



# The Alliance

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# Bulletin

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

Mid-August 2014

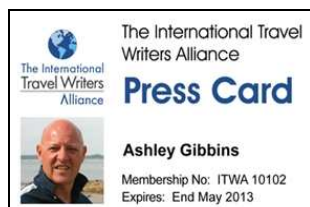
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Issue 168 : mid- August 2014

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

## The Alliance press card



**The International Travel Writers Alliance Press Card now** provides Alliance journalists with formal recognition of their status and standing in the profession and a range of opportunities from Alliance travel partners.

Contact Ashley Gibbins at [Ashley@itwalliance.com](mailto:Ashley@itwalliance.com).

## Job shop

Here are some of the professional opportunities available on [The International Travel Writers Alliance Job Shop](#).

The **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.

The Alliance's travel 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 or upload a CV for potential employers to search through, and
- access job searching tools and tips

Over 40 jobs based in the USA and UK are currently on the **JobShop** website including :

**News Editor, Greater New York**  
New York, NY  
NYC-1211 Ave of the Americas-4243

**Editor, Princeton University Library Chronicle**  
Princeton, New Jersey  
Princeton University Library

**Content Editor**  
Arizona  
McMurry/TMG

**Telecoms Journalist**  
Lichfield, UK

**Content Producer Editor**  
Rockville, Maryland  
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

**Events Marketing Executive / Digital Content Executive**  
Manchester, UK

Visit : [www.jobtarget.com/home/home.cfm?site\\_id=14773](http://www.jobtarget.com/home/home.cfm?site_id=14773)

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## 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

#### VisitPITTSBURGH

VisitPITTSBURGH shares its stories about authentic experiences that visitors can enjoy when coming to the beautiful Pittsburgh region.

Thirty years ago the community made a strategic decision to invest in arts, culture and the environment as an economic development strategy.

As a result, we have a hard working, friendly personality, but have all the benefits of the most hip city with a vibrant arts and culture scene that's rich in history.

It is the official tourism and promotion agency for Pittsburgh and Allegheny County.

Visit : [www.visitpittsburgh.com](http://www.visitpittsburgh.com). Contact : Connie George at [connie.george@visitpittsburgh.com](mailto:connie.george@visitpittsburgh.com).

#### Québec City, Canada

Québec City is one of North America's most beautiful cities and a world-class destination.

It has natural, cultural, and historical attractions, outdoor activities minutes from town and internationally renowned festivals and events among 400 years of history.

Visit : [www.quebecregion.com](http://www.quebecregion.com). Contact : Richard Seguin at [richard.seguin@quebecregion.com](mailto:richard.seguin@quebecregion.com).

#### VisitBritain

*VisitBritain* is the national tourist board for Britain. It is responsible for promoting Britain as a travel destination in 21 International markets.

Visit Britain works closely with journalists looking to highlight or visit Britain.

Visit : [www.visitbritain.org](http://www.visitbritain.org). Contact : Emma Fitzgerald at [emma.fitzgerald@visitbritain.org](mailto:emma.fitzgerald@visitbritain.org).

#### The Lee Valley Regional Park, London

The Lee Valley Regional Park is a 10,000-acre, 26 miles long linear park, much of it green spaces, running through the northeast of Greater London, Essex and Hertfordshire, in an area generally known as the Lea Valley.

Greater London's largest park, follows the course of the River Lea (Lee) along the Lea Valley from Hertfordshire through Essex and the north east of London, through the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park to East India Dock on the River Thames.

It is made up of a diverse mix of countryside areas, urban green spaces, heritage sites, country parks, nature reserves, lakes and riverside trails and leading sports centres.

Visit : [www.visitleevalleypark.org](http://www.visitleevalleypark.org). Contact : Contact : Joanne Curtis at [joannecurtis@leevalleypark.org.uk](mailto:joannecurtis@leevalleypark.org.uk).

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## Kempinski Hotels

Created in 1879, Kempinski Hotels is Europe's oldest luxury Hotel group. Kempinski's rich heritage of impeccable personal service and superb hospitality is complemented by the exclusivity and individuality of its properties.

Kempinski now provides a portfolio of 74 hotels in 34 countries and continues to add new properties in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia. Each one reflects the strength and success of the Kempinski brand without losing sight of its heritage.

The portfolio comprises historic landmark properties, award-winning urban lifestyle hotels, outstanding resorts, and prestigious residences. Each one embues the quality guests have come to expect from Kempinski while embracing the cultural traditions of its location.

Kempinski is a founding member of the Global Hotel Alliance (GHA), the world's largest alliance of independent hotels.

Visit : [www.kempinski.com](http://www.kempinski.com). Contact : Hilary Philpott at [hilary.philpott@kempinski.com](mailto:hilary.philpott@kempinski.com).

## News

### Supernatural

*Supernatural* is a new 'coffee table' book by Sarah Bartlett.

Sarah believes that, for thousands of years, our Earth has been 'haunted' by ghosts, menaced by vampires, disturbed by malevolent spirits, and graced by mystical powers.

From the barren deserts of southern Peru to the lush valleys of central Europe, the supernatural forms part of the ancient myths and legends of every culture.

The much feared and popularized vampire is found not only in Romania, but also in other countries such as Scotland, Ghana, and the Philippines.

Ghosts not only 'haunt' ruined medieval European castles, but also lurk in American cemeteries, roam the Hex River Valley of South Africa, or inhabit deserted towns, battle sites, and islands.

Legendary heroes are as numerous in Burma as they are in Greece, and mystical places can be as empowering as Ayers Rock in Australia or as baffling as Aramu Muru in southern Peru.

*Supernatural* is a comprehensive guide to exploring the Earth's supernatural heritage and where to seek out a mystical, otherworldly, or spine-chilling experience.

Supernatural is published by Apple Press.

Visit : [www.applepress.co.uk](http://www.applepress.co.uk). For review copies contact: Imogen Towner at [Imogen.towner@aurumpublishinggroup.com](mailto:Imogen.towner@aurumpublishinggroup.com).

### Porthcawl marina, South Wales

A new £3.2 million marina has been opened at Porthcawl in South Wales, doubling the number of berths on the waterfront.

The regeneration of the waterfront is a key element in the future development of Porthcawl as a premier seaside resort and is the subject of a long-term initiative known as the 7 Bays Project.

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

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## CATS back in London

Andrew Lloyd Webber's record-breaking musical Cats returns to the West End for a strictly limited 12 week run at the London Palladium beginning 6 December 2014.

Visit : [www.london.catsthemusical.com](http://www.london.catsthemusical.com). Contact : Jonathan Mountford at [jonathan@made2010.com](mailto:jonathan@made2010.com).

## I will survive : VisitScotland' guide to the summer's Edinburgh Festivals

VisitScotland has produced its first 'survival' guide to the annual Edinburgh Festivals

The Edinburgh Festivals Survival Guide, produced by VisitScotland and supported by Edinburgh's Festivals, is the national tourism organisation's first handbook detailing a selection of highlights from this summer's events, plus insider hints and tips to make the most of the world's festival city.

The 60-page guide is available to download for free online from [visitscotland.com](http://visitscotland.com) and reveals what to expect in Edinburgh throughout the season.

Information on where to eat, what to bring, correct pronunciations and how to travel to the city are also included in the guide, as well as the history of the festivals, recommended LGBT bars and pubs, where to go if travelling further afield and the 10 most visited attractions.

Visit : [www.visitscotland.com/edinburghfestivalsguide](http://www.visitscotland.com/edinburghfestivalsguide). Contact : Jack Gorman at [jack.gorman@visitscotland.com](mailto:jack.gorman@visitscotland.com).

## Mandara Spa

Mandara Spa has created two travel sets to provide 'a touch of luxury wherever you go' (*writes Alliance member Ann Mealor*).

These are the :

- Amber Heaven Spa Getaway Travel Bag – The Sensual Collection, and
- Honeymilk Dream Spa Getaway Travel Bag – The Comforting Selection.

The *Amber Heaven* set's key ingredients are inspired by the natural scents of Bali and include jasmine flower milk; gold of pleasure oil; patchouli; hibiscus flower milk; shea butter; sandalwood and cocoa butter.

The *Honeymilk Dream* collection is inspired by the scents of Hawaii and include acacia honey; cocoa butter; kukui nut oil; mango butter; shea butter; sweet almond oil and wheat germ oil.

Both sets contain a rich body cream or butter; shower cream and hand cream.

The *Amber Heaven* travel bag also has a bath essence and the *Honeymilk Dream* has cleansing travel wipes. All the products smell and feel wonderful. I particularly liked the Amber Heaven body cream which is very light but nourishing and absorbs well into the skin.

Both sets come in spacious and attractive travel bags and are priced at £15 each.

Visit : [www.mandaraspaspa.com](http://www.mandaraspaspa.com). For more information and review requests contact Sarah at [Sarah@montypr.com](mailto:Sarah@montypr.com).

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## The New Zealand campsite pass

The New Zealand Department of Conservation (DOC) has launched a new weekly campsite pass, which gives the flexibility to pay once and stay up to seven nights at 100 different DOC campsites around New Zealand.

These include the Kapowairua Spirits Bay campsite in Kaitaia and the Kumeti campsite in Hawke's Bay. Other sites include Uretiti in the Whangarei area in the North Island, offering campers the chance to camp behind sand dunes at Uretiti Beach and explore the nearby Waipu caves.

In the South Island, Butchers Flat was once a gold mining site and is close to Mount Richmond Forest Park.

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

## Pub crawl controls in Calvià, Mallorca

The Municipality of Calvià has imposed tighter controls over the operation of pub crawl organisers.

Calvia is a municipality located on the southwest corner of Mallorca. The region is home to six well-established resorts (Magaluf, Palmanova, Portal Nous, Illetes, Santa Ponca and Peguera).

Companies operating pub crawls in Calvià now have to apply for a licence through the town hall, have civil insurances in place and whose pub crawl guides will have to wear a specific jackets.

Pub crawl groups can now not exceed more than 50 people.

Visit Calvià, has been working to change the perception of the region highlighting new beach clubs and upmarket bars and hotels, family-friendly attractions, gastronomy, hiking trails and natural beauty.

Visit : [www.visitCalvià.com](http://www.visitCalvià.com). Contact : Jo Thomas at [jo.thomas@kbctravelgroup.com](mailto:jo.thomas@kbctravelgroup.com).

## The London Theatre Report

The London Theatre Report, authored by Alistair Smith, has been published by by the National Theatre and the Society of London Theatre (SOLT).

It is the first comprehensive analysis of its type and highlights the significance and variety of London theatre.

Headline findings are :

- London has 241 professional theatres with a seating capacity of more than 110,000
- In 2012/13, more than 22 million people attended London theatre performances
- In 2012/13, London theatre took £618.5m at the box office, more than was taken by London cinemas
- Theatres range in size from the 30-seat Lord Stanley Pub to the 3,600-seat Hammersmith Apollo
- At any one time, London's theatres engage more than 3,000 performers.
- In 2012/13, the average theatre ticket price paid in London was £27.76. This was down on 2011/12.

The findings point to London being the most significant theatre capital in the world.

Visit : [www.soltuk.co.uk](http://www.soltuk.co.uk). Contact : Anthony McNeill at [Anthony@soltukt.co.uk](mailto:Anthony@soltukt.co.uk).

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## Leads

### The Treasure Houses of England

The Treasure Houses of England are ten of some of the most magnificent palaces, houses and castles in England today :

- Beaulieu
- Blenheim Palace
- Burghley House
- Castle Howard
- Chatsworth
- Harewood House
- Hatfield House
- Holkham Hall
- Leeds Castle, and
- Woburn Abbey

Each has its own unique charm and all combine together to give a fascinating insight into life in England over the centuries.

Most are still homes to the great families who have owned them for generations.

Others keep their heritage alive by re-creating scenes and events that have dominated and shaped England from the 9th century to the present day.

Hudson's Heritage Explorer Pass offers entrance to the very best of the UK's stately homes, castles and gardens, including the magnificent Treasure Houses of England.

Visit : [www.treasurehouses.co.uk](http://www.treasurehouses.co.uk). Contact : Tanya Aspinwall at [tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk](mailto:tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk).

### Guided walking in Barcelona

Ramblers Worldwide Holidays is offering a six day guided walking holiday in Barcelona.

Situated between the mountains and sea, the capital of Catalonia is one of the most cultural and fascinating cities in Europe with its blend of Gothic and Art Nouveau architecture.

The works of Antonio Gaudi dominate city life including the famous cathedral of Sagrada Familia with its distinctive 350 foot towers.

Other highlights include :

- the ancient, twisting streets of the Barri Gòtic with its medieval ambience, and
- the city's major promenade, Las Ramblas with its shops, cafes and restaurants.

Ramblers Worldwide Holidays have been established since 1946 and operates in 140 destinations in 60 countries.

Visit : [www.ramblersholidays.co.uk/page/Barcelona](http://www.ramblersholidays.co.uk/page/Barcelona). Contact : Graham Ross at [grahamross1@btconnect.com](mailto:grahamross1@btconnect.com).

### Food Adventure in the Welsh countryside

New Welsh food business Food Adventure is offering an insight into Welsh food and drink production, with visitors taking part in behind the scenes food tours and visit to vineyards, farms, restaurants and hotels across South Wales.

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

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## Gara Rock, Devon UK

Gara Rock, a cliff top development of cottages and apartments on the rugged South Devon coast, has developed a Treasure Discovery Trail for children to learn about and engage with their stunning surroundings.

Gara Rock, which is located near East Portlemouth, is steeped in a history of shipwrecks and the trail provides an insight into the history of the area taking treasure trailers to the old lookout tower, along the South West Coast Path and down to Seacombe Sands.

- archaeological work just off Gara Rock has discovered :
- traces of the prehistoric tin trade in the Bronze Age
- sixteenth-century shipbuilding
- seventeenth-century trade with North Africa with huge treasure troves of gold coins, jewellery and ingots discovered on a wreck situated directly in front of the development, and
- life at sea in the Royal Navy in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Visit : [www.gararock.com](http://www.gararock.com). Contact : Lucy Johnson at [lucyjohansonpr@gmail.com](mailto:lucyjohansonpr@gmail.com).

## The Fort Adams Tandem Zip Line, Newport, Rhode Island

The new Fort Adams Tandem Zip Line soars 430 feet through this historic US coastal fort!

A National Register of Historic Places site, Fort Adams was constructed between 1824 and 1857, and was the USA's largest, most sophisticated and complex fortress of its day.

Exploring its many underground tunnels is another draw for adventurous visitors.

Visit : [www.fortadams.org](http://www.fortadams.org). Contact : Ruth Mackenzie at [Ruth.Mackenzie@kbctravelgroup.com](mailto:Ruth.Mackenzie@kbctravelgroup.com).

## Independent UK walking tours

Ramblers Worldwide Holidays provides independent UK walking adventures via its Load Off Your Back programme.

Their portfolio also includes specialist holidays linked to walking such as cooking, cruising, birdwatching, rail journeys, photography, singing and flora.

The Walking Partnership is a company initiative which champions walking at the 'grass roots' level by providing funding and support to walking groups and clubs throughout the UK.

Visit : [www.loadoffyourback.co.uk](http://www.loadoffyourback.co.uk) and [www.thewalkingpartnership.org.uk](http://www.thewalkingpartnership.org.uk). Contact : Graham Ross at [grahamross1@btconnect.com](mailto:grahamross1@btconnect.com).

## The Connecticut Antiques Trail

The State of Connecticut has launched a dedicated website to showcase the Connecticut Antiques Trail, which comprises more than 60 antique centres, shops and auction houses across the state.

The Trail links the state's antiquing community, making it convenient for residents and visitors to discover, explore and enjoy the art behind this popular pastime.

The site feature news of antiquing events, as well as interactive maps, details of nearby attractions and accommodation, including historic B&Bs.

Visit : [www.ctvisit.com/antiquetrail](http://www.ctvisit.com/antiquetrail). Contact : Ruth Mackenzie at [Ruth.Mackenzie@kbctravelgroup.com](mailto:Ruth.Mackenzie@kbctravelgroup.com).



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## Samoa Smart Guide App

The Samoa Smart Guide App offers visitors to Samoa an easy and user-friendly way to plan their trip and discover the sites whilst they explore the so-called 'Treasured Islands' of the South Pacific.

The app provides a local insider's guide to Samoa with details on where to stay and dine, information on the best sights of Samoa, entertainment, wellness, organic gardens and plantations, the best roadside barbecues and local cuisine, handicrafts and local artists, as well as government and visitor services in Samoa.

For more information on activities in Samoa, visit [www.samoa.travel](http://www.samoa.travel). Contact : Cindy Landlust at [cindy@representationplus.co.uk](mailto:cindy@representationplus.co.uk).

## New Zealand craft beers

New Zealand's burgeoning craft beer scene is giving visitors the chance to refine their beer tasting skills with a growing range of craft brewery tours.

With more craft breweries per head of the population than anywhere else in the country, Nelson is establishing itself as a craft beer centre.

Gentle Cycling offers guided cycling tours, giving beer lovers the chance to combine eating local produce with a bike tour of craft breweries such as Bays Brewery and Lighthouse Brewery.

Visit : [www.nzcycletrail.com](http://www.nzcycletrail.com) and [www.gentlecycling.co.nz](http://www.gentlecycling.co.nz). Contact : Paul Charles at [newzealand@verypcc.com](mailto:newzealand@verypcc.com).

## Extreme Mount Washington, New Hampshire

Mount Washington Observatory's mountaintop museum has been rebranded 'Extreme Mount Washington' and offers an experience of a Mount Washington winter.

It is the combination of extreme cold, wet, high winds, icy conditions and low visibility consistently found atop Mount Washington which earn it the title "Home of the World's Worst Weather".

Despite its relatively low elevation, Mount Washington is located at the confluence of three major storm tracks, and as the highest point in New England it generally takes the brunt of passing storms.

Visit : [www.mountwashington.org](http://www.mountwashington.org). Contact : Ruth Mackenzie at [Ruth.Mackenzie@kbctravelgroup.com](mailto:Ruth.Mackenzie@kbctravelgroup.com).

## G Adventures : Haiti

Small group adventure tour operator G Adventures will offer five departures to Haiti, starting in February 2015, five years after a devastating earthquake shook the world's largest creole country.

The itinerary for each trip includes :

- Cap-Haïtien and its Citadelle Laferrière, a UNESCO-designated mountaintop fortress
- learning about rum at a local distillery and making the local kasav flat bread
- meeting a voodoo priest and shopping for voodoo artefacts at the Iron Market.

Travellers will also visit a local grassroots project, the Art Creation Foundation for Children, which helps at-risk youth learn artistic skills, and see local artist communities make mosaics.

G Adventures is an adventure travel pioneer offering a selection of small group tours, safaris and expeditions to more than 100 countries on all continents.

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

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## **Bounce Below, Wales**

The world's largest underground trampoline has opened in an enormous cavern, twice the size of St Paul's Cathedral, at an historic disused Welsh slate mine.

Bounce Below, designed by the owners of outdoor pursuits centre Zip World, is the world's first subterranean attraction of its kind.

The three giant trampolines, with three metre net walls, are each linked by an 18 metre long slide and are reached by an old mining train.

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

## **Cox & Kings, India**

Cox & Kings' 2015 brochure, India & Beyond features an extensive range of escorted group tours and tailor-made private holidays throughout India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives.

With a new government in place, India's first majority government for 30 years, tourism is firmly on the agenda.

The rupee is also at its most favourable rate for years.

The new brochure contains suggestions for venturing away from the trodden tourist path, as well as a new group tour to Sri Lanka, ideas for river cruising in India and additional suggestions for Nepal.

Visit : [www.coxandkings.co.uk/indian-subcontinent](http://www.coxandkings.co.uk/indian-subcontinent). Contact : Katie Parsons at [katie.parsons@coxandkings.co.uk](mailto:katie.parsons@coxandkings.co.uk).

## **The Portugal wine harvest**

Portugal experiences the earliest wine harvest in Europe.

This September the Vila Vita Parc's country and wine estate Herdade dos Grous in the Alentejo region is inviting guests to learn the wine-making process during the harvest, as well indulging in tasting some of the celebrated wines at the farm.

Herdade dos Grous is situated in the Lower Alentejo plain, near Beja, among olive groves, cork oak forest and 70 hectares of vineyard.

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

## **Cycle shuttle for South Snowdonia, Wales**

The GreenWay Shuttle bus service links riders and their bikes to a number of cycling destinations in South Snowdonia will operate over the summer months.

Calling at Dyffryn Ardudwy, Barmouth, Dolgellau, Coed y Brenin and Llyn Trawsfynydd, the bus will connect riders to either end of the Mawddach Trail, the mountain bike centre at Coed y Brenin and the new biking and canoeing facilities at Llyn Trawsfynydd.

The visitors centre at Trawsfynydd lake is also the start of the South Snowdonia Greenway, a 43 km route which makes use of quiet roads and cycle-tracks to journey the open moorland, forests and estuary shores back to Barmouth.

Visit : [www.southsnowdoniagreenway.co.uk/shuttlebus](http://www.southsnowdoniagreenway.co.uk/shuttlebus). Contact : Jacky O'Hanlon at [info@snowbikers.com](mailto:info@snowbikers.com).

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## What's on

### **Camden Windjammer Festival, Maine, USA**

29 to 31 August

The Camden Windjammer Festival sees Maine's fleet of windjammers - tall masted sailing ships which traditionally functioned as cargo vessels in the 19th and early 20th centuries - gathering in the small historic town of Camden in the state's Mid-Coast region.

The afternoon of Friday 29 August sees the arrival of the schooners as they manoeuvre into Camden Harbor to begin a weekend of nautical family fun.

Highlights of the festival include a schooner open house giving locals and visitors the chance to explore the windjammers and other participating vessels, a maritime heritage fair with displays of maritime history, traditions and skills, and a fireworks display over the harbour.

Windjammers sail from April to early October and visitors can book their own trips, from two-hour trips to five-day live-aboard cruises.

Visit : [www.sailmainecoast.com](http://www.sailmainecoast.com). Contact : Ruth Mackenzie at [Ruth.Mackenzie@kbctravelgroup.com](mailto:Ruth.Mackenzie@kbctravelgroup.com).

### **Music festivals in Aruba**

#### **Electric Festival Aruba**

3 to 7 September 2014

The Electric Festival Aruba, which features electric dance music, returns after last year's debut and has been extended to run over five days.

DJ and leading figure in electric music, Aruban resident and festival founder, Chuckie, will be one of the top figures to perform during the festival.

Visit : [www.electricfestival.com](http://www.electricfestival.com). Contact :

#### **The Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival**

3 and 4 October 2014

The 8th Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival will be staged at the Renaissance Festival Plaza in island capital Oranjestad. Performances take place on three stages.

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

Visit : [www.Aruba.com](http://www.Aruba.com). Contact: Joanna Walding at [j.walding@aruba.com](mailto:j.walding@aruba.com).

### **Dublin Theatre Festival 2014**

25 September to 12 October 2014

The 55th Dublin Theatre Festival will stage 27 world-class productions across 21 different venues in Dublin city and suburbs.

Productions will range from spectacular, large-scale presentations, intimate performances and theatrical firsts to appeal to both seasoned theatre-goers and first-time audiences alike.

The programme includes 13 world premieres from great Irish writers and companies, alongside an extensive programme of international work.

Visit : [www.dublintheatrefestival.com](http://www.dublintheatrefestival.com). Contact : Sharon Kean at [sharon@keanlanyon.com](mailto:sharon@keanlanyon.com).

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## Golf Tournaments in the Dominican Republic

August to November 2014

The Dominican Republic is one of the Caribbean's premier golf destinations.

### III Willy Pumarol Golf Classic

30 August 2014

This tournament is at The Links Golf Course in Casa de Campo, La Romana, one of the Caribbean's prime golf destinations.

Willy Pumarol, the first Dominican golfer to join the PGA Latin America Tour, will host the event.

### "Casa de Campo Open" Golf Tournament

10 to 14 September

This event will be held at the Teeth of the Dog, the Dye Fore and The Links golf courses, all found in Casa de Campo.

The tournament was launched in 1981 and currently attracts top-ranked national and international players.

### D.R. Amateur Open 2014

27 October to 2 November

Organised by the Dominican Golf Federation, this tournament gives players the opportunity to play the resort's Teeth of the Dog, Dye Fore and The Links.

### Third Golf Tournament La Romana-Bayahibe

15 November

This tournament at the Dye Fore golf course in Casa de Campo is organized by the La Romana-Bayahibe Hotel Association and the La Romana-Bayahibe Tourism Cluster.

Visit : [www.godominicanrepublic.com](http://www.godominicanrepublic.com). Contact : Esther Smith at [pr.uk@godominicanrepublic.com](mailto:pr.uk@godominicanrepublic.com) at [pr.uk@godominicanrepublic.com](mailto:pr.uk@godominicanrepublic.com).

## The Brighton Food Festival, UK

4 to 14 September

Now in its 13th year, the festival is one of the largest and longest established dates in the UK food calendar and attracts around 160,000 visitors a year to Brighton.

The Autumn Harvest edition of the festival combines the Sussex & The World Market featuring the Live Food Show and Children's Food Festival, and the Big Sussex Market.

There are also a host of speciality dinners, tours and tastings.

The festivals Bitter & Twisted features eight local brewers and cider makers (4 September) and there will also be the city's biggest ever independent wine festival on the seafront (6 September).

Visit : [www.brightonfoodfestival.com](http://www.brightonfoodfestival.com). Contact : Nick Mosley at [nick@sharpmediagroup.co.uk](mailto:nick@sharpmediagroup.co.uk).

## Wild Boar Week , Rye, UK

25 October to 2 November 2014

Wild Boar Week pays homage to the town's local delicacy. Hunted to near extinction in the 17th Century, surviving boars continued to breed in Kentish farms leading to dramatic increases in the last 20 years.

Visit : [www.wildboar.org.uk](http://www.wildboar.org.uk). Contact : Natalie Ashworth at [atvNatalie.Ashworth@visitengland.org](mailto:atvNatalie.Ashworth@visitengland.org).

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## **The Urbanna Oyster Festival, Virginia, USA**

7 and 8 November 2013

Virginia is known as the Oyster Capital of the East Coast and the state is now the largest producer of fresh, farm-raised oysters in America.

And 75,000 visitors are expected to go to the quiet tidewater town of Urbanna in Virginia, one of the oldest and smallest towns in America for its oyster festival.

The Urbanna Oyster Festival is Virginia's official oyster festival and one of the largest and oldest festivals of its kind in the USA.

Located along the Rappahannock River, Urbanna is a rural community with a land mass of less than half a square mile and a quiet way of life in a sheltered deep-water creek on a tributary of the Chesapeake Bay.

Virginia has seven different oyster regions.

Visit : [www.urbannaoysterfestival.com](http://www.urbannaoysterfestival.com) and [www.virginia.org/oysters](http://www.virginia.org/oysters). Contact : Jo Thomas at [jo.thomas@kbc-pr.com](mailto:jo.thomas@kbc-pr.com).

## **Christmas at Kew Gardens, London**

26 November 2014 to 3 January 2015

Christmas at Kew is a new one mile trail winding its way through the world famous botanic gardens in an after dark experience.

There are glowing waterside reflections, illuminated fountains and grand glasshouses as Kew's iconic architecture and unique tree canopies are brought to life drenched in Christmas colour.

Along the way are giant light sculptures, Tunnel of Lights, twinkling holly bushes and Christmas trees

Visit : [www.kew.org](http://www.kew.org). Contact : Jonathan Mountford at [jonathan@made2010.com](mailto:jonathan@made2010.com).

## **The Marrakech International Film Festival**

5 to 13 December 2014

The 14th Marrakech International Film Festival highlight Moroccan cinema while also celebrating international cinema and welcoming directors, actors and producers from around the world.

### **Maroc Lodge**

The Maroc Lodge is a place to stay during the festival. It is located 30 miles from Marrakech next to a small Berber village and at the foot of the High Atlas Mountains.

Visit : [www.en.festivalmarrakech.info](http://www.en.festivalmarrakech.info) and [www.maroc-lodge.com](http://www.maroc-lodge.com). Contact : Claire McLoughlin at [claire@justtravelpr.co.uk](mailto:claire@justtravelpr.co.uk)

## **The Yukon Quest, Canada**

Starts 7 February 2015

The Yukon Quest challenges mushers and their dog teams to traverse the frozen wilderness between Whitehorse, Yukon and Fairbanks, Alaska each February.

Spectators from around the world travel to the Yukon to witness the event live, while thousands follow the race progress online.

The 1,000 mile Quest trail follows historical gold rush and mail delivery routes, but varied weather and trail conditions provide a fresh challenge for mushers and their dogs every year.

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

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## **The JORVIK Viking Festival, York UK**

14 to 22 February 2015

The Annual JORVIK Viking Festival celebrates the time, 1,000 years ago, when York was under Viking rule and great celebrations took place every February called 'Jolablot' to herald the coming of spring and the survival of winter hardships.

In the early 1980s the York Archaeological Trust revived Jolablot, creating the largest Viking Festival in Europe. Now in its 28th year, the Festival attracts more than 40,000 visitors to the city attracting Viking re-enactors from across Europe.

The festival has over 80 events including a Viking battle finale with fire drawings, a 60ft boat burning, a Strongman competition and the Annual best beard competition.

Visit : [www.jorvik-viking-centre.co.uk/festivals](http://www.jorvik-viking-centre.co.uk/festivals) and [www.visitork.org](http://www.visitork.org). Contact : [jorvik@yorkat.co.uk](mailto:jorvik@yorkat.co.uk).

## **What's on in New Zealand**

### **Rhythm and Vines, North Island, New Zealand**

29 December 2014 to 1 January 2015

Over 30,000 people will enjoy over a hundred acts on five different stages during Rhythm and Vines held in the Waiohika Estate in North Island's Gisborne.

Visit : [www.rhythmandvines.co.nz](http://www.rhythmandvines.co.nz).

### **Thee Queenstown Bike Festival, New Zealand**

13 to 22 March 2015

The Queenstown Bike Festival combines the best of mountain bikes, downhill and road bikes through a diverse series of events suitable for all ages and abilities.

Some of the highlights are the Mountain Bike Night Ride for riders who want to try the unique experience of riding and navigating at night.

The technically demanding course of the Vertigo Bikes Dirtmasters Downhill will push world-class downhill riders to their limits, while the Queenstown Bike Tours Coffee to Grape is an afternoon of wine, food and scenery from Arrowtown to Gibbston Valley.

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

### **MarchFest, Nelson, New Zealand**

21 March 2015

Held in the Founders Heritage Park in Nelson, MarchFest is a craft beer and music festival where guests can enjoy eclectic music while trying a range of local craft beers brewed especially for the occasion.

With Nelson being the sunniest region in New Zealand it is a location with long beaches, rugged mountains and freshwater springs.

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

Contact : Paul Charles at [newzealand@verypcc.com](mailto:newzealand@verypcc.com).

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## **Sport : New Zealand**

### **Cricket**

New Zealand will co-host the next Cricket World Cup in February 2015 in seven cities including Wellington, Auckland, Dunedin and Christchurch : [www.cricketworldcup.com](http://www.cricketworldcup.com).

### **The FIFA U-20 World Cup**

The FIFA U-20 World Cup will also take place in New Zealand in May 2015 : [www.fifa.com/u20worldcup](http://www.fifa.com/u20worldcup).

Visit : [www.newzealand.com](http://www.newzealand.com). Contact : Louise Ferrall at [newzealand@verypcc.com](mailto:newzealand@verypcc.com).

## **Reasons to write about**

### **Fred Olsen Cruise Lines : 'Poison, Murder & Mystery Cruise' : Summer 2015**

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines is to introduce a sailing aboard its Boudicca created around a 'Poison, Murder & Mystery Cruise'.

Departing from Rosyth (Edinburgh) on 10 July 2015, the cruise will link the Duchess of Northumberland's 'Poison Gardens' at Alnwick Castle – which starred as 'Hogwarts School of Witchcraft & Wizardry' in the Harry Potter films.

Throughout the cruise, the subject of poison and mystery will be in evidence with plays, talks and special tours – and a murder mystery starting as soon as guests get on board, which will run through to a 'Grand Finale' at Alnwick Castle.

The Boudicca will cruise to Leixoes (for Oporto, Portugal), Funchal (Madeira), Santa Cruz (Tenerife), Las Palmas (Gran Canaria), Lisbon (Portugal) and Newcastle (UK) – known as the 'Agatha Christie Route'.

Mr. Fred. Olsen Senior, 85, is a Norwegian shipping and energy pioneer who, since the age of 26, has been Chairman of the holding companies of the Fred. Olsen group of companies, which includes Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines and ship builders Harland & Wolff.

### **The Alnwick Garden**

The Duchess of Northumberland is the visionary behind The Alnwick Garden, the largest visitor attraction in the North East receiving over 800,000 visitors each year.

The Duchess is particularly interested in natural poisons and aphrodisiacs and has built one of the only 'Poison Gardens' in the world, in which every plant is a killer.

Visit : [www.fredolsencruises.com](http://www.fredolsencruises.com) and [www.alnwickgarden.com](http://www.alnwickgarden.com). Contact : Rachael Jackson at [rachael.jackson@fredolsen.co.uk](mailto:rachael.jackson@fredolsen.co.uk).

### **100 Historic Icons of Orlando Exhibition : 1960-1985**

The Orange County Regional History Center and Orlando Remembered are to document the period spanning 1960 - 1985 for a new exhibition to launch on 29 November 2014.

The Orange County Regional History Center, housed in a restored historic five-story 1927 courthouse in downtown Orlando, showcases the collection of the Historical Society of Central Florida.

The museum features four floors of permanent exhibits and presents nationally limited-run exhibitions.

Visit : [www.historiciconsoforlando.com](http://www.historiciconsoforlando.com) and [www.thehistorycenter.org](http://www.thehistorycenter.org). Contact : Claudine Tomlinson-Burney at [Claudine.Tomlinson-Burney@ocfl.net](mailto:Claudine.Tomlinson-Burney@ocfl.net).

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## Northumberland's Dark Sky Park, UK

Northumberland offers some of the best stargazing experiences and clearest night skies in England and is home to Europe's largest International Dark Sky Park.

Northumberland National Park along with Kielder Water & Forest Park and Kielder Observatory Astronomical Society hold the prestigious award of Gold Tier 'Dark Sky Status' from the International Dark Skies Association.

The autumn and winter months in Northumberland offer the best opportunity for stargazing.

Many accommodation providers in the Dark Sky Park offer star gazing packs, including binoculars, a flask and a star chart.

In addition, the Kielder Observatory offers a variety of stargazing events, with experts on hand to guide the exploration of the universe.

Visit : [www.northumberlandtourism.co.uk](http://www.northumberlandtourism.co.uk). Contact : Natalie Wood at [Natalie.wood@northumberlandtourism.co.uk](mailto:Natalie.wood@northumberlandtourism.co.uk).

## Cycling in Poitou-Charentes, France

The French region of Poitou-Charentes, and in particular the islands of Ré and Oléron, are well suited to relaxed cycling holidays.

Poitou-Charentes is located on the Atlantic Coast between Nantes and Bordeaux.

The coastline stretches for 460 km with 110 km of beaches and four islands: Oléron, Ré, Aix and Madame

### Ile d' Oléron

Ile d' Oléron is the second largest island in France after Corsica and has over 100 km of cycling trails, which lead cyclists along some of the most beautiful coastlines in France, across marshes, and through forests.

There's the chance to visit the Oyster farms, discover the old lighthouse on the most northerly part of the island or catch a boat ride to the famous Fort Boyard.

### Ile de Ré

On the smaller neighbouring island, Ile de Ré, cycling is a way of life.

With the highest point being just 19 metres above sea level and dedicated cycling itineraries criss-crossing the island, cycling is the most popular way to discover the vineyards, coastal defences, such as the "St Martin-de-Ré" citadel, or enjoy the sandy "Gollandières" beach near the picturesque "Bois Plage".

Ile de Ré is also known as the "white island" because of the salt marshes on the north-west coast and villages with their white-washed houses.

Two of the villages on the island are members of "the most beautiful villages in France" and are well-worth a visit.

Visit : [www.visit-Poitou-Charentes.com](http://www.visit-Poitou-Charentes.com). Contact : Anne Pederson at [Pressoffice.uk@atout-france.fr](mailto:Pressoffice.uk@atout-france.fr).



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## The World Land Trust

The World Land Trust (WLT), the international conservation charity, is celebrating 25 years of successfully protecting the world's most biologically important and threatened habitats.

An essential part of the Trust's philosophy is to work through local conservation groups, and to help build their capacity so that they are better able to protect the wildlife in their countries and the habitats on which they depend.

The WLT has announced the successful protection of over 88,700 acres of land, in the 12 months to June 2014, to safeguard wildlife corridors and extend existing reserves.

The Trust also raised one million pounds raised in less than a year to save the rainforest home of Orang-utans.

The funds are being used to purchase strategically important parcels of forest in order to create the Keruak Corridor in the Bornean rainforest, ensuring that wildlife does not become isolated in forest fragments.

In addition to the work carried out in Borneo, World Land Trust has also saved acres in several Latin American countries during the last 12 months, including Bolivia and Mexico.

In Bolivia's Beni Savanna, WLT funding has helped double the size of Barba Azul Nature Reserve, home to the critically endangered Blue-throated Macaw.

In central Mexico, funds were used to extend a network of nature reserves in Sierra Gorda, an extraordinarily biodiverse area home to all six species of wild cat found in Mexico, including Jaguar, Puma and Ocelot.

Visit : [www.worldlandtrust.org](http://www.worldlandtrust.org). Contact : Jessica Meins at [worldlandtrust@mcluskey.co.uk](mailto:worldlandtrust@mcluskey.co.uk).

## Whale shark encounters In Mexico

The whale shark, which is not a whale and only technically a shark, is the largest fish on Earth.

This gentle creature can grow up to 60-feet in length all on a diet of algae, plankton, and krill.

Whale sharks live in all tropical and warm temperate seas but roam the oceans generally alone. However, large numbers will gather in areas with abundant plankton making them prime tourist attractions.

There are only a handful of places where they make predictable appearances during certain times of the year and one of the best is the nutrient-rich waters of the Midriff Island region in the Sea of Cortez.

From August into October, whale sharks averaging 25–40 feet long migrate to this area and can be observed and swum among.

To experience the whale sharks, Baja AirVentures flies its guests from San Diego to the remote Mexican fishing village of Bahia de los Angeles, population 500.

From there, boats shuttle guests to Las Animas Lodge situated on a private cove rimmed by a mile-long crescent beach.

Guests spend up to five hours daily observing and swimming with whale sharks.

While the focus is on snorkelling with these creatures that naturally feed close to the surface, there are also afternoon outings to isolated islands and coves frequented by up to 10 species of whales (including fin and blue whales), as well as dolphins, sea lions, sea turtles and manta rays.

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## Other whale shark encounters

Whale sharks can also be encountered during specific times of the year in the waters of :

- Mexico's Yucatan (Isla Holbox)
- Honduras (Utila)
- Western Australia (Ningaloo Reef)
- Belize (Gladden Spit)
- Philippines (Donsol Bay)
- Mozambique (Tofo Beach)
- Seychelles (South Mahé)
- Thailand (Koh Tao)
- Maldives (South Ari Atoll), and
- Galapagos, Ecuador (Puerto Ayora).

Visit : [www.bajaairventures.com](http://www.bajaairventures.com). Contact : Dave Wiggins: at [dave@travelnewssource.com](mailto:dave@travelnewssource.com).

## A place to stay

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

Lumley Castle is a four star hotel set within a 14th century castle that dominates the County Durham landscape.

For more than 600 years, Lumley Castle has stood with parklands overlooking the River Wear at Chester-le-Street.

It is located between the historic city of Durham and Newcastle, the hotel is well situated to explore the North East of England. The bedrooms are located in the Castle, Courtyard and Castle Mews with many of the rooms having four poster beds.

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

### South Beach Camps Bay, Cape Town, South Africa

The Blue Views Collection will open South Beach Camps Bay, 50m from the beachfront, in September 2014.

Previously known as The Bloomberg, South Beach, the 9 one-bedroom, serviced apartments are undergoing a total renovation.

The Blue Views Collection consists of 19 individual self-catering villas and apartments, achieving a 5-star rating by the South Africa Tourism board.

Visit : [www.blueviews.com](http://www.blueviews.com). Contact : Casey at [casey@nickyarthurpr.com](mailto:casey@nickyarthurpr.com).

### 21 Broad, Nantucket, Maine

Lark Hotels has opened 21 Broad, a 27-room hotel located within a 1876 building a close walk from Nantucket's Steamship Authority and island restaurants.

Lark Hotels now has seven hotels in six seaside locations :

- Kennebunkport and Portland, ME
- Nantucket, MA
- Portsmouth, NH, and
- Newport and Narragansett, RI.

Visit : [www.larkhotels.com](http://www.larkhotels.com). Contact : Rebecca Widness at [rebecca@widnesscopr.com](mailto:rebecca@widnesscopr.com).

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## **ibis hotels North West England, UK**

ibis budget hotels is to open ibis budget Warrington Lymm and ibis budget Knutsford in summer 2014.

- Ibis budget Knutsford is located just off the M6 in Knutsford, known as the gateway to Cheshire, and host's 32 cocoon rooms.
- Ibis budget Warrington at Lymm Services, is based in the heart of Cheshire just off the M6/M56 and has 61 cocoon rooms.

Each ibis budget hotel offers 24/7 check-in, a flat-screen TV in each room and free Wi-Fi.

Both hotels are well located for leisure travellers with easy access to Manchester City Centre and Manchester Airport, the Roman city of Chester and the county of Lancashire.

ibis has 957 hotels in 55 countries.

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

## **Bellevue Plantation House, Bridgetown, Barbados**

Bellevue Plantation House is located in Waterford in the St. Michael Parish just outside Bridgetown in the South East of Barbados.

Set within three acres of private grounds, Bellevue was built between 1735 and 1750 and is one of the first plantation residences on the island.

The original house was constructed in 'Caribbean Georgian' style, an expression coined to describe the many tropical adaptations to classic Georgian architecture that is unique to the West Indies.

The House was purchased in 2008 by current owners, Paul Andrews and Simon Briggs, who have refurbished it.

Bellevue Plantation House is close to the beach and local Holetown with its shopping and dining options and lively nightlife.

Visit : [www.bellevuebarbados.co.uk](http://www.bellevuebarbados.co.uk). Contact : Karen Luard at [kp@kpcommunications.co.uk](mailto:kp@kpcommunications.co.uk).

## **Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp, Namibia**

Wilderness Safaris has opened its Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp in Namibia's remote Kaokoveld.

Located in the private Palmwag Concession straddling the Palmwag area and Skeleton Coast National Park, the camp has a low-impact design that operates on 100% solar power.

Activities make the most of the diverse landscapes, with guests exploring the area on foot, by vehicle and by air with expert guides.

Attractions include desert oases found in the Hoanib floodplains, as well as game-viewing opportunities.

The area is home to desert-adapted elephant, as well as gemsbok, giraffe, springbok and occasionally lion and rhino.

Hoanib can be combined with Wilderness Safaris' other offerings within Namibia, from Damaraland and Desert Rhino Camps to Serra Cafema in the far north.

Visit : [www.wilderness-safaris.com](http://www.wilderness-safaris.com). Contact : Charlotte Rous [Charlotte@grifcopr.com](mailto:Charlotte@grifcopr.com).

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### **The Inn at Willow Grove, Orange, Virginia**

The Inn at Willow Grove is an historic 40-acre estate in Virginia's wine country.

Nearby activities include wine tastings at top local vineyards, horseback riding, hot air ballooning, hiking, fishing, steeplechase races and tours of historic sites.

Visit : [www.innatwillowgrove.com](http://www.innatwillowgrove.com). Contact: Rebecca Widness at [Rebecca@widnesscopr.com](mailto:Rebecca@widnesscopr.com).

### **Villa Roca Mar, Bendinat, Mallorca**

Luxury chalet operator Haute Montagne, has added the Villa Roca Mar, in Bendinat, Mallorca to its portfolio.

The villa is located on a cliff edge overlooking the waters of Palma Bay a ten minute drive from the capital city of Palma.

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

### **Tortuga Bay Hotel, Dominican Republic**

The Tortuga Bay Hotel has received a Five-Diamond Rating from the American Automobile Association.

The AAA Diamond category is the most credible rating system in the U.S., Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean.

Its evaluation measures the quality of food, general services, decor and ambience offered by tourism-related facilities.

Visit : [www.puntacana.com/tortuga-bay-hotel](http://www.puntacana.com/tortuga-bay-hotel). Contact : Esther Smith at [pr.uk@godominicanrepublic.com](mailto:pr.uk@godominicanrepublic.com).

### **Wilderness Safaris to open Linkwasha Camp in Zimbabwe's Hwange National Park**

Wilderness Safaris will open its new Linkwasha Camp in May 2015.

Located in a game-rich private concession in Zimbabwe's Hwange National Park, the camp will offer luxurious accommodation.

With over 18 years of experience in Hwange, Wilderness Safaris has two private concessions in the most productive wildlife areas of the Park.

Situated on the same site as the old Linkwasha, the new camp will be located far away from public access areas but close to Ngamo, which offers summer and winter game viewing.

The camp will offer regular sightings of large herds of elephant and buffalo, prides of lion, and an abundance of plains game and birdlife.

Other activities will include visits to the Ngamo community.

Linkwasha combines with Wilderness Safaris' other offerings in Zimbabwe including Ruckomechi Camp in Mana Pools and Toka Leya and The River Club on the Zambian side of the Victoria Falls.

Wilderness Safaris operates camps and safaris in some of Africa's best wildlife and wilderness reserves across nine different countries: Botswana, Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Visit : [www.wilderness-safaris.com](http://www.wilderness-safaris.com). Contact : Charlotte Rous at [charlotte@grifcopr.com](mailto:charlotte@grifcopr.com).

## An Alliance focus on the Faroe Islands

**The Faroe Islands comprise 18 tiny windswept 'dots', 300km north of Scotland in the North Atlantic.**

### The creative influence of the Faroe Islands

With a population of 48,000 the Faroes have nurtured a spectrum of uniquely -skilled locals.

#### Eivør

Eivør – a vocalist, instrumentalist and songwriter, whose *So Close To Being Free* was remixed and used in one of the trailers for Season Four of *Game of Thrones*.

The beauty of the Faroe Islands – the volcanic rock, green valleys, fjords, waterfalls and streams have been Eivør's inspiration.

#### Guðrun & Guðrun

Guðrun & Guðrun design high-end knitwear using untreated wool from Faroese sheep.

The two Guðruns designed Sara Lund's jumper, much admired in TV series *The Killing*, and have recently begun to sell some of their range through Wolf & Badgers' boutique in London.

#### Jón Tyril

Jón Tyril is creator of the growing G! music festival (now in its twelfth year).

Jón's new project is the 'anti-festival', Hoyma, a series of intimate concerts performed in locals' living rooms without any sound or lighting equipment, and is reminiscent of the ancient Faroese tradition of friends and families gathering in each other's houses for story-telling and singing.

#### Grass roof cutting

Traditional grass roofs from the Viking ages are common in the Faroes.

#### Getting around the Faroes

Due to the islands' location, in the restless Atlantic, and often fickle weather conditions, inter-island travel by boat in the Faroes can be tricky one minute and impossible the next. Helicopter rides are the equivalent of a local bus service.

Visit : [www.visitfaroeislands.com](http://www.visitfaroeislands.com). Contact : Sue Ockwell at [s.ockwell@travelpr.co.uk](mailto:s.ockwell@travelpr.co.uk).

Houses, government buildings, public venues and hotels embrace the grass roof, for its insulating and aesthetic qualities.

Sheep, well accustomed to the precipitous slopes across the islands, are sometimes helped on to a roof to trim the turf.

The municipality employs its own grass cutter to keep government building roofs well-manicured.

#### Supper with the locals

There's the chance to eat at the home of farmers Anna and Óli Rubeksen in the village of Velbastaður, about ten minutes from Tórshavn, with seating for 30.

The couple offer a wholesome menu, full of local produce, in a floor-to-ceiling windowed dining area, with panoramic views of a scenic fjord and the green islets of Koltur and Hestur.

#### Gutti the chef

Faroese Chef Gutti is back has his own TV programme, celebrating the islands' gastronomic delights.

He introduces viewers to different islands that specialise in certain produce, and is happy to meet visitors.

world, thanks to government subsidies.

When it comes to helicopter rides, locals take priority over tourists, who can usually only book a one-way ride, returning by boat (if the weather changes for the worse, then you may have to wait).

## 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 furgan.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 They 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

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



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

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

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**AllWays traveller** is the consumer travel features 'arm' of the Alliance providing independent travellers with views of the world from the professional travel journalists in the Alliance

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

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