



# The Alliance

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# Bulletin

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

Mid-February 2015

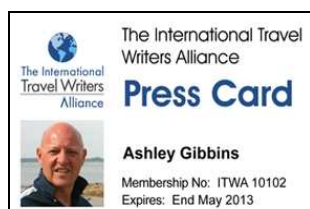
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Issue 178: mid-February 2015

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

## The Alliance press card



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

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

## Job shop

**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](http://www.jobtarget.com/home/home.cfm?site_id=14773)

## Working with the Alliance

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

**Other Alliance partners and agencies can be found at [www.itwalliance.com](http://www.itwalliance.com).**

## Partners

### Railbookers

Railbookers specialise in creating tailor made itineraries by rail with offices in London, Sydney, Los Angeles and Auckland, and have been sending customers on train holidays all over the world since 2003.

The company now reaches 45 destinations, and go by the motto 'If there's a station – we can get you there.

Visit : [www.railbookers.com](http://www.railbookers.com). Contact : John Hale at [john.hale@railbookers.com](mailto:john.hale@railbookers.com).

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## The Palm Beaches, Florida

Located two hours south of Orlando and one hour north of Miami, *The Palm Beaches* offers visitors the best way to experience the *Sunshine State*.

There is an eclectic collection of 38 distinct cities and towns from the beaches of the Atlantic Ocean to the shores of Lake Okeechobee, from Boca Raton to Jupiter.

Known as *Florida's Golf Capital*, beyond its famous resort fairways discover four dozen acclaimed public courses.

Play golf on the ocean at Palm Beaches' Dick Johnson designed *Par 3* or for a different kind of "birdie" at the Audubon International certified *Osprey Point Golf Course*.

For shoppers, the destination's affluent community keep *The Palm Beaches'* consignment stores filled with the latest designer and couture fashions for less.

At Wellington's International Polo Club Palm Beach the International Gay Polo League tournament takes place from 9 to 11 April and the winter 2015 polo season ends with the US Open Polo Championships on Sunday 19 April.

Visit : [www.palmbeachfl.com](http://www.palmbeachfl.com). Contact : Scott Schoenen at [sschoenen@palmbeachfl.com](mailto:sschoenen@palmbeachfl.com).

## The Kinsterna Hotel, Greece

The Kinsterna Hotel is a Byzantine-era rural mansion, which has been restored with great respect to its long history.

Located in Monemvasia, one of Greece's most romantic and historical destinations, with views of the Medieval Castle's Rock of Monemvasia (Peloponnese, Lakonia region) and the blue of the Aegean Sea, it offers 41 unique rooms, suites and autonomous residences and within privately owned vineyards and olive groves.

Visit : [www.kinsternahotel.gr](http://www.kinsternahotel.gr). Contact : Effie Moskofoglou at [effie@kinsternahotel.gr](mailto:effie@kinsternahotel.gr).

## Greensboro, North Carolina

Greensboro is centrally located in the heart of North Carolina's scenic Piedmont region, and in the center of the Eastern Seaboard!

Visitors get the chance to immerse themselves in Greensboro's historical attractions and explore over 200 years of rich history

Visit : [www.VisitGreensboroNC.com](http://www.VisitGreensboroNC.com) Contact : Amy Scott at [ascott@visitgreensboronc.com](mailto:ascott@visitgreensboronc.com).

## The Luxembourg City Tourist Office

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

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

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

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

## The Mob Museum (USA)

A world-class destination located in downtown Las Vegas, The Mob Museum showcases both sides of the notorious battle between organized crime and law enforcement.

With high-tech theater presentations, over 885 iconic one-of-a-kind artifacts and interactive exhibits, this award-winning museum, located just steps from the Fremont Street Experience.

Visit : [www.themobmuseum.org](http://www.themobmuseum.org). Contact : Brenda Hengel at [pr@themobmuseum.org](mailto:pr@themobmuseum.org).

## Tourism for All UK

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

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

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

*Tourism for All UK* is keen to work with the media to spread its message, both to the consumer, and to the industry and public authorities.

Visit : [www.tourismforall.org.uk](http://www.tourismforall.org.uk). Contact : [info@tourismforall.org.uk](mailto:info@tourismforall.org.uk)

## Alta Badia, Italy

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

The climate in Alta Badia is a typical alpine microclimate with mild summers and winters long and cold.

From December to February average temperatures are below zero and night time temperatures can fall to minus 20°C.

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

Visit : [www.altabadia.org](http://www.altabadia.org). Contact : Stefanie Irsara at [stefanie.irsara@altabadia.org](mailto:stefanie.irsara@altabadia.org).

## News

### La Compagnie

*La Compagnie*, the boutique French all-business-class airline, is to launch a new route from London to New York on 24 April 2015.

The flights, which start as three weekly round trip and daily flights by the end of 2015. will operate from London Luton Airport into New York, Newark International Airport.

The airline will use redesigned Boeing 757-200 offering 74 lie-flat seats in a 2x2 configuration.

Passengers will receive in-flight amenity kits including cosmetic products from natural French skincare brand Caudalie, with seasonal in-flight meals created by French chef Christophe Langrée.

*La Compagnie* has been operating an all business-class service between Paris-Charles De Gaulle Airport and New York-Newark since July 2014.

Visit : [www.lacompagnie.com](http://www.lacompagnie.com). Contact : Joanna Cadbury at [joanna@grifcopr.com](mailto:joanna@grifcopr.com).

## Marco Polo publications

Marco Polo is launching two new series of publications to compliment its travel guides, maps and phrasebooks.

Marco Polo Travel Handbooks, which are aimed at travellers wanting in-depth coverage of a destination, are the first travel guides to offer infographics – a highly visual way of presenting information.

Destination covered by the handbooks include :

Andalucia	Florida	New York
Barcelona	Gran Canaria	Paris
Berlin	Iceland	Rome, and
Dresden	London	Venice.

Marco Polo Spiral Guides are practical itinerary-based guides for those travellers who have little time to prepare for a trip.

Spiral Guide destinations include :

Amsterdam	Ireland	Paris
Andalucia	London	Rome
Barcelona	Malta	Tuscany, and
Budapest	New York	Venice.

Visit : [www.marcopolouk.com](http://www.marcopolouk.com). For information or to request review copies contact : Serena Stent at [serena@marcopolouk.com](mailto:serena@marcopolouk.com).

## Playa de Palma, Mallorca

The city's Playa de Palma area, located in the Old Town near the port, has announced a plan to boost tourism to the area, with works beginning in 2015 and continuing until the end of 2016.

Following reviews and refurbishments, 27 hotels in the area have increased their star rating, with a total of 31 four-star hotels in the area, while projects have been approved for the construction of four new four and five star hotels, at an investment of €100 million.

The resort known as Playa de Palma refers to the 6km long stretch of Majorca's central south coast running from C'an Pastilla in the west, around the Bay of Palma, to the resort of El Arenal in the east.

Visit : [www.majorca-mallorca.co.uk/playa\\_de\\_palma.htm](http://www.majorca-mallorca.co.uk/playa_de_palma.htm). Contact : Maria Costa Lobo at [maria@lotus-uk.co.uk](mailto:maria@lotus-uk.co.uk).

## Momondo city guide app

Travel search site momondo.co.uk has launched 'momondo places', its free iPad city guide app.

*momondo* places provides an insight into the best sights, hidden gems, markets, boutiques, restaurants, cafés, bars and hotels in eleven cities :

Amsterdam	Copenhagen	Paris, and
Bangkok	Lisbon	Rome.
Barcelona	London	
Berlin	New York	

Other cities will roll out in 2015.

*momondo.co.uk* is a free, independent and global travel search site that compares prices on flights, hotels, car hire and holiday rentals.

Visit : [www.momondo.co.uk](http://www.momondo.co.uk). Contact : [leila@turtle-pr.com](mailto:leila@turtle-pr.com).

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## Harlem, New York

Harlem is the latest New York borough to feature in NYC & Company's Neighborhood x Neighborhood programme.

The tourism body will promote Harlem's African-American culture as New York City prepares for Black History Month celebrations in February.

Harlem is a vibrant neighborhood that is home to restaurants, historic cultural institutions, music venues and theatres.

### NYC & Company

NYC & Company is New York City's official marketing, tourism and partnership organization.

Its mission is to maximize travel and tourism opportunities throughout the five boroughs, build economic prosperity and spread the dynamic image of New York City around the world.

NYC & Company becomes the ultimate resource for visitors and residents to find everything they need about what to do and see in New York City.

Visit : [www.nycgo.com](http://www.nycgo.com). Contact : Dena Libner at [dlibner@nycgo.com](mailto:dlibner@nycgo.com).

## The Whitworth, Manchester, UK

The Whitworth, part of The University of Manchester, reopens on 14 February 2015 following a £15 million redevelopment project, that has transformed the 125 year old Whitworth into a 21st century gallery in the park.

In doing so it will double public space and create state-of-the-art new facilities including expanded gallery spaces, a learning studio, study centre and a collections access zone.

Visit : [www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth). Contact : Rebecca Storey at [rebecca@suttonpr.com](mailto:rebecca@suttonpr.com).

## Leads

### Kinsterna Hotel, Monemvasia, Peloponnese, Greece

The Kinsterna Hotel is housed in a Byzantine-era rural mansion, which has been restored with great respect to its long history.

It is located in Monemvasia, one of Greece's most historical destinations and enjoys views of the Medieval Castle's Rock of Monemvasia (Peloponnese, Lakonia region) and the Aegean Sea.

The Kinsterna has 41 rooms and sits within 18 acres that includes privately owned vineyards and olive groves.

Visit : [www.kinsternahotel.gr](http://www.kinsternahotel.gr). Contact : Effie Moskofoglou at [Effie\\_effie@kinsternahotel.gr](mailto:Effie_effie@kinsternahotel.gr).

### Natural experiences in Florida

NationalGeographic.com has launched its new online hub dedicated to the 50 best wild and natural experiences in Florida.

The first 25 experiences, by land, are live with another 25, by sea, planned for launch in February.

The initiative comes via a partnership with Visit Florida.

Visit [www.travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/florida-land-and-sea](http://www.travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/florida-land-and-sea) and [www.visitflorida.org](http://www.visitflorida.org). Contact : Heather Wyatt at [NGTraveler@HwyattPR.com](mailto:NGTraveler@HwyattPR.com).

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## Denver Mile High Culture Pass

Visit Denver has launched the Mile High Culture Pass, a four-day pass to be used for multiple days at multiple attractions, enabling visitors to receive admission to some of the city's best attractions at a discount.

Participating attractions include :

- Denver Art Museum
- Denver Botanic Gardens
- Denver Museum of Nature & Science, and
- Denver Zoo

Visit : [www.visitdenver.com](http://www.visitdenver.com) . Contact Jeannie Wert at [jwert@visitdenver.com](mailto:jwert@visitdenver.com).

## The National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame, Fort Worth, Texas

The National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame is the only museum in the world dedicated to honoring women of the American West who have displayed extraordinary courage and pioneer spirit in their trailblazing efforts.

In May 2015 renovations of the downstairs level will be revealed and showcased for visitors to view.

The museum currently includes interactive exhibit galleries that feature artifacts of the permanent collection, two theaters and the archives house more than 4000 artifacts and information about more than 750 women.

Fort Worth's Cultural District houses five internationally recognised museums in a park setting.

Visit : [www.cowgirl.net](http://www.cowgirl.net) and [www.forthworth.com](http://www.forthworth.com). Contact : [ttrask@cowgirl.net](mailto:ttrask@cowgirl.net) and Jessica Dowdy at [Jessicadowdy@forthworth.com](mailto:Jessicadowdy@forthworth.com).

## Off the Map Travel

A new Northern Lights adventure launched by Off the Map Travel, has been highlighted as one of the most exciting new active adventure holidays for 2015 by Wanderlust Magazine.

The Grand Aurora adventure allows guests to experience the Northern Lights journey across Scandinavia visiting spotting destinations and chasing the Aurora Borealis across Norway, Sweden and Finland.

Guests will also enjoy reindeer and dog sledding and a visit to the ICEHOTEL.

Visit : [www.offthemaptravel.co.uk](http://www.offthemaptravel.co.uk). Contact : Mark Hayward at [mark@swaycommunications.co.uk](mailto:mark@swaycommunications.co.uk).

## Timberbush Tours, Scotland

Timberbush Tours, one of Scotland's longest-running, family-owned Highlands and Islands tour operators runs up to 100 tours weekly, from Skye to Loch Lomond and Loch Ness to Alnwick.

Leaving from Glasgow and Edinburgh, the company transports over 1000 visitors a week to some of Scotland's best tourist attractions and historic sights, including Eilean Donan Castle, the Wallace Monument and the Isle of Skye.

Founded 16 years ago by husband and wife team, Gary and June Voy, the company has steadily expanded over the years and now has a team of 45 staff, 15 of which have been taken on in the last six months.

Visit : [www.timberbush-tours.co.uk](http://www.timberbush-tours.co.uk). Contact : Michelle Brown at [michelle@michellebrownpr.com](mailto:michelle@michellebrownpr.com).

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## Carnaby, London

Carnaby is located in the heart of London's West End, by Oxford Circus and Piccadilly Circus.

The district comprises 150 retail brands and 50 independent restaurants and bars can be found across 13 streets, including Carnaby Street.

Visit : [www.carnaby.co.uk](http://www.carnaby.co.uk). Contact : Sophie Oller at [Sophie.Oller@sisteris.com](mailto:Sophie.Oller@sisteris.com).

## The King Of Prussia Mall, Pennsylvania

The King of Prussia Mall, Pennsylvania's top retail attraction and the second largest shopping centre in the US, is to add 155,000 square feet of new retail and restaurant space.

Upon completion in autumn of 2016, the fully enclosed expansion will feature floor-to-ceiling windows, an upscale dining pavilion, soft seating lounges and device-charging stations, a concierge-level guest service centre, and many more conveniences and amenities.

Visit : [www.simon.com](http://www.simon.com). Contact : Jonathan Sloan at [Jonathans@hillsbalfour.com](mailto:Jonathans@hillsbalfour.com).

## Bollywood Scotland

Indian visitors to Scotland are being encouraged to visit the locations of their favourite Bollywood stars.

*VisitScotland* has researched and created a special online map, Bollywood Scotland, which highlights dozens of Scottish locations that provide backdrops for some of Bollywood's best-loved stars and musical sequences.

Visit : [www.visitscotland.com/bollywood](http://www.visitscotland.com/bollywood). Contact : Tom Maxwell at [Tom.Maxwell@visitscotland.com](mailto:Tom.Maxwell@visitscotland.com).

## Greenloons

Greenloons is an online travel resource dedicated to inspiring people to travel in ways that help to ensure a more sustainable planet.

The company is a recent recipient of National Geographic Traveler magazine's 50 Tours of a Lifetime.

In line with the United Nations objective to educate the public about the crucial role soil plays in food security, poverty alleviation and sustainable development, Greenloons offers family travel options in Ecuador and Crete that make trips more meaningful for local communities and visitors alike.

These journeys offer opportunities to gain instruction about sustainable development, indigenous wildlife, and local folklore as well as participate in personalized cycling, hiking and cooking experiences that use ingredients from local sources.

Guests will stay at distinctive lodgings and immerse themselves in the local culture.

Visit : [www.greenrooms.com](http://www.greenrooms.com). Contact : Irene Lane at [irene@greenloons.com](mailto:irene@greenloons.com).

## Daydream Destinations

Daydream Destinations trips include hosted, multi-day, handcrafted women's getaway experiences.

Research shows that over 75% of adventure travelers are women and Daydream Destinations develops and implements adventure programs for women that inspire confidence, camaraderie and cultural understanding.

Visit : [www.daydream-destinations.com](http://www.daydream-destinations.com). Contact : Kirsten Michel at [planmytrip@daydream-destinations.com](mailto:planmytrip@daydream-destinations.com).



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## Hilton Head Golf Island, South Carolina

Hilton Head Golf Island is a collection of 28 of the Lowcountry's premier golf courses on Hilton Head and Fripp Islands, as well as Bluffton, Beaufort and Jasper counties.

The Lowcountry Golf Course Owners Association, in conjunction with the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Visitor and Conventions Bureau and Chamber of Commerce, launched Hilton Head Golf Island to support the island's thriving golf market through promotion of golf rounds and packages.

Visit : [www.HiltonHeadGolfIsland.com](http://www.HiltonHeadGolfIsland.com). Contact : Laura Stone at [lstone@buffalobig.com](mailto:lstone@buffalobig.com).

## Cruises in the 'Garden of Eden'

Orbital Travel, an independent tour operator, is offering four or seven night island hopping cruises to discover the islands of the Seychelles.

The cruise aboard MY Pegasus, stops at the three main islands in the Seychelles, Mahé, Praslin and La Digue, as well as some of the smaller uninhabited islands including Curieuse Island, Cousin Island, which is a bird sanctuary, and Félicité Island.

Each one of the Seychelles' islands has its own particular geography, character and history and whilst Mahé, Praslin and La Digue are the principal islands, dozens of smaller 'satellite' isles offer further opportunity to explore.

Orbital Travel are river and coastal cruise specialists offering 5\* river cruises on the Nile, 4\* cruises on the rivers of Europe and cruises along the spectacular Dalmatian coast in Croatia.

Visit : [www.orbitaltravel.co.uk](http://www.orbitaltravel.co.uk). Contact : Agnès Brémont at [agnes@orbitaltravel.co.uk](mailto:agnes@orbitaltravel.co.uk).

## To Tuscany

To Tuscany, the villa-booking website, has added two luxury properties to its collection where guests can get married in a church or a chapel.

### Canonica di Vertine

Canonica di Vertine is a newly restored church house in the heart of Chianti.

Set in a medieval hamlet, the house is attached to a church where guests can arrange to be married.

The property has been carefully converted to retain original features, including religious frescoes, beamed ceilings and tiled floors.

### Villa Montedomini

Villa Montedomini, a traditional stone property in the hills above Florence, has a chapel in its grounds that is licensed for weddings. The property features an outdoor pool and a sun deck with views over vineyards and olive groves.

Visit : [www.to-tuscany.com](http://www.to-tuscany.com). Contact : Simone Kane at [simone@lbbcreative.co.uk](mailto:simone@lbbcreative.co.uk).

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## The Dragon Trip

China has, in the last few years, seen a surge backpacking trips and, in 2011, the Dragon Trip was founded by Ramsay Kerr.

The Dragon Trip provides a group tour for backpackers on a budget that takes in all the major highlights of the country whilst also giving a snapshot of "the Real China."

Dragon Trippers take part in Kung Fu lessons from a master, learn how to cook-Yunnan style, camp on the Great Wall of China whilst also seeing the pandas, the Terracotta warriors and the Forbidden City.

Visit : [www.thedragontrip.com](http://www.thedragontrip.com). Contact : Alex Seigel at [alexseigel@hotmail.com](mailto:alexseigel@hotmail.com).

## What's on

### The Art of the Highwaymen

The Orange County Regional History Center, Orlando, Florida  
To 22 March 2015

In 1950s and 1960s, a group of self-taught African American artists known as the Highwaymen worked against segregation and oppressive Jim Crow laws to sell their Florida landscape paintings.

Driving from town to town and offering their work from the trunks of their cars, the Highwaymen sold to a diverse audience of doctors, shop owners, and housewives.

In the 1990s, articles about their success in Folk Art, People Magazine, and the New York Times brought the Highwaymen new acclaim, and suddenly the public clamored for their paintings.

Original works by the Highwaymen became extremely collectible.

Surviving artists found themselves staging painting demonstrations and even contributing designs to ornaments for the White House Christmas tree.

The Orange County Regional History Center is showcasing fourteen paintings from its' collection created by twelve of the original Highwaymen artists.

In addition, on February 18, 2015 there will be five Highwaymen artists: Curtis Arnett, Mary Ann Carroll, James Gibson, Robert Lewis, and Roy McLendon onsite at the History Center sharing stories and bringing more artwork exclusively for the event.

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

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

## Events in the Emilia Romagna region, Italy

### Crossroads Jazz Festival and Ravenna Jazz

Across the Emilia Romagna Region  
End February to end May 2015

The 16th edition for an annual celebration of Jazz with more than 50 concerts and events in more than 30 towns in the region.

Visit : [www.crossroads-it.org](http://www.crossroads-it.org).

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**Promavera Slow**

March to June 2015

Ferrara area

Promavera Slow is 14 weeks dedicated to bird watching and nature tourism, wildlife photography, cycling tourism, river tourism, food and wine, traditions and culture, environmental education, sports tourism in the Po river Delta Park

The International Birdwatching Fair of Comacchio (Ferrara), in the Po Delta Park of the Region Emilia Romagna, is an event for birdwatchers, nature photographers and lovers of slow and nature tourism, ecotourism and green tourism.

[www.podeltabirdfair.it](http://www.podeltabirdfair.it)

**Piero Della Francesca**

Drawings between art and science.

14 March to 14 June 2015

A hundred masterpieces from the main Italian and international museums and private collections will be featured in this exhibition: manuscripts, books, engravings, paintings, tracings, sculptures, ceramics, medals.

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

**CILIEGI IN FIORE - Blooming Cherry Trees Festival,**

Vignola/Modena

21 March to 19 April 2015

Vignola - located in the province of Modena - is the beginning of the so-called "Food and Wine Trail" and a Renaissance town in the Po plain.

During the Festival the entire town is "blooming-cherry-trees" themed with events, concerts, exhibitions, peculiar Restaurants menus, tasting sessions and related activities to enjoy.

The "blossoming chariots" parade, is a real celebration of the blossoming of cherry trees.

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

**The Bologna Festival**

March to October 2015

Grandi Interpreti - Talenti - Il Nuovo l'Antico are the three different concert sections composing Bologna Festival which celebrates its 34th edition in 2015.

The Festival showcases works of the great choral-symphony repertoire and of Baroque literature, with world famous orchestras, conductors and soloists, selected for their original performances.

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

**Paganello, the Frisbee World Cup**

Beaches of Rimini

2 to 6 April 2015

The city of Paganello's World Beach Ultimate Cup, is the ultimate frisbee competition, complimented by live entertainment.

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

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### **International Kite Festival, Cervia – Ravenna**

24 April to 3 May 201

Since 1981 kites fly on the sky upon the beach of Cervia. Workshops on this ancient tradition will be available as well as concerts and entertainments.

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

Visit : [www.emiliaromagnaturismo.it/en](http://www.emiliaromagnaturismo.it/en). Contact : Sara Mantovani at [s.mantovani@aptservizi.com](mailto:s.mantovani@aptservizi.com).

### **Events in the Florida Keys**

#### **The Original Marathon Seafood Festival, Florida Keys**

14 and 15 March 2015

The Original Marathon Seafood Festival is one of the Middle Keys' signature family events, featuring gourmet delicacies from the waters of the Florida Keys and live music.

The annual weekend event usually attracts more than 20,000 to Marathon Community Park.

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

#### **The Key West Conch Shell Blowing Contest**

17 March 2015

The annual Conch Shell Blowing Contest is a tradition on Key West for more than 50 years.

The competition celebrates the historic importance of conch in the Keys and features contestants attempting to make 'music' with fluted conch shells.

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

#### **The Florida Keys Island Fest, Islamorada**

28 and 29 March 2015.

The 24th annual staging of event of the Florida Keys Island Fest, Islamorada will include an art show with 100 artists and crafters, live music and a 'Taste of the Islands' competition where the best Upper Keys restaurants compete for awards.

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

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

### **The 103rd National Cherry Blossom Festival, Washington DC**

20 March to 12 April 2015

Washington, DC comes into full bloom with the annual National Cherry Blossom Festival, known as the 'USA's Greatest Springtime Celebration'.

The festival, held will welcome more than one million visitors from around the world to witness the blossoming of the cherry blossom trees that surround the Tidal Basin.

The cherry blossom tree is a symbol of the enduring friendship between the citizens of the United States and Japan, who presented the trees to the USA in 1912.

Aside from leisurely enjoying DC and taking in the breathtaking views of the Tidal Basin, highlights of the flowering festival include spectacular opening and closing ceremonies, a lavish parade, fireworks displays, free exercise classes held in front of the Washington Monument and Jefferson Memorials, and the Blossom Kite Festival.

Visit : [www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org](http://www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org) and [www.CapitalRegionUSA.co.uk](http://www.CapitalRegionUSA.co.uk). Contact : Jo Thomas at [jo.thomas@kbctravelgroup.com](mailto:jo.thomas@kbctravelgroup.com).

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## Alexander, Napoleon & Joséphine, a Story of Friendship, War and Art from the Hermitage, The Hermitage, Amsterdam

28 March – 18 October 2015

In 2015, as the Battle of Waterloo is commemorated throughout Europe, the Hermitage Amsterdam will put a spotlight on the decisive years that preceded Waterloo.

Its exhibition focusses on the days of Napoleon Bonaparte and two exceptional and very different contemporaries: Tsar Alexander I, his friend and enemy, and Joséphine, the love of his life.

On display will be more than two hundred paintings, sculptures, personal possessions, gowns and uniforms, objets d'art and weapons, as well as Joséphine's great art collection, which included Dutch and Italian masters such as Potter, Van der Werff, Luini and Canova.

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

## The InnDependent Lodging Summit & Trade Show, Tucson, Arizona

15 to 17 March 2015

The InnDependent Lodging Summit & Trade Show is the only conference and Trade Show focusses on independent/boutique small and large hoteliers, B&B's and rentals.

It is sponsored by the Independent Lodging Industry Association (ILIA), InnDependent Boutique Collection (IBC) and InnJoy Travel (IJT),

The event attracts 12,000 members representing more than 24,000 hotels and 2400 activity providers in 170 countries.

Visit : [www.independentlodgingsummit.com](http://www.independentlodgingsummit.com). Contact Paul at [paul@mckenzenewsservice.com](mailto:paul@mckenzenewsservice.com).

## Events in The Imperial War Museum (IWM) London

### Fashion on the Ration: 1940s Street Style

From 5 March 2015

This exhibition explores how fashion survived and even flourished under the strict rules of rationing during the Second World War.

Fashion of the Ration: 1940s Street Style shows how Britain found new ways to dress, from adopting more casual styles to demonstrating amazing ingenuity in renovating, recycling and creating their own clothes. There will be uniforms and textiles from wartime Britain.

### Visions of War Above and Below

2 April 2015 – 25 September 2016

Throughout the 20th and 21st centuries the development of flight and aerial warfare has informed and inspired new artistic perspectives.

Visions of War Above and Below shows a variety of responses to conflict, from surreal depictions of aircraft as creatures, to abstract views of bombing raids and detailed drawings of life in submarines.

These artworks, spanning the First World War through to 21st century conflict, are brought together in order to present multiple viewpoints of war above and below.

Highlights from IWM's art collection include Paul Nash's Battle of Germany (1944) and Alison Wilding's Drones drawings (2012), together with new additions to the collection on display for the first time.

Among these is Bashar Alhroub's video work Heavenly (2010), a joint acquisition with Wolverhampton Art Gallery funded by Art Fund's Renew scheme.

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## Holocaust Anniversary

Film Screening - German Concentration Camps Factual Survey  
Date and location to be announced

Following its screening at a series of internationally acclaimed film festivals, with its world premiere at Berlin and a sell-out screening at the BFI London Film Festival, IWM will be presenting the official documentary – German Concentration Camps Factual Survey – to mark the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Bergen-Belsen.

Described by critics as ‘an impressive and important piece of filmmaking, restored with intelligence and care by the museum’, German Concentration Camps Factual Survey, a documentary about German atrocities and the concentration camps has been digitally restored to the instructions laid down by the original production team in 1945.

IWM London - IWM's flagship branch - tells the stories of those whose lives have been shaped by war through the depth, breadth and impact of our Galleries, displays and events.

Visit : [www.iwm.org](http://www.iwm.org). Contact : Kate Crowther at [kcrowther@iwm.org.uk](mailto:kcrowther@iwm.org.uk).

## The New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival

24 to 26th April and 30 April to 3 May 2015

The New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, presented by Shell, celebrates the culture and heritage of New Orleans and Louisiana alongside nationally and internationally renowned guest artists.

This year's performers include Elton John, Tony Bennett & Lady Gaga, The Who, Ed Sheeran, The O'Jays, Chicago, No Doubt, John Legend and Paloma Faith.

The Festival will present more than 500 bands during the seven-day event with over eighty percent of the performers hailing from the city and region.

Jazz Fest takes place at the Fair Grounds Race Course and will feature twelve stages of music in such varied genres as rock, pop, R&B, gospel, blues, traditional and contemporary jazz, Cajun and zydeco.

Visit : [www.nojazzfest.com](http://www.nojazzfest.com), [www.neworleanscvb.com](http://www.neworleanscvb.com) and [www.louisianatravel.com](http://www.louisianatravel.com). Contact : Kirsty Dillury at [Kirsty@ttmworld.co.uk](mailto:Kirsty@ttmworld.co.uk).

## The 2015 Cornwall International Male Voice Choral Festival, UK

29 April to 4 May 2015

Seventy choirs of all ages and nationalities are in the line-up for the 2015 Cornwall International Male Voice Choral Festival, the biggest event of its kind in Europe.

The festival will stage more than 60 concerts, workshops and celebrations in 50 venues across Cornwall.

Concerts will be held at the Eden Project, Trebah Gardens, the Minack Theatre and, for the first time, Caerhays Castle.

Choirs from the New World, Russia, Lithuania, Switzerland, Spain, Estonia and Germany will join those from Wales, Scotland and Cornwall itself.

Visit : [www.cimvcf.org.uk](http://www.cimvcf.org.uk) and [www.visitcornwall.com](http://www.visitcornwall.com). Contact : Julia Hughes at [julia.hughes@visitcornwall.com](mailto:julia.hughes@visitcornwall.com).

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### **Goodwood Festival Of Speed, Goodwood, West Sussex UK**

25 to 28 June 2015 (annual)

The Goodwood Festival of Speed is an annual hill climb featuring historic motor racing vehicles held in the grounds of Goodwood House, West Sussex, England .

The Festival highlight is the hill climb competition, which takes place on a 1.16 mile course and sees cars climbing a steep and narrow estate road and heading to the top of the South Downs.

The event is scheduled to avoid clashing with the Formula One season, enabling fans to see F1 machines as well as cars and motorbikes from motor racing history climb the hill.

The largest event of its kind in the world, the Goodwood Festival of Speed attracts crowds of around 100,000 on each of its three days.

Visit : [www.goodwood.co.uk](http://www.goodwood.co.uk). Contact : Janet Bradley at [speed@goodwood.co.uk](mailto:speed@goodwood.co.uk).

### **Bregenz Festival, Lake Constance, Bregenz, Austria**

22 July to 23 August 2015 (annual, 69th)

The Bregenzer Festspiele (Bregenz Festival) is an opera and performing arts festival featuring a floating stage. Around 300,000 people attend.

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

### **Vienna Rainbow Parade, Austria**

14 June 2015

A procession of floats and DJs in Austrian version of the hugely popular Berlin Love Parade. Around 100,000 attend.

Visit : [www.hosiwien.at](http://www.hosiwien.at). Contact : Anna Szutt at [anna.szutt@hosiwien.at](mailto:anna.szutt@hosiwien.at).

### **The 2nd European Choir Games, Magdeburg, Germany**

5 to 12 July 2015

The 2nd European Choir Games will be staged at Magdeburg, the state capital of Saxony-Anhalt and a city with a centuries-old history and.

Magdeburg is one of Europe's greenest cities.

The event, which will attract choirs from all over the world, will be held in the concert halls of the Johanniskirche Magdeburg and the monastery "Unser lieben Frauen".

Magdeburg, located 130 km west of Berlin, is birthplace of the Baroque composer Georg Philipp Telemann while Richard Wagner worked in the city.

Visit : [www.interkultur.com](http://www.interkultur.com). Henriette Brockmann at [press@interkultur.com](mailto:press@interkultur.com)

### **North Sea Jazz Festival, Ahoy, Rotterdam, The Netherlands**

10 to 12 July 2015 (annual)

The North Sea Jazz Festival features 200 performances from over 1200 musicians and is billed as the biggest indoor jazz festival in the world.

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

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## Reasons to write about

### One Ocean Expeditions

Polar cruise specialist, *One Ocean Expeditions*, is introducing a new 10-day trip in the Atlantic Provinces of Canada, which avoids the region's more traditional routes to focus on otherwise inaccessible ports and islands.

The company's new *East Coast Wildlife Safari*, which launches in July, features options including kayaking, cycling and paddle boarding.

Starting in the historic town of Louisbourg on the southeast coast of Cape Breton Island, the ten day expedition showcases the landscape, rich marine life, fishing and Celtic cultures of Nova Scotia, Quebec, Newfoundland and the French territory of Saint Pierre et Miquelon.

#### Highlights include :

- the shipwrecks and wild ponies of Sable Island, Canada's newest National Park
- puffins on Bird Island
- Quebec's remote, sandstone Magdalen Islands, and
- the culturally rich Gaspé Peninsula and Anticosti Island,

Rich wildlife encounters at this time of the year are assured with an abundance of resident and migrating birdlife, plus numerous whale species such as humpback, minke, beluga and blue whales.

### One Ocean Expeditions

One Ocean Expeditions is a privately-owned Canadian expedition cruise operator which operates cruises and special programs in fragile ecosystems around the world with a focus on the Arctic and Antarctica.

Its vessels, Akademik Ioffe/One Ocean Navigator and Akademik Sergey Vavilov/One Ocean Voyager are designed for polar exploration.

Visit : [www.oneoceanexpeditions.com](http://www.oneoceanexpeditions.com). Contact : Debra Taylor at [debra@toucanmoon.com](mailto:debra@toucanmoon.com).

### Florida's Historic Coast

Located midway between Daytona Beach and Jacksonville, Florida's Historic Coast includes historic St. Augustine, the outstanding golf and seaside elegance of Ponte Vedra, 42 miles of pristine Atlantic beaches

#### St. Augustine

St. Augustine was founded by Spanish Admiral, Don Pedro Menendez de Aviles in 1565.

It is America's first city, established in 1565, and built by pioneers, soldiers, artisans and entrepreneurs.

In 2015 the City of St. Augustine is commemorating its 450th anniversary with a calendar of reenactments, special exhibits and enlightening programs designed to inspire.

Highlights include special art and music exhibitions that tell the city's storied past; historic reenactments, authentic Historic ships docked along the city's Bayfront and gala celebrations, including a visit from the King & Queen of Spain.

Visit : [www.StAugustine-450.com](http://www.StAugustine-450.com).



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## **Ponte Vedra**

Ponte Vedra's seaside resorts include some of the best golf and tennis facilities in the country.

Florida's Historic Coast has more than a dozen championship golf courses.

The most famous course is THE PLAYERS Stadium Course, with its 17th Island Green, at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach.

This is where THE PLAYERS Championship takes place in May.

The nearby World Golf Hall of Fame celebrates Golf's greatest contributors.

Visit : [www.FloridasHistoricCoast.com](http://www.FloridasHistoricCoast.com). Contact: Barbara Golden at [BGolden@FloridasHistoricCasot.com](mailto:BGolden@FloridasHistoricCasot.com).

## **Navada's state parks**

As one of the largest states in the US, the Silver State than just the dazzling bright lights of Las Vegas.

This includes hiking up a cobalt-blue mountain lake in Great Basin National Park; the ranch-style hospitality of some of America's last cowboys; quad biking in the dunes of Sand Mountain; discovering ancient rock art in the Valley of Fire State Park; skiing in Lake Tahoe; playing world-class golf courses or driving down Highway 50, America's loneliest road.

With a landscape that stretches from the Mojave Desert to the Great Basin, including 67 protected wilderness areas there is hiking, biking, kayaking, white-water rafting, snowshoeing and skiing at one of Lake Tahoe's 15 ski resorts.

While two thirds of Navad's population live in the Las Vegas area its state parks offer deserts and snow-capped mountain ranges.

During late summer and early autumn visitors are able to experience dramatic natural scenery and wildlife as the temperature begins to cool ahead of the winter season.

### **Great Basin**

A vast, high-altitude mountain desert with impressive rock precipices and towering mountain ranges, the Western edge of the Great Basin provides a destination for avid stargazers.

Isolated from nearby towns and cities, the absence of light pollution provides a crystal clear night sky. This autumn's highlight is the Orionids meteor showers in October.

### **Beaver Dam State**

As eastern Nevada's most remote park, Beaver Dam State is located six miles north of the town of Caliente, and offers deep canyons and thick pine and juniper forests, which are home to a series of beaver dams built into the stream running through the park.

### **Valley of Fire State Park**

Situated 55 miles northeast of Las Vegas, Valley of Fire State Park is the oldest and largest state park in Nevada. The parks vivid red landscape comes from the red sandstone formations that rise out of the Mojave Desert.

The park is popular with photographers due to its alien terrain, strong light and unique rock formations.

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## Fort Churchill

Fort Churchill, a US. Army fort built in 1860, provided protection for early settlers. It survived only nine years before it was abandoned, although visitors to the park can still see its remains today.

A former route of The Pony Express and the Overland Telegraph, this thoroughfare now provides a visitor centre with historical artefacts.

## Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park

Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park is home to Sand Harbor and Incline Village.

The Tahoe Adventure Company hosts a range of land and water-based itineraries and trips for individuals, groups and families.

Visit [www.travelnevada.com](http://www.travelnevada.com). Contact . Bethany Drysdale at [bdrysdale@travelnevada.com](mailto:bdrysdale@travelnevada.com)

## Bouches-du-Rhône, France

The French region of Bouches-du-Rhône will host a variety of new events throughout the 2015.

Eurostar will launch its new routes to Provence in May, with trains to Avignon and Marseille via Lyon

### Tables 13, Marseille

Tables 13 is a group of 200 venues across the region who are committed to using fresh produce and short supply chains.

Tables 13' also has its own app, 'MyProvence Tables 13 ', which is free to download and acts as a handy guide for visitors to Marseille looking to sample some of the best local cuisine.

### Carrières de Lumières in Les Baux en Provence

6 March 2015 to 3 January 2016

The Carrières de Lumières in Les Baux en Provence will display works from Italian Renaissance masters including Da Vinci, Michelangelo and Raphael.

This new interactive exhibition allows visitors to see some of the best-known masterpieces from the XV and XVI centuries in a new digitalised format and projected onto huge expanses of rock face.

Specially selected music excerpts enhance the experience and guide the visitor around the exhibition.

Some of the pieces on show include The Mona Lisa and The Last Supper by Leonardo Da Vinci; The Lady and the Unicorn and The School of Athens by Raphael; and the Sistine Chapel ceiling fresco and The Last Judgement by Michelangelo.

### L'Hôtel de Caumont

L'Hôtel de Caumont is a new arts and cultural centre due to open in Aix-en-Provence on 06 May 2015.

The 18th Century building is one of the most beautiful private mansions in the city.

Situated close to the Cours Mirabeau boulevard in the Mazarin quarter of Aix, it has recently undergone complete restoration works and will become a major centre for local culture as well as a number of temporary exhibitions dedicated to the grand masters of art from the 14th to 19th Century.

Visit : [www.visitprovence.com](http://www.visitprovence.com). Contact : Maddy Phillips at [maddy@representationplus.co.uk](mailto:maddy@representationplus.co.uk).

## The National Cherry Blossom Festival, Washington DC

Kimpton Hotels 11 hotels in the Washington, D.C. area are marking the National Cherry Blossom Festival with a special Blossoms & Bubbles package.

The National Cherry Blossom Festival is planned to coincide as nearly as possible with the blooming of the trees.

Peak Bloom Date is defined as the day on which 70 percent of the blossoms of the Yoshino cherry trees are open. The date when the Yoshino cherry blossoms reach peak bloom varies from year to year, depending on weather conditions.

The blooming period starts several days before the Peak Bloom Date and can last as long as 14 days; however, frost or high temperatures combined with wind and/or rain can shorten this period.

The cherry blossom trees grow in three National Park Service locations around the Tidal Basin in West Potomac Park, in East Potomac Park (Hains Point), and the Washington Monument grounds.

Visit : [www.kimptonhotels.com/cherryblossom](http://www.kimptonhotels.com/cherryblossom) and [www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org](http://www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org).

Contact : Sarah Salord at [kimpton@mccluskey.co.uk](mailto:kimpton@mccluskey.co.uk).

## Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands, 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 harbor.

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

### Florida Tracks & Trails, Punta Gorda

Florida Tracks & Trails in Punta Gorda, is under development to become the only multi-themed outdoor adventure and live entertainment park of its kind.

The family-friendly 1,000-acre park will include a 56-acre entertainment ground with a spacious 40,000 square foot indoor venue and an outdoor event lawn of 30-acres.

Surrounding the entertainment grounds will be miles of one-directional OHV trails, four professionally designed Motocross tracks, 80-acres of world-class paintball, RV campgrounds, zip lines, a fresh-water beach, and a full suite of on-site amenities such as OHV rentals, a general store, party pavilions and more.

Phase 1 will open March 2015, with additional amenities opening shortly after.

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

Visit : [www.CharlotteHarborTravel.com](http://www.CharlotteHarborTravel.com). Contact : Mary Jane Kolassa at [mjkolassa@abovewater.com](mailto:mjkolassa@abovewater.com).

## Explore, Europe

Adventure travel specialists, Explore are offering travellers a range of experiences in Europe this summer including :

- white-water raft along the Cetina River in Croatia
- cycling through Bavaria and sampling the local beers of Germany, and
- spending the night in a tree tent perched in the Sicilian forest.

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### **In The Shadow of Vesuvius**

For families, Explore's *In The Shadow of Vesuvius* tour provides an eight day tour of the the Sorrento Peninsula, taking in the island of Capri, Pompeii and Mount Vesuvius.

### **Brown Bear Weekend**

The company's four day Brown Bear Weekend takes guests to the sparsely populated North Eastern Finland to observe Brown Bears in their natural environment, while also taking innature walks in search of rare flora and fauna, owls, wolverine, foxes and elk.

### **Cycle Russia**

Cycle Russia: Moscow to St. Petersburg offers a combination of rural landscapes of Russia with these two cities from the saddle.

The moderate graded cycling tours explore the great sights of Moscow including Red Square and the Kremlin; Lake Seliger and Lake Valdaisky and the historical villages in the region.

As a new programme for 2015, Explore's Self-Guided Dordogne Walks and Gastronomy tour offers seven days of easy to moderate graded walking and indulging in French cuisine.

Visit : [www.explore.co.uk](http://www.explore.co.uk). Contact : Lisa Tyrrell at [Lisa.Tyrrell@explore.co.uk](mailto:Lisa.Tyrrell@explore.co.uk).

## **A place to stay**

### **La Manga Club, Murcia, Spain**

The five-star La Manga Club destination resort has been named as the best golf resort in Spain in the 2015 Today's Golfer Travel Awards.

La Manga Club is located between the low hills that separate the Mediterranean from the Mar Menor Sea, 20 minutes from Murcia airport and an hour from Alicante.

Set over an area of some 560 hectares, it enjoys a mild year-round Mediterranean climate and offers visitors five-star luxury and extensive sports facilities, including three championship golf courses, and a new Leadbetter Golf Academy – the only one in mainland Spain.

Visit : [www.lamangaclub.com](http://www.lamangaclub.com). Contact: Pete Simm at [petes@theazaleagroup.com](mailto:petes@theazaleagroup.com).

### **Safestay York, UK**

New luxury hostel brand Safestay has opened Safestay York, its second hostel.

Safestay York is located in the eminent Grade One listed Georgian Micklegate House, originally the town house of the Bouchiers of Beningbrough.

Designed by architect John Carr for John Bouchier, Micklegate House was completed in 1752 and is considered to be the most important Georgian residence in the region.

The 150-bed hostel is located within the City walls, and can be a base for exploring this historical English city with its Roman, Viking and Medieval heritage.

Safestay's portfolio currently comprises Safestay Elephant & Castle, London and Safestay York with Safestay Holland Park opening in April 2015.

Visit : [www.safestayyork.co.uk](http://www.safestayyork.co.uk). Contact : Mandy GoreBooth at [Mandy@pilot-pr.com](mailto:Mandy@pilot-pr.com).

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### Quinta do Lago, Algarve, Portugal

Quinta do Lago has been named best golf resort in Portugal for the first time in the 2015 Today's Golfer Travel Awards.

Quinta do Lago has undertaken a major €29m investment programme since 2009, including the €9.6m redevelopment of its North Course by European Ryder Cup-winning captain Paul McGinley.

Set amongst 2,000 acres in the Ria Formosa Natural Park, Quinta do Lago is one of Europe's most highly regarded golf and residential developments.

Located close to Faro airport, the resort offers year-round temperate climate, a variety of lifestyle pursuits and a strong sense of community.

It has hosted eight Portuguese Opens and many international golf tournaments.

Visit : [www.quintadolago.com](http://www.quintadolago.com). Contact : Daniel Chidley at [daniel@theazaleagroup.com](mailto:daniel@theazaleagroup.com).

### Hotel Cort in Palma de Mallorca.

The Hotel Cort in Palma de Mallorca faces the plaza area of Plaça Cort, and is located amid cobbled alleyways of artisan boutiques, lively restaurants, museums and galleries in Palma's Old Town.

Mallorca's mild climate, heavenly beaches, famed shopping and world class galleries makes this Balearic island a glamorous year-round destination.

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

### Hotel Sant Francesc

The Hotel Sant Francesc, which will open in March 2015, is a conversion of an old manor house into a luxury boutique hotel in the historic centre of Palma de Mallorca.

The 43-room chic urban bolthole, which will form part of Small Luxury Hotels of the World sets out to retain the beauty of the former building and blends graceful simplicity with a distinctly Spanish style.

Its five-star facilities comprise rooftop terrace with a pool, patio bar, garden restaurant, gym and spa.

Visit : [www.hotelsantfrancesc.com](http://www.hotelsantfrancesc.com) and [www.slh.com](http://www.slh.com). Contact : Maria Costa Lobo at [maria@lotus-uk.co.uk](mailto:maria@lotus-uk.co.uk).

### Las Animas Eco-Lodge, Baja

Baja's Las Animas Eco-Lodge is a destination for world-class bird watching and nature viewing.

The roadless property accommodates up to 14 guests in seven romantic, private beach-side yurts.

It is also located a short boat ride away from Isla Raza, Mexico's very first bird sanctuary, which was established in 1964.

This is the place to view the Elegant Tern (over 90% of the world's population breed and nest here).

Some 55,000 nests are typical on this small protected island where vast populations of Caspian Terns and 'Watch Listed' Heermann's Gulls also live.

This region of the Sea of Cortez also has over 170 species of sea birds, and whales, dolphins, sea lions and 3,000 species of fish.

Visit : [www.bajaairventures.com/baja-bird-watching-tour.html](http://www.bajaairventures.com/baja-bird-watching-tour.html). Contact : Dave Wiggins at [dave@travelnewssource.com](mailto:dave@travelnewssource.com).

### **MARITIM Hotel Galatzó, Mallorca**

MARITIM Hotels will open the 4 star MARITIM Hotel Galatzó on the Balearic island of Mallorca on 1 March 2015.

The new hotel is located in Andratx, on the Costa de la Calma between Santa Ponsa and Paguera.

MARITIM Hotels is Germany's largest privately owned hotel operator. In addition to 36 hotels in Germany, the company has 14 hotels around the world in locations including Turkey, Mauritius, China, Egypt, Spain and Malta.

Visit : [www.maritim.com](http://www.maritim.com). Contact : Victoria Maltby at [victoria@philosophypr.co.uk](mailto:victoria@philosophypr.co.uk).

### **Hotel Montreal, Christchurch, New Zealand**

The Hotel Montreal is a new luxury boutique in the heart of Christchurch city centre.

Visit : [www.hotelmontreal.co.nz](http://www.hotelmontreal.co.nz). Contact : Sarah Rigler at [sr@verypcc.com](mailto:sr@verypcc.com).

### **Holiday Cottages, UK**

[holidaycottages.co.uk](http://holidaycottages.co.uk) specialises in letting over 1,800 self-catering including dog friendly and family holidays to romantic, group and accessible holidays.

Its properties range from barn conversions on working farms to mansions and country houses.

The company has been working with the Green Tourism Business Scheme – organised by Visit Britain – and holds its Gold award.

#### **Recent additions to the portfolio include :**

#### **Puffin House Blegberry Farm, Hartland, Devon**

Puffin House is a farmhouse built in 1627 and a location for those looking to enjoy a walk along the Devon coast.

Located in a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on top of a cliff, it offers views across the rolling countryside towards the Atlantic Ocean, Lundy Island and the South West Coast Path.

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

#### **Tess Corner, Lulworth, Dorset**

Tess Corner is located in a World Heritage Site in Dorset. An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty it offers a base for a wide range of walks in the area.

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

Visit : [www.holidaycottages.co.uk](http://www.holidaycottages.co.uk). Contact : Aileen O'Riada at [holidaycottages@sirencomms.com](mailto:holidaycottages@sirencomms.com).

### **Hilton Paris Opera**

The Hilton Paris Opera, formerly Grand Hotel Terminus, one of Paris' original majestic hotels has reopened following a major refurbishment.

The hotel, which first welcomed visitors to the Exposition Universelle of 1889, is located in Paris' Opéra quarter.

The Raised Ground Floor Entrance Lobby lies behind a large revolving glass door with stone floors, Corinthian-style columns and an intricately hand-painted ceiling from the original building.

Crystal chandeliers, inspired by jewellery pieces, suspend from the ceiling.

Visit : [www.hilton.com/Paris](http://www.hilton.com/Paris). Contact : Jessica Knowles at [jessica@carocommunications.com](mailto:jessica@carocommunications.com).

## An Alliance focus on :

### The Ramblers most inspiring routes, UK

To encourage people to enjoy the great outdoors in 2015, the Ramblers is sharing its top ten most inspirational walks to try during the year.

#### **Rhossili, Gower, Swansea**

Length: 4.3 miles

Rhossili offers some of the world's most beautiful coastal locations and this walk showcases sights from the Gower's most breathtaking viewpoints.

Visit : [www.ramblers.org.uk/rhossili](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/rhossili).

#### **Arthur's Seat, Salisbury Crags, Edinburgh**

Length: 2.7 miles

Arthur's Seat offers dramatic Scottish wilderness rising unexpectedly from the heart of Edinburgh.

It is a steep climb to the top, but on a clear day there are views over the entire Scottish capital.

visit : [www.ramblers.org.uk/arthur](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/arthur).

#### **Derwent Water, Cumbria**

Length: 2.4 miles

This is a walk through woodland and fields, with views of two islands in Derwent Water: Lord's Island and Rampsholme Island and fells.

Visit : [www.ramblers.org.uk/derwent](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/derwent).

#### **Harting Down, Hampshire**

Length: 5.6 miles

Within the South Downs National Park, this circular walk starts and finishes at Harting Down – one of the National Trust's largest areas of ancient chalk downland, and a nature reserve.

Initially following the South Downs Way, the final stretch involves an ascent of Beacon Hill for a 360-degree view of the surrounding Downs.

Visit : [www.ramblers.org.uk/harting](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/harting)

Visit : [www.Ramblers.org.uk/ramblersroutes](http://www.Ramblers.org.uk/ramblersroutes). Contact : Ellie Clewlow at [Ellie.Clewlow@ramblers.org.uk](mailto:Ellie.Clewlow@ramblers.org.uk).

#### **Brimham Rocks, North Yorkshire**

Length: 9.3 miles

This linear walk goes past the sandy beaches and dramatic cliffs with distinctive marine flora.

Long stretches of this coast remain wild and unspoilt with windswept headlands and old-fashioned holiday resorts.

Visit : [www.ramblers.org.uk/bedruthan](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/bedruthan).

#### **Hadrians Wall, Northumberland**

Length: 5.2 miles

This route takes in the most dramatic stretch of Hadrian's Wall and the chance to look around Housesteads Roman Fort.

The fort also offers stunning panoramic views from the top of its walls.

Visit : [www.ramblers.org.uk/hadrianswallroute](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/hadrianswallroute).

#### **Colleges and the Backs in Cambridge**

Length: 3.1 miles

This circular walk provides a tour of some of Cambridge's most beautiful buildings and the area of the Backs, where several of Cambridge University's colleges back onto the River Cam.

Visit : [www.ramblers.org.uk/colleges](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/colleges).

#### **Win Hill, Peak District**

Length: 2.7 miles

Win Hill in the Peak District's hills is at the centre of a number of summits and ridges, such as Mam Tor, Derwent Edge and Kinder Scout.

Visit : [www.ramblers.org.uk/longmynd](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/longmynd)



An Alliance focus on :

## The Treasure Houses of England

The Treasure Houses of England comprise :

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

Between them they house some of the most important art collections in the world with famous works from artists such as Van Dyck and Gainsborough and fine furniture, porcelain and china including Chippendale, Wedgwood and Meissen.

Each property is an architectural masterpiece surrounded by parkland and gardens.

Exhibitions during 2015 in the Treasure Houses of England collection include :

### Beaulieu's Motorsport Exhibition

Beaulieu's new Motorsport Exhibition, which opens on 6 March 2015, will include two new displays: Grand Prix Greats and Road, Race and Rally.

### Blenheim Palace Churchill Exhibition

Blenheim Palace unveils a reinvigorated *Winston Churchill Exhibition* on 14 February to mark the beginning of a year of commemorative activities and events at Blenheim Palace.

### Burghley's Collectibles and Curiosities

Burghley's exhibition *Collectibles and Curiosities*, displays objects that are not normally seen.

Rather than being devoted to 'Works of Art' the exhibition highlights a variety of unusual objects collected by the family.

### Make Yourself Comfortable at Chatsworth

*Make Yourself Comfortable* at Chatsworth, from 28 March to 23 October 2015, features contemporary seating by international designers, such as Marc Newson, Moritz Waldemeyer and Thomas Heatherwick.

### Duty Calls at Castle Howard

*Duty Calls*, an exhibition from Waterloo to World War II, explores the stories of Castle Howard in times of war, giving a glimpse into a hitherto unknown chapter of the family and estate.

### Make Yourself Comfortable at Chatsworth

*Make Yourself Comfortable* at Chatsworth, from 28 March to 23 October 2015, features contemporary seating by international designers, such as Marc Newson, Moritz Waldemeyer and Thomas Heatherwick.

### A Gift from the Whole Nation at Harewood

Harewood will showcase a collection of gift boxes in a special display on the State Floor in the new *A Gift from the Whole Nation* from 3 April to 1 November 2015.

The gift boxes are some of the 'thank you' presents given by Princess Mary in 1914 to send to the troops at Christmas time.

In total over 426,724 gift boxes had been made and distributed in just two months helping boost moral for serving troops.



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## The Treasure Houses of England

(cont)

### Art in Clay at Hatfield House

Art in Clay at Hatfield House is an outdoor summer exhibition from 3 to 5 July 2015.

Showcasing over 190 ceramists in the parkland, visitors can see some of the finest ceramics currently being made by individual makers in the UK and Europe.

Behind Closed Doors: A Year in the Life of a Working Estate at Holkham Hall

For one year renowned Magnum photographer Chris Steele-Perkins had unrestricted access to Holkham Hall and the estate.

Behind Closed Doors: A Year in the Life of a Working Estate, from 29 March to 31 October 2015, is a collection of photographs that resulted.

### Leeds Castle Dog Collar Collection

From May 2015, the Leeds Castle Dog Collar Collection returns to public display.

More than 130 collars will be on view in a new display, in the largest public collection of dog collars and it documents the history of canine fashions dating from the 16th century into modern times.

Canaletto at Woburn Abbey

The largest private collection of Venetian Views by Canaletto will on public view Woburn Abbey from 27 March 2015

In all 21 paintings will be displayed in the Dining Room. Opening 27 March 2015.

**Visit : [www.treasurehouses.co.uk](http://www.treasurehouses.co.uk). Contact : Melodie Manners at [melodie@flamingo-marketing.co.uk](mailto:melodie@flamingo-marketing.co.uk).**

## Travel guides

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

### AA Travel Guides

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

### Anova Books

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

### Bradt Travel

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

### Brit's Guide

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

### Cicerone

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

### Eland Publishing

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

### Fisher's Travel SOS

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

### Global Travel Publishers

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

### Globetrotters LogBook

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

### Hudson's Historic Houses and Gardens

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

### Inn House Publishing

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

### Insight

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

### In your pocket guides

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

### Jane's Smart Art Guides

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

### Jonglez Publishing

www.jonglezpublishing.com. Alexandre 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

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To register with the Alliance visit : [www.itwalliance.com](http://www.itwalliance.com), and register as a :

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



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

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

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

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