



# 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-October 2015

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# The Alliance Bulletin

## Issue 193 : mid-October 2015

### Information in the Alliance bulletin

The information in the Alliance's twice-monthly bulletin is intended to provide professional travel journalists with *key information in a no frills format*.

Although the information is correct at the time of publication, the media contacts in the individual or composite online versions of the bulletins may change over time. If so, the website provided should contain the relevant media contacts.

If this is not the case please contact : Ashley Gibbins at [Ashley@itwalliance.com](mailto:Ashley@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).

### 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

##### **Golf Explorer (Australia)**

As the exclusive operator of the 'Four Reds' golf & wine packages in Adelaide, South Australia, Golf Explorer ensures each client has the best possible experience when combining these two great loves.

Four Reds continues the time-honoured tradition of matching exquisite courses with fine wines.

Play four of the most prestigious private golf courses in Australia and after each round you'll enjoy a bottle of specially paired premium wine along with a tasting plate sourced from the gourmet producers of South Australia.

Visit : [www.golfexplorer.com.au](http://www.golfexplorer.com.au). Contact : Shaun Green at [shaun@golfexplorer.com.au](mailto:shaun@golfexplorer.com.au).

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### **The Family Holiday Association (UK)**

The Family Holiday Association has been working to provide domestic short breaks for the most needy children and their families for over 35 years.

The charity has found that these simple holidays can have a positive effect on mental health, help strengthen relationships within the family and give family members a fresh perspective, providing them with the motivation to make positive changes to their lives. Holidays do matter.

Visit : [www.familyholidayassociation.org.uk](http://www.familyholidayassociation.org.uk). Contact : Angie Watson at [angie@familyholidayassociation.org.uk](mailto:angie@familyholidayassociation.org.uk).

### **The Atlantic Canada**

The Atlantic Canada comprises the provinces of New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island in coastal Canada.

Each province has its own character but all are renowned for their outstanding natural beauty, stunning coastline, friendly people, incredible seafood, UNESCO World Heritage sites and National Parks.

Visit : [www.atlanticcanadaholiday.co.uk](http://www.atlanticcanadaholiday.co.uk). Contact : Amy Skelding at [atlanticcanada@brightergroup.com](mailto:atlanticcanada@brightergroup.com).

### **Mons Region Tourist Office, Belgium**

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

The Mons Region Tourist Office also welcomes journalists in collaboration with the Belgian Tourist Offices of Wallonia and Brussels. It is involved in the development of projects linked with the UNESCO sites and the memorial tourism in the frame of the commemorations 2014/2018.

Visit : [www.monsregion.be](http://www.monsregion.be). Contact : Michel Vasko at [michel.vasko@ville.mons.be](mailto:michel.vasko@ville.mons.be).

### **Puerto Vallarta's Tourism Board, Mexico**

Puerto Vallarta is a Mexican resort city situated on the Pacific Ocean's Bahía de Banderas.

The Puerto Vallarta's Tourism Board is a non-profit organization in charge of promoting the destination. It coordinates with publicity agencies aiming information at Canada, USA, the Mexican market and the emerging markets in the rest of the world, such as Europe and South America.

Visit : [www.visitpuertovallarta.com](http://www.visitpuertovallarta.com). Contact : Gustavo Rivas at [gustavo@latitude-intl.com](mailto:gustavo@latitude-intl.com).

### **Iceland**

Iceland is a North Atlantic island and the westernmost country in Europe, midway between North America and mainland Europe.

It lies about 800 km northwest of Scotland and 970 km west of Norway, and its northern coast is just below the Arctic Circle.

Iceland never ceases to amaze - the mouth-watering scenery is an adventure in itself, with volcanic craters, lava flows, hot springs and geysers, glaciers and stunning waterfalls offering a new view around every corner.

Visit : [www.inspiredbyiceland.com](http://www.inspiredbyiceland.com). Contact : Asha Sudha at [visiticeland@brightergroup.com](mailto:visiticeland@brightergroup.com).

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## News

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### Aloft Brand launches in Germany

Starwood Hotels & Resorts has announced the entry of its Aloft brand to the German market with the opening of Aloft Munich and Aloft Stuttgart.

#### Aloft Munich

Located across the street from Hauptbahnhof, Munich's central train station, Aloft Munich features 184 modern designed guest rooms.

The hotel is close to beer destinations such as Hofbräuhaus and Theresienwiese, the official grounds of Oktoberfest.

Other nearby attractions include the shops on Maximilian Street, Pinakothek Museum, Viktualienmarkt and the Allianz Arena football stadium.

#### Aloft Stuttgart

Located in Stuttgart's European Quarter as part of the Milaneo mixed-used development, Aloft Stuttgart features 165 loft-like rooms.

The hotel is within walking distance of Stuttgart's 600 year old park, the Mercedes-Benz and Porsche Museums, Königstrasse, the central shopping street, the Old Castle and New Palace as well as Theodor-Heuss-Strasse, the city's vibrant pub and club scene.

Visit : [www.aloftmunichhotel.com](http://www.aloftmunichhotel.com) and [www.aloftstuttgarhotel.com](http://www.aloftstuttgarhotel.com). Contact : Frank Tigani at [frank.tigani@starwoodhotels.com](mailto:frank.tigani@starwoodhotels.com).

### New Zealand In Depth

Travel experts New Zealand In Depth have launched an ornithologist's trip to search for the rarest endemic species of New Zealand whilst also supporting local conservation projects.

New Zealand is home to a number of rare and endangered species and the 28 night bird and nature itinerary will search for include kiwi, kokako, kakapo, saddleback, mohua and tuatara.

As well as the birdlife, the itinerary also allows guests to experience New Zealand's flora and fauna from the sub-tropical north, to the dramatic Fiordland region in the south; not to mention its world famous marine mammals.

Visit : [www.newzealand-indepth.co.uk](http://www.newzealand-indepth.co.uk). Visit : Mark Hayward at [mark@swaycommunications.co.uk](mailto:mark@swaycommunications.co.uk).

### Asilia Africa

Asilia Africa will open its newest property, The Highlands, in Ngorongoro in March 2016.

Set high on the slopes of Olmoti volcano, The Highlands has eight luxurious tented suites with sweeping views to the Serengeti.

Ngorongoro is the largest un-flooded and unbroken caldera in the world and home to the highest density of lion anywhere in Africa, as well as the other members of the Big 5.

Asilia Africa also offers safari destinations in Tanzania and Kenya.

Visit : [www.asiliaafrica.com](http://www.asiliaafrica.com). Contact : Mercedes Bailey at [mercedes@asiliaafrica.com](mailto:mercedes@asiliaafrica.com).

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## ROME: Centuries in an Italian Kitchen

ROME: Centuries in an Italian Kitchen, Katie & Giancarlo Caldesi uncover the gastronomic gems of the Eternal City with recipes set against a backdrop of contemporary life.

Other Titles by Katie and Giancarlo Caldesi include :

- Venice: Recipes lost and found, and
- The Amalfi Coast: A collection of Italian recipes.

Visit : [www.hardiegrant.co.uk](http://www.hardiegrant.co.uk). Contact : Emma Marijewycz at [emmamarijewycz@hardiegrant.co.uk](mailto:emmamarijewycz@hardiegrant.co.uk).

## Lonely Planet : Make My Day

Lonely Planet has added six new cities to its Make My Day series, available in print and app format :

- Amsterdam
- Berlin
- Hong Kong
- Rome
- Sydney, and
- Washington, DC.

The guides offer a selection of expert tips and advice broken down into three sections – morning, afternoon and evening – that will get travellers straight to the city's must-see sights and experiences.

Visit : [www.lonelyplanet.co.uk](http://www.lonelyplanet.co.uk). For review copies please contact Rebecca Law at [rebecca.law@lonelyplanet.co.uk](mailto:rebecca.law@lonelyplanet.co.uk).

## The Jungfrau Railways

The Jungfrau Railways have opened created the First Cliff Walk by Tissot, a suspension bridge, cliff walkway and observation platform facing the Eiger, Switzerland.

The new circular summit trail will now open without restriction throughout the year to all walkers and hikers.

The Jungfrau Railways invested 1.5 million Swiss francs in the walkway, which features a 40-metre-long single-rope suspension bridge alongside the steep rock face on the western side of the First summit.

The Jungfrau Region is found in the Bernese Oberland in Switzerland, at the foot of the Eiger, Mönch & Jungfrau massif.

The region offers a number of natural attractions including Lakes Thun and Brienz, a high-Alpine glacier world, quietly flowing rivers, waterfalls and a variety of accommodation options from simple hostels to luxury hotels.

Jungfrau Railways travel to the UNESCO World Heritage of the Swiss Alps Jungfrau-Aletsch as well as uniting seven mountain transport systems under one management.

Visit: [www.jungfrau.ch](http://www.jungfrau.ch). Contact : [vicky@heavenpublicity.co.uk](mailto:vicky@heavenpublicity.co.uk).

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## All Aboard Florida

All Aboard Florida's will be the states high-speed intercity rail service which, in 2017, will connect Miami and West Palm Beach with Fort Lauderdale and Orlando added in 2018.

The service will provide visitors and residents with a convenient and reliable transportation alternative to highways and airports and offer passengers a high-quality onboard experience.

All Aboard Florida will be the only privately owned and operated, passenger-rail system in the United States.

Visit : [www.AllAboardFlorida.com](http://www.AllAboardFlorida.com). Contact : Lynn Martenstein at [Lynn.Martenstein@allaboardflorida.com](mailto:Lynn.Martenstein@allaboardflorida.com).

## Journeys International

Journeys International has added two new trips to Nepal: *Hands On the Himalayas*, and *Nepal Family Adventure*.

The two itineraries are very different, but both support the rebuilding efforts in Nepal by attracting tourists to the earthquake-ravaged nation where Journeys began 37 years ago.

Guests will explore the area, hike among the villages and give time and energy to help rebuild areas damaged in the 2015 earthquake.

Volunteer projects may include rebuilding houses, hauling supplies, or painting schools, depending on what is needed at the time.

Based in Ann Arbor, MI, Journeys International creates guided, custom and family adventures for international travelers.

Visit : [www.journeysinternational.com](http://www.journeysinternational.com). Contact : Sally Grimes-Chesak at [sally@journeysinternational.com](mailto:sally@journeysinternational.com).

## Celestyal Cruises

Celestyal Cruises will extend its cruise programme in Turkey, which launched in 2015, for another two years with itineraries embarking from Istanbul, Izmir and Kusadasi.

A new ship, the Celestyal Nefeli (ex Gemini) will replace the Celestyal Odyssey.

The Celestyal Nefeli is a size for docking in the smaller harbors throughout the Eastern Mediterranean, like her fleet mates, the Celestyal Crystal and the Celestyal Olympia.

The focus on smaller ports is part of the strategy to open new destinations in Eastern Mediterranean cruising.

Since 2014, Celestyal has added 15 new destinations which include Milos, Ios, Kos, Samos, Symi, Chios, Cesme and Syros.

Celestyal Cruises is the only home porting cruise operator in Greece and the preeminent cruise line for the Greek Islands and Turkey.

Visit : [www.celestyalcruises.com](http://www.celestyalcruises.com). Contact : Abbie Downes at [info@slcrepresentation.co.uk](mailto:info@slcrepresentation.co.uk).

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## Visit Maldives Year 2016

The Maldives Marketing and PR Corporation have launched the Visit Maldives Year 2016 campaign, which will highlight the Maldives visitor offering under the slogan 'The Sunny Side of Life'.

It hopes to raise the country's profile as a leading luxury destination and highlight the variety of activities available on its islands.

Visit : [www.visitmaldives.com](http://www.visitmaldives.com). Contact : Sarah Salord at [sarah@mccluskey.co.uk](mailto:sarah@mccluskey.co.uk).

## Le Boat

Le Boat, Europe's largest operator of self-drive boating holidays, has unveiled a new class of cruiser designed with couples and small families in mind.

The new Horizon fleet has been created for Le Boat by luxury boat builders Delphia Yachts as part of a €15 million partnership.

The first wave of 16 new boats will be added to Le Boat's fleet in 2016, and will be available in all of Le Boat's key cruising areas, including the Canal du Midi and Burgundy in France, as well as Germany, Holland, Italy and the UK's River Thames.

Le Boat is the largest operator of self-drive boating holidays on the waterways of Europe, operating its own fleet of 900 self-drive cruisers from a network of over 39 different departure bases across nine European countries.

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

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## Leads

### Circle Line Sightseeing Cruises, New York

New York Circle Line Sightseeing Cruises have been awarded the 2015 Concierge Choice Award, for "Best Sightseeing and Tours", in New York City.

Since 1945, Circle Line Sightseeing Cruises has hosted over 60 million passengers in New York. Today, it is the only cruise line dedicated exclusively to sightseeing, with vessels made of steel and over-sized glass windows that offer views of the Manhattan skyline.

Visit : [www.circleline42.com](http://www.circleline42.com). Contact: Lisa Chamberlain [Lisa.chamberlain@btinternet.com](mailto:Lisa.chamberlain@btinternet.com).

### The Waco Mammoth Site, Texas

The Waco Mammoth Site has now become part of the National Park System after President Obama designated the site as a National Monument.

Excavation began on the Waco Mammoth Site in 1978 when a large bone was discovered by two arrowhead hunters and taken to Baylor University's Strecker Museum for identification. Since that time, 23 Columbian mammoths, a camel and the tooth from a saber tooth tiger have been found.

A state-of-the-art, climate-controlled dig shelter permanently protects in situ remains of the nation's first and only recorded discovery of a nursery herd of Pleistocene mammoths.

This is one of the most significant Ice Age fossil beds in the world.

Visit : [www.wacoheartoftexas.com](http://www.wacoheartoftexas.com). Contact : Lori Kasparian at [lorik@wacoheartoftexas.com](mailto:lorik@wacoheartoftexas.com).

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## The Dark Sky Island of Sark, the Channel Islands

The Dark Sky Island of Sark will open its first observatory on 10th October 2015.

The tiny Channel Island was designated as the world's first Dark Sky Island in 2011 by the International Dark-Sky Association and is now only one of two in the world.

The award was in recognition of the exceptional blackness of the night sky which makes for spectacular stargazing on the island.

The opening of the observatory aims to facilitate astro-tourism on Sark and make it tangible for first timers as well as experienced stargazers.

Sark's dark skies can be attributed to its isolated location in the English Channel, its complete lack of public street lighting (and very few outdoor lights on buildings) and low pollution levels.

Motorised vehicles, with the exception of a few tractors, are banned on the island so the air pollution is extremely low leaving clear skies.

Visit : [www.sastros.sark.gg](http://www.sastros.sark.gg) and [www.sark.co.uk](http://www.sark.co.uk). Contact : Jules Ugo at [jules@lotus-uk.co.uk](mailto:jules@lotus-uk.co.uk).

## Winter sun in a motorhome

UK & Ireland campervan rental company, Bunk Campers, have teamed up with the Camping and Caravanning Club to offer low cost winter sun holidays in a motorhome.

The Camping and Caravanning Club have a range of winter sun campsites in Spain and Portugal.

A motorhome can be hired from Bunk Campers depots across the UK & Ireland from 2 November 2015 to 18 March 2016.

Holidaymakers can enjoy 28 days hire of a luxury Bunk Campers motorhome from £850 including driver insurance, when staying at The Camping and Caravanning Club Winter Sun campsites.

Bunk Campers offer Europe's widest choice of vehicle types from the compact 2-person campers, VW Campervans to large 6 person motorhomes.

Visit : [www.bunkcampers.com](http://www.bunkcampers.com). Contact : Leanne Cromie at [atmarketing@bunkcampers.com](mailto:atmarketing@bunkcampers.com).

## Trekking with Gane and Marshall

Gane and Marshall have a range of trekking opportunities including :

### **Trekking Into the Maasai Lands, Tanzania**

The 'Into the Maasai Lands' itinerary is a trekking programme offered by Gane and Marshall, visiting remote spots outside the typical safari circuit.

The seven-day journey with the Maasai Tribe takes place in the African Rift Valley, Tanzania.

Beginning with a trek to the viewpoint on Mount Longido, hikers will then trek across the floor of the Great Rift Valley, trekking up to 18+ miles on some days.

Many of the major animal species of Africa, including lion, elephant and antelope will be spotted along the journey.



## Exploring the Mountains and Deserts of Oman

The 'Mountains and Deserts of Oman' itinerary is a seven-night adventure that explores the region on foot and by 4x4 when needed.

After time to discover Muscat, trekkers will head to the mountainous Batinah region and hike to a wadi, trek to the oasis hamlet of Bilad Sayt, explore the canyon trail of the Jebel Shams mountain, stay at a desert camp and hike the Wahiba Sands desert.

## Climbing Kilimanjaro on the Shira Route

Adventure travellers can attempt the 'Kilimanjaro Summit Climb - Shira Route'.

The nine-night trek approaches Kilimanjaro from the west through forest and open moorland, crossing the caldera of Shira volcano and exploring the rock formations of the plateau, before traversing beneath the Southern icefields of Kibo and ultimately reaching the peak of the mountain.

## Gane and Marshall

Gane and Marshall provide off-the-beaten-track travel experiences including Africa safaris, Arctic cruises and bespoke holidays to Africa, Antarctica, Indo-China, the Galapagos, India, Costa Rica, Scandinavia, Indian Ocean Islands and Canada.

Visit : [www.ganeandmarshall.com](http://www.ganeandmarshall.com). Contact: Anita Clements at [anita@hamilton-pr.com](mailto:anita@hamilton-pr.com).

## Simply Sweden

Simply Sweden, the Scandinavian travel specialist, is offering ways to embrace the Northern Lights this winter by adding new holidays to its collection.

Among these guests will get the chance to :

- drive their own teams of huskies on a three-day journey through the wilderness of the Finnmark Mountain Plateau in northern Norway
- take an ice driving adventure in Arjeplog in Swedish Lapland
- whale-watch in Tromsø to see the humpbacks and orcas that fill the waters around the Norwegian city of Tromsø from November to January.
- stay in the Treehotel in one of the cabins set in the branches of the Boreal Forest in Årrenjärka, which is on an historic Sami migration route, and
- a break in Malangen Fjord, deep in the Arctic Circle in northern Norway.

Visit : [www.simplysweden.co.uk](http://www.simplysweden.co.uk). Simone Kane at [simone@lbbcreative.co.uk](mailto:simone@lbbcreative.co.uk).

## Cruise Safely

Cruise Safely is one of the leading resources and provider of information on cruise travel trips from luggage packing tips to common health concerns of travellers.

The website also includes information related to cruising including travel safety, warnings and insurance and cruise safety.

Visit : [www.cruisesafely.com](http://www.cruisesafely.com). Contact : [contact@cruisesafely.com](mailto:contact@cruisesafely.com).

## The Three Capes Track

The Three Capes Track, in Tasman Peninsula, is Australia's premier coastal bushwalking experience.

The walk passes along the hand-carved steps that weave alongside some of Australia's highest sea cliffs and the three capes; Pillar, Hauy and Raoul.

The track links Denman's Cove, opposite the World Heritage-listed Port Arthur Historic Site, to Cape Hauy.

Visit : [www.discovertasmania.com.au](http://www.discovertasmania.com.au). Contact : Liza-Jane Sowden at [Liza-Jane.Sowden@tourism.tas.gov.au](mailto:Liza-Jane.Sowden@tourism.tas.gov.au).

## Burma Highlights

Explore's 14 day Burma Highlights trip offers an in-depth discovery of the history and culture of Myanmar.

The trip includes a boat trip across Inle Lake to the Shwe Indein pagoda complex, hiking in the rural countryside of the Shan Highlands, a horse-drawn cart tour of the ancient capital of Inwa and a visit to the wooden footbridge of U Bein.

There will also be visits to the Bagan temples, a cruise on the Irrawaddy River and excursion to the Shwenandaw Monastery in Mandalay.

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).

## Sherpa Expeditions, the Douro Valley, Portugal

Sherpa Expeditions is launching a new trip to the Douro Valley, on the Iberian Peninsula, known for its wine and natural beauty.

The Douro River, which flows through steep channels for around 125 miles across the north of Portugal – is home to the first demarcated wine region in the world.

Established in 1756 when the Port industry developed, it has the country's highest wine classification as a 'denominação de origem controlada' and, although associated primarily with Port, these days it produces just as much high-quality table wine.

The hotel-based, walking and sightseeing trip, starting from the Vilarinho de Sao Romeo village in the heart of the region, and continuing down to the small Port-town of Pinhão on the Douro River will end at the city of Porto

Visit : [www.sherpaexpeditions.com](http://www.sherpaexpeditions.com). Contact Tom Panagos at [pr@worldexpeditions.co.uk](mailto:pr@worldexpeditions.co.uk).

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## What's on

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### Annual food and wine events in Italy

#### **Boccacesca in Certaldo, Certaldo near Florence, Tuscany**

October (2-4 October 2015)

The medieval part of Certaldo in Tuscany holds an annual food and wine fair in homage to the great writer Boccaccio, famous for his love of food and the good life, who was born in the town.

Food stalls, wine tastings, music and shows will entertain the guests in this beautiful corner of Tuscany.

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

**Delizie D'Autunno in Treviso and surrounding areas**

September to December

Translated as "Autumn delights", Delizie d'Autunno is a series of events in and around Treviso in the Veneto region that highlight the food and wine offer of the area.

This includes the Radicchio from Treviso, chestnuts, pumpkins, local wines and polenta.

Visit : [www.deliziedautunno.tv](http://www.deliziedautunno.tv).

**Eurochocolate, Perugia, Umbria**

16 to 25 October 2015

The annual Eurochocolate, includes tastings, exhibitions, workshops and shows for the 10 days of the duration of the festival.

This year's event is called "MustaChoc" and it is inspired by the "mustache".

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

**White Truffle Fair, Acqualagna, Marche**

25 October to 9 November 2015

Acqualagna's central square, Piazza Mattei, hosts the Fair with over one hundred stands, where visitors can buy fresh truffles and other local quality products such as cured meats, wine, honey and cheese.

The white truffle is the most valuable on the market in terms of its nutritional properties and price.

[www.comune.acqualagna.ps.it](http://www.comune.acqualagna.ps.it)

**White Truffle Fair, Alba, Piedmont**

11 October to 15 November 2015

This will be the 85th edition of this popular fair dedicated to the delicacy that is the Alba White Truffle.

A range of events include a cinema festival, medieval representations such as the Palio degli Asini, a beauty contest, wine tastings of the Barbera and Barbaresco wines, food-related events, theatre and music culminating in the Truffle market for the best and biggest truffle.

[www.fieradeltartufo.org](http://www.fieradeltartufo.org)

**National Chestnut Fair, Cuneo, Piedmont**

16 to 18 October 2015

This is the 17th edition of the National Chestnut Fair in Cuneo. The event fills the old town with tastes, aromas, sights and sounds for four full days and attracts exhibitors from all over Piedmont and beyond.

Visit : [www.marrone.net](http://www.marrone.net) and [www.cuneoholiday.com](http://www.cuneoholiday.com).

**The Open House at the Oil Mills, Umbria Region**

31 October to 29 November 2015

The "Open House at the Oil Mills", now in its 18th edition offers five weekends for rediscovering olive oil with events hosted throughout Umbria.

Visit : [www.frantoiaperti.net](http://www.frantoiaperti.net).

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**Merano Wine Festival, South Tyrol**

6 to 9 November 2015

More than 500 selected Italian and international vintners and over a hundred producers of the very best in gastronomy are at the heart of what is on offer here, bringing to the event a selection of the highest quality products available on the market.

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

**Ein Prosit Food and Wine Festival, Tarvisio - Malborghetto, Friuli Venezia Giulia**

15 to 18 November 2015

This will be the 27th edition of this event and the biggest in Friuli Venezia Giulia for food and wine lovers. There will be a series of tastings of regional food in the many restaurants participating to the event, wine tastings, workshops, seminars and other events related to the theme of the festival.

[www.einprosit.org](http://www.einprosit.org)

**Festa Del Torrone, Cremona, Lombardy**

21 to 29 November 2015

Torrone is a sweet nougat and Cremona dedicates nine days to it with stalls selling all types of torrone, shows, music, historical re-enactments and typical Cremonese meals.

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

**Ciocola-To', Turin, Piazza San Carlo**

21 to 30 November 2015

Ciocolatò is Turin's major event dedicated to chocolate.

Visit : [www.ciocola-to.it](http://www.ciocola-to.it).

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

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## Reasons to write about

### Staten Island Museum, Snug Harbor, New York

The \$24.4 million, City-funded, renovation of Building A into the new home of the Staten Island Museum at Snug Harbor opened on 19 September 2015.

The Staten Island Museum's expansion has been 50 years in the making, and began when Snug Harbor, the nationally significant historic site, was saved from demolition in 1965.

Originally built in 1879, Building A was one of over 50 structures that comprised Sailors' Snug Harbor, an 83-acre site founded as a "haven for aged, decrepit and worn out sailors."

In its day, Sailors' Snug Harbor was the richest charitable institution in the United States and a self-sustaining community composed of a working farm, dairy, bakery, chapel, sanatorium, hospital, music hall and cemetery.

In the mid-20th century, however, the institution experienced serious financial difficulties and declining number of residents which led to many of the buildings falling into disrepair and being demolished.

In the 1960s, the Staten Island Museum led the fight to preserve Sailors' Snug Harbor.

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### **Inaugural Exhibitions at the new museum include :**

**Remember the Mastodon**, which includes fossils, lost bird species, and a full-size replica of a Mastodon emerging through the wall!

**Opening the Treasure Box**, which displays objects spanning over 4,000 years of artistic endeavor gathered from Africa, Asia, Europe, North, and South America.

**Staten Island SEEN**, which traces this borough's history and landscape from the 17th century to the present, through works by amateur and professional artists.

From **Farm to City**, which provides an insight into land-use on Staten Island.

Visit : [StatenIslandMuseum.org](http://StatenIslandMuseum.org). Contact : Sean Altberger at [saltberger@nycgo.com](mailto:saltberger@nycgo.com).

### **Lisbon by boat**

The Portuguese capital of Lisbon is one of Europe's best to explore by boat, with its Tagus River offering visitors the opportunity to experience a different side the city.

#### **Tour the river on a hippo**

Amphibious 90-minute tours plunge into the Tagus River for visitors to see monuments such as the Belém Tower (UNESCO World Heritage Site) and the Padrão dos Descobrimentos.

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

#### **Dolphin watching safaris**

A colony of bottlenose dolphins made the Sado Estuary Nature Reserve their permanent home a few years ago. Here visitors can spot up to 30 dolphins, which live in the warm waters of the estuary and its adjacent coastline, the coast of Tróia and Arrábida.

Visit : [www.vertigemazul.com](http://www.vertigemazul.com) and [www.sadoarrabida.pt](http://www.sadoarrabida.pt).

#### **Sailing**

Visitors to Lisbon can take a sailing lesson on the Tagus River, with no previous experience needed.

Visit : [www.lisbonbyboat.com](http://www.lisbonbyboat.com), [www.palmayachts.pt](http://www.palmayachts.pt) and [www.lisbonbysail.com.pt](http://www.lisbonbysail.com.pt).

#### **High-speed tours**

Those looking to see Lisbon's landmarks at full speed can take a speed boat which goes across the Lisbon coast on a daily basis.

Visit : [www.lisbonbyboat.com](http://www.lisbonbyboat.com) and [www.veltagus.com](http://www.veltagus.com).

#### **Traditional tours and cruises**

A 'traditional' sightseeing tour along the Tagus River will take in the Praça do Comercio, Cais do Sodré, Christ the King Statue and Parque das Nações.

There are also dinner cruises and day-long options for visitors who wish to explore the Portuguese capital and places further afield such as Cascais and Tróia.

Visit : [www.transtejo.pt](http://www.transtejo.pt), [www.lisbonbyboat.com](http://www.lisbonbyboat.com), [www.dreamboats.com](http://www.dreamboats.com), [www.taguscruises.com](http://www.taguscruises.com) and [www.sailingwithnigel.com](http://www.sailingwithnigel.com).

Visit : [www.visitlisboa.com](http://www.visitlisboa.com). Contact : Enrique Martin at [enrique@humewhitehead.co.uk](mailto:enrique@humewhitehead.co.uk)

## Bruce Munro's Field of Light, Ayers Rock Resort, Australia

Voyages has announced that Bruce Munro's Field of Light, will be created in its largest form to date at Ayers Rock Resort in the spiritual heart of Australia.

The solar-powered installation will open on 1 April 2016, remaining open throughout the Red Centre's distinct seasons until 31 March 2017.

The exhibition will include illuminating a remote desert area within sight of Uluru.

Bruce Munro conceived the idea for the Field of Light while visiting Uluru in 1992, but it wasn't until 2004 that the installation first materialized at both London's Victoria & Albert Museum and in Munro's own backyard in south-west England.

Field of Light has since been staged at sites across the United Kingdom, the United States and Mexico.

### Ayers Rock Resort

Ayers Rock Resort provides a variety of accommodation from the premium Sails in the Desert hotel, Desert Gardens Hotel, newly renovated Emu Walk Apartments, the Outback Pioneer Hotel and Lodge and Ayers Rock Campground.

Ayers Rock Resort is managed by Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia.

Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia manages Ayers Rock Resort in the Northern Territory, Home Valley Station in The Kimberley in Western Australia and the Mossman Gorge Centre, in Tropical North Queensland.

Visit : [www.ayersrockresort/fieldoflight](http://www.ayersrockresort/fieldoflight). Contact : Karena Noble at [karena.noble@voyages.com.au](mailto:karena.noble@voyages.com.au).

## South Denmark

By virtue of its geography the region of South Denmark has been the target of many an invader over the centuries.

Each one has been drawn by the region's wealth of natural resources and each has left its mark on the landscape or contributed subtle influences to the regional cuisine.

### Nature

The natural topography of the region, which spans the flat marshland on the west Jutland coast to the hilly forested areas in the east, makes it a popular region with hikers and bikers.

### The Haervejen Road

One of the best ways to explore the region on foot or by bike is via Denmark's longest trail, the ancient Haervejen Road (Military Road), which runs from Viborg in North Jutland to Hamburg in Germany.

Parts of the route can be traced back as far as 4000BC with many historical landmarks to be found in South Denmark in the form of ancient mounds, defensive ditches and settlements along the road, including the Haerulf Stone, a runic stone dating from the 10th century.

## The Gendarme path

The 74km coastal Gendarme path, a European quality hiking trail, starts in the forest of Harraldskov in Padborg on the German border and follows South Denmark's eastern coastline from Flensburg Bay and the beaches at Broager.

It passes the historical battlefield at Dybbøl and town of Sønderborg and the island of Als.

The path was created in 1920 and gets its name from the little blue Gendarme guards who were responsible for patrolling the steep cliffs, deep forests and flat beaches, guarding the border and preventing smugglers.

## Årø island

The small island of Årø, once Germany's most northerly island, is reached by the fiord boat Helene.

Between 1864 and 1920 it was a key route for smugglers, but is now a peaceful island with a picturesque town of narrow streets.

There's the chance to take a tractor ride around the island, taking in the island's own vineyard.

## The Wadden Sea

The south west coast, known for the UNESCO protected Wadden Sea National Park, is rich in wildlife and one of the world's most valuable tidal areas.

Located in the middle of the Eastern Atlantic migratory routes it attracts between 10–12 million migratory birds each year that use the coastline as their wintering area in northern Europe.

In addition to the birdlife, this vast wetland area and beaches are home to Denmark's largest population of spotted seals, with sightings throughout the summer months. One of the best ways to see them is on the Seal and Wadden Sea Safaris that depart from Esbjerg Harbour each day.

Visit : [www.visitsonderjylland.dk](http://www.visitsonderjylland.dk). Contact : Kathrine Lind Gustavussen at [klg@visitdenmark.com](mailto:klg@visitdenmark.com).

## The Daytona Beach Ale Trail

The Daytona Beach area has launched the Daytona Beach Ale Trail, a collection of microbreweries and taprooms including :

BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse - which was recognized this year at the 2015 North American Craft Beer Awards.

**Daytona Beach Brewing Company** - a production brewery with a tasting room

**Daytona Taproom** - located in the Seabreeze Blvd. Entertainment District

**New Smyrna Beach Brewing Company** - just off Canal Street in downtown New Smyrna Beach

**Odd Elixir Meads** - a small batch meadery located inside DeLand Abbey in Historic Downtown DeLand

**Ormond Brewing Company** - a craft brewery in Ormond Beach that specialises in flavorful beers brewed on site.

**Persimmon Hollow Brewing Company** - in historic downtown DeLand

**Seabreeze Taphouse** - with over 100 craft beers, 25 of which are on tap

**Tomoka Brewery** - in Ormond Beach and a dedicated 'sour lab', and

**Tomoka Brewing Company**, Tomoka Brewery's sister pub in Port Orange.

Visit : [www.DaytonaBeach.com](http://www.DaytonaBeach.com). Contact : Lori Campbell Baker at [lcb@daytonabeach.com](mailto:lcb@daytonabeach.com).

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## Spine-chilling Halloween tours from Viator

Viator has highlighted some 'scary' tours.

### Jack the Ripper Tour and London Ghost Walk, England

Participants visit the sinister side of London as guests follow the 'blood-soaked' footsteps of murderers Jack the Ripper and Sweeney Todd down gas-lit alleyways on a ghost walking tour of London.

The tour takes in Drury Lane, the most haunted theatre in the city, Fleet Street, Jack the Ripper's East End.

### Venice Ghost Walking Tour, Italy

Venice by night is steeped in mystery and this one and a half hour evening ghost walking tour takes guests on a journey to the city's hidden corners, with a ghost-expert guide who recounts six spooky ghost stories and other legends on the walk.

### Ghost and Gore Walking Tour of Edinburgh, Scotland

This one and a half hour tour travels up the Royal Mile at dusk and explores the cobbled passageways beneath Edinburgh Castle.

### Viator

Viator, a TripAdvisor company, is a leading global tours and activities provider for travellers, delivering online and mobile access to thousands of curated trip activities including tours, attractions, shore excursions and private guides, in more than 1,500 destinations worldwide.

Visit : [www.viator.com](http://www.viator.com). Contact : Arthur Duncan at [Arthur.Duncan@fourbgb.com](mailto:Arthur.Duncan@fourbgb.com).

## Val d'Isère, France

Val d'Isère is a commune of the Tarentaise Valley in the Savoie department in south-eastern France.

The resort lies 5km from the frontier with Italy, on the border of the Vanoise National Park.

Val d'Isère regularly hosts World Cup alpine skiing events and is open for hiking and biking in the summer months.

Closest airports are Chambéry, Geneva, and Lyon. Nearest station is Bourg-Saint-Maurice (20 miles away), served by TGV trains from Paris.

The linked ski area of Val d'Isère and Tignes forms Espace Killy, named after triple Olympic champion Jean-Claude Killy who grew up in Val d'Isère.

### The website

The official Val d'Isère resort website, [valdisere.com](http://valdisere.com), is in the process of being redesigned for this winter in multi-lingual format.

Key points are up-to-date reports on weather and snow conditions as well as a forecast for the days ahead, along with blogs and social media. The replacement website will go online in the autumn.



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### **Le Yule, Val d'Isère**

The five-star Le Yule is a new ski-in, ski-out hotel on the edge of the front de neige.

Visit : [www.leyule.fr](http://www.leyule.fr).

### **Hotel Village**

The new Hotel Village, which is designed in the style of a typical Savoyard hamlet, has ten suites, along with four large chalets with five to seven bedrooms, home cinema, and a Clarins spa with pool, steam room, sauna, and treatment rooms.

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

Visit: [www.valdisere.com](http://www.valdisere.com). Contact : Pippa Twigg at [pippa@heavenpublicity.co.uk](mailto:pippa@heavenpublicity.co.uk).

### **Philadelphia tours**

The Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau has put together their top five suggestions for visitors to experience what the city has to offer through its tour options.

#### **City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program**

Philadelphia's public art can be discovered through the City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program.

Visitors can travel by foot, Segway, trolley or train to see some of the more than 3,800 hand-painted works of art.

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

#### **Taste of Philly Food Tour**

Starting at the Reading Terminal Market, this tour enables participants to learn about hometown food favourites, including cheesesteaks, hoagies and pretzels.

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

#### **Big Bus Company**

The Big Bus Company's, hop-on-hop-off, double decker bus tours, start in Historic Philadelphia before venturing throughout Society Hill, Fairmount Park and Rittenhouse.

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

#### **Philly Tour Hub's Segway Tours**

Philly Tour Hub's themed segway tours offer take in South Philadelphia, the Italian Market and the Historic District.

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

#### **Tippler's Tour**

Tippler's Tour: Colonial Pub Crawl takes in a Sip a bit of history while winding through the streets of Historic Philadelphia, stopping in at colonial-style and modern-day watering holes.

Visit : [www.historicphiladelphia.org/tiplers-tour](http://www.historicphiladelphia.org/tiplers-tour).

Visit : [www.discoverphl.com](http://www.discoverphl.com). Contact: Greg Evans at [g.p.evans@btinternet.com](mailto:g.p.evans@btinternet.com).

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## A place to stay

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### **Park Hyatt Maldives Hadahaa**

The Park Hyatt Maldives Hadahaa has opened Mutteyfushi Island, its new range of water sport activities.

The island, surrounded by a five kilometre lagoon, is a 15 minute boat ride from the resort and offers activities including jet ski rides, turtle safaris and sailing.

With 50 private villas, Park Hyatt Maldives Hadahaa is situated in the Indian Ocean's Gaafu Alifu Atoll, miles from the nearest inhabited island.

Visit : [www.maldives.hadahaa.park.hyatt.com](http://www.maldives.hadahaa.park.hyatt.com). Contact : Charlotte Rous at [Charlotte@grifcopr.com](mailto:Charlotte@grifcopr.com).

### **Riviera Palm Springs, California**

Tribute Portfolio, the newest collection of independent hotels from Starwood Hotels & Resorts, has announced that it will be debuting - in November 2015 - on the US West Coast with the Riviera Palm Springs in California.

Located on 21-acres in downtown Palm Springs, the resort features 398 rooms, three outdoor pools and an 11,000 square foot spa with 18 treatment rooms.

Tribute Portfolio

Starwood's 10th brand and second collection of independent hotels, Tribute Portfolio debuted in April 2015 with the Royal Palm South Beach Miami and recently announced two new hotels, including the Great Northern Hotel in London, UK and the Kiroro Hotel, Hokkaido, Japan.

Future locations are slated for Coral Gables, FL, Asheville, NC and Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

Starwood aims to grow the brand to 100 hotels by 2020, with locations in high-demand destinations and markets where SPG members travel.

Visit : [www.tributeportfolio.com](http://www.tributeportfolio.com). Contact : Frank Tigani at [frank.tigani@starwoodhotels.com](mailto:frank.tigani@starwoodhotels.com).

### **Viceroy New York**

The luxury boutique hotel Viceroy New York is offering an Apple Picking & Picnic Package, giving guests the chance to experience this authentic seasonal pastime which has been enjoyed by New Yorkers since the 19th century.

Guests can spend a day in the surrounding countryside to enjoy a spot of traditional apple picking followed by a picnic in a secluded spot under one of the apple trees.

On returning to the hotel chefs at Kingside will turn the apples into a traditional apple butter which is the perfect accompaniment to meat dishes, with deserts.

Visit : [www.viceroyhotelsandresorts.com](http://www.viceroyhotelsandresorts.com). Contact : [pr@masonrose.com](mailto:pr@masonrose.com).

## **The Nadler Victoria, London**

Nadler Hotels, with a portfolio of 'smart-luxury' design hotels in UK city centres, will open The Nadler Victoria in November 2015.

The hotel will not have a restaurant, gym and bar with the concierge team using their local knowledge to recommend the neighbourhood's top dining, leisure, and fitness offerings (many of which offer exclusive discounts for Nadler's guests).

The group currently has two other hotels in London (Soho and Kensington), as well as one in Liverpool.

Visit : [www.thenadler.com](http://www.thenadler.com). Contact : Anna Hollingworth at [ahollingworth@thecommunicationgroup.co.uk](mailto:ahollingworth@thecommunicationgroup.co.uk).

## **Leeu House, Franschhoek, South Africa**

Leeu House, a 5-star, 12-bedroom boutique hotel located in South Africa's Franschhoek Valley, will open on 1 December 2015.

The hotel and gardens will also showcase a number of important modern artworks and sculptures from various countries, including South Africa.

Guests at Leeu House enjoy innovative cuisine prepared by a talented culinary team, headed by executive chef Oliver Cattermole, with lunch and dinner menus showcasing the best local organic and ethically farmed produce in creative fusion dishes with vibrant world flavours.

Leeu House is the second property in the Leeu Collection portfolio, the first being Le Quartier Francais, also in Franschhoek, which opened in September 2015.

Visit : [www.leeucollection.com](http://www.leeucollection.com). Contact : Sue Heady at [sue@headycommunications.com](mailto:sue@headycommunications.com).

## **Natural Retreats**

Luxury travel company Natural Retreats has added new US locations to its portfolio including :

- Lake Tahoe, California
- Turpin Meadow Ranch, Wyoming
- Alpine House, Wyoming
- Bald Head Island, North Carolina, and
- St. Simon's Island, Georgia.

Each property is set within areas of outstanding natural beauty with each property located either in or within close proximity of a National Park.

Visit : [www.naturalretreats.com](http://www.naturalretreats.com). Contact : Emma Howard-Smith at [Emmahs@grifcopr.com](mailto:Emmahs@grifcopr.com).

## **The Gobbins Coastal Path, Islandmagee, County Antrim, Northern Ireland**

The Gobbins Coastal Path in Islandmagee, County Antrim, has officially reopened following a £7.5million restoration.

The two-mile long path, part of Northern Ireland's Causeway Coastal Route, consists of a network of walkways, bridges and gantries embedded into the black basalt sheer cliff faces.

During its Edwardian heyday, The Gobbins attracted more tourists than The Giant's Causeway but five decades after launching it fell into disrepair and closed to the public in 1954.

Visit : [www.ireland.com](http://www.ireland.com). Contact : Coman Kenny at [ckenny@tourismireland.com](mailto:ckenny@tourismireland.com).

## Hotel Vagabond, Singapore's

Hotel Vagabond, which opens in October 2015, is Singapore's first 'experience-driven luxury boutique hotel with a Salon area designed to immerse guests in the theatre of art, food, drink and conversation '.

The hotel is the only hotel in Asia to feature interiors by French designer Jacques Garcia, who is best known for his design of Hotel Costes in Paris, Hotel Danieli in Venice, Hotel Mamounia in Marrakech, and the Nomad in New York.

Visit : [www.hotelvagabondsingapore.com](http://www.hotelvagabondsingapore.com). Contact : Suzy Goulding at [suzy@theumamicollective.com](mailto:suzy@theumamicollective.com).

## Safestay London Holland Park

Luxury hostel brand Safestay has opened Safestay London Holland Park in one of London's most prestigious parks and close to some of the Capital's leading visitor attractions.

A 368-bed hostel located within the East Wing of the original Jacobean building, Holland House also occupies the 1950's extension, private central courtyard and garden.

Originally known as Cope Castle, this Grade I-listed building dates back to 1605.

Safestay London Holland Park is the third opening in the luxury hostel brand following Safestay London Elephant & Castle and Safestay York.

Safestay Edinburgh is set to launch in January 2016.

Visit : [www.hostelworld.com](http://www.hostelworld.com). Contact : Mandy Gore-Booth at [Mandy@pilot-pr.com](mailto:Mandy@pilot-pr.com).

## The Italian Hospitality Collection

The Italian Hospitality Collection's three Tuscan properties have received awards at the World Spa Awards 2015 with :

- Fonteverde winning the World's Best Countryside Hotel Spa 2015
- Grotta Giusti winning the World's Best Thermal Grotto Spa 2015, and
- Bagni di Pisa winning the Europe's Best Hotel Spa 2015 and Italy's Best Hotel Spa 2015

### Fonteverde

Residence to the Medici family in the 17th Century and located in the Sienese hills of the Val d'Orcia, Fonteverde offers a wide range of bespoke treatments created by an in-house team of specialists.

### Grotta Giusti

Set in manicured parkland, Grotta Giusti, the 19th century villa of the Italian poet Giuseppe Giusti, offers 64 lavish room with marble bathrooms, thermal water on tap, and what he regarded as the "eighth wonder of the world" - the millennial thermal cave.

The spa menu treatments include underwater hydro massages, a detoxifying natural steam bath in the ancient grottoes and even scuba diving in the underground hot spring lake.

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## Bagni di Pisa

Bagni di Pisa is the 18th century summer residence of the Grand Duke Francesco Stefano of Lorena.

For those seeking holistic pampering, the natural spa specialises in weight loss and detoxification using a positive approach towards nutrition, with the hot springs and relaxation treatments offering both physical and mental cleansing.

The Italian Hospitality Collection comprises a collection of hotels and spas throughout Tuscany and Sardinia.

Visit : [www.ihshotels.it](http://www.ihshotels.it). Contact : Flora Beaumont at [Flora@grifcopr.com](mailto:Flora@grifcopr.com).

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## Job shop

**The International Travel Writers Alliance Job Shop** 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
- 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)

## Spring in New Zealand

Spring in New Zealand (September, October and November) is known as ‘waterfall season’, which is the best time to tour the Milford Sound or take on the challenge of white water rafting as the melting spring snow swells river levels.

Tourism New Zealand has highlighted the best the country has to offer during spring season :

### Okarito

On the West Coast of the South Island, Okarito is a remote region with shallow, open lagoons and tidal flats.

The region is surrounded by native rainforests and overlooks the snow-capped peaks of the Southern Alps.

In spring, guests can enjoy a quiet kayak ride in the secluded lagoons. It is also the best time to spot one of the 70 bird species in the region including the Kotuku, a bird sacred to Maori people.

### Hamilton

Located on the banks of the Waikato River, Hamilton is known for scenic diversity.

The region offers many options for those keen on walking, hiking, cycling and casual strolls – best to enjoy in the warm, light breezes of spring.

The Hamilton Gardens are acclaimed nine themed-gardens.

### Golden Bay

Making the journey to Golden Bay, visitors can enjoy driving up the quiet roads of Takaka Hill, known as ‘Marble Mountain’ before hitting the sand dune formations and Te Waikoropupu Springs of Golden Bay.

### Whale watching in Kaikoura

Kaikoura is the whale watching capital of New Zealand, offering guests the chance to get up close and personal with sea life.

As well as whales, guests will encounter fur seals, pods of dusky dolphins and the endangered wandering albatross.

At the beginning of Spring when the air is cooler, humpback whales, pilot whales, blue whales and southern right whales are frequent visitors.

For those travelling towards the end of Spring, October is the best time to spot the orca, the world’s largest dolphin.

### Tour of Milford Road

Driving through New Zealand is one of the best ways to see the country and for those travelling in spring, they have the extra perk of quiet and peaceful roads.

The road journey from Te Anau to Milford Sound is one of the most scenic experiences in the country hitting the heart of Fiordland National Park and the Te Wahipounamu World Heritage area.

### Hiking

With plenty of sunshine and cool breezes, Spring is the best time for visitors to enjoy New Zealand’s nine Great walks.

The days are longer, the flowers are in bloom and it is the best time of year for wildlife spotting.

There’s the chance to choose from thousands of kilometres of walking trails including Stewart Island’s lesser-known Rakiura Track or the day walk, the Tongariro Alpine Crossing.



(Cont)

### Spring Skiing

Spring is one of the most popular times for skiing in New Zealand with mild temperatures, uncrowded slopes and fresh powder until the end of October.

New Zealand has 13 snow sure ski fields for off-piste skiing, snowboarding, heli-skiing, dramatic scenery and diverse runs.

### Spring events

#### Whitianga Scallop Festival

September

One of New Zealand's most popular seafood events is the Whitianga Scallop Festival.

The event has over 60 food and wine stands, seafood cooking demonstrations from New Zealand top chefs, a weekend of Kiwi bands and a scallop shucking competition.

The event is staged in a location overlooking the Whitianga Harbour on the North Island's Coromandel Peninsula.

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

#### F.A.W.C! - Food and Wine Classic!

6 to 15 November 2015

The Food and Wine Classic! is a series of "out of the box" food and wine experiences throughout Hawke's Bay.

It starts with a launch party in the vines of Craggy Range Winery and has 70 events scheduled across the ten days including vintage vertical tastings, masterclasses, degustation dinners, private chefs in homes and NZ celebrity chefs.

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

#### Lake Taupo Cycle Challenge

28 November 2015

Thousands of cyclists, locals and internationals, will pedal their way around the shores of Lake Taupo, taking part in one of the world's premier cycle events.

This event is recognised as a UCI Golden Bike Event, with its trails recently awarded Silver Ride Centre status by the International Mountain Bike Association.

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

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



## Corona, Queens, New York

**NYC & Company, New York City's official marketing and tourism partnership has produced Corona, Queens as the next neighborhood in its NYC&GO Insider Guides.**

New York City is made up of five distinct boroughs: the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island.

The NYC&GO Insider Guides, which debuted in 2015 spotlight a new neighborhood each month.

Located on the 7 subway line, Corona offers :

### Arts & Culture

**The Queens Zoo**, which spans 11 acres is home to pumas, parrots, bears, bison and sea lions.

**The New York Hall of Science** is a hands-on science and technology center enjoyed by kids and families for its innovative, interactive exhibits.

**Unisphere** in Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Queens Theatre showcases a range of performing arts including theater, dance, concerts and cultural programming.

The recently renovated **Queens Museum** is home to a diverse collection of art, plus Robert Moses' Panorama of the City of New York, a scale model of the five boroughs.

**The Louis Armstrong House Museum**, where the jazz musician lived for 30 years, pays tribute to Armstrong and his contributions to jazz music.

### Dining

**Leo's Latticini** (aka "Mama's") is an 80-year-old, three-storefront neighborhood establishment known for its sandwiches, fresh pasta and handmade mozzarella.

To view the documentary and neighborhood highlights including a map, visit [www.nycgo.com/insiderguides](http://www.nycgo.com/insiderguides).

**Visit : [www.nycgo.com](http://www.nycgo.com). Contact : Caroline Peck at [cpeck@nycgo.com](mailto:cpeck@nycgo.com).**

**The Tortilleria Nixtamal** offers authentic Mexican food with tortillas made daily in the kitchen.

**Rincon Criollo** is a family restaurant serving traditional Cuban dishes from its original location in Havana.

**El Hornero Bakery**, a Colombian bakery, or the Lemon Ice King of Corona, where visitors will find Italian ices made from real fruit and offered in 40 flavours for more than 60 years.

### Outdoors and Recreation

One of the largest parks in NYC, **Flushing Meadows Corona Park** was the site of the 1939 and 1964 World's Fairs.

**The Queens Botanical Garden**, at the eastern end of the park, is a local favorite for its 39 acres of woodlands, wetlands, meadows and gardens.

### Accommodation

With a variety of hotel options throughout Queens travelers looking to spend more time in Corona or its surrounding neighborhoods can visit [www.nycgo.com/hotels](http://www.nycgo.com/hotels).





## Annual events in Trinidad and Tobago

**Home to the largest Carnival celebration in the Caribbean, Trinidad & Tobago is the southernmost Caribbean nation located seven miles east off the Venezuelan coast.**

Ranked the happiest nation in the Caribbean by the United Nations' World Happiness Report, in 2013 and 2015, it offers a blend of cultures, eclectic cuisine and eco-adventure activities.

### Trinidad Carnival

February (8 and 9 February 2016)

Over the past two centuries, Trinidad's Carnival has developed into one of the most colorful and culturally diverse pre-Lenten celebrations in the world.

Carnival season starts after Christmas, with events being held in the months leading up to the main event which is held on the Monday and Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, annually.

Carnival is the most significant event on the islands' cultural and tourism calendar.

### Turtle watching season

1 March to 30 September 30

Trinidad and Tobago offers some of the most important sites for sea turtles.

With 80% of all leatherback nesting in the insular Caribbean, Trinidad offers a near guarantee to witness giant sea turtles on beaches.

Tobago has an important population of hawksbills living in its numerous coral reefs and many of green turtles inhabit the sea grass beds off the coast.

The best time to spot a leatherback is during a beach walk on Matura Beach or Grand Riviere during their nesting time from March through July.

The hawksbills, found in the coral reefs of Tobago, nest from May to September.

### Jazz Artists on the Greens

March 2016

Founded in 2003, Jazz on the Greens is a signature event for jazz in Trinidad.

Each year this festival-styled jazz event takes place on the Greens at Farm Road in St-Joseph.

Jazz performers and lovers come to experience what has become the fastest growing jazz event of the region.

Visit : [www.productiononltd.com/jaotg/index.htm](http://www.productiononltd.com/jaotg/index.htm).

### Tobago Goat Races

March (28 and 29 March 2016)

Goat Racing is a sport that originated in Buccoo, Tobago and remains one of the most popular events on the island.

The races are similar to horse racing, where the goats are paraded around and spectators choose who they think is going to win.

After the goat races comes the crab races where the blue crabs are coaxed to be the first to make it out of the circle drawn in the sand.

Both race days end in a street party which includes entertainment, street food and children's events.



TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

(Cont)

### **Tobago Jazz Experience**

April 2016

The Tobago Jazz Experience, which tours along the coast of Tobago, offers visitors the chance to experience the culture, unique gastronomy and friendly communities of Tobago while enjoying the music by local and international talent.

All the events take place on the beautiful beaches of Tobago, consistently rated as some of the best in the world.

### **Trinidad Fruit Festival**

June (17 to 19 June 2016)

The annual National Fruit Festival in Trinidad is aimed at providing knowledge on local produce.

In addition to featuring a variety of local fruits, the festival will host a Best Chow competition and aerobic challenge.

### **Tobago Dragon Boat Festival**

June 2016

Held at Pigeon Point Heritage Park, the annual Dragon Boat Festival offers locals and visitors activities, including dances, magic shows, music, boat racing and dragon dances.

Over 20 teams from both islands compete for titles as thousands of spectators cheer them on.

The festival showcases the island's beauty and gives patrons a chance to sample local Creole and Chinese cuisine.

### **Tobago Heritage Festival**

16 July to 1 August 2016

Beginning 16 July with fetes coming to a climax in a J'ouvert and street parade on Emancipation Day (1 August), the Tobago Heritage Festival is one of the Island's most important festivals.

The Tobago Heritage Festival celebrates traditions that are mostly African, with eclectic events and dances hosted in various villages throughout the island.

### **Eid-UI-Fitr**

6 July 2016

On this day, the Muslim community of Trinidad & Tobago celebrates the New Year, with a focus on the sighting of the new moon by a holy Imam.

Once the new moon has been sighted, the Muslim's go through an entire day of feasting to break the month long fast.

### **Parang**

25 September to 25 December 2015

Trinidad has paranderos, a traditional musical form started by Venezuelan peons working in the cocoa industry, which is known as Parang, the sound of Christmas in Trinidad & Tobago.

### **Tobago Cycling Classic**

September and October 2016

Since it received its accreditation by the cycling world governing body the Tobago International Cycling Classic has seen 300 cyclists from 25 countries participated in the event.

The six-day event features two days of mountain bike races, two days of kids' fun races, the world ranked UCI-sanctioned Tour of Tobago and the fun-filled afternoon of festivities at the Classic Rum Punch Beach Picnic.

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

### **Tobago Blue Food Festival**

18 October 2015

The Blue Food Festival sees local chefs come together to share their knowledge, cooking secrets and blue creations with commonly-used local ingredient dasheen, the Caribbean root vegetable that turns blue when cooked.

Guests are treated to cooking demonstrations and competitions, samples of local chefs' creations, and entertainment by popular local performers.



TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

(Cont)

### **Diwali**

11 November 2015

A large percentage of Trinidad & Tobago's population consists of East Indians and a significant amount are Hindus.

The nation's Hindu festivals, customs and traditions form an integral part of society.

The celebration of Diwali, also called Hindu Festival of Lights, is the perfect time for travelers to immerse themselves in Hindu religion and culture.

Its formal event, Yagna, showcases a traditional ambiance of Indian décor, film, music and food.

The highlight is Diwali night when earthen lamps made of artistically designed bamboo arches and plantain trees, called diyas, are lit across the country.

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

**Visit : [www.goTrinidadandTobago.com](http://www.goTrinidadandTobago.com) and [www.visittobago.gov.tt](http://www.visittobago.gov.tt). Contact : Cherise Stevens at [Cherise@cam-pr.com](mailto:Cherise@cam-pr.com).**

### **Tobago International Rugby Sevens**

12 and 13 December 2015

Sponsored by Carib beer, The Tobago International Rugby 7's Tournament also offers carol singing, goat racing, Carib beer and parties over the long weekend.

Visit : [www.tobago7s.com](http://www.tobago7s.com).

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# The International Travel Writers Alliance

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

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