



The Alliance

Bulletin

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

Mid-July 2014

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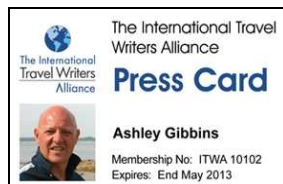
Annual or special events, celebrations and commemorations.

Registering with the Alliance

To register with the Alliance visit : www.itwalliance.com, and register as a :

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

The Alliance press card



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

For more information contact Ashley Gibbins at Ashley@itwalliance.com.

Join and follow



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



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

We hope the **Job Shop** will become a valuable addition to the range of services offered by the [International Travel Writers Alliance](#).

Jobs on the site :

Service Writer General Office

Greenmark Equipment
Mishawaka, Indiana

Staff writer, tech and telecommunications

CQ Roll Call
Washington, Dist. Columbia

Senior RFP Writer

AGF Investments Inc.
Toronto, Ontario

Writer/Editor

Columbia Association
Columbia, Maryland

Copy Writer and Content Manager

(starting in August)
Jacada Travel
London

Travel Journalist

The Positive Newspaper
London

PR Account Manager/B2B Writer –

(maternity contract)
Select Appointments
Norwich, UK

Reporter, Multimedia - Entertainment and Media

NBC News
London

The site also features UK and international job opportunities.

Visit : www.jobtarget.com/home/home.cfm?site_id=14773

The Alliance Syndication Network

The International Travel Writers Alliance has established the Alliance Syndication Network to enable Alliance journalists to syndicate their features (or links to these features) through the other members in the Network.

By working together in this way, Syndication Network journalists can achieve a far higher circulation for their features.

It will also increase the willingness of travel industry representatives to work with Syndication Network journalists, knowing they will be able to 'deliver' a far greater potential readership reach.

Syndication membership

Although any Alliance member can join the Syndication Network, it is likely to be of greatest benefit to those members who have - or produce features for - online travel magazines, newsletters or blogs, including audio and visual content.

The Alliance Syndication Network Directory

The Syndication Network directory lists those Alliance journalists who are looking to work with other Syndicate members - and their publications.

The directory will be updated on a regular basis and archived at www.itwalliance.com click : Networking

The networking approach

Whenever a Syndication Network member produces a travel feature they are welcome to ask other Syndicate members to publish information on the feature and a link to it.

There will always be an understanding that Syndication Network members will only make contact, with other members, when there is genuine synergy between the two.

It is then for Syndication Network members to determine how best to work together.

Joining the Alliance Syndication Network

Alliance journalists looking to join the Syndication Network should email Ashley@itwalliance.com with :

- the name of your online publication
- a brief description of it
- the circulation or reach (if known)
- the link to it, and
- the best email for other ASN members to contact you on.

The Alliance Syndication Network directory will be updated regularly and archived at www.itwalliance.com click : Networking.

Visit : www.itwalliance.com . Contact : Ashley Gibbins at Ashley@itwalliance.com.

Working with the Alliance

Partners

Ardtornish

Ardtornish offers guests a range of self catering holiday accommodation located in the beautiful West Coast of Scotland.

Guests can choose from the dramatic Victorian Self Catering Apartments in Ardtornish House to a variety of traditional stone Holiday Cottages, and our latest venture, the Bunkhouse.

All enjoy views and rural setting in this uniquely located West Coast Estate.

Visit : www.ardtornishestate.co.uk. Contact : Kathryn McLaughlin at kathryn@ardtornish.co.uk

The Big Bend

The Big Bend is named for the vast curve of the Rio Grande in remote southwest Texas.

It is a wildly beautiful natural region, with a complex and fascinating history. Over one million acres of public land including Big Bend National Park and Big Bend Ranch State Park offer hiking, camping, river running, horse riding, mountain bicycling, jeep touring and abundant sightseeing opportunities on paved and improved roads.

Accommodations run the range from convenient and comfortable to resort luxury.

A few remarkable communities near Big Bend National Park: Marathon, Terlingua and Study Butte, Terlingua Ghost Town, and Lajitas, offer services, amenities, and entertainment.

A variety of guided outdoor activities are available. Big Bend is a diverse region with endless possibilities for adventure and discovery.

Visit : www.visitbigbend.com. Contact : Natalie Pattillo at natalie@visitbigbend.com.

Adriaticadventure.com

For travellers looking to enjoy the Croatian capital Dubrovnik.

Visit : www.adriaticadventure.com. Contact : Milena Cakalo at milena@adriaticadventure.com.

Mons Region Tourist Office, Belgium

The Mons Region Tourist Office provides information about the area of Mons and organizes guided tours, daytrips and city trips.

The Mons Region Tourist Office also welcomes journalists in collaboration with the Belgian Tourist Offices of Wallonia and Brussels.

It is involved in the development of projects linked with the UNESCO sites, Mons 2015 European Capital of Culture and the memorial tourism in the frame of the commemorations 2014/2018.

Visit : www.monsregion.be. Contact : Michel Vasko at michel.vasko@ville.mons.be.

The Convention and Visitors Bureau of Nice, France

Nice, on the French Riviera in the South of France a city of multiple perfumes and flavours with the gentle lifestyle is as much due to the city's beauty as to its exceptional climate.

The *Cours Saleya* and its markets will reveal their unexpected treasures and stimulate taste-buds. Flower markets, fruit and vegetable markets, fish markets.

The Old City - with its picturesque narrow streets has even more treasures in store.

Visit : www.en.nicetourisme.com. Contact : Nadja Graf at nadja.graf@otcnice.com.

Whistling Arrow (Asia)

Whistling Arrow creates and manages a select number of highly distinctive small group adventures in Asia. These range from unique pilgrimage treks around sacred peaks in the Tibetan Himalaya to amazing island – hopping expeditions in Northern Palawan, The Philippines.

All its trips are culturally immersive and original in design and allow our clients to explore the wilder more awe-inspiring corners of the world's most diverse continent.

Visit : www.whistlingarrow.com. Contact : Adrian Bottomley at adrian@whistlingarrow.com.

Agencies

Wixhill (UK)

Wixhill is a PR agency specialising in travel, lifestyle and food.

Visit : www.wixhill.co.uk. Contact : Tim Fordham-Moss at tim@wixhill.co.uk.

News

United Nations recognizes civil rights sites in Birmingham, Alabama

UNESCO, the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture, has named Birmingham's key civil rights locations a "World Memory Site."

The historic Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, one of the sites to receive the international status, was bombed by Ku Klux Klansmen in 1963, killing four young girls and becoming a pivotal part of America's Civil Rights Movement.

The designation is a step toward the city's goal to gain "World Heritage" status..

Visit : www.en.unesco.org and www.inbirmingham.com. Contact : Della Tully at della.tully@btinternet.com.

Fred. Olsen 2016 'South America Explorer' cruise

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines' has announced its Balmoral's 46-night 'South America Explorer', which departs from Southampton on 19 January 2016.

The cruise will take in 16 destinations, with seven ports of call in the Brazil.

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

Caramel, Crete

The 5-star Caramel Grecotel Boutique Resort has opened on the longest beach in Crete on the Cretan Riviera.

The hotel is set within lawns, tiered gardens and stone paths, which link the main building to the beach and the village-style accommodation designed like a Mediterranean island settlement.

Visit : www.caramelbeach.com. Contact : Judy Smith at judy.smith@grecotel.com.

Bougainvillea, Kerala, India

Marari Villas will open Bougainvillea, on the shores of the Arabian Sea, on 1 October 2014.

The property is located on a secluded beach at Mararikulam, a fishing village in Central Kerala. Bougainvillea is one of four boutique properties managed by Marari Villas.

Visit : www.mararivillas.com. Contact : Simone Kane at simone@lbbcreative.co.uk.

Cassia

Hospitality group Banyan Tree has launched a new brand, Cassia, which will offer one and two-bedroom units with flexible living and dining options.

Visit : www.banyantree.com. Contact : Samantha Burgess-Allen at samantha.burgessallen@banyantree.com.

Kennedy Space Center, Cape Canaveral, Florida

The Kennedy Space Center has opened its new “Great Balls of Fire” interactive exhibit, which provides guests with an in-depth and hands-on experience as they learn about asteroids, comets and meteorites.

Great Balls of Fire allows guests to discover the risks that these space projectiles present to our planet and explores how we keep track of near-Earth objects while examining the effects of possible impacts.

The exhibition will run until 4 January 2015.

Visit : www.KennedySpaceCenter.com. Contact : Nancy Glasgow at nancy@bitner.com.

Shanti Maurice, Mauritius

Shanti Maurice, Mauritius is supporting the Whole World Water campaign.

It is the first hotel in Mauritius to join this global initiative, demonstrating its commitment to the sustainable development of tourism and support for local communities.

Launched in early 2013, Whole World Water was developed to provide clean and safe drinking water to almost one billion people currently in need.

The campaign also works to address the environmental risk of the tourism industry's use of plastic, single-use water bottles.

Visit : www.shantimaurice.com and www.wholeworldwater.co. Contact : gsciortino@prco.com.

The Capital Wheel, Maryland USA

Maryland's newest attraction, the Capital Wheel, which has a 42 climate-controlled gondolas, is located the National Harbor.

The panoramic views include the White House, US Capitol, National Mall and the newly restored Washington Monument.

Rotating 180 feet above the Potomac River, the Capital Wheel also offers catering from celebrity Chef, Wolfgang Puck.

Visit : www.thecapitalwheel.com and www.CapitalRegionUSA.co.uk. Contact : Jo Thomas at jo.thomas@kbctravelgroup.com.

G Adventures

G Adventures has launched a range of new nautical itineraries in Cuba, Turkey and the British Virgin Islands.

The small-group adventure operator also offers sailing trips in the Greek Islands, Thailand and Croatia.

All itineraries vary in length from four to 15 days. The yachts and catamarans carry a maximum of eight or 14 travellers. Aspiring sailors can also learn the ropes, receiving pointers from expert skippers and even taking the wheel themselves.

Visit : www.gadventures.co.uk. Contact : Casey Mead at caseym@gadventures.com.

Bruges Beer Museum, Flanders

The Bruges Beer Museum, which opened on 5 July 2014, is located on the Market Square.

The three storey museum will include a tasting room for up to 200 visitors and two other floors of interactive features.

Visit : www.brugesbeermuseum.be. Contact : Anita at anita@visitflanders.co.uk.

Heathrow Terminal 2 : The Queen's Terminal

Her Majesty The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh have officially opened Heathrow's new Terminal 2: The Queen's Terminal.

The new terminal is a £2.5 billion project and marks the latest phase of an £11 billion private sector investment that has transformed Heathrow for passengers.

Terminal 2 is now home to United, Air Canada, ANA and Air China and will eventually have 26 airlines by the end of 2014.

Visit : www.heathrow.com. Contact : media_centre@heathrow.com

Tulip Island, Amsterdam

The Vondelpark in Amsterdam has added an attraction called Tulip Island, which is a garden where people can pick their own tulips.

Normally tulips flower in the spring, but by using specially prepared ice-tulips Tulip Island will be able to offer a tulip-picking garden through to 7 September.

Visit : www.tulip-island.com. Contact : Jorrit Koeman at info@tulip-island.com.

Celebrity Cruises and Great British Chefs

Luxury cruise company Celebrity Cruises has established a partnership with leading food and recipe website, Great British Chefs, which will showcase a variety of recipes and ingredients from a number of global destinations inspired by cities, towns and harbours on offer from a Celebrity Cruises' holiday.

Great British Chefs provides food lovers with recipes, tips and how-to videos from over 100 chefs with 120 Michelin Stars between them.

Visit : www.celebritycruises.co.uk and www.greatbritishchefs.com. Contact : Louise James at LouiseJames@celebritycruises.com.

Fraser Island's Humpback whales, Australia

The Southern Humpback migration season starts on Queensland's Fraser Island in August.

Since the whale watching tours in the calm, protected waters off World Heritage-listed Fraser Island – the world's largest sand island - in the late 80s, inquisitive Humpbacks have been drawn by the desire to socialise.

This region of Queensland coastline is one of only two places in the world where the humpback whales take time out of their migration south to socialise, rest, nurture and perform.

Whale spotting is so prolific in Platypus Bay, during the official season that runs from 1 August until 31 October that operators offer a money-back guarantee for Humpback sightings.

Fraser Island is just offshore from Hervey Bay on Queensland's east coast and Kingfisher Bay Resort passenger and vehicle ferry services depart daily from River Heads

Visit : www.kingfisherbay.com. Contact Jodi Clark at media@kingfisherbay.com.

Secret Compass

Pioneering expedition and adventure travel company Secret Compass has unveiled its expedition destination list for 2014-15, which includes Afghanistan, Arunachal Pradesh, Sierra Leone and Kyrgyzstan.

- Malawi (August 2014): a trek to summit the country's 3000m+ Mount Mulanje.
- Ethiopia (October 2014): a recce-styled MTB exploration of the Simien Range (UNESCO).
- Kilimanjaro (October 2014): aiding wounded soldiers on a 'Grand Slam' summit attempt.
- Arunachal Pradesh (November 2014): a remote and exploratory trek in the Indian Himalayas.
- Panama (April 2015): trek the notorious Darien Gap jungles hunting for petroglyphs.
- Iraqi Kurdistan (April 15): winter mountaineering trek to the region's highest peaks.
- Sierra Leone (May 2015): a pack-raft descent of the Moa river, from Guinea to the coast.
- Kyrgyzstan (September 2015): a recce-styled MTB expedition to explore the Talas Range.

Bespoke/filming projects are also underway in Mongolia, Namibia and Greenland.

Places on each expedition are limited to 12.

Secret Compass also arranges bespoke expeditions and tailor-made adventure travel experiences for individuals, couples, groups, charities and organisations, and manages TV and filming projects in remote and wild environments.

Visit : www.secretcompass.com. Contact : Kerry O'Neill at OKerry@secretcompass.com.

Leads

The Official Tourist Board Guides

The Official Tourist Board Guides, which are now in their 39th year, provide a comprehensive source of information for visitors looking to stay in the UK.

The three Guides cover :

- B&B and Hotels
- Self-catering, and Camping, and
- Touring & Holiday Parks.

There are over 20,000 places to stay, all of which are independent and star-rated.

The Guides also contain the regional tourism contacts and tourist information centre's for each regional section so visitors can contact them in advance and find out what's going on in the area they plan to visit.

The guides are published by Hudson's Media and under license from VisitEngland/VisitBritain.

Most hotels and bed and breakfast establishments in Britain have a star rating from one of the four assessing bodies – VisitEngland, VisitScotland, Visit Wales or the AA.

The Guides, which are priced at £8.99 (the Camping, Touring & Holiday Parks Guide £7.99) can be ordered online and bought from major book retailers and Amazon.

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

The West Virginia Mountain Music Trail

The sounds of Bluegrass, Gospel, Folk and Country can be heard along the country roads of West Virginia with the state's new Mountain Music Trail (MMT).

Devoted to promoting and presenting the traditional music, dance, and folkways of the Allegheny Mountain region, the trail travels through the five counties of Monroe, Greenbrier, Pocahontas, Randolph and Tucker, which are connected by the Highway 219 corridor.

Music was once the primary means of entertainment for isolated communities, especially the people of the Appalachian Mountains in the 19th and early 20th centuries who developed a unique style of music.

Whether playing old time, bluegrass, ethnic, folk, country or gospel, music brought families and people of a small community together.

Today, this traditional music lives on through family heritage and musicians schooled in the art by way of mentoring and living among those who learned from their elders.

Visit : www.mountainmusictrail.com and visit www.wvtourism.com. Contact : Jane Wilson at wv@attachecomunications.co.uk.

Grape Escapes, Italy

Grape Escapes is offering tours to some of Piedmont's finest wineries and visits to one of the world's newest UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Grape Escapes is a specialist wine tour operator, offering wine tours to France, Spain, Portugal and Italy.

Grape Escapes offer a broad range of wine tasting tours and trips to vineyards in :

Ribera del Duero and Rioja in Spain
Tuscany in Italy, Porto in Portugal, and
the main French wine regions: Champagne, Bordeaux, Burgundy, The Rhône, The Loire and
Provence.

Visit : www.grapeescapes.net. Contact : Anna Wolstenholme at anna@representationplus.co.uk.

The Eastern and Oriental Express and Save Wild Tigers

The Eastern and Oriental Express, South-East Asia's luxury train, is partnering with Save Wild Tigers on a special journey.

The train will be renamed the 'Eastern & Oriental Tiger Express' and leave Singapore on 2 October, travelling through Malaysia and Thailand with a contribution from each booking given to the charity.

Highlights include two nights aboard the train, a night at Raffles Singapore and Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok, tickets to a star-studded gala evening in Kuala Lumpur and onboard lectures by tiger experts.

There will also be the chance to bid for a crystal-encrusted tiger head whilst on the train, which was created especially for this collaboration.

Visit : belmond.com. Contact : Samantha Strawford at samantha.strawford@belmond.com.

Foto Ruta

Foto Ruta runs tours and experiences in Buenos Aires, London, Barcelona, and Santiago as well as pop up events in New York.

Foto Ruta was founded in Buenos Aires with the intention of offering tourists and locals a creative and inspiring way to explore the city and learn how to take great photos.

The words 'Foto Ruta' are Spanish and can be translated directly as 'Photo Route.'

Visit : www.foto-ruta.co.uk. Contact : Claire McKeever at clairem@foto-ruta.com.

Marquesas Island Adventure Cruises, Polynesia

Marquesas Island Adventure Cruises has commissioned a new ship, to be named Aranui 5, which will operate between Tahiti and the Marquesas Islands.

Planned excursions from the ship include :

- snorkelling in the lagoons of Tuamotu
- a visit to the towering cliffs and waterfalls of Nuku Hiva
- a trip to Gauguin's former home and grave on Hiva Oa, and
- jeep trips to explore unspoiled jungles, mountain villages and ancient temples

In addition to shore trips, the sailing route takes passengers past wild and rugged scenery as the ship operates a dual role as passenger cruiser and essential supply cargo ship for the residents of the Marquesas' remote villages and valleys.

Visit : www.aranui.com. Contact : Debra Taylor at debra.taylor@toucanmoon.com.

Creek Ranch, Haines City Florida

One of Florida's history-steeped ranches, the 1400-acre, third-generation-owned Creek Ranch in Haines City Florida, has become the girlfriend getaway.

The Ranch offers a group of girl friends the chance to experience an iconic American lifestyle with horseback riding and watching more than 90 species of birds in their natural Everglades habitat.

Horseback riding is available for all levels of riders under the guidance of two Creek Ranch "cowboys" and there's also mountain biking and clay pigeon shooting.

The accommodations are in the main ranch house, called the Bunk House.

Visit : www.creekranch.net. Contact : Martha Morano at mmorano@sanctuary.com.

Summer is New Hampshire, USA

Summer is New Hampshire is the states busiest travel season, with the three summer months of June, July, and August accounting for more than 40% of visits.

Most of the visitors for the summer season will be from New England, the Middle Atlantic States, and eastern Canada although the number of visitors from Europe is increasing.

VisitNH offers information and advice for outdoor adventure, entertainment, culinary tourism.

Visit : www.visitnh.gov. Contact : Tai Freligh at tai.freligh@dred.state.nh.us.

Exbury Gardens, the New Forest, UK

Exbury Gardens is a 200 acre woodland garden in the New Forest known for its unrivalled collections of spring and early summer flowering trees and shrubs.

Visit : www.exbury.co.uk. Contact : Vicky Scott at : Vicky.scott@exbury.co.uk.

Solo Cruising

With solo cruising is on the rise, many cruise companies are now providing a range of services and discounted rates to cater for those travelling on their own.

Jetline Cruise, the specialist cruise travel agent, has a variety of mini-cruises available, with cruise lines including Cunard, Fred. Olsen, NCL, and Holland America Line all offer single cabins with no supplement.

Jetline Cruise is an independent, specialist cruise travel agent offering the full range of cruise holidays, from unique itineraries to special tailor-made packages.

For further press information contact Samantha at Gosh PR on 020 7367 6745 or email samantha@goshpr.co.uk or Hannah@goshpr.co.uk

Visit : www.jetlinecruise.com. Contact : Hannah at hannah@goshpr.co.uk.

Kerry Vale Vineyard, Shropshire UK

Kerry Vale Vineyard, located near Montgomery is a small, family run, English vineyard situated on the Welsh/English border of rural Shropshire.

Planted in 2010 and covering six acres of farmland, the vineyard is in an area of outstanding natural beauty.

Visit : www.kerryvalvineyard.co.uk. Contact : kerryvalevineyard@gmail.com

The Skywalk, Grand Canyon West

The Grand Canyon Skywalk, built in 2007, is a glass, horseshoe-shaped bridge that enables visitors to walk beyond the canyon walls 4,000 feet above the riverbed.

Visit : www.grandcanyonwest.com. Contact : Ziva Werber at hualapaitourism@hotels-hotline.com.

What's on

Summer festivals in Brittany, France

Every summer, music festivals are held in the towns, countryside and coastline of Brittany :

Astropolis, a 4-day techno extravaganza in Brest

3-6 July 2014

Visit : www.astropolis.org

Les Vieilles Charrues, Glastonbury's Gallic cousin in Carhaix

17-20 July 2014

Visit : www.vieillescharrues.asso.fr.

La Route du Rock, a major league rock festival in Saint-Malo

14-16 August 2014

Visit : www.laroutedurock.com.

Festival Interceltique de Lorient, Brittany's biggest Celtic music festival in Lorient

1-10 August 2014

www.festival-interceltique.com**Festival de Cornouaille, the daddy of Breton cultural festivals in Quimper**

22-27 August 2014

Visit : www.festival-cornouaille.com**Jazz à Vannes, the pre-eminent jazz festival in Brittany in Vannes**

28 July – 2 August 2014

Visit : www.jazzavannes.fr**Fest Jazz, a succesful Anglo-French jazz festival in Châteauneuf-du-Faou**

25-27 July 2014

Visit : www.fest-jazz.comVisit : www.brittanytourism.com. Contact : Céline Badde at c-badde@brittanytourism.com.**Festivals on Exmoor, Devon UK**

A number of annual summer events take place in the Exmoor National Park.

Somersault Festival

17 – 21 July 2014

Castle Hill, on the North Devon border, is the venue for the new Somersault Festival, which is a five day summer camp of music, theatre, adventure and outdoor living with Jack Johnson and Ben Howard headlining.

For fans of classic cars, the Castle Hill Car Festival is a weekend featuring classic cars, supercars, the Track Sprint Challenge, arena events, food and drink pavilion and the Abarth Stunt Plane.

Visit : www.castlehilldevon.co.uk.**Dunster Country Fair**

30 July 2014

The Dunster Country Fair held in the Dunster Castle Lawns has dog shows, equestrian events, clay pigeon shooting, an archery display and plenty of food and liquid refreshment.

Visit : www.dunstercountryfair.co.uk.**The Dunster Show**

The Dunster Show, an agricultural show, provides an opportunity to see the best of Somerset farming and livestock.

It also has some of the best entertainment in West Somerset.

Visit : www.thedunstershow.co.uk.**The Exmoor Pony Festival**

9 – 17 August 2014

The Exmoor Pony Festival combines pony shows, rides, walks and special herd open days and the Exmoor Pony breed and the free-running herds in their native landscape.

The Festival is timed to coincide with the Exmoor Pony Society's annual Breed Show on Wednesday 13 August at the Exford Show.

Visit : www.visit-exmoor.co.uk.

The Watchet Live Music Festival

22 to 24 August 2014

The Watchet Live Music Festival is West Somerset's largest outdoor performing art and music festival.

Visit : www.watchetfestival.co.uk .

Visit : www.visit-exmoor.co.uk. Contact : Jane Adkins at jane@aheadforpr.co.uk.

The Route 66 Festival

14 to 17 August 2014

The annual Route 66 Festival, which takes place in Flagstaff and surrounding areas, features a wide array of acclaimed and award winning authors and artists, as well as leading collectors of Route 66 memorabilia.

Visit : www.route66kingmanfestival.com. Contact : info@kingmanchamber.org.

The 2014 Aspendos Opera and Ballet Festival, Antalya, Turkey

30 August to 24 September 2014

Turkey's Antalya region is know as the Turkish riviera, with its beaches and holiday resorts set against pine forests.

The annual Aspendos Opera and Ballet Festival will include the operas Aida, La Traviata, Tosca, Attila, Harem, Hercules and Notre Dame de Paris.

The Festival will be held in the Roman auditorium for an audience of 10,000.

Visit : www.aspendosfestival.gov.tr. Contact : turkeytourism@redmintcomms.co.uk.

5th Annual Boston Local Food Festival

14 September 2015

Boston Local Food Festival - New England's Largest One-Day Farmers Market & Celebration of Local Food gives visitors the chance to learn about the benefits of sustainably grown and produced food.

This free outdoor event features local restaurants, farms, fishers, specialty food producers, food trucks, and food and fitness-related organizations.

Visit : www.bostonlocalfoodfestival.org. Contact : nicola@thewilliamsagency.net

Celebrate Bandera, Texax

29 to 31 August 2014

Celebrate Bandera, highlights the towns place in history as one of the major staging areas for the over six million head of longhorn cattle that were driven up the Great Western Trail to markets in Kansas and Nebraska.

Bandera, promoted as the Cowboy Capital of the World, is a classic Old West town, with its cowboy culture, and horse-friendly hitching posts.

Visit : www.celebratebandera.com. Contact : Genie Strickland at coordinator@celebratebandera.com.

The 11th annual Melton Mowbray Food Festival, UK

4 and 5 October 2014.

The Melton Mowbray Food Festival, one of the largest regional foodfestivals, is promoted as the UK's Rural Capital of Food.

Over 150 exhibitors will be showcasing their produce at the Festival including traditional Melton Mowbray Pork Pies and Stilton Cheese and alcoholic ice creams, artisan cheeses, gold-infused champagne, chocolate kebabs, gourmet British game.

Visit : www.meltonmowbrayfoodfestival.co.uk. Contact : Lin Machin at info@meltonmowbrayfoodfestival.co.uk.

The Frys.com Open, Nappa Valley, California

8 to 12 October 2014

The Frys.com Open, part of the PGA tour, will be held this year at Silverado Resort and Spa on the property's north course.

Visit : www.frysopengolf.com and www.silveradoreresort.com. Contact : Tom Fuller at tom@fullerandsander.com.

The Ringling International Arts Festival, Sarasota, Florida

15 to 18 October 2014

The Ringling International Arts Festival has a programme of contemporary dance, jazz, puppetry, world music, nouveau cirque and sci-fi fantasy in the 66 acre Ringling Estate overlooking the bay.

Performances include:

- Tangram, an act from Berlin featuring ballerina Cristiana Casadio and circus artist Stefan Sing
- The Intergalactic Nemesis, Book One: Target Earth; a one of a kind theatrical mash-up of radio drama and graphic novel, and
- The Table; a puppetry display from Blind Summit Theatre in London.

There is also nightly Jazz Sunsets on the Bay.

Sarasota County is located on the West Coast of Florida, 45 minutes from Tampa and one and half hour's drive from Orlando.

The area has white sand beaches, wildlife and a string of unspoilt natural islands, comprising what is referred to as 'hidden Florida'.

Visit : www.ringling.org and www.visitsarasota.org. Contact : Claire Barrett at claire@goshpr.co.uk.

Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous Festival

Annually (February)

Near the end of February, after a few months of sub-zero temperatures, Yukoners cut loose and take part in the annual Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous Festival.

A kind of Mardi Gras, Rendezvous" is a week of wintertime silliness and celebration.

Downtown Whitehorse assumes a carnival atmosphere as streets are closed for games, concerts and snow carving, and individuals test their skills and stamina in northern contests like chainsaw chucking, axe throwing or flour packing.

Canadian and American aircraft putting on the annual Rendezvous Air Show at Whitehorse International Airport.

Visit : www.travel yukon.com. Contact : Lisa Chamberlain at Lisa.chamberlain@btinternet.com.

Art Alfresco on Tresco, Scilly Isles, UK

Until September 2014

The small isle of Tresco is staging an outdoor art exhibition entitled An Island on Canvas; Art Alfresco on Tresco.

Landscape artist, Anthony Garratt, has been capturing the island's dramatic scenery on canvas at four locations across the Scilly Isles. His works are now being exhibited at the very spot where they were painted.

Visit : www.ow.ly/ykE9W. Contact : Rishika Sharma at Rishika.Sharma@visitengland.org.

Liverpool Biennial

To 26 October 2014

Liverpool Biennial brings together a programme of newly commissioned and existing artwork in diverse locations, including unusual and unexpected public spaces as well as the city's galleries, museums and cultural venues.

Visit : www.liverpoolbiennial.co.uk. Contact : Rishika Sharma at Rishika.Sharma@visitengland.org.

Reasons to write about

Ghost town Colorado, USA

Colorado's ghost towns offer visitors an insight into the towns which were once home to the legends of the Wild West.

The thriving mining towns of yesteryear, often populated with cowboys, outlaws and saloons, are today an eerie step back in time with deserted structures, often providing a rare opportunity for visitors to experience life in the nineteenth century.

Many of the towns were abandoned when gold trade production diminished and many were bypassed with the introduction of highways.

Colorado has 15 ghost town sites easily accessible for visitors across the state :

St. Elmo and Tin Cup

St. Elmo, situated west of Buena Vista, is one of state's best-preserved ghost towns.

Akin to the set of a John Wayne movie, a tour of the the dusty Main Street takes visitors past abandoned saloons, wooden storefronts and even private homes to peer through the window frames.

From St. Elmo visitors can then make their way on to the infamous neighbouring town of Tin Cup, providing an opportunity to explore the town's history that was once home to many intense showdowns with a full cemetery as proof.

Ashcroft

Ashcroft is a former mining town located 10 miles outside of Aspen.

Following the extinction of silver from the mining town, the people slowly left the area with the ghosts being said to have moved in shortly after!

Preserved by the Aspen Historical Society the area is popular with visitors that visit the empty buildings, stables and saloons.

Guests can also enjoy a guided tour of the jail while soaking in the ghostly essence of the town.

Cripple Creek

For some further ghostly encounters a visit to Cripple Creek will greatly increase your chances of experiencing the paranormal.

Mystery has surrounded this town that flourished with gold between 1890 and 1910 with over 500 mines producing a staggering 22,400,000 ounces.

Cripple Creek, for many years, has been bound by tales of ghost sightings alongside legendary stories of the spirit of a young girl that inhabits Buffalo Billy's Casino and is rumoured to make glasses fly across its bars.

Other haunted sites include the Colorado Grande Casino, the Hotel St. Nicholas and the Mt. Pisgah Cemetery that all offer tours around Halloween.

The Stanley Hotel is another famous location due to its inspiration of noted author Stephen King. King wrote popular novel "The Shining" following his stay at the 102-year-old hotel in Estes Park.

The hotel also offers visitors a popular ghost tour putting visitor's valour to test with a tour taking in the most haunted parts of the hotel that includes an unnerving underground tunnel.

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

Brazil on horseback

In The Saddle offers several different travel itineraries to enable guests to participate in an equestrian adventure across Brazil.

With some of the most spectacular beach riding in the world, travellers can ride along the coastal areas or visit the southern states and Pantanal region.

In The Saddle's Bahia Beach Ride, situated in the north-east of Brazil, provides riders with the opportunity to stay in colourful guesthouses, canter across wide sandy beaches and explore mangrove forests, rainforests and cliff paths.

Located in Brazil's southernmost state, Rio Grande do Sul, the Canyons and Waterfalls horseback adventure begins close to the border of the Aparados da Serra National Park.

The ride crosses the high plateau, through open pasture and canyons that can be up to 700m deep!

In The Saddle's Pantanal Experience is based in the State of Mato Gross do Sul, which is in the central west of Brazil.

This is the largest wetlands of the Americas, known for the rich variety of flora, fauna, exotic birds, fish, mammals and reptiles.

Visit : www.inthesaddle.com. Contact : Lauren Barber at lauren@g-gee.com.

Gay Vermont

Vermont, in the New England region of the northeastern United States and the only New England state not on the Atlantic Ocean.

Lake Champlain forms half of Vermont's western border, which it shares with the state of New York and the Green Mountains are within the state.

Vermont is bordered by Massachusetts to the south, New Hampshire to the east across the Connecticut River, New York to the west and the Canadian province of Quebec to the north.

The Vermont Gay Tourism Association and the Vermont Tourism are dedicated to maintaining the Green Mountain State's popularity among the LGBT community

LGBT visitors from around the world are encouraged to come to Vermont, which was the first State to legally recognize gay couples when it created civil unions, and it's the first state to pass marriage equality through the legislature (not the courts).

A gay friendly place to stay in Vermont

The treehouse at Moose Meadow

Located within the luscious Green Mountains of Waterbury - the treehouse at Moose Meadow is owned and operated by Willie Docto, of the Vermont Gay Tourism Association and his partner.

The treehouse sits between grand pine trees and overlooks lakes and local wildlife.

Visit : www.moosemeadowlodge.com.

Annual gay events in Vermont include Vermont Pride, in September, which is Northern New England's premier LGBT Pride celebration and Winter Rendezvous in Stowe, which attracts hundreds of GLBTQ enthusiasts.

Visit : www.pridevt.com and www.winterrendezvous.com.

Visit : www.vermont.org/visitors and www.vermontgaytourism.com. Contact : Caroline Donaldson-Sinclair at caroline@wixhill.co.uk.

Horse riding in Bulgaria

For the first time, In The Saddle are offering a horseback holiday to relatively unexplored Bulgaria in Southeast Europe.

Known for being the bridge between Europe and Asia, over a third of the country is forest and provides a natural habitat for many animals, including wolves, brown bears, golden jackal and wild cats.

The Balkan Mountains run for over 600km and divide Bulgaria into two distinctive halves, providing a landscape that lends itself to horse riding.

Embarking on one of In The Saddle's Balkan Trails allows competent riders to discover the many rock formations, caves, ancient trees and high waterfalls that Bulgaria has to offer.

Visit : www.inthesaddle.com. Contact : Lauren Barber at lauren@g-gee.com.

Vaya Adventures

Vaya Adventures, which offers bespoke vacations in South America, has produced a shortlist of distinctive lodgings in five South America countries.

Chile

The Hotel Refugia Chiloe on Chiloe's archipelago in Chilean Patagonia is an avant-garde, 12-room luxury hotel created of local materials to blend with an off-the-beaten-track landscape dotted about with houses built on stilts.

While few people know about this region or include it in their trip to Chile, colonial-era wooden churches in Achao, Chonchi and Quinchao are UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Visit : www.refugia.cl.

Peru

Titilaka Lodge sits on a private peninsula on Lake Titicaca in the high Andes, with four acres of grounds and two private beaches enjoyed from 18 lake-view accommodations, wrap-around terraces and a private jetty.

There is also the unique option of sailing on Lake Titicaca.

Visit : www.titilaka.com.

Ecuador

Hacienda Zuleta is a restored 17th century country estate on 4,000 acres in an Andean valley two hours from Quito.

It is owned by the family of two former Ecuadorian presidents.

This working hacienda with 14 guest rooms features a dairy and cheese factory, a trout farm, a flock of sheep, an embroidery shop creating exceptionally high quality textiles, and a stable of Zuleteño horses available for guests to ride while gazing at mountains and volcanoes.

Active in conservation and preservation, the hacienda surrounded by native forest has its own Andean condor recovery project. Nearby are several pre-Colombian burial mounds that are often studied by visiting archeologists.

Visit : www.zuleta.com.

Brazil

Cristalino Jungle Lodge sits within a private rainforest reserve and ecological sanctuary in the southern Brazilian Amazon.

Here in the state of Mato Grosso, the River Cristalino provides the only access (by boat) to the lodge.

One highlight is a 50-meter observation tower that rises over the forest canopy, ideal for viewing some of the vast number of bird and animal species.

A large number of endemic species such as the white-cheeked spider monkey, red-nosed saki, cryptic forest falcon, crimson-bellied conure and black-girdled barbet can be found only in this area of the Amazon.

Visit : www.cristalinolodge.com.br/en.

Argentina

Estancia Cristina, established 100 years ago and among the oldest pioneer ranches in Patagonia, offers accommodations for 20 guests in five cabins on a lake adjoining Los Glaciares National Park.

The lodge is accessed after a two-hour boat ride from El Calafate.

From here guests may explore the 35-mile-long Upsala Glacier, the largest glacier in South America, winding off of the Southern Patagonia Ice Cap.

Visit : www.estanciacruzina.com.

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

Great Oxfordshire Outdoors, UK

Experience Oxfordshire has launched Great Oxfordshire Outdoors, a campaign to celebrate the county's natural environment.

The campaign will focus on Oxfordshire's villages with thatched cottages and pubs, countryside with green meadows, flowering gardens and forests.

The county offers :

The gardens of Blenheim Palace

Surrounding the UNESCO World Heritage Site, these 2,000 acres of parkland and gardens were landscaped by Capability Brown and have some of the most stunning views in England.

Visit : www.blenheimpalace.com.

The Cotswold Wildlife Park

The Cotswold Wildlife Park is home to wildlife from around the world including rhinos, giraffes and lions .

From mid-July to end of August, falconry displays take place every weekend.

Visit : www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk.

The Official Walking Tours of Oxford

The Official Walking Tours of Oxford are themed to focus on Harry Potter, Alice, Inspector Morse, Tolkien and CS Lewis and architecture.

Visit : www.oxfordwalkingtours.com.

Visit : www.visitoxfordandoxfordshire.com. Contact : Ulrike Werner at press@visitoxfordshire.org.

Bursa and Cumalikizik and Izmir's Pergamon, Turkey

Bursa and Cumalikizik, known as 'The Birthplace of the Ottoman Empire', and Izmir's Pergamon have been added to UNESCO's World Heritage List.

With the addition of Bursa and Pergamon, Turkey now has 13 cultural and mixed locations listed as World Heritage sites.

Bursa is the Ottoman Empire's first capital and contains many historical remains from the Empire's founding years, as well as many industrial and natural attractions.

The 700-year-old village of Cumalikizik is significant in that it has many Ottoman-period buildings that are in a good state of preservation.

Izmir's Bergama (Pergamon) was known as Pergamon in ancient times and is considered one of the most important centres for culture and arts of the Hellenistic period.

Pergamon was a major centre of learning in the ancient world and home to one of the biggest libraries of the Hellenistic period.

The city contains remains from the Hellenistic, Roman, East Roman and Ottoman period, while ancient Pergamon consists of nine sites including the acropolis, seven tumuli or burial mounds and the rock-cut Kybele Holy Site.

The other sites include :

- the Historic Areas of Istanbul
- the Great Mosque and Hospital of Divrigi
- Mount Nemrut
- Goreme National Park and Cappadocia
- Hierapolis-Pamukkale
- the City of Safranbolu
- the Selimiye Mosque, and
- the Neolithic Site of Catalhoyuk.

Visit : whc.unesco.org and www.gototurkey.co.uk. Contact : Rebecca Erol at turkeytourism@redmintcomms.co.uk.

A place to stay

La Residencia in Deia, Mallorca

The Belmond La Residencia in Deia, Mallorca has introduced an innovative underwater scooter experience, allowing guests to explore the island's marine life from a new perspective.

The four-hour adventure begins with a chauffeur-driven journey from the hotel to the coast.

A scenic route takes guests through the mountain villages of Banyalbufar and Estellencs, where terraced hillsides reach down to the sea.

Arriving at the pretty port of Andratx, participants will head out to sea with an expert team before entering the water on a motorised scooter, breathing through a special headpiece as they marvel at colourful fish, starfish and sea urchins.

Visit : www.belmond.com/la-residencia-mallorca. Contact : Samantha Strawford at samantha.strawford@belmond.com.

On the River, Woodstock, Vermont USA

On the River, a new 30-bedroom hotel has opened in the historic village of Woodstock.

The first USA property for the family-owned and managed Zanzibar and Palacina Collections, On the River overlooks a quiet bend in the Ottauquechee River

Woodstock was adopted by the Rockefeller family for its classic white clapboard buildings surrounding a picture perfect village green, the town has been named "the prettiest small town in America".

Visit : www.onttheriverwoodstock.com.

Belmond Villa San Michele, Florence, Italy

The Belmond Villa San Michele, a luxury hillside hotel in Florence, has introduced a Fragrance Butler offering a dedicated scent menu inspired by the hotel and surrounding area.

The butler offers a range of exclusive services, such as perfuming bed linen and even personalising postcards with guests' favourite scents.

Belmond guests can also :

take a perfume-making workshop at Belmond Jimbaran Puri in Bali

purchase jewellery designer Vanessa Tugendhaft's debut perfume range at Belmond La Residencia in Deia, Mallorca, and

blend bespoke scents at a local perfume shop on a Belmond Hotel Cipriani's 'Tour of the Senses' in Venice, Italy.

Visit : belmond.com. Contact : Samantha Strawford at samantha.strawford@belmond.com.

The Puente Romano Beach Resort, Marbella

The Puente Romano Beach Resort, is Marbella, a member of The Leading Hotels of the World, is located on the 'Golden Mile' between the centre of Marbella and Puerto Banus.

The property is situated in landscape subtropical gardens next to the Mediterranean Sea

The resort has recently undergone a multi-million Euro refurbishment and rebranding.

Visit : www.puenteromano.com. Contact : Claire Mans at claire@masonrose.com.

Park Hyatt Vienna, Austria

The Park Hyatt Vienna, the seventh Park Hyatt property in Europe and the first Hyatt hotel in Austria, has opened.

Situated in Vienna's new pedestrian Goldenes Quartier and on the Am Hof square, Park Hyatt Vienna occupies a 100-year-old building that formerly served as the headquarters of the Austrian Hungarian Monarchy Bank.

It forms part of Vienna's First District which is listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

The hotel is a short walk from the city's most important sights, including St. Stephan Cathedral and the Hofburg Palace.

Visit : www.Vienna.park.hyatt.com. Contact : Charlotte Rous at charlotte@grifcopr.com.

Room Mate Aitana, Amsterdam

Room Mate Aitana, Amsterdam, is the latest hotel offering from contemporary Spanish design hotel chain Room Mate Hotels.

The hotel is located on a new artificial island nestled in the heart of Amsterdam and a short walk from both Amsterdam Central Station and the Dam's Square.

Room Mate Hotels can now be found in :

- Madrid
- Barcelona
- Malaga
- Oviedo
- Granada
- Salamanca
- New York
- Miami
- Mexico City, and
- Buenos Aires
- Florence, and
- Amsterdam

Visit : www.room-matehotels.com. Contact : Georgie Thompson at Georgie@ldrlondon.com.

Savoy Resort & Spa, the Seychelles

The islands of the Seychelles, in the middle of the Indian Ocean, offer the beautiful beaches, colourful coral reefs, lush vegetation and turquoise blue water with an average 26 degrees Celsius throughout the year.

The newly opened 5-star Savoy Resort & Spa is located on the Beau Vallon Beach on the Seychelles' island, Mahé.

Mah's Beau Vallon Bay is an excellent base for an active beach vacations.

This section of the coast has a small harbour where snorkelling and sailing trips depart every day and from here, all nearby bays and islands, like Silhouette and Praslin, can easily be reached.

The resort is working with local companies to provide private charters to glass bottom tours and luxury fishing excursions.

Sailing, kite boarding, kite surfing, windsurfing, jet-skiing and paragliding are also available.

Visit : www.savoy.sc. Contact: Lisa Meakin at lisa@connectedpr.com.

Elite Island Resorts, the Caribbean

Elite Island Resorts represents a collection of beachfront properties in the Caribbean.

Offerings range from destination weddings and romantic escapes to family retreats and eco vacations.

Resorts include:

- St. James's Club & Villas, The Verandah Resort & Spa, and Galley Bay Resort & Spa all in Antigua
- St. James's Club Morgan Bay, Saint Lucia
- Long Bay Beach Club in Tortola
- Palm Island Resort in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and
- The Club Barbados Resort & Spa.

Visit : www.eliteislandresorts.com. Contact : Cherise Stevens at cherise@cam-pr.com.

Daivos Cove Luxury Resort & Villas, Crete

Daivos Cove Luxury Resort & Villas is located in the Eastern Crete, near to Agios Nikolaos.

Visit : www.daioscovecrete.com. Contact : Jess Heslop at Jess@grifcopr.com.

Kittitian Hill, St Kitts

Kittitian Hill, is a sustainable, luxury real estate and hospitality development on the island of St Kitts.

Belle Mont Farm - the first chapter in the development - opens in December 2014.

Belle Mont Farm is located on a hillside amid 400 acres of steep contours and flat coastal plain on the north coast between Mount Liamuiga and the Caribbean Sea.

Its 84 Guesthouses and seven, four-bedroom Farmhouses will offer panoramic views of neighbouring islands St Eustatius, St Barths and St Maarten.

The December launch will also unveil "The Kitchen" restaurant & "The Mill" bar, "Irie Fields" golf course and "The Workshop" fitness centre.

Kittitian Hill's 71-par 18-hole Irie Fields Golf Course has been designed by Ian Woosnam, the 2006 Ryder Cup captain.

Visit : www.kittitianhill.com. Contact : Lallie Fraser at lallie@grifcopr.com.

Saint Lucia's Jade Mountain

Travel + Leisure, has named Saint Lucia's Jade Mountain Top Hotel in the Caribbean, Bermuda, and the Bahamas.

It is the 3rd time that the readers of Travel + Leisure have awarded this distinction to Jade Mountain, the 29-room, AAA Five Diamond luxury resort.

Visit : www.jademountain.com. Contact : Martha Morano at martha@moranopr.com.

The Turks and Caicos Resorts

The Turks and Caicos Islands consist of 40 islands and cays, eight of which are inhabited.

The islands are located 550 miles southeast of Miami, Florida, just below the Bahamas chain and to the east of Cuba and the island of Hispaniola (Dominican Republic and Haiti.)

The islands are home to roughly 30,000 full time residents, and welcome more than 200,000 tourist annually.

The Turks & Caicos Collection consists of three four-star resorts on exclusive Providenciales :

- Alexandra Resort
- Beach House, and
- Blue Haven Resort and Marina.

Each of the resorts has a waterfront location and dining and spa facilities.

Visit : www.turksandcaicostourism.com, www.alexandrarresort.com, www.beachhousetci.com or www.bluehaventci.com. Contact: Rebecca Widness at rebecca@widness-co-pr.com.

Park Hyatt Maldives Hadahaa

The Park Hyatt Maldives Hadahaa has been named 'International Considerate Hotel of the Year 2014' at The Considerate Hotel of the Year Awards.

The awards recognises those hotels which are environmental champions and demonstrate the best in environmental, sustainable and socially responsible practices.

As the first property in the Maldives to be certified by EarthCheck for both design and construction.

Visit : www.parkhyatt.com.

The Considerate Hoteliers Association

The Considerate Hoteliers Association (CHA) was one of the first hotel associations worldwide to impart the message that care for the environment and social responsibility should form a major part of a responsible hotelier's agenda.

Visit : www.consideratehoteliers.com.

Contact : Nadia Walford atbNadia@grifcopr.com.

Hotel Dubrovnik Palace, Croatia

The Hotel Dubrovnik Palace, a member of the Adriatic Luxury Hotels group and a leading Dubrovnik coastline property, has reopened after a major refurbishment.

The 308-room hotel is located on the peninsula of Lapad below the Petka woods, with a view to the Elaphite islands and a short distance from the Old Town of Dubrovnik.

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

Park Hyatt New York

Park Hyatt New York, the flagship hotel of the Park Hyatt brand, which opens in summer 2014, has unveiled Nalai is new spa, which is located on the hotel's 25th floor.

Nalai will offer guests a customized spa experience in a 13,000 square foot sanctuary perched above Midtown Manhattan.

Inspired by the French term "atelier," which is defined as an artisanal workshop where one-of-a-kind works of art are created, Nalai will specialize in curated services and seasonal, international treatments.

There are currently 33 Park Hyatt hotels in :

- Abu Dhabi
- Beaver Creek
- Beijing
- Buenos Aires
- Busan
- Canberra
- Carlsbad
- Changbaishan
- Chennai
- Chicago
- Dubai
- Goa
- Hamburg
- Hyderabad
- Istanbul
- Jeddah
- Maldives
- Melbourne
- Mendoza
- Milan
- Moscow
- Ningbo
- Paris
- Saigon
- Seoul
- Shanghai
- Siem Reap
- Sydney
- Tokyo
- Toronto
- Vienna
- Washington D.C. and
- Zurich.

Visit www.parkhyatt.com. Contact : Charlotte Rous at charlotte@grifcopr.com.

Centara Grand Azuri Residence & Suites, Mauritius

The five-star Centara Grand Azuri Residence & Suites Mauritius has opened with 32 units.

Operated by Centara Hotels & Resorts of Thailand, the development will eventually total 57 serviced residences, townhouses and penthouses.

Located on the northeast coast of the island, Centara Grand Azuri Residence & Suites is set directly on the beach and forms part of the new Azuri oceanfront lifestyle community, which includes shops, restaurants and a yacht club with marine facilities.

The residences are adjacent to the five-star Centara Grand Azuri Resort & Spa Mauritius, which opened in December 2013.

The is 25 kilometres from the capital city of Port Louis and just over one-hour's drive from the international airport.

Azuri Yacht Club is nearby and will arrange excursions including catamaran trips to the islands of Coin de Mire, Round Island, Flat Island, Ile d'Ambre and Ilot Gabriel.

Visit : www.centarahotelsresorts.com/centaragrand/cgrm. Contact : Sharan Bearman at sharanb@avenuesales.co.uk.

Belmond, Botswana

Belmond Hotels has a portfolio of luxury lodges in Botswana :

- Belmond Khwai River Lodge in the Moremi Reserve
- Belmond Savute Elephant Lodge in Chobe National Park, and
- Belmond Eagle Island Lodge in the Okavango Delta.

All are remote retreats positioned for exploring Botswana's breathtaking contrasts and untamed beauty.

Each offers a refreshing swimming pool, incredible cuisine and luxury tents with private viewing decks.

July, August and September are good times to visit Botswana, as the weather warms up and growing herds become easier to spot in the bare bush.

In July, the floods arrive in the Okavango Delta and animals congregate near the water and floodplains, while in August adventurers may be in for some thrilling game viewing as crowding near the water causes tension between breeding herds of elephants.

September still sees high levels of elephant and buffalo as water levels slowly begin to drop.

Visit : www.belmond.com. Contact : Kathy Rowsome at kathy.rowsome@belmond.com.

The Sun Siyam Iru Fushi, Noonu Atoll Maldives

The Sun Siyam Iru Fushi, is a beach resort located in the Noonu Atoll Maldives.

The 52 acre island resort has 221 luxury ocean-front villas, a 20 room tropical spa and local explorations with a dedicated focus on the surrounding community.

The resort also offers flyboarding, scuba diving, kiteboarding, windsurfing, jet skiing and sailing.

Visit : www.thesunsiyam.com/irufushi. Contact : Jonathan Williams at Jonathan@ophirpr.co.uk.

In the Nappa Valley, California

Senza, a Napa Valley Retreat

Senza (previously) La Residence will reopen in summer 2014 following a complete renovation.

VieVage Napa Valley

Auberge Resorts will open the VieVage Napa Valley, a new destination spa resort in the Carneros district in 2015.

The resort, which will be set on 95 acres of the 712-acre Stanly Ranch, will feature a casual restaurant and bar, bakery, winery, and outdoor gathering spaces with fire pits, barbeques, bocce court, and outdoor concerts.

Visit : www.visitnapavalley.com/hotels. Contact : Tom Fuller at tom@fullerandsander.com.

USA Hotels

USA Hotels, an independent hostel chain in California, has been awarded TripAdvisor's 2014 Certificate of Excellence for its hostels in San Diego, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Founded in San Diego in 1994, USA Hostels is an independently-owned hostel chain offering high-quality budget accommodations.

All hostels offer traditional dormitory style accommodation and a wide range of free and discounted daily activities along with décor designed to match to the personality of each building and city in which it is located.

USA Hostels is the only hostel in the USA with exclusively-designed 'privacy pods' in all dorm rooms, offering a light, shelf, outlet and screening from ambient light, sound and other guests.

Visit : www.usahostels.com. Contact : Maria Aggyropoulos-Minos at maria@usahostels.com.

The Aegean Suites Hotel Skiathos, Greece

The Aegean Suites Hotel, Skiathos, Greece is located on a hillside among olive trees on the quiet outskirts of Skiathos town's port. It is an all-suite property overlooking the Aegean Sea.

With approximately 1,000 different types of herbs growing across Skiathos the hotel's Herb Hikes are an interesting, informative and educational as well as a good form of exercise and a chance to see some of the islands most beautiful sites.

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

Akamas Villas, West Cyprus

Launched in 2010, Akamas Villas is a luxury villa company based in West Cyprus, currently offering 40 luxury holiday-rental properties. Villas are situated in the mountainous conservation areas of Chrysochou Bay, Agarka, Polis, Latchi and Neo Chorio.

Visit : www.akamas-villas.com. Contact : Leila Stocker at leila@turtle-pr.com.

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 Duvall 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.

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