



The Alliance

Bulletin

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

Mid-April 2015

Ashley Gibbins

Ashley@itwalliance.com
www.itwalliance.com

Issue 182 : mid-April 2015

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.

Job shop

The International Travel Writers Alliance Job Shop has been created to enable the Alliance's partners to place - and journalists to receive - information on in-house jobs, special assignments or one-off projects.

Addition services through Job shop

The Alliance's travel journalists can also :

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

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

Working with the Alliance

The following travel industry partners and agencies have registered with the Alliance and are keen to work with Alliance travel writers, editors, broadcasters and photographers.

Other Alliance partners and agencies can be found at www.itwalliance.com.

Partners

Your Events Iceland

Your Events Iceland is a corporate and private event planning company, managing and organizing your unique and customized event in Iceland.

Your Events Iceland provides the best service and packages to Iceland by offering real-time customer consultations.

Visit : www.youreventsiceland.com. Contact : Ksenija Vinogradova at bookings@youreventsiceland.com.

Covington Travel (USA)

Covington Travel is a leading travel agency with a commitment to excellence and remaining on the cutting edge of travel trends.

Visit : www.covingtontravel.com. Contact : Beverly McLean at beverlym@covtrav.com.

Vida Travel Media

Vida Travel Media is a travel and adventure tourism-focused enterprise comprising travel publications, licensed travel services, video production and consulting.

Visit : www.vidatravelmedia.com. Contact : Jerry Puda at Jerry@VidaTravelmedia.com.

Brand USA

Brand USA is the public-private partnership responsible for promoting the United States as a premier travel destination and communicating U.S. entry/exit policies and procedures.

The organisation's mission is to increase international visitation to the United States while working in partnership with the travel industry to maximise the economic and social benefits of travel.

Visit : www.DiscoverAmerica.com. Contact : Jennifer Byles at jbyles@thebrandusa.co.uk.

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. Contact : Contact : Joanne Curtis at joanecurtis@leevalleypark.org.uk.

Agencies

Wire Media (UK)

Wire Media is a multi-award winning a full-service communications agency offering the very best in strategic marketing campaigns, traditional PR, digital and social media, event management and issue management.

Visit : www.we-media.co.uk. Contact : Ali Liddy at ali@wire-media.co.uk.

MuchPR (USA)

MuchPR is a full-service, New York-based PR firm specializing in travel and hospitality, lifestyle and LGBT markets.

With more than 20 years of journalism and public relations experience, MuchPR founder Tanya Churchmuch has the knowledge and connections to increase the media awareness brands across North America.

Visit : www.muchpr.com. Tanya Churchmuch at tanya@muchpr.com.

The Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO)

The CTO is the Caribbean's tourism development agency comprising membership of over 30 countries and territories including Dutch, English, French and Spanish, as well as a myriad of private sector allied members.

Its primary objective is to provide to and through its members the services and information necessary for the development of sustainable tourism for the economic and social benefit of the Caribbean people.

Visit : www.onecaribbean.org. Contact : Johnson JohnRose at johnsonjohnrose@gmail.com.

The Tourism Society (UK)

The Tourism Society is the professional membership body for people working in the tourism and travel industry, whether directly or indirectly, in the UK and overseas.

Existing members represent tour operators, hotel chains, PR, marketing and representation companies, tourist attractions, national, regional and local tourist boards, restaurants, trade media, charities, consultants, academics, students and educational establishments, among others.

The Tourism Management Institute (TMI) and Tourism Consultants Network are professional sections within the Society.

The Society organises 20+ events throughout the year and publishes a quarterly journal examining a wide range of topics relevant to the industry as a whole.

Visit : www.visitdublin.com. Gregory Yeoman at gregory@tourismsociety.org.

The American Society of Travel Agents

The American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA) is the world's largest association of travel professionals and is the leading advocate for travel agents, the travel industry and the travelling public.

Its members include travel agents and the companies whose products they sell such as tours, cruises, hotels, car rentals, etc.

ASTA's mission is to enhance the professionalism and profitability of members worldwide through effective representation in industry and government affairs, education and training, and by identifying and meeting the needs of the travelling public.

Visit : www.asta.org. Contact : Jennifer Michels at pr@asta.org

The Global Hotel Alliance

The Global Hotel Alliance (GHA), the world's largest alliance of independent hotel brands, officially launched GHA Discovery.

This new loyalty programme is the first-ever to unite independent luxury hotel brands including Kempinski, Doyle Collection, Leela, Anantara and Omni to deliver experience-based rewards to its members globally.

The programme, which runs across 12 brands and nearly 300 hotels, aims to turn a business trip or weekend getaway into a one-of-a-kind adventure.

With a heightened level of personalised service, the programme also provides access to more than 1000 Local Experiences, which provide exclusive access to off-the-beaten path activities around the world.

Visit : www.gha.com Contact : Haitham Assem at haitham.assem@gha.com.

The Baden-Baden Convention & Visitors Office

The Baden-Baden Convention & Visitors Office is the on site partner for all travelling to Baden-Baden and the region and promotes the elegant spa town Baden-Baden within Germany and abroad.

It provides hotels and sightseeing programs, special packages as well as tour guides and transport services. Furthermore it is responsible for the webpage www.baden-baden.com providing a whole spectrum of information for travellers and journalists.

Visit : www.baden-baden.com. Contact : Marie-Lena Kuttruff at <mailto:kuttruff@baden-baden.com>

Dublin Tourism

Dublin Tourism is a state appointed, commercial agency with a strategic partnership of key stakeholders in tourism in the Dublin Region.

Dublin Tourism's principal mission is to enhance Dublin's economy through tourism development and servicing by marketing the Dublin region on a world-wide basis as a premier destination for the business and leisure traveller.

Visit : www.visitdublin.com. Contact : Áine Kavanagh at akavanagh@dublintourism.ie.

Blenheim Palace

Blenheim Palace is home to the 11th Duke and Duchess of Marlborough and birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. A true masterpiece of 18th Century Baroque architecture, Blenheim Palace delivers an awe-inspiring experience for visitors.

Discover the beauty of this World Heritage Site amongst over 2000 acres of 'Capability' Brown parkland and Formal Gardens.

Ride the miniature train to The Pleasure Gardens, a dedicated family area that offers a giant hedge maze, butterfly house and adventure playground.

Tours, exhibitions and events reveal the sheer splendour of Britain's Greatest Palace. Buy one day, get 12 months free so you can keep coming back to explore all that there is on offer.

Contact : www.blenheimpalace.com. Stephanie Hendley at shendley@blenheimpalace.com.

The Frankfurt Tourist+Congress Board

The Frankfurt Tourist+Congress Board is responsible for :

- hotel reservation
- sightseeing tours, guides
- the Frankfurt Card
- assistance for planning Frankfurt programmes, and
- assistance for the organisation of congresses and incentives

Visit : www.frankfurt-tourismus.de. Contact : Mareike Voehl at voehl@infofrankfurt.de

The Latin American Travel Association

The Latin American Travel Association (LATA) is a travel trade organisation that promotes travel to the many diverse and exotic destinations of Latin America.

LATA brings together over 200 companies, including tourist boards, tour operators, hotels, wholesalers, media, and airlines and also promotes charitable work in the region through its sister organisation the LATA Foundation.

Visit : www.lata.org and www.latafoundation.org. Contact : Steele Paulich at Steele.Paulich@brightergroup.com.

News

From Birmingham to Bombay

Chef, writer and TV presenter, and Alliance member, Alan Coxon, has produced a book that takes readers behind the scenes with stories and recipes from three very different regions of India.

Alan visits the Golden Temple and sees how 40,000 chapattis are produced every day by volunteers. He delves into the history of the tandoor and tandoori and looks at herbs and spices, such as cardamom, mustard and ginger that are used extensively.

His Northern ventures provide an insight of life on the street and a region that produces over 60% of food consumed in India.

From Amritsar he takes us on a journey to Goa, renowned for sun, sand and sea some 765km away from Bombay and a planet apart from the North, offering a complete contrast in its food, religion and its people.

Recipes from the book include well known dishes and the not so well known and there are insights and facts about Indian foods, the regions spices and a brief glossary of Indian ingredients.

Indian Celebrity Super chef Sanjeev Kapoor, who has written the foreword to the book, is one of India's best known and respected celebrity chefs.

Other Indian guest chefs also appear within the book offering their own favourite recipes for.

The TV series

From Birmingham to Bombay the complete TV series Produced, written and presented by TV Chef/Presenter Alan Coxon and Parsley PR's sister company "Parsley Productions" is now available to watch on U-Tube.

Each show is approx. 23 mins in duration and features locations, food and culture :

- Madras Curry and a trip to Chennai : www.youtube.com/watch?v=E6afkSPLHc0
- Goa and a classic Vindalo : www.youtube.com/watch?v=CODP-koub6w
- Rogan Josh with a trip to the Taj Mahal : www.youtube.com/watch?v=07YjPrsoJPA
- Tandoori and a trip to Amritsar in the Punjab region as well as a tour around the Golden Temple : www.youtube.com/watch?v=t3USLyXJW
- Heads off to busy streets of Bombay to cook a creamy Korma and Alan cooks on a Cha stand : www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQ1EXBSYnBo

Visit : www.alancoxon.com, www.booksbyalancoxon.com and www.foodbyalancoxon.com. Contact : Alan Coxon at info@alancoxon.com.

Wartime Origins and the Future United Nations

The United Nations Association - UK and the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy at SOAS, University of London, have published Wartime Origins and the Future United Nations.

The book recounts the wartime history of the United Nations and explores how the past can shed light on a possible and more desirable future.

Visit : www.una.org.uk. Contact : nelmes@una.org.uk.

Trinity House UK coastal passenger voyages

The Patricia is a luxury working boat, operated by Trinity House UK, with the crew maintaining the UK's navigational buoys and lighthouses, checking for wrecks and potentially taking part in a sea rescue.

The Patricia only sails between April and September and is the flagship boat of Trinity House (a charity helping old Mariners).

The captain operates an open deck policy so guests are welcome on the bridge.

This offers trips for those who like being at sea and who prefer holidays with a difference especially as the schedule changes.

Prices for seven nights full board (excluding alcohol) begin at £3080 per executive cabin based on double occupancy and from £1990 for single occupancy.

For those wishing to stay in one of the Staterooms the price rises to £3,510 for double occupancy and £2280 for single occupancy.

Visit : www.wildwings.co.uk. Contact : Debra Taylor at debra@toucanmoon.com.

Discover Fuerteventura, Manchester, Liverpool and Leeds UK

19 May 2015 at the Iberica Spinningfields Restaurant, Manchester, 20 May 2015 at the Hard Days Night Hotel, Liverpool and 21 May at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Leeds.

Each event :

6:00 - 6.30 Registration
 6:30 - Meet the Suppliers
 8:30 - 9:30 Dinner
 Coffee & Prize Draw

The chance to meet representatives from the Fuerteventura Tourist Board, luxury hotels and theme parks.

Welcome drinks and registration will be at 6:00pm after which there will be an opportunity to meet the following representatives :

- Barceló Hotels
- Atlantis Hotels
- Elba Hotels
- Iberostar Hotels
- Origo Mare
- Playitas Resort
- Oasis Park
- Acua Water Park

Visit : www.eventsfortravel.com. Contact : Lizzie Sanderson at lizzie@eventsfortravel.com.

The Dreamers, London

The Dreamers, which will receive its London debut at the St James Theatre from 30 June to 11 July 2015, is a musical telling the true story of war hero Captain David 'Reggie' Salomons who led his regiment Third Field Company to Gallipoli in 1915.

Set during 1914-15, The Dreamers sees the outbreak of the First World War through the eyes of the soldiers and the families they left behind.

Visit : www.stjamestheatre.co.uk. Contact : Julia Stidolph at Julia@stjamestheatre.co.uk.

Leads

Lest We Forget - Rugby and the First World War, the World Rugby Museum, Twickenham Stadium, Twickenham UK

The World Rugby Museum is staging 'Lest We Forget - Rugby and the First World War', which is timed to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the death of Ronald Poulton Palmer, England's Grand-Slam winning captain from the 1914 season.

The exhibition is dedicated to the memory of all rugby players who fought and died in the First World War.

Between 1914-18 rugby, like every other aspect of society, was changed forever by a global conflict which cost the lives of millions of people.

Many people believed that rugby's values – patriotism, physical fitness, comradeship, fair play and discipline – reflected those of the armed services and the allied cause. Rugby players were often held up as models for others in society to follow.

Featuring stories of rugby players from many different countries, and all levels of the game, the exhibition is an opportunity to view many unique object and images brought together for the first time.

Visit : www.englandrugby.com/museum. Contact : Matt Littlechild at matt@made2010.com.

International Gay Polo Week in The Palm Beaches, Florida April (annually)

The Gay Polo League's (GPL) stages its Annual International Gay Polo Week each April at the International Polo Club Palm Beach, North America's only high goal polo venue.

Co-sponsored by Discover The Palm Beaches, the four-day event features elaborate tailgate competitions, exclusive VIP parties, the International Gay Polo Tournament itself an after ceremony party and Sunday Brunch.

The GPL represents a wide range of ages, backgrounds and skill levels.

The Palm Beaches

Discover The Palm Beaches, formerly the Palm Beach County Convention and Visitors Bureau, is the official tourism marketing corporation that promotes the collection of 38 cities and towns and 15 tourism districts, commonly referred to as, The Palm Beaches, Florida.

Visit : www.gaypolo.com. Contact : Carrie Wirth at cw@phelpsmediagroup.com.

For the Palm Beaches visit : www.palmbeachflorida.com. Contact : Scott Schoenen at sschoenen@palmbeachfl.com.

Helsinki

Finlands capital Helsinki is a modern and cosmopolitan city, the most international travel destination in Finland and home to around 600,000 residents.

Helsinki offers a wide range of experiences throughout the year in the form of over 3000 events, a maritime setting, classic and contemporary Finnish design, fascinating neighbourhoods and architecture, a range of museums and cultural activities and a lively nightlife.

Visit : www.visithelsinki.com. Contact : tourist.media@hel.fi.

The Hilltop Outdoor Centre, North Norfolk, UK

The new 16 metre (52ft) high jumping tower, dubbed the 'Air Jump' is now operating at the Hilltop Outdoor Centre in North Norfolk, and is the first activity of its kind ever in England.

The Hilltop Outdoor Centre itself combines two centres within 26 acres of private woodland, surrounded by 200 acres of public woodland, overlooking the seaside town of Sheringham.

Air Jump is a large wooden structural tower with various height platforms for people to jump off, before free-falling into a giant air bag.

The heights include two fun level jumps at 4 metres (13ft) and 5 metres (16ft) three high adrenaline jumps at 7 metres (23ft), 8 meters (26ft) and 10 metres (33ft), and a 13 metre (43ft) jump for the most extreme adrenaline junky.

See also : *AllWays traveller to North Norfolk* :
http://www.allwaystraveller.com/AllWaysOnline/ao_eur_UK_NorthNorfolk.html.

Visit www.hilltopoutdoorcentre.co.uk. Contact : Daisy Simpson at Daisy@junglepr.com.

Historic Orleans, Indiana celebrates 200 in 2015

The small town of Historic Orleans, Indiana is celebrating its bi-centennial with a year long programme of special events.

The town's annual Dogwood Festival, held 29 April to 2 May 2, will also carry the 200th Birthday theme.

Collectible lapel pins, coins, posters and other items will be available for purchase at the Orleans Town Hall and other various Orleans locations throughout the year.

Visit : www.orleans200.org. Contact : Robert F. Henderson at historicorleans@netsurfusa.net.

Argentina's and Chile's Glaciers

Say Hueque's Argentina Adventures are offering visitors the chance to experience Patagonia's glaciers and ice fields from both Argentina and Chile in two days.

The company's new international crossing links Argentina's trekking capital, El Chalten, to Chile's trekking capital of Torres del Paine.

The trip combines trekking with cycling, horseback riding, a boat ride and bus.

The first segment from El Chalten to Laguna del Desierto (Lake of the Desert) can be by bus or bike with the second leg across the Laguna del Desierto by boat.

The third segment, near the Chilean border, is one of the most difficult sections to O'Higgins Lake. This segment must be traveled by trekking, biking or on horseback. The fourth leg is across O'Higgins Lake by boat where adventurers pass in front of Glacier O'Higgins, one of the principal glaciers of the Southern Patagonian Ice Field.

The fifth leg and final segment is seven kilometers from the port of the lake to Villa O'Higgins.

Say Hueque specializes in customized travel itineraries to Argentina and Chile.

Destinations include Patagonia, Iguacu Falls, Buenos Aires, Mendoza, Atacama Desert, Uyuni Salt Flats and the Salta region

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

The Swiss Triennial Festival of Sculpture

Four hundred sculptures will be installed in public areas of Bad Ragaz in Switzerland's Sargans region and Vaduz in Liechtenstein between 9 May and 1 November 2015.

Europe's largest sculpture exhibition returns to Grand Resort Bad Ragaz this year, when artists transform the wellbeing and medical health resort into an outdoor art gallery.

The Swiss Triennial Festival of Sculpture, known as Bad RagARTz, will be held for the sixth time in 2015

During the six months the exhibition is in situ, Grand Resort Bad Ragaz will host an art trail, concerts, literary tours and the chance to meet the artists.

In the last 15 years, over a million visitors have been attracted to the Swiss Triennial Festival of Sculpture.

About the Grand Resort Bad Ragaz

The Grand Resort Bad Ragaz is located in the Heidiland holiday region of Eastern Switzerland, an hour's drive from Zurich.

The resort, which dates back to 1242 when a body-temperature thermal source was discovered.

In addition to 267 rooms and suites, the resort also offers two golf courses and a broad range of cultural activities, the public Tamina Therme thermal spa and its own casino.

Visit : www.badragartz.ch. Contact : Charlotte Rous at Charlotte@grifcopr.com.

European Waterways

European Waterways is the largest hotel barging company in Europe, offering luxury, all-inclusive cruises on fully-crewed hotel barges on the inland waterways of Europe, particularly France.

Every 6-night cruise includes gourmet cuisine, fine regional wines, open bar, daily escorted excursions, local transfers and the use of barge facilities such as bicycles to explore the towpaths, a sundeck to laze on, or a spa pool to relax in.

The fully-crewed luxury vessels accommodate between 6 and 20 passengers, who may choose to charter a whole boat with family and friends, or join a small group on an individual basis.

The average crew ratio is one crew member for every two passengers and includes Captain, Chef, Tour Guide and Hostess, thus ensuring a very high level of service.

Visit : www.gobarging.com. Contact : Chris Gant at chris@gobarging.com.

Arundel Castle, West Sussex

Arundel Castle, one of the largest inhabited and complete castles in England, is situated in grounds overlooking the River Arun in West Sussex.

It was founded at the end of the 11th century by Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Arundel and today is the home of the 18th Duke of Norfolk and his family.

Suited to visitors of all ages, the Castle offers a calendar of historical events throughout the year from Jousting and Medieval Tournaments to Shakespeare plays in The Collector Earl's Garden as part of the annual Arundel Festival.

Visit : www.arundelcastle.org. Contact : Flo Powell at Flo@midnight.co.uk.

Grape Escapes, Piedmont, Italy

Grape Escapes is offering guests the chance to experience some of Piedmont's finest wineries and to visit one of the world's newest UNESCO World Heritage sites.

The Piedmont region covers ten thousand hectares of beautiful vineyard landscapes where vine pollen has been found dating back to the 5th Century BC, from when Piedmont was a place of contact and trade between the Etruscans and the Celts.

The Piedmont region has recently been awarded UNESCO World Heritage status to recognise sites of outstanding value to humanity and an irreplaceable source of life and inspiration.

Grape Escapes offer a 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 of Champagne, Bordeaux, Burgundy, The Rhône, The Loire and Provence.

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

The Hudson's Heritage Explorer Pass, UK

The Hudson's Heritage Explorer Pass, operated by Hudson's Media, is a one- off pass giving visitors free entry to 150 heritage attractions.

The attractions include a collection of heritage sites, specialist museums, independent historic houses across England.

Visit : www.hudsons-explorer.com. Contact : Tanya Aspinwall at Tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk.

The new Mary Rose Museum, Portsmouth UK

The Mary Rose Museum at Portsmouth Historic houses the hull of the Mary Rose warship, commissioned by Henry VIII in 1510, as well as many thousands of the artefacts that were retrieved from the Solent's seabed 437 years after she sank.

The original hull is contained within a carefully controlled environment alongside a virtual port-side hull created on three levels exhibiting the largest hoard of Tudor artefacts in the world.

The ship, Henry VIII's favourite warship, was constructed in Portsmouth in 1510, not far from its current location of No.3 Dock in Portsmouth's Naval Base. It sank in the Battle of the Solent against the French in 1545, where only 35 of over 500 crew were known to survive.

In 1982 she was brought to the surface after 400 years on the sea bed and has been undergoing extensive conservation ever since.

Visit : www.maryrose.org. Contact : Claire Owen at muse@gongmuse.com.

What's on

The Mid-West Music Fest, Winona, MN

23 to 25 April 2015 (annual)

The Mid-West Music Fest brings music and community together in Winona, MN with 100 bands and musicians in venues across downtown Winona.

Visit : www.midwestmusicfest.org. Contact : Parker Forsell at parker.f@midwestmusicfest.org.

Germanfest, Muenster, Texas

24 to 26 April 2015

Muenster's 40th annual Germanfest, will see over 20,000 visitors enjoying German sausage, sauerkraut, schnitzel, potato salad, apple strudel, cheese and breads and all things Germanic.

Visit : www.germanfest.net. Contact: John Broyles at john.chamber@ntin.net.

The Miami Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, Florida

24 April to 3 May 2015

The Miami Gay & Lesbian Film Festival is based in the historic South Beach neighborhood with additional films screened at locations throughout Miami-Dade County.

The Festival aims to inspire, entertain and educate the public, encourage a sense of community through international and culturally diverse film, video and other media that offer historical and contemporary perspectives on the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender experience.

The 10 day festival shows with over 65 films.

Visit : www.mglff.com. Contact : Richard Murry at richard@tma-pr.com.

Phunkberry Music Festival, Eureka Springs, Arkansas

7 to 10 May 2015

The Phunkberry Music Festival is a four days of music, arts, and camping festival featuring top funk acts. Phunkberry Farm is located in the hills of the Ozarks on 160 acres that backs up to Mark Twain National Forest.

Hillberry Bluegrass Music Festival takes place in Eureka Springs on the 4th of July weekend.

Visit : www.phunkberry.com. Contact: Jon Walker at jwalker@deadheadproductions.com.

The Texas Crab Festival, Texas Gulf Coast

8 to 10 May 2015

The 30th annual Texas Crab Festival offers a weekend of rock, country, blues, conjunto, gospel and Zydeco music from the State's best bands.

There's also entertainment with games and events including the Crab Legs Contest, Washers Tournament, Two-Step Dance Contest and the Wiener Dog Races.

Visit : www.texascrabfestival.org. Contact : David Harris at info@texascrabfestival.org.

The 13th Joshua Tree Music Festival, Mojave, Joshua Tree, CA

14 to 17 May 2015

This multi-day campout music festival is located in the high desert of the Joshua Tree National Park in Mojave, Southern California.

The three day (and four night) family-friendly festival offers music from around the world combined with art installations, yoga classes from sunrise to sunset, twenty seven different music playshops and didgeridu classes, late night Astronomy theatre and a World Market.

The town of Joshua Tree is located in the high desert of the Mojave, 50 minutes from Palm Springs, 2.5 hour drive from LA, 3 from San Diego, 3.5 from Vegas and 5 from Phoenix.

Web: www.joshuatreemusicfestival.com. Contact: Barnett English at jtmusicfest@gmail.com.

The Soul Beach Music Festival, Aruba, Dutch Caribbean

20 to 25 May 2015

Voted by USA Today readers as a top 10 Caribbean celebration, the Soul Beach Festival features live music, comedy shows and beach parties.

The Dutch Caribbean island of Aruba lies 15 miles north of the South American coastline, and enjoys year-round sunshine, an average temperature of 32 degrees and a cooling breeze.

Visit : www.soulbeach.net and www.aruba.com. Contact : Joanna Walding at j.walding@aruba.com.

Indianapolis Early Music Festival

19 June to 12 July 2015

America's longest continually running early music festival, now in its 49th season, has a programme of music from the Renaissance, Baroque and Medieval times, played on instruments of the period by artists using historically informed styles and techniques.

Festival attendees will also have an opportunity to meet the performers at post-concert receptions, and hear them discuss their music in pre-concert chats thirty minutes prior to each concert.

Visit : www.emindy.org. Contact: Gail McDermott-Bowler at fms@iquest.net.

Santa Fe Studio Tour, New Mexico

19 to 21 and 27 and 28 June, 2015

The Santa Fe Studio Tour, now in its ninth year, has expanded to two weekends.

A free, self-guided tour, enables visitors to choose to tour any number of the 48 open studios and discover the original art – paintings, photography, sculpture, jewelry, ceramics and other works by over 70 Santa Fe artists.

Visit : www.santafestudiotour.com. Contact : Jennifer Box at info@santafestudiotour.com.

Nocturne at Blenheim Palace, The Great Court, Woodstock, Oxfordshire UK

25 to 28 June 2015

Nocturne at Blenheim Palace some of the world's greatest musicians and performers to the stately surroundings, with champagne receptions, fine-dining and banquet packages available inside the State Rooms (including the stunning Long Library) of the 12th Duke of Marlborough's family home, The Orangery and waterside picnicking.

Ludovico Einaudi, Van Morrison and Gregory Porter are among the performers.

Visit : www.nocturnelive.com. Contact : Jonathan Mountford at jonathan@made2010.com.

Henley Royal Regatta, Henley UK

1 to 5 July 2015

Henley Royal Regatta, which was first held in 1839, is one of the best known regattas in the world and a highlight of the UK summer sporting calendar and social season.

It attracts thousands of visitors over a 5-day period who can watch over 200 races of an international standard, including Olympians and crews new to the event.

Hospitality for the regatta is provided by international hospitality company Sodexo Prestige at Fawley Meadows, an exclusive area on the banks of the River Thames, and on the private Temple Island in the middle of the river.

For the regatta visit : www.hrr.co.uk. Contact: Caroline Searle at press@hrr.co.uk.

For Sodexo Prestige visit www.sodexo.com. Contact : Bernice Saltzer at bernice@sortedpr.com.

Napa Valley Festival del Sole, California

17 to 26 July 2015

The Napa Valley Festival del Sole, one of America's premier summer destination events, will stage its 10th event by featuring more than 60 cultural performances and activities.

The ten-day festival blends the world's finest classical, jazz, opera, theatre and dance artists with culinary, wine and fitness offerings in Napa Valley's most iconic settings.

The 2015 highlights include :

- Grammy Award-winning mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato and pianist/composer Jake Heggie opening the season with a courtyard recital at the Tuscan-inspired Castello di Amorosa.
- the first annual 5K & 10K Sun Run benefitting Napa County arts education programs.
- the Russian National Orchestra performing Beethoven's immortal Symphony No. 9, conducted by Kristjan Järvi, plus works by Dvorak, Getty, Offenbach, Rachmaninoff and Tchaikovsky
- Natalia Osipova, Principal of The Royal Ballet, and Ivan Vasiliev, American Ballet Theatre Principal, performing their acclaimed contemporary program Solo for Two.
- two performances by internationally acclaimed baritone Dmitri Hvorostovsky, including the Moscow Nights, an evening of Romantic classical favourites and popular music, and
- violinist Midori bringing the 2015 season to a close with the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto.

Visit : www.festivaldelsole.org and www.visitnapavalley.com. Contact : Monty Sander at monty@fullerandsander.com.

Summer music festivals in London

Barclaycard Presents British Summer Time Hyde Park, London

18, 20, 21, 26 & 27 June 2015

A series of hugely popular summer concerts with acts including Taylor Swift, The Who, The Strokes, Blur, Kylie, CHIC feat. Nile Rodgers and Beck.

Visit : www.bst-hydepark.com. Contact : Jonathan Mountford at jonathan@made2010.com.

Calling Festival 2015, Clapham Common, London

4 July 2014

A one-day summer music festival with Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds, Ryan Adams and The Shining, Modest Mouse and more.

Visit : www.callingfestival.co.uk. Contact : Jonathan Mountford at jonathan@made2010.com.

Kew the Festival, London, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

7-12 July 2015

This festival of summer concerts known for their relaxed atmosphere in Kew Gardens, returns for its sixth year.

Artists performing include Caro Emerald, Paloma Faith, Jools Holland & His Rhythm & Blues, UB40 - Ali, Astro & Mickey.

Visit : www.kew.org/visit-kew-gardens/whats-on/kew-the-music. Contact : Jonathan Mountford at jonathan@made2010.com.

World Puppet Festival, Charleville Mezières, France

18 to 27 September 2015

This bi-annual event sees puppeteers and enthusiasts from all over the world flock to this vibrant, colourful festival.

An extensive festival programme includes shows, photographic exhibitions, window displays, avant-garde performance art, and street entertainment in a carnival atmosphere where more than 30 countries are represented.

The festival attracts 150,000 visitors.

Visit : www.festival-marionnette.com. Contact : myra@myra.fr

Beer festivals in Flanders and Brussels

With a beer tradition that goes back centuries, the art of brewing beer in Belgium, is a result of age old craftsmanship.

A growing interest in Belgian authentic speciality beers has encouraged brewers throughout Flanders to come together in an annual calendar of regional beer festivals.

Zythos Beer Festival, The Brabant, Leuven

25 and 26 April 2015

During the last weekend of April, Leuven stages the largest beer festival in Flanders, and where even the smallest breweries are represented.

Over 100 breweries participate in the festival, offering over 500 beers.

Every year, people look forward to the presentation of new beers and many restaurants offer beer based dishes on their menus.

Visit : www.leuven.be/beercapital and www.zbf.be.

Toer de Geuze, Pajottenland

3 May 2015

During this biennial event (now celebrating its 10th event), the lambic breweries and gueuze blending houses open their doors to the public.

There are free guided tours and a chance to sample lambic, gueuze, kriek and other lambic beers.

Visit : www.horal.be/en/toer-de-geuze.

Leuven Innovation Beer Festival, At the former 'De Hoorn' brewery

24 and 25 May 2015

A new beer festival featuring 16 breweries from 8 different countries offering beer from all over the world.

Belgian Beer Weekend at the seaside, Zeedijk, Middelkerke

19 to 21 June 2015

The terraces along the seafront take on a festive look and as well as the beer on offer, brass bands play at various locations.

Visit : www.middelkerke.org/en/event/688/beer-weekend.html -

Beer Passion Weekend, Groenplaats, Antwerp

26 to 28 June 2015

Now into its 16th year, the Beer Passion Weekend features around 40 breweries offering visitors the chance to try over 200 speciality beers.

The city's Groenplaats, is transformed into an exclusive village accompanied by live music.

Visit : www.bierpassieweekend.be/en/index_en.html -

Adriaen Brouwer Beer Festivities, Oudenaarde

26 to 28 June 2015

This beer festival offers live music and a wide selection of Belgian beers.

Hapje Tapje, Leuven, City Centre

2 August 2015

This culinary event takes part in Leuven's city centre, with stalls run by the city's best restaurants serving food in the Grote Markt.

The Oude Markt, which is known for its many bars, is also transformed into a large market with exclusive beers. A Bartender's race takes place during the event.

Visit : www.hapje-tapje.be

Brussels Beer Weekend, Grand Place, Brussels

4 to 6 September 2015

This festival attracts 35 Belgian breweries representing 350 different beers.

Visit : www.belgianbrewers.be/en/events/belgian-beer-weekend-171.

Poperinge Beer and Hop Festival 2015, Poperinge

18 to 20 September 2015

A beer festival that takes place every three years.

Visit : www.hoppefeesten.be.

October Beer Festival, Market Square, Diksmuide

This festival has been running for over 50 years with music, dancing and plenty of beer.

Visit : www.beerfestival.be.

Modeste Beer Festival, De Koninck Brewery

3 and 4 October 2015

The Modeste Beer Festival pays a tribute to Modeste Van den Bogaert, who joined the De Koninck Brewery just after the Second World War and led the brewery for more than 50 years. Only 25 Belgian brewers are invited to this festival.

Visit : www.modestebierfestival.be.

Weekend Der Belgische Bieren 2015, Hasselt

6 to 8 November 2015

The Weekend of Belgian Beer will attract beer aficionados from all over the world with over 100 different Belgian beers and traditional snacks.

Visit : www.limburgse-biervrienden.be.

Christmas Beer Festival, Essen

19 and 20 December 2015

This is a festival celebrating Christmas and Winter beers. Over the course of two days, visitors can get to try over 170 Belgian Christmas and Winter beers.

Visit : www.kerstbierfestival.be/ENG/index.htm

Belgian Beer Experiences in Flanders and Brussels, includes a listing of breweries and museums open to visitors and information about beer related guided tours, pubs and restaurants.

Visit : www.visitflanders.com. Contact : Anita Rampall at anita.rampall@visitflanders.com.

The Creole United Festival, Sausalito, CA

17 October 2015

The Creole United Festival offers the rhythm and taste of Louisiana in California. The program combines traditional and newly composed music, exploring the Creole culture and Zydeco, the music of Southwest Louisiana.

Sausalito is located 10 miles north of San Francisco.

Visit : www.creoleunitedfestival.com. Donna Ramirez at media@creoleunitedfestival.com.

Queenstown Marathon, New Zealand

21 November 2015

The Queenstown International Marathon has full, half, 10km and 3km events will form the 'Festival of running', all set against the backdrop of the Crown and Remarkable mountain ranges.

The route takes in the Queenstown lakes, historic gold mining area of Arrowtown and the Arrow River track as well as Lake Hayes, the fast-flowing 75 kilometre-long Shotover River and Lake Wakatipu.

Visit : www.queenstown-marathon.co.nz. Contact : Michelle Pepper at mpepper@lagardere-unlimited.co.nz.

Reasons to write about

South Dakota

South Dakota has five national parks, monuments and memorials as well as 54 state parks and recreation areas that allow visitors to experience the natural beauty of the state.

In the southeast, Lewis and Clark State Recreation Area features three campgrounds, biking trails, sandy beaches and the largest marina in South Dakota.

Palisades State Park features 50-foot cliffs composed of 1.2 billion-year-old Sioux quartzite, walking trails, campgrounds and historical sites.

Travellers to the northeast region of the state can visit Fort Sisseton Historical State Park, an area where history enthusiasts can take a guided tour and walk among 14 original buildings while adventurers explore the waters by canoe or kayak.

The state capitol of Pierre is located just below the Oahe Dam, Farm Island State Recreation Area and Oahe Downstream State Recreation Area allowing visitors to take in the Missouri River.

Nearby Lake Oahe offers world-class walleye fishing and outdoor recreation.

The western region of the state takes in the Badlands National Park, the Black Hills National Forest, Mount Rushmore National Memorial and the Custer State Park, Crazy Horse Memorial, Wind Cave National Park and Jewel Cave National Monument.

Visit : www.travelsd.com. Contact : Maureen Droz at maureen.droz@state.sd.us.

Martinique

The Martinique Tourism Authority is projecting another strong cruise season in 2015-2016, with a record 22 ships slated to make their first-ever port calls in The Isle of Flowers between 26 October 2015 and 31 August 2016.

The 22 ships represent some of the biggest names in the cruise industry, including Carnival, Celebrity, Disney, MSC, Royal Caribbean, Seabourn, and more. The full list of ships visiting Martinique for the first time in 2015-2016 is as follows:

- Adventure of the Seas
- Aidamar
- Anthem of the Seas
- Azura
- Carnival Glory
- Carnival Liberty
- Carnival Pride
- Carnival Sunshine
- Costa Favolosa
- Costa Pacifica
- Celebrity Equinox
- Disney Wonder
- Eurodam
- MSC Orchestra
- Oosterdam
- Royal Princess
- Seabourn Odyssey
- Serenade of the Seas
- Seven Seas Mariner
- Seven Seas Navigators
- Silver Wind
- The World

One of the fastest growing cruise destinations in the Caribbean, Martinique has experienced a 524% increase in cruise passenger arrivals since 2010.

About Martinique

The French influenced Caribbean Island of Martinique promotes itself as The Isle of Flowers, The Rum Capital of the World, The Isle of the Famed Poet (AiméCésaire).

Martinique offers unspoiled beaches, volcanic peaks, rainforests, 80+ miles of hiking trails, waterfalls, streams, and other natural wonders that compare with neighboring Dominica to the north and St. Lucia to the south.

As an overseas region of France, Martinique enjoys modern and reliable infrastructure – roads, water and power utilities, hospitals, and telecommunications services all on par with any other part of the European Union.

The currency is the Euro, the flag is Le Tricolour, and the official language is French, but Martinique's character, cuisine, musical heritage, art, culture, common language, and identity are of a distinctly Afro-Caribbean inclination known as Creole Martiniquais.

Napoleon's bride, Empress Josephine, was born and raised in Martinique, while the majestic Mt. Pelée volcano and St. Pierre, The Pompeii of the Caribbean, are found here.

Visit : www.martinique.org and www.martiniquepresskit.com. contact : Johnson JohnRose at jjohnrose@caribtourism.com.

The Hampshire South Downs, UK

The Hampshire South Downs is located between the cathedral cities of Winchester, Hampshire and Chichester, on the Sussex coast.

It offers opportunities for walking, hiking and cycling and also has a great deal to offer those interested in sampling its history and heritage.

Part of the South Downs National Park, it was where Jane Austen lived and her former home is now a museum in the village of Chawton.

Nearby is the former home of the naturalist and ecologist Gilbert White – also now a museum and gardens.

National Trust properties

National Trust historic houses Hinton Ampner and Uppark are both nearby and the area has a series of six literary walks following in the footsteps of Jane Austen, Gilbert White, Flora Thompson, William Cobbett, Edward Thomas and WH Hudson.

Confirmed as a National Park in 2009, the landscape of the South Downs stretches from Winchester and Petersfield in Hampshire to Eastbourne in East Sussex.

The western tip of the South Downs can be found in the heart of Winchester with its 11th century cathedral.

The market towns of Petersfield and Alton are also starting points to explore the South Downs.

Visit : www.visit-hampshire.co.uk. Contact : Rachel Shimell at rachelshimell@gmail.com.

National Park Week, USA

(18 to 26 April 2015 and annually)

The US National Park Service and National Park Foundation will celebrate National Park Week each April, including days when entrance fees are waived.

Austin Adventures offers professionally guided, small group National Park vacations including :

Grand Canyon National Park : including the mile-deep canyon in the heart of Arizona's high desert, with the chance to ride the Grand Canyon Railway across the Colorado Plateau, paddle board on Lake Pleasant and swim at Slide Rock State Park.

Glacier Bay National Park : as no roads lead to Alaska's Glacier Bay, guests embark on an 8-day small ship cruise that explores this remote national park.

There's the chance to see mountains, calving glaciers, narrow fjords with wildlife viewing, hiking, kayaking, sailing and paddle boarding.

Bryce Canyon & Zion National Parks : the "most colorful park in America" and the "land of rainbow canyons" are on offer at these two Utah national parks.

Yellowstone National Park : with the chance to hike backcountry trails.

Grand Teton National Park : with its mountain range on both sides of the Mississippi. The Grand Tetons are the crown jewel of Grand Teton National Park.

Yosemite National Park : the chance to explore the park by horseback, raft the Merced River and hike to the park's highlights including Vernal Falls and Sentinel Dome.

Glacier National Park : known as the "backbone of the world" by the local Native Americans, Glacier National Park offers trekking among the towering evergreens on the Trail of Cedars.

Utah - Arches & Canyonlands : with more than 2,000 natural stone arches in Utah's Arches National Park and the chance to ride along the scenic Island in the Sky route in Canyonlands National Park and raft a stretch of the Colorado River.

San Juan Island National Historical Park : consisting of 172 islands, this archipelago in Washington offers the chance to view orcas while kayaking the scenic bays.

Visit : www.austinadventures.com. Contact: Katie Jackson at katie@austinadventures.com.

Child friendly attractions in London

Research by London's Royal Garden Hotel has revealed that eight out of 10 of the top ten experiences in the capital - that parents think will enrich their children - are either free or have a minimal cost.

Top London experiences for kids to try before they're 12 years old:

- travel the underground (46%) – free for 10 and younger
- ride on the top of a double decker bus (45%) – free for 10 and younger
- take a ride on the London Eye (41%)
- see the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace (35%) – free to see
- see the dinosaur skeletons at the National History Museum (34%) – free general entrance
- go to the Science Museum (33%) – free general entrance
- see the penguins at London Zoo (31%)
- visit Winter Wonderland in Hyde Park (30%) – free to visit
- buy a toy from Hamley's (28%)
- See the Houses of Parliament (25%) – free to see.

The Royal Garden Hotel is a five star hotel based in Kensington and near to family-friendly attractions and destinations including the Science Museum, Kensington Palace and Natural History Museum.

Visit : www.visitlondon.com and www.royalgardenhotel.co.uk. Contact : Lucy Hancock at lucy.hancock@stormcom.co.uk.

Olive tree preservation at Belmond La Residencia, Mallorca

At Belmond La Residencia the hillside is home to over 1.500 olives that are gradually being returned to their former glory after years of abandonment.

The work is slow and costly but the hotel intends to eventually return the hillside groves to the condition they were in when the estate was at its zenith as an oil producer.

Hotel guests can see olive trunks that have naturally sculpted themselves into remarkable shapes. The trees are hundreds of years old –some over one thousand years.

This part of Mallorca is a UNESCO world heritage site and the property has 14 hectares of mountain olive groves with the olive production increasing year by year as more trees are looked after.

To help the project along, and to involve friends of Belmond La Residencia in the task ahead, the hotel is offering the possibility of adopting an olive tree. Those interested will be allocated a tree, and ownership will be marked by means of the name sculpted into an olive wood plaque.

The money raised will help towards the restoration and care of the trees and each year the owner will receive a bottle of the precious 'liquid gold' produced with olives from the farm.

Visit : www.belmond.com/la-residencia-mallorca. Contact : Louise Davis at louise.davis@belmond.com.

A place to stay

Ikos Oceania, Halkidiki, Greece

Ikos Resorts has reopened the Ikos Oceania, Halkidiki, Greece following an upgrade and expansion.

Ikos Resorts has plans to open seven new resorts in the next seven years, with the next property, the Ikos Olivia, opening in May 2015.

Visit : www.ikosresorts.com. Contact : Jonathan Williams at Jonathan@ophirpr.co.uk.

Goldgasse Hotel opens in Salzburg's festival district

Goldgasse Hotel is a privately-owned hotel within the Amadeus hotel group, based in Salzburg, and is a member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World.

It is located in the city's exclusive Goldgasse neighbourhood, where small arts and crafts shops mix with cafés and bakeries, and is housed in a 700-year-old building.

The hotel is within walking distance the city's squares, gardens and festival halls, Salzburg Cathedral, the Hohensalzburg Fortress and Mozart's birthplace.

The 13th century building, used by coppersmiths from 1573 and later converted into a hotel, has recently been restored, with many historical features now uncovered and left intact, including frescoes, original timber, stucco and old stone floors.

See also : **AllWays traveller to Salzburg :**
http://www.allwaystraveller.com/AllWaysOnline/ao_eur_au_SalzburgCity.html

Visit : www.hotelgoldgasse.at. Contact : Raquel Fonseca Cambeiro at Raquel.FonsecaCambeiro@camronpr.com.

Adrián Hoteles, Tenerife

The three luxury properties of Tenerife's family-run group, Adrián Hoteles, have been awarded the 'Travelife Gold' certificate for their commitment to sustainable tourism.

Launched in 2007, Travelife is a certification system which allows hoteliers to monitor and self-assess their sustainability performance.

Owned by ABTA, Travelife is recognised within the travel and tourism industry as one of the most comprehensive and credible tools with regards to sustainability.

Adrián Hoteles three luxury properties in Tenerife's Costa Adeje are :

The Hotel Jardines de Nivaria

Opened in 1997, the five-star Hotel Jardines de Nivaria sits next to the beach in the exclusive Playa de Fañabé area (Costa Adeje).

It is one of the most luxurious in the south of Tenerife, has an elegant mixture of Art-deco and Spanish traditional style enhanced by the dome that crowns the main building.

The Roca Nivaria Gran Hotel

The Roca Nivaria Gran Hotel opened in 2005 and is the latest addition to Adrian Hoteles.

Located in Playa Paraíso area, the five-star hotel features a total of 289 rooms – all of them with a terrace.

The Hotel Colón Guanahaní

Hotel Colón Guanahaní is an adults-only 4-star hotel located in Playa de Fañabé. Opened in 1990 it was completely refurbished in 2014.

Visit: www.adrianhoteles.com. Contact : Enrique Martin at enrique@humewhitehead.co.uk.

Baur au Lac, Switzerland

Baur au Lac, which is located in the heart of Zurich, enjoys views of Lake Zurich and the Alps.

This year Baur au Lac has a special 'Family Package' where guests can choose activities including Switzerland's longest summer toboggan run, a behind the scenes tour of the traffic police station or go-karting in Rümlang.

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

Pregnancy Retreats, The Cotswolds, UK

Retreat-Yourself is a new company located in the Cotswolds specialising in pregnancy and motherhood retreats offering a range of luxury breaks for mums and mums-to-be.

As well as single day retreats, there is a choice of mid-week and weekend retreats focused on quality relaxation in luxury surroundings.

The retreats are run by pregnancy and birth expert, trained nurse, doula and natal hypnotherapist, Heather Guerrini, and her daughter in law, Eliza Guerrini who is an occupational therapist and natal hypnotherapist.

The retreats take place in four Gloucestershire locations:

Visit : www.retreat-yourself.co.uk. Contact : Fiona Reece at fiona@fionareece.com.

Adventure Base, the French Alps

Adventure Base, an independent chalet rental company based in the French Alps, offers chalet holidays in Chamonix and Morzine.

Visit : www.adventurebase.com. Contact : Rachel Easter at reaster@championsukplc.com.

The Sun Siyam Iru Fushi, Maldives

The Sun Siyam Iru Fushi is located on the idyllic Noonu Atol, a 52-acre island with sandy white beaches and tropical vegetation.

Visit : www.thesunsiyam.com.

Thalatta Seaside Hotel, Greece

The Thalatta Seaside Hotel is located at north Evia amid forests, hidden canyons, crystal streams, waterfalls and pristine beaches. It features sites of ecological, historical, religious and archaeological significance.

Visit : www.thalattahotel.gr/en. Contact : Melissa Dive at melissa@ophirpr.co.uk.

The Vineyard in Berkshire, UK

With its glass-covered cellar holding over 30,000 bottles of wine - many from the owner's Californian vineyard - the five-star Vineyard near Newbury in Berkshire is the UK's leading wine hotel.

The boutique spa has wine-themed treatments while WSET (Wine and Spirit Education Trust) courses run on select dates throughout the year giving guests an internationally recognised qualification.

Head chef Daniel Galmiche often on BBC Saturday Kitchen has devised several pairing menus.

The Vineyard will be delighted to consider hosting Alliance press card holders able to feature the hotel.

Visit : www.the-vineyard.co.uk. Contact: Peter da Silva at peter@boutiquedasilva.com.

The Headland, Newquay

The Grade II-listed Victorian Headland is a handsome four-star hotel with five-star Cornish-village style self-catering cottages with a stunning cliff-top location above Fistral Bay in Newquay.

Activities at the Surf Sanctuary range from SUP – Stand Up Paddle boarding, surfing and kite surfing as well as less adrenaline-fuelled golf, putting and gym in the hotel grounds.

Cornwall's largest spa offers locally themed treatments such as a Cornish salt steam room and new AFYNA organic treatments.

Visit: www.headlandhotel.co.uk. Contact: Peter da Silva at peter@boutiquedasilva.com.

Hartwell House, Buckinghamshire

Hartwell House is an impressive stately home with both Jacobean and Georgian facades in the Vale of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

Once graced by Louis XVIII, exiled King of France, and owned by the National Trust, the grade I listed house has ornate interiors rich with rococo ceilings, antiques and paintings.

Its 90 acres of gardens and parkland, some of which date back to the 18th century include a spring garden planted with snowdrops, daffodils, and primroses.

National Trust gardens to visit within Buckinghamshire include the spectacular country estate Cliveden in Taplow and the gardens at Stowe, which inspired many writers and artists with restored temples and monuments set against a backdrop of lakes and valleys.

Visit: www.middlethorpe.com Contact: Peter da Silva at peter@boutiquedasilva.com

Lulworth Lodge, Weymouth, Dorset UK

HF Holidays has opened Lulworth Lodge, a new walkers' place by the sea in Weymouth's Lulworth Cove.

Located on the Jurassic Coast, Lulworth Lodge, which was originally a mill house, offers sea views and is a tranquil haven for visitors to the award-winning area.

Lulworth Lodge has a similar feel to a ski chalet and provides a base by the sea for walkers.

The Lodge has walk and cycle routes, advice on where to go and the latest weather forecast as well as boot and drying room to air clothing.

Visit : www.hfholidays.co.uk. Contact : Laura Quigley at laura@gough.co.uk.

The Dorchester Collection

The Dorchester Collection is a portfolio of luxury hotels in Europe and the USA, which includes :

- The Dorchester, London
- The Beverly Hills Hotel, Beverly Hills
- Le Meurice Paris
- Hôtel Plaza Athénée, Paris
- Hotel Principe di Savoia, Milan
- Hotel Bel-Air, Los Angeles
- Coworth Park, Ascot, UK
- 45 Park Lane, London
- Le Richemond, Geneva, and
- Hotel Eden, Rome.

Visit : www.dorchestercollection.com. Contact : Olivia Johnson at olivia.j@peretti.com.



An Alliance focus on :

Charlotte Harbor and the Gulf Islands of Southwest Florida

Located halfway between Tampa and Naples on the Southwest Florida Gulf Coast, Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands is a collection of nine coastal communities surrounding the state's second largest harbour.

One of Florida's premier year-round eco-tourism destinations, the area offers a pristine unspoiled beauty.

The area offers visitors a number of off the beaten path beaches including :

Englewood Beach on Manasota Key

This beach offers wide shorelines for building sandcastles, bird watching, or the Gulf at sunset.

There's plenty of fishing including seasonal catches of snook and tarpon, not unexpected as Englewood was founded as a fishing village back in 1896.

The nearby West Dearborn Street features a variety of restaurants antique shops and galleries.

Stump Pass Beach

This Florida State Park beach is made up of three islands and the protected channels between them.

It offers exceptional shelling, when the tide rolls away from Stump Pass Beach State Park.

Local lore says that wishes will be granted when beachgoers take a seashell and place it on one of the trees on the beach.

Stump Pass Beach has plenty of wide-open coastlines and nature trails for wildlife viewing and native plants such as indigo berry and bay cedar, and great fishing.

Visit : www.floridastateparks.org/stumppass/aboutthepark.cfm

Don Pedro Island

Accessible only by boat, Don Pedro Island is one of Charlotte Harbor's barrier islands and a state park.

Nature reigns here, where sightings of West Indian manatees, bald eagles, and gopher tortoises.

A passenger ferry ride from nearby Placida, the Don Pedro Island State Park has been lauded by "Dr. Beach."

Visit : www.floridastateparks.org/park/Don-Pedro-Island.

Little Gasparilla Island

Little Gasparilla Island is an unspoiled barrier island within Charlotte County.

It is just north of the larger Gasparilla Island, which has the restored Port Boca Grande Lighthouse, built in 1890.

It is connected with Don Pedro Island to the north by a thin strip of beach and mangrove swamp, and borders the Gulf of Mexico to the west.

This bridgeless barrier island, 10 minutes from the mainland, has no roads and no traffic, just white sand paths for exploring.

In addition to pristine sandy beaches you'll find many species of birds, an abundance of shells and sand dollars, schools of dolphin swimming by, championship snook and tarpon fishing, relaxing days and dramatic sunsets.

This island is best enjoyed by leasing a vacation rental home, as there are no public beaches.

Visit : www.neworleanscvb.com and www.louisianatravel.com. Contact : kirsty Dillury at Kirsty@ttmworld.co.uk.

An Alliance focus on :

Summer music festivals in Britain

International Blues on the Bay, Warrenpoint, Northern Ireland
20 to 25 May 2015

This 5 day international Blues & Jazz music festival is one of Europe's leading blues festivals.

Visit : www.bluesonthebay.co.uk.

Rockness, Loch Ness, Scotland
7 to 9 June 2015

The festival happens on the shores of Loch Ness, one of the most beautiful settings of any festival,.

Visit : www.rockness.co.uk

Isle of Wight Festival, England
11 to 14 June 2015

The Isle of Wight Festival has a heritage back to Bob Dylan (1969) and Jimi Hendrix (1970).

Visit : www.isleofwightfestival.com

T in the Park, Perth and Kinross, Scotland
10 to 12 July 2015

Scotland's biggest music festival held on a disused airfield an hour outside Edinburgh.

Visit : www.tinthepark.com

The Hebridean Celtic Festival, Isle of Lewis, Scotland
15 to 18 July 2015

Live Celtic music, held in the grounds of Lewis Castle overlooking Stornoway harbour.

Visit : www.hebcelfest.com.

Latitude, Suffolk, England
16 to 19 July 2015

A family-friendly festival in the East of England with music, comedy and a children's arena and sheep dyed all the colours of the rainbow.

Visit : www.latitudefestival.co.uk.

Visit : www.media.visitbritain.com/en/pages/Events.html. Contact : VisitBritain Media Team at pressandpr@visitbritain.com.

Lovebox, London, England
17 and 18 July 2015

Lovebox in Victoria Park, East London, is one of the wackiest festivals.

Visit : www.lovebox.net.

Rebellion, Blackpool, England
6 to 9 August 2015

A punk festival, held in the Lancashire seaside resort of Blackpool.

Visit : www.rebellionfestivals.com.

Wilderness, Oxfordshire, England
6 to 9 August 2015

Wilderness is the multi-award winning 4-day festival combining live music, contemporary arts and an array of theatre, craftsmanship and dining experiences.

Visit : www.wildernessfestival.com.

Green Man, Brecon Beacons, Wales
20 to 24 August 2015

Green Man is an independent music and arts festival held annually at the Glanusk Estate in the Brecon Beacons.

A 20,000 capacity 4 day event, showcasing predominantly live music (in particular alternative, indie, rock, folk, dance and Americana), literature, film, comedy, theatre and poetry.

Visit : www.greenman.net.

V Festival, Essex and Staffordshire, England
22 and 23 August 2015

One of the year's most popular events and always attracting big commercial names to two different sites over one weekend, Hylands Park in Chelmsford and Weston Park in South Staffordshire.

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

www.itwalliance.com

Ashley Gibbins FCIPR, MCIOJ
 Chief Executive
 The International Travel Writers Alliance
 0776 419 8286
 Ashley@itwalliance.com



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

Ann Mealor FCIPR
 Commissioning Editor
 AllWays traveller
 07971 596 925
 Ann@itwalliance.com