home).

### Lagrange Holidays

Lagrange Holidays is a ski and summer specialist to France whose offering comprises 200 resorts and destinations across France's coasts, countryside, cities and mountains.

Visit : [www.lagrange-holidays.co.uk](http://www.lagrange-holidays.co.uk). Contact : Hetty Partington at [hpartington@lagrange-holidays.co.uk](mailto:hpartington@lagrange-holidays.co.uk).

### **Kenai Fjords Tours, Seward, Alaska**

*TripAdvisor*, has awarded Kenai Fjords Tours with its Award of Excellence.

Kenai Fjords Tours, in Seward, Alaska, is celebrating over 40 years of cruising the waters of Kenai Fjords National Park.

Operating seasonally from April to September, the company offers passengers the chance to journey into the depths of the national park with visits to a private lodge on Fox Island.

Visit : [www.kenaifjords.com](http://www.kenaifjords.com). Contact : Dee Buchanan at [dbuchanon@ciri.com](mailto:dbuchanon@ciri.com).

### **The Sani Festival, Halikidiki, Greece**

July and August 2014 (annual)

The annual Sani Festival held at luxurious Sani Resort in Halikidiki, Greece, runs through July and August, with a schedule dedicated to pureblood American Jaz.

Concerts take place at Sani Hill, a natural amphitheatre complete with its own Byzantine tower.

The Sani Resort comprises four, 5-star hotels:

- Sani Asterias Suites
- Porto Sani Village & Spa
- Sani Beach Club and
- Sani Beach Hotel & Spa.

There are three exclusive Sani spa venues, with a marina at the heart and restaurants, bars, designer boutiques and art galleries.

Visit : [www.saniresort.gr](http://www.saniresort.gr). Contact: Lallie Fraser at [Lallie@grifcopr.com](mailto:Lallie@grifcopr.com).

### **Potters Resort, Norfolk UK**

Potters Resort is a five-star luxury Resort located at Hopton-on-Sea on the Norfolk Coast between Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft and within reach of the Norfolk Broads.

The resort is an inclusive holiday location offering a range of short breaks with evening entertainment shows, active sports such as archery, clay shooting and bowls and a nearby beach.

Visit : [www.pottersholidays.com](http://www.pottersholidays.com). Contact : Danielle Howard at [danielle.howard@pottersholidays.com](mailto:danielle.howard@pottersholidays.com).

### **Backyard Travel, Laos**

Backyard Travel, the online boutique travel agency specializing in unique and insider tours to Asia, has launched a new Laos tour giving travelers the chance to experience the dramatic scenery that surrounds the Mekong River, and explore some fascinating pre-Angkorian temples.

The tour then takes in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Wat Phou – a temple built by rulers of the Khmer empire, which pre-dates Angkor Wat.

Travelers can then spend their time biking around the quiet islands of Don Det and Don Khone, both car-free islands with electricity only during the evenings.

Visit : [www.backyardtravel.com](http://www.backyardtravel.com). Contact : Christian Sutton at [info@backyardtravel.com](mailto:info@backyardtravel.com).

## What's on

### The Yukon

#### **The Yukon River Quest**

25 to 29 June 2014

The Yukon River Quest - Race to the Midnight Sun is world's longest annual canoe and kayak marathon

The 444-mile wilderness adventure paddling race is held on the Yukon River from Whitehorse to Dawson City in Canada's Yukon Territory.

Taking place during the last week of June, the Quest is known as the "Race to the Midnight Sun," as paddlers race round-the-clock under a sky that never gets dark.

There are just two mandatory rest stops of 10 hours over the course of the entire event.

There are currently 54 teams registered for the 2014 race with paddlers from twelve countries.

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

#### **The Adäka Cultural Festival, the Yukon**

27 June to 3 July, 2014

Showcasing Yukon First Nations arts and culture, the Adäka Festival offers a programme of events incorporating traditional and contemporary music, dance, drumming, arts and crafts, storytelling, film, artist demonstrations, workshops, cultural presentations and a community feast.

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

Visit: [www.travelyukon.com](http://www.travelyukon.com). Contact : Lisa Chamberlain at [Lisa.chamberlain@btinternet.com](mailto:Lisa.chamberlain@btinternet.com).

### **The Evian Resort Pro-Am, Lake Geneva and**

12 to 15 July

The Evian Resort Pro-Am is staged at Evian Resort's hotels - the newly renovated five star Hôtel Royal and the four star Hôtel Ermitage - located between Lake Geneva and the mountains.

The Evian Resort Pro-Am is played over 18 holes in teams of four, with one golf pro + three amateurs.

Visit : [www.evianresort.com](http://www.evianresort.com). contact : [li@storringtoncommunications.com](mailto:li@storringtoncommunications.com).

### **International Jousting Tournament, Arundel Castle, West Sussex, UK**

22 to 27 July 2014

The International Jousting Tournament, at Arundel Castle, West Sussex is Europe's Largest.

Knights compete for the ultimate glory of winning the Championship of Arundel Castle, with an award also presented to the most chivalrous knight.

This year's teams are made up of old rivals the Kingdoms of England and France plus two new teams; the Burgundian Alliance and the Kingdom of Poland.

Set in 1470, the tournament offers a whole week of action with three jousts per day.

As well as the jousting, visitors will be able to witness hand-to-hand combat with a medieval tournament from the knights and men-at-arms of Raven Tor living history Group.

Visit [www.arundelcastle.org](http://www.arundelcastle.org). Contact : Jessica Beales at [arundel@midnight.co.uk](mailto:arundel@midnight.co.uk).

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## Events in Holland

### Welcome Aboard. Suitcases and travel bags, Tassenmuseum, Amsterdam

Until 31 August 2014

This exhibition shows the history of travel and the development of suitcases and travel bags from 1850 to the present.

Among other items in the exhibition, the museum is showing gigantic trunks for travel by coach and ship, as well as luxurious luggage sets from the 1950s and extravagant dressing cases containing silver brushes and crystal vials.

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

### The Holland Festival, Amsterdam

1 to 28 June 2014, various locations across the city

Performers from around the world come to Amsterdam for a month of culture, featuring theatre, dance and music.

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

### Tivolivredenburg, Utrecht

From 21 June 2014

A new major music venue with five concert halls and a grand café is to open in Utrecht.

The Tivolivredenburg includes a Pop Hall, Jazz Hall, Chamber Music Hall and other music venues all with state of the art acoustics and facilities. The venue will be located in the heart of the city and the programme will include music from all genres.

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

### The Mauritshuis, The Hague

From 28 June 2014

The Mauritshuis in The Hague is to re-open following a major renovation.

Described as a 'jewel box', the Mauritshuis has a lakeside location in the heart of The Hague, the historic city that is home to the Dutch Parliament and Royal Family.

The reopening provides an opportunity for a major re-presentation of the museum's world-famous collection of Dutch art including Rembrandt's Anatomy Lesson, Carel Fabritius' The Goldfinch and Jan Steen's As the Old Sing, So Pipe the Young.

The museum features two of Vermeer's greatest masterpieces, Girl with a Pearl Earring (c.1665) and View of Delft (c.1660 - 1661).

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

### WISH Outdoor Festival 2014

4 to 6 July 2014

The 8th edition of WISH Outdoor festival takes place at Aa in Beek en Donk, which is close to the city of Eindhoven.

The music and DJ festival will feature over 250 artists and will receive over 35,000 visitors.

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

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## Eastern European festival

### Serbia

Belgrade is making a name for itself as the party capital of Europe, and the Exit Festival (15 to 17 July) attracts around 50,000 festivalgoers each year.

Winner of the 'Best Major Festival' at the European Festival awards, EXIT was started by three students in 2000 against the Milosevic regime, fighting for political change and freedom.

Taking place in the Petrovaradin Fortress in Novi Sad, Serbia, EXIT has numerous stages connected by cobbled streets, ramparts and tunnels.

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

### Croatia

The Barrakud Festival takes place on the island of Pag (9 – 16 August 2014), the Barrakud Extended Experience brings together acts at the forefront of today's electronic music scene.

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

### Latvia

The Positivus Festival (18 to 20 July) is the largest music and arts festival in the Baltic States, taking place in the picturesque coastal town of Salacgriva in Latvia.

With three main stages, Positivus brings a rich diversity of international chart toppers and underground emerging talent to the holiday location.

The festival also offers an extensive arts programme, with cinema, dance, art and fashion.

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

### Poland

This Off boutique Festival (2 to 4 August 2014) takes place in the Three Lake Valley in Katowice, Poland.

Visit [off-festival.pl](http://off-festival.pl).

### Hungary

Winner of the 'Best Major European Festival' award in 2011, the Sziget Festival (11 to 18 August 2014) is one of the biggest multicultural events of Europe, attracting almost 400,000 fans from over 70 countries to an island in the heart of Budapest.

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

### Turkey

Isle Of Dreams is a new three-day electronic music festival that will take place in Switzerland, Turkey and Israel, which is inspired by the music and culture of the isle of Ibiza.

Isle Of Dreams Turkey takes place from 5-7 August in Antalya Turkey.

Visit [www.isle-of-dreams.com](http://www.isle-of-dreams.com).

Contact : Jessica Goodchild at [jessica@globalpublicity.co.uk](mailto:jessica@globalpublicity.co.uk).

## The Tenerife Walking Festival

10 to 14 March 2015

Ramblers from all over Europe will be gathering in Tenerife in March 2015 for the first Tenerife Walking Festival.

Participants will hike along the island's diverse scenery, including coastal paths, volcanic landscapes and ancient forests, and take part in activities including stargazing and dramatised tours.

Areas ramblers will explore include :

- the protected Teide National Park – a UNESCO World Heritage Site – and its volcanic landscape
- coastal towns such as Taganana and San Juan de la Rambla, and
- the green laurisilva (ancient laurel forests) of Anaga and Teno Rural Parks.

The Festival is aimed at professional hikers who are members of the European Ramblers Association or its national affiliates such as Ramblers, the Long Distance Walkers Association and Mountaineering Ireland.

Visit : [www.tenerifewalkingfestival.com](http://www.tenerifewalkingfestival.com) and [www.webtenerife.co.uk](http://www.webtenerife.co.uk). Contact : Polly Martin at [polly@humewhitehead.co.uk](mailto:polly@humewhitehead.co.uk).

## Reasons to write about

### Vaya Adventures, South American

Vaya Adventures creates custom itineraries throughout South and Central America.

Trips include off-the-beaten path day hikes near places travelers are likely to visit in South America including :

#### Peru - Machu Picchu Mountain

An alternative to the Huayna Picchu (the hike nearly all active visitors to Machu Picchu do), Machu Picchu Mountain is traversed by far fewer people and offers incredible and unique views of the surrounding mountains and ruins.

This hike begins at about 8,400 feet at the southern end of Machu Picchu and rises to 10,000 feet at the summit.

The hike takes about three hours roundtrip and passes through significant stretches of original Incan stonework winding up the side of the mountain, reaching a summit with 360-degree views of Machu Picchu's iconic ruins and the Urubamba River below.

Visit : [www.vayaadventures.com/destinations/peru-machu-picchu](http://www.vayaadventures.com/destinations/peru-machu-picchu).

#### Brazil - Rio de Janeiro, Tijuca National Park

Overlooking the largest (46 square mile) urban forest in the world is Pedra da Gavea (crow's nest), a peak 2,762 feet above sea level.

The trail to the top is only about a mile long, but it's a three-hour commitment due to a section of Class IV climbing that may involve setting up a belay.

A less adventurous option is to the top of the Pico da Tijuca, also inside Tijuca National Park and the Park's highest point.

View : [www.vayaadventures.com/destinations/brazil](http://www.vayaadventures.com/destinations/brazil).



### **Ecuador - Quito, Paschocha Wildlife Refuge Summit Trail**

Twenty miles south of Quito, near the town of Sangolqui, is the access point for a seven-hour roundtrip trek with an elevation gain of 3,000 feet to the summit at 13,800 feet.

The trail is straightforward, but it requires a good level of fitness and, for those who want to get all the way to the top, there is some rock scrambling at the end to reach the summit.

Views along the way include the Avenue of Volcanoes, the snow-clad volcanic peaks of the Andes.

Hikers reach the edge of an ancient, extinct volcanic caldera, with cloud forest-covered crater walls and unique flora such as a rare polylepis forest and many bromeliads. This is one of the best places in Ecuador to see condors in the wild.

Visit : [www.vayaadventures.com/destinations/the-galapagos-ecuador](http://www.vayaadventures.com/destinations/the-galapagos-ecuador).

### **Chile - Paso Desolación Trail**

After a two-hour drive from Puerto Varas through Chile's Lake District to the trailhead, guests embark on a five-hour hike that offers a spectacular alternative to the relatively touristy and overcrowded attractions of Petrohue Falls, Peulla and Frutillar.

This day hike passes right along the side of glacier-clad Osorno Volcano, with incredible views out to magnificent Todos los Santos Lake and the surrounding mountains in the other direction.

Visit : [www.vayaadventures.com/destinations/chile](http://www.vayaadventures.com/destinations/chile).

### **Guatemala - Lake Atitlán, San Pedro Volcano**

This hike begins after a scenic boat ride across the lake, usually from Palopó or Panajachel.

It is a 3,700-foot ascent to the summit on some 2.5 miles of steep, winding trail along the northwest side of the volcano. Plan an entire day for this one.

If it's too much to make it to the top, you'll still get great views back out over the lake and surrounding area and experience some of the beautiful cloud forest on the flanks of the volcano, something few people take the time to do, summit or no summit.

Visit : [www.vayaadventures.com/destinations/guatemala](http://www.vayaadventures.com/destinations/guatemala).

Visit : [www.vayaadventures.com](http://www.vayaadventures.com). Contact: Sara Widness at [sara@widnesspr.com](mailto:sara@widnesspr.com).

### **Vineyards in the Cote d'Azur, France**

Quality Villas have villas near some lesser known vineyards in the Cote d'Azur.

#### **Vignoble des Hautes Collines, inland Cote D'Azur, Saint-Jeannet**

Unlike most wines, it is first placed in large glass bottles, then left in direct sunlight for several months. Quite unique! After this period has elapsed, the wine then follows a more traditional method of being matured in oak barrels.

Villa Prestige, Nr Vence is within easy driving distance of Haute Collines.

#### **Chateau de Cremat, Nice**

Located in the Appellation d'Origine Controlee (AOC) Bellet, Chateau de Cremat was built more than 100 years ago. Offering guided visits, this vineyard sits above the Var Valley.

Les Lauriers is a villa with views of the valley.

## **Domaine de l'Abbaye de Lerins, Cannes**

Located just off the coast of Cannes, the Ile Saint-Honorat has a long and rich wine-making history that dates back to the Middle Ages.

On this isle, a group of monks tend to some eight hectares of vineyards and produce some excellent wines – in fact, their bottles are considered to be among the finest in France.

As well as visiting the vineyard in person, it is worth looking out for bottles from this winery which is often used by local Michelin-starred chefs.

Villa Adagio, is at Mougins, the closest hilltop village to Cannes.

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

## **Cape Town, South Africa**

Cape Town is best visited between May and September, when the city enjoys a mild Mediterranean-type climate with daytime temperatures averaging 18 degrees Celsius (65 degrees Fahrenheit).

### **Adventure pursuits**

This is the best time for adventure enthusiasts to enjoy hiking, kloofing, surfing, kitesurfing, paragliding and more.

The surf-swell is bigger and the waters feel warmer.

In addition, the whale-watching season is from July to September which is also the best time to do shark-cage diving with an almost 100% success rate because the sharks are particularly active and visibility is at its best.

### **The Green Season**

Cape Town's nature is at its verdant best over this period with winter waterfalls running down Cape Town's mountainsides and the West Coast beginning its floral blossoming.

### **Events in Cape Town**

Many annual events take place between May and September, including:

- Comedy: The Cape Town Jive Funny Festival (26 May to 22 June 2014)
- The Good Food & Wine Show (29 May to 1 June 2014)
- The South African Book Fair (13 to 15 June 2014)
- The Mercedes – Benz Cape Town Fashion Week (24 to 26 July 2014), and
- the Cape Town Fringe Festival (25 September to 5 October 2014)

### **Value for Money**

With the South African exchange rate at one of its lowest points in years, Cape Town offers great value for money for international visitors.

### **Getting to Cape Town**

Direct and one-stop flights to Cape Town are available throughout winter with South African Airways, British Airways, Emirates, KLM, Lufthansa and Virgin Atlantic, amongst others.

Flying time between Cape Town and European countries is around eleven – twelve hours, approximately fifteen hours from the Middle East and Asia, and an average of thirty hours from the USA.

## Cape Town awards

Cape Town has amassed many accolades this year including :

- Number One on the New York Times 52 Places to Go in 2014
- Number Three City in the World by Lonely Planet's Best in Travel 2014, and
- Number One Holiday Hotspot in theguardian.com's Top 40 destination round-up.

Cape Town was also voted the Second Top Destination in Africa in the Tripadvisor's Traveller's Choice Awards 2014.

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

## Annual events along the Mediterranean

Edmiston, the superyacht charter company, has compiled a list of the hottest annual events along the Mediterranean this summer - all accessed by boat.

### F1 Grand Prix, Monaco

May

One of the most prestigious sporting events, the Formula 1 Monaco Grand Prix has been held annually since 1929.

Visit : [www.monaco-grand-prix.com](http://www.monaco-grand-prix.com)

### International Salsa Festival, Antalya, Turkey

May

Known for its welcoming climate and beach parties, Antalya hosts several festivals throughout the year, including the Turkish International Salsa Festival in May.

More than 50 shows will take place with many opportunities for amateur participants to compete and learn from the world's best.

This dance festival is renowned for carrying the party through the night with the organisers ensuring there is plenty to do after the sun goes down.

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

### Concerti al Tramonto, Anacapri, Italy

June

Housed in the Villa San Michele in Anacapri, this Italian classical music festival runs throughout June, with concerts taking place just after sunset.

At 327 feet above sea level, the gardens of Villa San Michele have panoramic views of the town of Capri and its harbour.

### Santorini Jazz Festival in Kamari, Santorini

July

Kamari beach's black sands is the venue for this jazz festival, the brainchild of Vasilis Tzatzias and Kamari Open Air Cinema owner Antonis Kutrubilis.

Held in the grounds of the cinema, the festival has become an important island cultural event.

### **The International Bodrum Ballet Festival, Turkey**

July and August

Held in the Castle of Saint Peter, this festival is staged in a castle that is the most famous building in Bodrum.

Visit : [www.santorini-travel.gr](http://www.santorini-travel.gr).

### **Festa dell'Assunta, Postiano, Italy**

August

Meaning, The Festival of Our Lady of the Assumption, this is one of Positano's most important religious celebrations.

Over two days, the festival commemorates the ancient legend of how a ship carrying a Byzantine icon of the Virgin Mary was beached in the bay of Positano.

Celebrations begin with the so-called "Alzata del Quadro" ("The Lifting of the Painting") in front of the Church of Santa Maria Assunta. In the evening, a spectacular procession of illuminated boats head to the "Mamma e Figlio" rocks by the beach of Fornillo before returning to the Spiaggia Grande beach and the Cathedral.

The following day sees the festivities continue late into the night and conclude with a firework display over the sea, which lights up much of the Amalfi Coast.

Visit : [www.positano.com/en](http://www.positano.com/en).

### **Ramatuelle Festival, France**

July and August

In 1985, Jacques Franjour and Jean-Claude Brial launched the Ramatuelle Festival to promote this small Provençal village, best known for its beauty and traditional French architecture.

In its 28 years, the reputation of the Ramatuelle Festival is firmly established with 1,400 artists, musicians and entertainers performing dance, music, comedy and classical theatre.

### **Les Azuriales Opera, St-Jean-Cap-Ferrat, France August**

Les Azuriales Opera takes place amongst the grounds of Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild, a venue suited to recreating the eighteenth century intimacy of a private musical soirée for the audience.

Each night culminates in a moonlit dinner looking over the bay of Villefranche to the west and over the sea to Italy on the east.

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

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

## **A place to stay**

### **Luna Hotel Baglioni, Venice, Italy**

Luna Hotel Baglioni is located in the heart of Venice close to St Mark's Square with views of San Giorgio Island and St Mark's Basin.

Guests can enjoy breakfast in the stunning frescoed Salone Marco Polo or a meal at the award-winning Canova restaurant.

Visit : [www.baglionihotels.com/Venice](http://www.baglionihotels.com/Venice). Contact Jessica at [jessica@annscott.co.uk](mailto:jessica@annscott.co.uk).

## **The Pullman Paris Montparnasse, Paris, France**

The Pullman Paris Montparnasse will reopen in July after 18 months of renovation work with all 2,510 rooms revamped and 26,000 m2 of public areas redesigned.

The hotel is located close to Montparnasse train station and at a crossroads between three arrondissements (6th, 14th and 15th).

Visit : [www.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel...pullman-paris-montparnasse](http://www.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel...pullman-paris-montparnasse).

The Pullman network features more than 80 hotels in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia-Pacific and Latin America.

It is the upscale international hotel brand of hotel operator Accor, which has 3,600 hotels and 92 countries.

Visit : [www.pullmanhotels.com](http://www.pullmanhotels.com). Contact : Sarah Wilson at [sarah.wilson@mason-williams.com](mailto:sarah.wilson@mason-williams.com).

## **Suncadia Resort, Washington State, USA**

The Suncadia Resort, which is located 80 miles east of Seattle in the Cascade Mountains, is set on six miles of pristine Cle Elum River frontage, with 80 percent of the resort community designated as open space.

It features over 50 miles of hiking and biking trails and is a certified Built Green Community.

Its three golf courses - Prospector and Rope Rider Golf Courses and the private Tumble Creek Golf Course - were ranked among the top '10 Best New Courses in America' in 2006 and 2011 by Golf Digest. Rope Rider was named 2011 Best New Course of the Year by Golf Magazine.

Suncadia Resort received the 2013 AAA Four Diamond Award, the fourth time the resort has received this award since its opening in 2007.

Visit : [www.suncadia.com](http://www.suncadia.com). Contact : Sara Widness at [sara@widnesspr.com](mailto:sara@widnesspr.com).

## **Banyan Tree Yangshuo, Fuli, China**

The Banyan Tree Yangshuo will open in September 2014 in the ancient township of Fuli on the Li River.

Located within the county of Yangshuo and surround by the Karst Mountains, Banyan Tree Yangshuo has been designed as a village resort with 142 suites and villas.

Banyan is the first international operator to open a resort in Yangshuo.

The waterways around Fuli Town provide canoeing and rafting opportunities, or guests can trek through the Karst Mountains meeting locals along the way.

Fuli Town is also known as "China's Home of Fan Painting", and guests can participate in Chinese art painting classes to create their own exclusive fans to take home.

Banyan Tree Yangshuo is a 1.5 hour drive from the Guilin Liangjiang International Airport and 30 minutes from downtown Yangshuo.

The Banyan Tree Group has a portfolio of 35 resorts and hotels, 70 spas, 80 galleries and three golf courses.

Visit : [www.banyantree.com/en/yangshuo](http://www.banyantree.com/en/yangshuo). Contact : Sarah White at [BanyanTreeTeam@fourbg.com](mailto:BanyanTreeTeam@fourbg.com).

### **AVANI Seychelles Barbarons Resort & Spa, Seychelles**

The Minor Hotel Group, which has a portfolio of 100 hotels, resorts and serviced suites in 14 countries across Asia Pacific, the Middle East, Africa and the Indian Ocean, will open the AVANI Seychelles Barbarons Resort & Spa in the fourth quarter of 2014.

The property, previously called Le Meridien Barbarons Beach Hotel has been closed for eight months for an USD 8 million refurbishment.

Comprising an archipelago of 115 islands in the Indian Ocean east of mainland Africa, the Seychelles' enjoys a year round tropical climate.

Located on the west coast of Mahe Island, along the bay of Barbarons Beach, guests at AVANI Seychelles Barbarons will have unobstructed coastal views and direct access to a 600 metre stretch of beach and turquoise waters.

Visit : [www.minorinternational.com](http://www.minorinternational.com). Contact : Hannah Summers at [Hannah@grifcopr.com](mailto:Hannah@grifcopr.com).

### **The Bajan Family Adventure Camp**

Elegant Hotels Group has launched a new kids' activity programme, which includes horse riding, catamaran trips and submarine tours.

The Bajan Family Adventure Camp is available in the group's family-friendly properties in Barbados, including Turtle Beach, Tamarind, Crystal Cove and Colony Club.

Elegant Hotels Group owns and operates five hotels and resorts on the Caribbean Island of Barbados.

Visit : [www.elegant-hotels.com/experience/family](http://www.elegant-hotels.com/experience/family). Contact : Tyrphenia Greenwood at [elegant-hotels@brightergroup.com](mailto:elegant-hotels@brightergroup.com).

### **Kuramathi Island Resort, Maldives**

The Kuramathi Island Resort is located in the Maldivian archipelago of Rasdhoo Atoll, a 20-minute seaplane transfer from Male.

Kuramathi Island is only 1.8 km in length and is covered in lush vegetation and bordered by white sand and the azure waters of the Indian Ocean.

The resort's 290 scattered guest villas are subtly integrated into the natural habitat, ranging from Beach and Garden Villas through to Water Villas with Jacuzzi's.

The resort also offers a range of activities including two fully equipped PADI dive schools for divers of all skill levels.

The dive sites themselves contain a range of aquatic life from Hammerhead Sharks to turtles to manta-rays to bat fish and a myriad of other marine life.

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

### **The Mayflower Grace, Washington, Connecticut**

Grace Hotels has opened the Mayflower Grace, its second property in the United States.

Located in Washington, Connecticut, the Mayflower Grace is a country retreat, located in 58 acres of landscaped gardens and woodland and is two hours drive from New York.

Visit : [www.gracehotels.com/mayflower](http://www.gracehotels.com/mayflower). Contact : Clare Durnford at [claredurnford@gracehotels.com](mailto:claredurnford@gracehotels.com).

## The LEGOLAND Windsor Resort, UK

The LEGOLAND Windsor Resort has joined forces with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) to create a wildlife garden in the Resort featuring habitats made entirely from LEGO bricks.

The Resort's model makers have created, from thousands of individual bricks, a frogitat, a series of hogitats (hedgehog houses) plus a bird bath and bat box.

A wealth of wildlife already resides on the Resort's 150 acres and the hope is to attract new species to the special garden area as well as inspiring guests to create their own habitats in their back gardens.

Visit : [www.legoland.co.uk](http://www.legoland.co.uk). Contact : Tansy Ratcliffe-James at [tansy@freerange.eu](mailto:tansy@freerange.eu).

## Small Luxury Hotels of the World

A number of properties have been added to the Small Luxury Hotels of the World portfolio including :

### Le Barthélemy, St Barths

Opening in December 2014, Le Barthélemy, the first SLH property in St Barths, will be located on the lagoon of Grand Cul de Sac and against the volcanic island backdrop.

### Archipelagos Hotel, Mykonos, Greece

The Archipelagos Hotel, which has reopened following a refurbishment, is located on Kalo Livaldi beach - one of the longest stretches of beach on the island.

Visit : [www.slh.com/hotels/archipelagos-hotel](http://www.slh.com/hotels/archipelagos-hotel).

### Boheme Hotel, Mykonos, Greece

The recently opened Boheme Hotel is located near to Mykonos Town, within easy reach of the Mykonian windmills and with views across the Aegean Sea.

Visit : [www.slh.com/hotels/boheme](http://www.slh.com/hotels/boheme).

### The Sanchaya, Indonesia

The Sanchaya, which opens in August 2014, is located in Bintan in South-east Asia.

It will be surrounded by tropical rainforest, home to exotic wildlife, and near to one of the most beautiful beaches in the region.

Visit : [www.slh.com/hotels/the-sanchaya](http://www.slh.com/hotels/the-sanchaya).

### Domaine de Manville, France

Domaine de Manville, which opens in July 2014, is located in the valley beneath Les Baux, a hilltop medieval village. The hotel sits in a 100-acre estate that was once a working farm.

Visit : [www.slh.com/hotels/domaine-de-manville](http://www.slh.com/hotels/domaine-de-manville).

### Casa del Mar Mykonos, Mykonos, Greece

With just nine villas, Casa Del Mar, which opened in April, is a beachfront villa and spa resort.

Visit : [www.slh.com/hotels/casa-del-mar-mykonos](http://www.slh.com/hotels/casa-del-mar-mykonos).

The Small Luxury Hotels of the World has a portfolio of 520 hotels in more than 70 countries.

Visit : [www.slh.com](http://www.slh.com). Contact : Georgina Oakley at [slh@lotus-uk.co.uk](mailto:slh@lotus-uk.co.uk).

## The Bingham, Richmond Upon Thames, UK

The Bingham, a restored Georgian Townhouse overlooking the river Thames is celebrating its 30th anniversary.

Situated in the heart of Richmond, the Bingham offers views across the water from its garden and terrace.

Visit : [www.thebingham.co.uk](http://www.thebingham.co.uk). Contact : Lottie Campbell at [lottie@merimancepr.com](mailto:lottie@merimancepr.com).

## Dorsett Hotels & Resorts

Dorsett Hotels & Resorts is a collection of hotels in Hong Kong, China, Malaysia, Singapore and London.

Visit : [www.dorsetthotels.com](http://www.dorsetthotels.com). Contact : Emma Powell at [Emma@grifcopr.com](mailto:Emma@grifcopr.com).

## Dukes St James, London

Dukes St James, London is offering guests *Picnics in Green Park*, this summer, with gourmet hamper options including private picnic butler service exclusively for guests looking for a quintessentially luxurious English experience.

Centrally located in St. James's Place, the hotel is a short walk or leisurely cycle from major sights including Buckingham Palace and Clarence House, along with world famous shopping areas such as Bond Street and Oxford Street.

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

## Centara Ceysands Resort & Spa Sri Lanka

The newly opened Centara Ceysands Resort & Spa is located on the Bentota Peninsula, at the southwest of the island, with the Bentota River on one side and the Indian Ocean on the other.

The resort has 165 rooms and suites, including family residences, with all the accommodations featuring views across the river, or across the beach and the ocean.

Restaurant facilities will include Café Bem, serving Sri Lankan and international cuisines along with buffets; 360 Seafood, which specialises in locally sourced seafood; and Ceylon Club, which will have a gourmet selection of Ceylon teas.

Centara Hotels & Resorts has a portfolio of 46 deluxe and first-class properties covering all the major tourist destinations in the Kingdom.

Visit : [www.centarahotelsresorts.com](http://www.centarahotelsresorts.com). Contact : Sharan Berry at [sharanb@avenuesales.co.uk](mailto:sharanb@avenuesales.co.uk).

## Shangri-La Hotel, Qufu, China

The new Shangri-La Hotel, Qufu, which opens in August, in the centre of Qufu, will be the city's first international luxury accommodation.

The hotel will be within walking distance of the Temple of Confucius, the Mansion of Confucius and the Cemetery of Confucius. All three are UNESCO World Heritage Cultural Sites, and Qufu is one of mainland China's 24 government-designated famous historical and cultural cities.

Located in Shandong Province, Qufu is two hours from Beijing and three hours from Shanghai by high-speed rail.

Visit : [www.shangri-la.com/qufu/shangrila](http://www.shangri-la.com/qufu/shangrila). Contact : Kate Jones at [kate.jones@shangri-la.com](mailto:kate.jones@shangri-la.com).



# An Alliance focus on Wales

**Wales is a country that is part of the United Kingdom and the island of Great Britain bordered by England to its east and the Atlantic Ocean and Irish Sea to its west.**

**It has over 1,680 miles (2,700 km) of coastline and is largely mountainous, with its highest peaks in the north and central areas, including Snowdon (Yr Wyddfa), its highest summit.**

## Bear Grylls Survival Academy

The Bear Grylls Survival Academy has launched its 24 Hour Family Course in Pontneddfechan, near Neath in South Wales.

Skills taught include learning how to build and light a fire, how to navigate at night, the best ways to use a knife for survival, foraging for grubs and rodents, building a shelter, extreme weather survival and river crossings.

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

## New Mountain Bike Park opens in South Wales

A new £1.8 million mountain bike park has opened in Merthyr Tydfil.

The park has 23 sections of mountain bike trails, ranging from black national downhill trails to a family trail and pump track, and has just introduced special expert lessons for everyone from beginners to more experienced bikers.

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

## Llandudno new Alice in Wonderland town trail

A new reality tour of Llandudno recounts how the town inspired the Alice in Wonderland books.

Alice Liddell, the inspiration for Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland, spent four to six months in Llandudno every year during her childhood and it was her childhood memories that family friend Carroll used for the classic books.

Visit : [www.visitllandudno.com](http://www.visitllandudno.com)  
[/www.wonderland.co.uk](http://www.wonderland.co.uk)

## North Wales has world's largest 'zip zone'

After the launch of the first ZipWorld last year, the attraction is opening the largest 'zip zone' in the world in June 2014.

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

Zip World Titan, located in the underground slate caverns of the historic mining town of Blaenau Ffestiniog, will allow visitors the chance to fly down 10km of wire, at in excess of 60mph.

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

## The Royal Mint visitor centre

The Royal Mint is to open a visitor centre at its headquarters in South Wales in 2015.

For the first time in its 1,000 year history, Britain's oldest manufacturing organisation, and the world's leading export mint, will officially open its doors to the general public.

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

## Britain's only Roman gold mine reopens

Dolaucothi Gold Mines in Carmarthenshire - the only known Roman goldmines in Britain, is open to the public allowing visitors to explore the underground mine and workings of the unique site.

Their original pick marks can still be seen in the Roman mine which can be visited on an underground tour.

Visit : [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dolaucothi-gold-mines](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dolaucothi-gold-mines).

## Wine Trail Wales

The vineyards of Wales have created a new Wine Trail Wales which helps visitors to explore the country's growing number of wineries and vineyards.

Wine Trail Wales includes 16 vineyards such as Ancre Hill Vineyard in the Wye Valley, whose sparkling wine was previously voted 'Best Sparkling Wine in the World' and winner of the Bollicine del Mondo 2012.

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

# An Alliance focus on

## Annual music events in Italy

### **Arena di Verona, Verona**

20 June to 7 September 2014

Now in its 101 year, the International Opera Festival presents operas including : Aida, Romeo et Juliet, Un Ballo in Maschera, Carmen, Turandot, Carmina Burana, Madame Butterfly and Placido Domingo's Verdi Gala.

Visit : [www.arena.it](http://www.arena.it).

### **Parco Sculture del Chianti, Pievasciata (Siena)**

3 June to 26 August 2014

The programme of summer music at the amphitheatre in the Parco Sculture del Chianti will include classical, chamber, jazz and folk music.

Visit : [www.chiantisculpturepark.it](http://www.chiantisculpturepark.it).

### **Ravenna Festival, Ravenna**

5 June to 11 July 2014

Once the capital of the Western Roman Empire, the city of Ravenna hosts a summer music festival each year in its many theatres and churches.

The Byzantine basilicas, cloisters and piazzas provide a backdrop of music from opera and classical music to dance, jazz, films and exhibitions.

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

### **Sued-Tirol Jazz Festival Alto Adige, South-Tyrol**

27 June to 6 July 2014

One of the most important European music festivals takes place over eight days with jazz music performed by internationally acclaimed musicians in various venues in four of South Tyrol major towns.

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

### **Festival Dei Due Mondi, Spoleto**

27 June to 13 July 2014

This international art, culture and music festival is regarded as one of the most important cultural events in Italy.

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

### **Sounds of the Dolomites, Trentino Region**

End of June to end of August 2014

Sounds of the Dolomites sees music and mountain lovers, musicians and the public walking to the summit. The concert is at the end of the walk.

Visit : [www.isuonidelledolomiti.it](http://www.isuonidelledolomiti.it).

### **Umbria Jazz, Umbria Jazz**

11 to 20 July 14

This is the summer edition of the festival sees New World jazz performed in the medieval buildings of the towns in Umbria and Perugia and Orvieto.

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

### **Estate Musicale Chigiana, Siena, Montalcino, Asciano**

July and August 2014

The churches, abbeys and theatres of the province and city of Siena are venues for the Chigiana Summer, featuring maestros of international music.

It attracts 600 talented young musicians from more than 50 countries.

Visit : [www.chigiana.it](http://www.chigiana.it).

### **Festival of Ancient Music, Urbino, Marche**

19 to 28 July 2014

The Urbino Ancient Music Festival usually starts with a concert in the magnificent courtyard of the Palazzo Ducale.

Other concerts will be held in various locations in the Capital of the Renaissance, Urbino, including St Francis Church.

Visit : [www.fima-online.org](http://www.fima-online.org).

## Annual music events in Italy

(cont)

### **Folkfest, Friuli Venezia Giulia and Veneto region**

3 to 27 July 2014

The festival is performed in 30 different towns in the Veneto and Friuli Venezia Giulia regions in North-East Italy.

The programme includes artists from India, Canada, South America, Hungary, USA, Israel etc. Concerts will be held in the area's villas, castles and villages.

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

### **Teatro Del Silenzio, Lajatico in Tuscany**

20 and 22 July 2014

Andrea Bocelli will sing at this annual appointment for lovers of good music and opera at the magic open air Teatro del Silenzio (Theatre of Silence) in Lajatico, Tuscany on 20 July in a concert called "Pathos" and will be joined by Placido Domingo as conductor.

On 22 July there will be a concert by the world renowned Italian film music composer Ennio Morricone where he will play his most famous film music works.

Visit : [www.teatrodelsilenzio.it](http://www.teatrodelsilenzio.it).

### **17th Baveno Aveno Festival Umberto Giordano, Baveno, Lake Maggiore**

10 to 20 July 2014

The most important festival in Italy dedicated to Umberto Giordano's leading figure, a famous Italian composer who spent his holidays and work-time on Lake Maggiore, in the Villa Fedora.

International artists will perform in unusual locations on the Lake.

Visit : [www.festivalgiordano.it](http://www.festivalgiordano.it).

### **53rd Stresa Festival, Stresa**

24 July to 6 September 2014

The Stresa Festival includes international stars such as the Orchestra and Choir of Turin's Teatro Regio singers and the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

Visit : [www.stresafestival.eu](http://www.stresafestival.eu).

### **Sferisterio Opera Festival, Macerata**

18 July to 9 August 2014

This will be the 50th edition of the Festival and it will be dedicated to women with the staging of three operas : Aida, Tosca and La Traviata in the theatre-shaped Sferisterio,.

Designed in 1823 by architect Ireneo Aleandri, it derives its name and its half-circumference shaped plan from the name of the game played inside: the "armband ball" or Pallone col bracciale.

Visit : [www.sferisterio.it](http://www.sferisterio.it).

### **60th Puccini Festival, Torre del Lago**

25 July to 30 August 2014

Torre del Lago has hosted the Festival Puccini, created by Puccini himself, since 1930.

The outdoor theatre, close to Villa Mausoleo where the Master's remains lie, is a fine setting to enjoy the music of one of the most outstanding and esteemed Italian artists.

Visit : [www.puccinifestival.it](http://www.puccinifestival.it).

### **Rosinni Opera Festival, Pesaro**

10 to 22 August 2014

This festival is entirely dedicated to the music and operas of Gioacchino Rossini, who was born in the Le Marche city of Pesaro.

This year will be the 35th edition of the festival and the programme includes new productions of Armida, Il Barbiere di Siviglia, Aureliano in Palmira, Petite Messe Solennelle and Viaggio a Reims.

Visit : [www.rossinioperafestival.it](http://www.rossinioperafestival.it).

### **Summer Jamboree, Senigallia, Marche**

2 to 10 August 2014

This music Festival is dedicated to the music and culture in America in the '40s and '50s with live concerts of dj set swing, rock'n'roll, jive, doo-wop, rhythm'n'blues, hill-billy e western swing .

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

## Annual music events in Italy

(cont)

### **Buskers Festival, Ferrara**

21 to 31 August 2014

The Ferrara's Buskers Festival attracts 800,000 spectators a year and 35 different nations are represented in this biggest event in the world dedicated to busking.

It was founded in 1988 to promote the works of street artists and with the famous Ferrara Este's fortress as backdrop.

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

### **Sarteano Jazz and Blues, Sarteano near Siena**

23 to 25 August 2014

This event in the medieval town centres of Sarteano and Castiglioncello and hosts internationally acclaimed artists, marching band parades and photography exhibition.

Visit : [www.sarteanojazz.it](http://www.sarteanojazz.it).

Visit : [www.italia.it/en/home](http://www.italia.it/en/home). Contact : Stefania Gatta at [stefania.gatta@enit.it](mailto:stefania.gatta@enit.it).

### **Mito Settembre Musica, Turin and Milan**

September 2014

This is a major festival with a programme of concerts by the world's best orchestras of baroque, opera, medieval music, contemporary music and jazz.

Visit : [www.mitosettembremusica.it](http://www.mitosettembremusica.it).

### **Sagra Musicale Malatestina, Rimini**

September 2014

The 65th Anniversary of the Sagra Musicale has hosted the most prestigious conductors, soloists and orchestra's firmament of international music, over the years, and it is one of the most prestigious cultural events in Italy.

Visit : [www.sagramusicalemalatestiana.it](http://www.sagramusicalemalatestiana.it).

## 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)



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