



The Alliance

Bulletin

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

Mid-July 2015

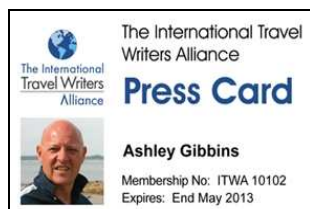
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www.itwalliance.com

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www.itwalliance.com

The Alliance press card



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

Contact Ashley Gibbins at Ashley@itwalliance.com.

Job shop

The International Travel Writers Alliance Job Shop 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

Working with the Alliance

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

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

Partners

The International Cruiseline Hub

The International Cruiseline Hub is a portal to some of the best sites operating within the information sector of the cruise industry.

It was set up to act as a one stop shop in order to find and access the best cruise information sites available.

The Hub has developed into a centre for research, evaluation and personal interaction between those people interested in developing the public's knowledge of cruise travel and holidays.

Visit : www.tich.co. Contact : John Hutton at admin@tich.co

The Caravan Club, UK

The Caravan Club represents around one million caravanners, motorhome owners and trailer tent owners across the UK.

The Club provides members with access to over 200 Club sites and 2,500 privately owned places to stay in the UK and offers a choice of over 230 sites across Europe.

Visit : www.caravanclub.co.uk. Contact : Kelly Adams at kelly.adams@sirencomms.com.

BIAZA (the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums)

BIAZA (the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums) is a conservation education and scientific wildlife charity, which acts as the principal professional zoo body representing the responsible zoo and aquarium community in the UK.

With over 100 members, its role is to develop and spread best practice within the UK and international zoo community, combining lobbying and campaigning with the development of policy in collaboration with the government and scientific organisations.

Visit : www.biaza.org.uk. Contact : Abigail Crowley at Abigail.Crowley@woburn.co.uk.

Titanic and SS Nomadic, Belfast

Titanic

Titanic Belfast is an exhibition that brings to life the hundred year old story of the ship through nine interpretive and interactive galleries.

Titanic Belfast covers the boomtown city and the shipyard where the Titanic, and liners were built, to its sinking, aftermath and the liners final resting place.

The Launch Gallery recalls the excitement of the launch of Titanic and its maiden, and only voyage.

The ships story is brought up to the present with the discovery of the wreck and into the future with live links to contemporary undersea exploration.

SS Nomadic

The SS Nomadic is the last remaining White Star Line vessel and the biggest Titanic artefact in the world.

Visitors can follow in the footsteps of Charlie Chaplin, Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton, Marie Curie, the first female Nobel Prize winner, Hollywood legends and American socialites - all of whom travelled on SS Nomadic.

The vessel, which is a rich, tangible and authentic piece of Belfast's industrial and maritime heritage, served in World War I and II.

Visit : www.titanicbelfast.com and www.nomadicbelfast.com. Contact : Sarah Hamilton Cardy at sarahhamiltoncardy@titanicbelfast.com.

News

Yes to Greece

Marketing Greece has launched YES to Greece, YES to the Euro, a campaign to promote the country following the recent EU 'bailout' agreement.

Marketing Greece is partnered by the Greek Tourism Confederation, the Hellenic Chamber of Hotels and the Hellenic Association of Communication Agencies.

The campaign is geared to focussing on ... 'a country that is creative, productive, outward-looking, dynamic, respectable, open and free'.

Organisations supporting the YES to Greece, YES to the Euro campaign include :

- The Hellenic Confederation of Professionals, Craftsmen & Merchants
- Dynamic Greece
- the Greek Delegation to the EU Committee of the Regions
- the Athens Traders Association
- the Rhodes Traders Association
- the Hellenic Confederation of Commerce & Entrepreneurship
- the Economic Chamber of Greece
- the Hellenic Ship Suppliers & Exporters Association
- the Greek Tourism Confederation
- the Menoume Evropi citizens' movement
- the Association of Women of Crete and Aegean Islands

Visit : www.discovergreece.com. For more information contact : Lallie Fraser lallie@grifcopr.com.

Friendly Planet Travel

Friendly Planet Travel is looking for writers to help it with content for its website as well as with some additional projects.

They are looking ..."for writers who can produce vividly descriptive destination focused content, who can really paint a picture with their words and write really enticing copy about our destinations and tours."

Visit : www.friendlyplanet.com. Contact : Amanda Ciktora at ACiktora@friendlyplanet.com.

SPEEDVEGAS

Approval has been given to transform 100 acres of South Las Vegas Blvd. into the city's newest supercar experience.

SPEEDVEGAS will feature a supercar course inspired by Formula One racetracks with rising elevations changes, sweeping turns and a straightaway that compares to the top circuits.

The course will be fully lit allowing for after dark experiences and events.

SPEEDVEGAS will have on show a range of supercars including Ferrari, Lamborghini, Audi, Ford Shelby and Corvette.

Visit : www.SPEEDVEGAS.com. Contact : Allison Raskansky at allison@SPEEDVEGAS.com.

Chester Unlocked, Chester UK

Chester Unlocked is a citywide museum trail revealing historic artefacts from the vaults of Chester's Grosvenor Museum.

Thirty businesses in the heart of Chester city centre will become mini-museums and securely display never-before-seen artefacts from Chester Grosvenor Museum's vaults as part of "Hoot's Route", a unique citywide museum trail.

Hoot's Route is the first phase of "Chester Unlocked", a collaboration between Chester city centre's Business Improvement District CH1ChesterBID and Chester-based Big Heritage.

The programme celebrates Chester's rich and hidden history – from Roman fort to Saxon settlement, medieval port and the classical, contemporary city of today.

Among the treasures on display, visitors can view medieval footwear in a city shoe shop, Viking combs in a hairdressers and Victorian gowns in the windows of clothing stores.

Visit www.chesterunlocked.com. Contact : Gary Jenkins at gary@socialcell.co.uk.

Alcatraz Island, San Francisco

TripAdvisor's 2015 Travelers' Choice Awards has named Alcatraz Island in San Francisco, the No one landmark in the USA and eighth worldwide.

The Top Ten Landmarks in the world, according to TripAdvisor's 2015 awards are :

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Angkor Wat | 6. St. Peter's Basilica |
| 2. Machu Picchu | 7. Milan Cathedral |
| 3. Taj Mahal | 8. Alcatraz Island |
| 4. Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque | 9. Cristo Redentor |
| 5. La Sagrada Familia | 10. Golden Gate Bridge |

Alcatraz is now part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, one of America's 407 National Park sites.

Visit : www.alcatrazcruises.com. Contact : Molly Blaisdell at molly@hooklineandthinker.com.

New Zombie attraction at the Hollywood Wax Museum

The Hollywood Wax Museum Entertainment Center in Pigeon Forge has opened *Outbreak – Dread the Undead*, which offers a ... *high energy, haunted walk-through experience filled with hordes of the undead*.

All of the realistic looking zombie characters have their movements randomized with unique body motions, allowing them to choose how they move each time they are triggered. This gives a more lifelike performance and ensures that the characters never quite move the same way twice.

Guests are bombarded with sights, sounds, fog, aerosol attacks and even smells that blur the lines between fiction and reality.

The two-story Hollywood Wax Museum is the largest in the country and includes a VIP Observation Deck offering extensive views of the Smoky Mountains.

Visit : www.hollywoodwaxentertainment.com. Contact : Aileen Stein at aileen@kuverapartners.com.

The Rough Guide to Accessible Britain

The Rough Guide to Accessible Britain features more than 200 reviews and ideas for accessible days out across the UK including reviews of some of the country's most beautiful and accessible towns – one for each of the 10 regional chapters.

Each town review contains information on things to do and see and includes a potted history.

Each chapter of the Guide also features a recommended scenic drive route, passing through some of the UK's most stunning scenery.

The accessibleguide.co.uk website also offers fans of the Rough Guide to Accessible Britain the chance to submit their own reviews for places they have visited or great days out they've experienced.

The Rough Guide to Accessible Britain series has been developed in association with Motability Operations, the company that operates the Motability Car Scheme for disabled people.

Visit : www.accessibleguide.co.uk. Contact : Emma Wayman at emma.wayman@sirencomms.com.

Lithuania

Wizz Air is to introduce a flight between Glasgow and the Lithuanian capital, Vilnius from 16 September 2015.

UK access to Lithuania is already well established with flights leaving from London, Edinburgh, Liverpool, Birmingham, Doncaster and Bristol to the country's Vilnius and Kaunas airports.

Kaunas International Airport is the second busiest civil airport in Lithuania after Vilnius and, as the second largest city in Lithuania, is located an hour's drive from Vilnius.

Visit : www.Lithuania.travel. Contact Maddy Phillips at lithuania@representationplus.co.uk.

Lonely Planet names Kent the top family destination

Lonely Planet names Kent the top family destination in Europe for 2015 citing the county's offering of 'a host of opportunities for curious young minds'; we combine rich heritage with cutting-edge culture.'

The publication said :

The Kent coast is experiencing a thrilling renaissance, and we have more Blue Flag beaches than anywhere else in the UK. You don't need to go to Europe for sun, sea and sand.

Among the South-east English county's attractions are blue flag beaches, the Magna Carta, the White Cliffs Dover, Wayne Hemingway's Dreamland and English wine.

Visit : www.visitkent.co.uk. Contact : Sinead Hanna at Sinead.Hanna@visitkent.co.uk.

South African Airways

South African Airways (SAA), has been named "Best Airline in Africa" by Skytrax for the thirteenth consecutive year.

Mango, SAA's low-cost carrier, received the award for "Best Low-Cost Airline in Africa".

The awards are based on a consumer satisfaction survey conducted each year by Skytrax, an independent aviation research organization.

Visit : www.flysaa.com. Contact : Camille Imbert at CamilleImbert@flysaa.com.

Southeast Tourism Society, USA

The Southeast Tourism Society, which has launched its new website with mobile access, looks to improve the economic vitality of the Southeast USA through its 1,100 members in the 12 southern states of :

Alabama	Kentucky	South Carolina
Arkansas	Louisiana	Tennessee
Florida	Mississippi	Virginia and
Georgia	North Carolina	West Virginia

Visit : www.southeasttourism.org. Contact : Wendy Thomas at Wendy@SoutheastTourism.org.

Istanbul Convention & Visitors Bureau

The Istanbul Convention & Visitors Bureau (ICVB) has published its Istanbul visitors guide with sections on history, entertainment, accommodation, shopping, eating, drinking and the arts for a city that last year welcomed close to 12 million tourists.

Visit : www.icvb.org and www.howtoistanbul.com/en.contact : icvbRedmintComms@redmintcomms.co.uk.

As You Like It at the National Theatre, London.

Polly Findlay directs *As you like it*, Shakespeare's comedy of love and change, in the Olivier Theatre, from 3 November 2016, in its first production at the National for over 30 years.

Visit : www.nationaltheatre.org.uk. Contact : Mary Parker at mparker@nationaltheatre.org.uk.

Llandegfedd Reservoir, Wales

A new multi-million pound visitor and water sports centre has opened at Llandegfedd Reservoir in South East Wales.

The lake offers water based activities including team building, windsurfing, dinghy sailing, stand-up paddle boarding, canoeing, kayaking, raft building, angling and sailing and six miles of footpaths.

The entire site is designated a 'Site of Special Scientific Interest'.

Visit : www.llandegfedd.co.uk. Contact : Bethan Smyth at Bethan.Smyth@fourbgb.com.

World Expeditions, Japan

World Expeditions has announced its first photographic trip to Japan. Led by internationally acclaimed photographer Peter Walton, the new trip is geared to capturing three distinct views of Japan: the natural aspect; the cultural and traditional; and the modern.

Visit : www.worldexpeditions.co.uk. Contact : Tom Panagos at pr@worldexpeditions.co.uk.

Inaugural Disneyland Paris Half Marathon

22 to 26 September 2016

The first Disneyland Paris half marathon weekend will be organized with the support of *runDisney*, the organisation that organises running events at US Disney theme parks.

The new three-day race weekend will involve kids races, a 5K family race and a half marathon, plus several family fun experiences such as a Health and Fitness Expo, a Friday night private party and the Saturday night pre-race pasta party.

Visit : www.run.disneylandparis.com. Contact : Katie Smith at Katie.M.Smith@disney.com.

Coney Island Insider Guide

Brooklyn's Coney Island as the latest neighbourhood to be featured in the New York City & Company Insider Guides series.

Easily accessible by the D, F, N and Q subway lines, Coney Island is a popular summer destination due to its beaches and amusement parks that include Luna Park and Deno's Wonder Wheel Amusement Park.

Coney Island honours the circus sideshows and American popular culture of its past, while the Coney Island History Project pays homage to the history of the neighbourhood and its people through photography, artefacts and the Coney Island Hall of Fame.

The New York Aquarium is currently undergoing renovations but visitors can still see stingrays and sharks.

On the other end of the boardwalk, at MCU Park, visitors can enjoy a game of baseball and cheer on the Brooklyn Cyclones minor league team.

Dining is centred on the island's immigrant culture and seaside ambience, with family-owned Totonno's Pizzeria Napolitano serving up coal-brick-oven pies.

Visit: www.nycgo.com/insiderguides. Contact : press@nycgo.com.

Leads

Ragusa, Sicily

The Ragusa province of Sicily is the location for the fictional TV detective series Inspector Montalbano by Andrea Camilleri.

The Massimo Villa Collection has a selection of 40 properties in this part of the Mediterranean's largest island, which include the UNESCO listed Baroque towns of Noto and Ragusa.

Montalbano's own headquarters are shot in neighbouring Scicli.

Visit : www.massimovillas.com. Contact : Julia Spence at juliaspence.pr@gmail.com.

Kentucky's Second Bourbon Trail

With bourbon tourism popular in Kentucky a second Trail Craft Tour has been launched covering the state's western waterlands to northern Kentucky.

Craft distilleries, also known as micro-distilleries, produce handcrafted bourbon that travellers can sample as they learn more about the bourbon distilling process.

Visit : ww.kybourbontrail.com/craft-tour. Contact : Adam Johnson at adam@kybourbon.com.

Eating Adventures Food Tours

Eating Adventures Food Tours has launched its foodie tours in Hong Kong, Guangzhou, Guilin and Yangshuo.

The tours allow travellers to immerse themselves into authentic culture and cuisine through exploring local neighbourhoods.

All the Eating Adventures food tours are 3 - 4 hour walking tours and include a variety of tastings as well as a guided walk through local food markets.

Visit : www.eatingadventures.com. Contact : Wai Zhou at info@eatingadventures.com.

Tropic Journeys in Nature and the Charles Darwin Foundation, Ecuador

Tropic Journeys in Nature (Tropic) and the Charles Darwin Foundation are partnering to give small groups visiting the Galapagos Islands exclusive access to the specialized knowledge of the Foundation's scientists and staff.

The programs begin and end on Santa Cruz Island, the location of the Foundation's Charles Darwin Research Station.

Established in 1994, Tropic is an ecotourism company specializing in responsible, community-based tourism in Ecuador. Programmes combine active-but-cultural ecotourism experiences focusing on nature, conservation, diversity and sustainability.

Tropic is the 2015 recipient of National Geographic Society's World Legacy Award in the category of Engaging Communities.

Visit : www.destinationecuador.com and www.darwinfoundation.org/en. Contact : Sara Widness at sara@widnesspr.com.

Kaanapali golf courses, Maui, Hawaii to offer FootGolf

Kaanapali Golf Courses, managed by Billy Casper Golf, is offering nine and 18 holes FootGolf.

Kaanapali Golf Courses is the first facility on Maui to offer FootGolf and joins several other Billy Casper Golf-managed courses across America.

In FootGolf, each hole is assigned a "par" and players tee off using a soccer ball, strategically kicking it until they make it in the 21-inch cup.

Holes are cut into the rough to protect conditions of fairways and greens, and to avoid affecting everyday golfers.

The American FootGolf League provides a rulebook for players to follow.

Kaanapali Golf Courses

Built on 300 acres of land once home to Hawaiian royalty, Kaanapali Golf Courses provide golfers with pristine conditions and stunning views of the Pacific Ocean and West Maui Mountains.

Visit : www.kaanapaligolfcourses.com. Contact : Melissa Dupuis at mdupuis@kaanapaligolfcourses.com.

Bannerman Castle, Beacon/Newburgh, NY

Bannerman Island, located on the Hudson River just south of Beacon and Newburgh, NY, has become a thriving heritage and cultural tourism site.

Tours of this historic island include visits to the former Bannerman residence and castle, which is currently undergoing restoration.

The island will also host a series of concerts and other special events throughout the summer through to the end of October.

The Bannerman Castle Trust, in cooperation with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, provide the public tours of Bannerman Castle and Pollepel Island.

Available tours consist of guided walking tours on the island with access either by passenger tour boat or as part of a guided kayak excursion.

Visit : www.bannermancastle.org. Contact : David Archer at david@daassociatespr.com.

Golf in Rome, Rome Cavalieri

Guests of the Rome Cavalieri, Waldorf Astoria Hotels & Resorts can now sharpen up their golfing skills with the hotel's "Golf in Rome" holidays.

The Rome Cavalieri has partnered with the Parco di Roma Golf Club to offer an experience at this challenging 18-hole championship course.

The Parco di Roma Golf Club, which is located five minutes drive from the city centre, is a 72-par 18-holes in the midst of the Di Veio Park, one of the largest in the Latium region.

The first hotel in Europe to be part of the Waldorf Astoria Hotels & Resorts, the Rome Cavalieri has an art collection that outshines many museums, as well as an award winning Grand Spa.

Visit : www.romecavalieri.com. Contact : Nicole Lovett at Nicole@grifcopr.com.

Midnight Sun in the Yukon

Yukon is the land of the midnight sun, with the best time to visit between May and August.

Life flourishes under hours of intense sunlight as the land hosts millions of migratory birds and witnesses wildflower blooms.

On summer solstice, June 21, the sun doesn't set at the Arctic Circle—the further north one travels, the higher the sun and the longer the season of the midnight sun.

Iconic Drives

With seven spectacular scenic drives lined with parks, historic sites and abundant wildlife, this is a genuine road-touring option.

The territory boasts a network of well-maintained highways that rank among the world's premiere driving adventures.

By road, it's an exhilarating combination of postcard scenery, historic communities, cultural attractions and adventure outings.

This is a land of friendly characters, endless Midnight Sun and expanses of pristine wilderness.

Explore one scenic drive, or loop several together for an extended Yukon tour.

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

Alice in Sunderland

Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures In Wonderland* and *Alice Through the Looking Glass* were completed by the author in 1865.

Sunderland, a city associated with Carroll, is staging a month of activities as a tribute to Lewis Carroll.

Carroll came to see his cousin, Margaret Wilcox, who lived in the Whitburn area of the city and the coast around her home is believed to have been the inspiration for *The Walrus and The Carpenter*.

At the same time he is also understood to have composed the opening lines of *The Jabberwocky* as part of a parlour game he was playing with his family at their Whitburn home.

Sunderland's Business Improvement District has created a full programme of weekend events throughout August, to entice local people and visitors into the city centre.

Visit : www.experienceithere.co.uk. Contact : Emma Walker at emma@sortedpr.com.

What's on

RIVER STAGE, Riverside Square, Southbank, London Fridays

Saturdays and Sundays from 24 July to 30 August 2015

This summer the National Theatre presents an eclectic season of free outdoor entertainment on the River Stage, in front of the National on the newly created Riverside Square.

On Friday afternoons there will be street theatre followed by guest DJs, on Saturdays there will be live music in the afternoon and late evening and Sundays are all about family fun, with dazzling circus, vibrant dance and intriguing installations.

Visit : www.nationaltheatre.org.uk. Contact: Susie Newbery at snewbery@nationaltheatre.org.uk.

Maine Lobster Festival

29 July to 2 August 2015

The Maine towns of Rockland and Camden, located in Penobscot Bay, will stage the 67th Maine Lobster Festival.

This year's festival expects to serve up 20,000lbs of Maine Lobster and 1,700lbs of Cabot butter.

The annual cooking contest on Friday July 31 will also see cooks competing to offer travellers the best lobster dishes in an attempt to secure the coveted status of winning recipe.

Special entertainment includes a Lobster Parade on Saturday 1 August complete with lobster floats and a marching band.

The International Lobster Crate Race takes place on Sunday 2 August 2015.

Visit : www.mainelobsterfestival.com and www.discovernewengland.co.uk. Contact : David Ezra at David.Ezra@kbc-pr.com.

Blenheim Palace, UK

Summer Jousting Tournament at Blenheim Palace

31 July to 2 August 2015

The Blenheim Palace summer jousting tournament will recreate a battle between the Knights of Arkley beneath the backdrop of Blenheim Palace on the South Lawn.

As well as the gallant knights and their mighty steeds battling for glory in the jousting tournament, the weekend will include historic action and entertainment.

Visit : www.blenheimpalace.com. Contact : Melodie Manners at melodie@flamingo-marketing.co.uk.

Festival of Transport
30 and 31 August 2015

The 10th Blenheim Palace Festival of Transport will feature the Classic Car Show and displays of motorcycles, Minis and VW's, Customs, Hot Rods and Americans, Kit and Sports Cars.

Visit : www.blenheimpalace.com/whats-on/events. Contact : Melodie Manners melodie@flamingo-marketing.co.uk.

Paint the Peninsula Plein Air Painting Competition, Port Angeles, WA

7 to 13 September 2015

Professional artists from across the U.S. and British Columbia will gather in Port Angeles in late summer to paint their perceptions of the Olympic Peninsula's diverse landscapes from Sequim and Cape Flattery to the Hoh Rainforest.

The 3rd Annual Paint the Peninsula Plein Air Painting Competition will feature daily exhibits and sales of original artwork. All 28 participating artists will spend the first two days of the competition painting together in a common location before dispersing across the Peninsula.

Visit : www.paintthepeninsula.org. Contact : Anne Dalton at annegdalton@gmail.com.

Events in Wales

National Eisteddfod of Wales, Montgomeryshire

1 to 8 August 2015

Wales's biggest arts festival, which can trace its roots back to 1176, is a celebration of Wales's culture and language.

Visit : www.eisteddfod.org.uk/english. Contact : Bethan Smyth at Bethan.Smyth@fourbgb.com.

Glass Butter Beach Festival, Abersoch, Cardigan Bay, North Wales

12 to 15 August 2015

The Glass Butter Beach Festival is a multi-action sports, music and beach festival.

Visit : www.glassbutterbeach.com. Contact : Bethan Smyth at Bethan.Smyth@fourbgb.com.

Grand Medieval Mêlée, Cardiff Castle, Wales

15 and 16 August 2015

The Grand Medieval Mêlée recreates the sights, sounds and smells of a bygone age as the knights gather for a medieval tournament. Around the arena, medieval life goes on with cooking, weapon and weaving demonstrations, storytelling and medieval games.

Visit : www.cardiffcastle.com. Contact : Bethan Smyth at Bethan.Smyth@fourbgb.com.

Festival NO. 6, Portmeirion, Wales

3 to 6 September 2015

Festival No.6 is a different take on the "city festival", with stages all over the Italian-inspired seaside town of Portmeirion. No.6 is an intimate, bespoke weekend of music, arts and culture.

Visit : www.festivalnumber6.com. Contact : Bethan Smyth at Bethan.Smyth@fourbgb.com.

Abergavenny Food Festival

18 to 20 September 2015

One of the biggest events in the UK foodie calendar, this festival showcases local produce and international delicacies, celebrity chefs, master classes, tastings and street stalls.

Around 170 stalls with produce from Wales, the Marches and from further afield will be present, together with a programme of individually ticketed master classes, tutored tastings and chef demonstrations.

Visit : www.abergavennyfoodfestival.com. Contact : Bethan Smyth at Bethan.Smyth@fourbgb.com.

Visit : www.visitwales.co.uk. Contact : Bethan Smyth at Bethan.Smyth@fourbgb.com.

Beer, Bed and Breakfast, Cape Cod, Massachusetts

13 to 15 November 2015

The Second Annual Cape Cod Beer, Bed & Breakfast weekend includes a stay at a B&B with a private tour, lecture and tasting at the Cape Cod Beer brewery and an evening of “Beer and Food Pairing” at a local restaurant.

Visit : www.capecodchamber.org. Contact : Kristen Mitchell Hughes at kristen@capecodchamber.org.

Jheronimus Bosch – Visions of a Genius, Het Noordbrabants Museum, s-Hertogenbosch, Holland

12 February to 6 May 2015

Het Noordbrabants Museum in 's-Hertogenbosch will present the Jheronimus Bosch – Visions of a Genius exhibition, in 2016, with an expected 20 paintings and 19 drawings on display.

It will be the largest retrospective of the work of Hieronymus Bosch (circa 1450 - 1516) ever.

The exhibition will play homage to the most important medieval artist Holland has produced.

The exhibition will be the highlight of Jheronimus Bosch 500 that will be celebrated in 2016 on the 500th anniversary of the artist's death.

Visit : www.hetnoordbrabantsmuseum.nl and www.visitholland.com. Contact : Simone Sagi at ssagi@holland.com.

Reasons to write about

Cape Cod, Massachusetts

Cape Cod is situated in Southern New England, at the southeast corner of Massachusetts, stretching 77 miles from the Cape Cod Canal to Provincetown's Race Point.

The Cape is 20 miles at its widest point and completely surrounded by water with Cape Cod Bay on the north, Buzzards Bay on the west, Vineyard and Nantucket Sounds on the south and the Atlantic Ocean on the east.

The area contains many historic sites and landmarks that begin with the indigenous Wampanoag people and the landfall of the Mayflower in Provincetown in 1620, to the Camelot Days of JFK, with the John F. Kennedy Hyannis Museum.

The homes of long-ago sea captains dot the Old King's Highway, the largest contiguous historic district in the United States. Lighthouses have lined Cape shorelines for centuries, guiding ships to safety through dangerous sandbars and treacherous shoals.

At the tip of the Cape, Provincetown is a celebrated artist's colony and fishing village.

As a community surrounded by the sea, Cape Cod's attractions include:

- natural beauty with pristine beaches, wooded bicycle paths and walking trails, water activities and ocean vistas.
- cultural appeal with vibrant arts communities, year-round festivals and celebration
- diverse lodging experiences including camp grounds, luxury and moderate resorts, inns and bed & breakfasts.

Visit : www.capecodchamber.org. Contact : Kristen Mitchell Hughes at kristen@capecodchamber.org.

Historical tours with Viator

Global tours and activities provider Viator is offering a number of historical tours that enable guests to discover the details of some of the most pivotal conflicts that shaped modern Europe :

Battle of Waterloo Tour from Brussels

The Battle of Waterloo, which took place on Sunday 18 June 1815, saw a French army under the command of Napoleon defeated and Viator offers guests the opportunity to tour the battlefield where the troops fought.

Small-group WWI Somme Battlefields Day Trip from Paris

On this small group tour of the Somme battlefields, guests will discover a part of France that suffered severely in the violent and bloody battles of the Great War.

WWII historical walking tour in London

Guests of this tour will discover Westminster's World War II sights with a knowledgeable guide and visit the fascinating Churchill War Rooms, an underground network of bunkers that served as the government wartime offices.

The two hour walking tour includes little-known war tales and titbits of London history as well as facts about the much-loved maverick leader Sir Winston Churchill.

Paris WWI Historic Discovery Tour

Relive the most harrowing and heroic moments of WWII during a two hour small group walking tour of Paris under the Nazi Occupation.

Guests will explore the former urban battlefields where the dramas of war played out, see the bullet holes and tank impacts that still scar the landscape of Paris and learn stories of the French Resistance and the brave everyday men and women who rose up to take their city back.

Small-group Napoleon tour from Paris: Chateau de Malmaison and Les Invalides

guests learn about the life of Napoleon and his first wife on this tour of Les Invalides and Château de Malmaison, just outside of Paris.

The first emperor and empress of France, Napoleon I and Joséphine, lived in the country home of Château de Malmaison, the headquarters of the French government from 1800 to 1802.

Visit : www.viator.com. Contact : Arthur Duncan at Arthur.Duncan@fourbg.com.

Gardens of Massachusetts, USA

The best time to explore the rich tradition of gardening and horticultural in Massachusetts is between May and mid-October.

The US State's gardens stem from Massachusetts' English heritage and there is an abundance of garden types, from historic homes and gardens to botanic gardens.

The ***Boston Public Garden is America's*** first botanical garden and the Arnold Arboretum is America's oldest public garden.

Nearby in ***Framingham is the Garden*** in the Woods with the largest collection of local plant species in the region including a garden of rare and endangered species, and it is the headquarters of the New England Wild Flower Society.

The **Heritage Museum & Gardens in Sandwich**, Cape Cod is known for its rhododendrons and daylilies, thousands of rhododendron shrubs burst into bloom during the last two weeks of May and the first two weeks of June.

Polly Hill Arboretum is Martha's Vineyard's horticultural and botanical landmark where guests will find rare trees and shrubs among stone walls, meadows and fields.

The **Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston** is also a tourist favourite, featuring 132 acres of hilltop gardens with panoramic view of Mt. Wachusett and the reservoir.

The Lawn Garden has more than 350 varieties of trees and shrubs, the Secret Garden has an array of scented and textured perennials and **The Systematic Garden** is arranged scientifically regarding the plant's evolutionary relationships.

Visit : www.massvacation.com. Contact : Joanne at Joanne@ttmworld.co.uk.

Free things to do in Britain

British museums

Many British museums and galleries offer free entry including :

- former brewery The Tetley for modern art in Leeds
- Colman's Mustard Museum in Norwich
- the British Museum, National Gallery, Tate Britain and Tate Modern in London, and
- Tate Liverpool

BBC radio and television shows

Tickets to many BBC shows in London, Sheffield, Birmingham, Belfast and other cities are free.

Visit : www.bbc.co.uk/showsandtours/tickets/index.html.

Scrabo Tower, Belfast

A Northern Irish landmark, the 125ft-high Scrabo Tower has views over Strangford Lough, just south-east of Belfast. No cost to climb up.

Visit : www.discovernorthernireland.com

Belfast City Hall

Belfast City Hall offers free, one-hour tours (Monday-Friday) on a first-come, first-served basis.

Visit : www.belfastcity.gov.uk

An auction house

Christie's in London or Birmingham's Fellows along with other auction houses does not charge admittance to its sales.

Visit : www.christies.com and www.fellows.co.uk.

Banksy Bristol

While Banksy works sell for millions, a Banksy Walking Tour around Bristol, beginning with The Grim Reaper on a harbourside houseboat, is free.

Visit : www.visitbristol.co.uk.

Another Place, Crosby Beach

Crosby Beach, near Liverpool, has the Another Place installation - 100 ghostly, life-size iron figures by sculptor Antony Gormley, sprawling almost one kilometre out to sea.

Visit : www.visitliverpool.com.

Walking tours in Bath and Manchester

Free guided walks, taking in the Royal Crescent, are available in Bath.

Visit : www.bathguides.org.uk.

Edinburgh's Fringe Festival

Every August, Edinburgh's Fringe Festival incorporates thousands of free arts shows - drama, comedy, cabaret and spoken word. Flyer invitations can be collected along the city's cobbled Royal Mile.

Visit : www.edfringe.com.

London's Notting Hill Carnival on the August Bank Holiday weekend and the Cardiff Summer Festival offer street theatre, music and funfair rides.

Visit : www.thenottinghillcarnival.com and www.cardiff-festival.com.

The Beaghmore Stone Circles, Belfast

While Stonehenge charges visitors, Northern Ireland's equivalent does not. The seven Beaghmore Stone Circles, a 90-minute drive west from Belfast, are known as Dragon's Teeth, and comprise some 800 separate slabs. www.discovernorthernireland.com.

Changing of the Guard

One of Britain's classic royal spectacles, Changing of the Guard ceremonies outside London's Buckingham Palace don't cost to view.

Visit : www.changing-the-guard.com.

Scotland Doors Open Days

During September weekends in Scotland, Doors Open Days offers complimentary access to a variety of heritage sites, buildings, farms and more.

Visit : www.doorsopendays.org.uk.

Visit : www.visitbritain.com. Contact : Stephanie Siegel at stephanie.siegle@visitbritain.org.

Anchorage, Alaska

Anchorage, Alaska's largest city, is celebrating the centenary in 2015 and World Expeditions is offering a number of itineraries to the 49th US state, including:

Alaska – The Dramatic Northwest

This trip brings together the very best of Alaska with hiking on glaciers, travelling by boat through fjords, kayaking around icebergs and walking through spectacular national parks.

Guests will encounter sea lions and whales to moose and bears.

Wrangell-St. Elias Range

A rare opportunity to explore the 'mountain kingdom of North America', with its pristine and remote landscapes in one of the world's most rugged environments.

With over 13 million acres of untouched wilderness, the Wrangell-St Elias National Park is the world's largest internationally protected area and is home to bears, wolves, caribou and moose.

Wild in the Last Frontier with Yomads

Yomads, World Expeditions' latest brand, is tailored especially for travellers in their 20s and 30s and on this trip you will travel towards Chitina, the so-called 'end of the world', and the village of McCarthy with its 28 inhabitants.

Visit : www.worldexpeditions.co.uk. Contact : Gordon Steer at gordon@worldexpeditions.co.uk.

The Gudenaen, Denmark's longest river

At over 98 miles (158 km) long the Gudenaen, which is Denmark's longest river, has its source at Tinnet Krat northwest of Tørring, in east-central Jutland, and flows to the Randers Fjord (a long inlet of the Kattegat sea) on the east coast.

On its way, the rivthe crosses the relatively high lying region of Søhøjlandet; passes woodland and is fed by numerous streams and wetlands that spill over into crystal clear lakes before it empties in Randers Fjord.

Randers

At the mouth of the river stands the historic town of Randers, with its narrow medieval streets, picturesque squares and cosy half-timbered buildings.

'The Star Route' is a 2.5 kilometre self-guided tour that starts at the central town square Rådhusstræde .

Graceland Randers, a copy of Elvis Presley's home in Memphis, Tennessee, has one of the largest collections of Elvis memorabilia in the world, gathered mainly by one local Randers resident.

Randers Kunstmuseum (Randers Art Museum) houses an extensive collection of Danish and International art from the 1800s to the present day including works by Hammershøi, Andy Warhol and Yoko Ono.

On the outskirts of town there is a variety of activities from biking, hiking, canoeing to some of the best salmon fishing in Europe in the surrounding lakes and rivers.

Silkeborg

Silkeborg is known as home of the prehistoric Tolland Man – a perfectly preserved Iron age body that was found in a nearby bog. The mystery surrounding this 4,200 year old man's death can be explored at the Silkeborg Museum.

Beyond the city one can take a leisurely cruise on one of the world's oldest coal burning paddle steamer Hjejlen or opt to ascent the nearby Himmelbjerget- 'The Sky Mountain', one of Denmark's highest points.

Veteranbanen Bryrup-Vrads, is a vintage train ride on the old Silkeborg – Horsens rail track, that offers a journey through scenic valley with stunning lake vistas to the old outpost of Vrads Station which has been charmingly converted into a café.

Ry

Ry has the ruins of the most thoroughly excavated monastery from the Middle Ages in Denmark at the Øm Kloster Museum.

Located between the lakes of Mossø and Gudensø, it also house Denmark's oldest monastic garden, which contains over 60 species of cultivated plants used during the Middle Ages as well as medicinal herbs.

Skanderborg

The Museum at Adelgade Skanderborg "Slotsbanken", was once part of the royal garden of Skanderborg Castle that stretched down to Lake Lillesø.

Here are the remains of the German air force headquarters from World War II, where two bunkers have been adapted into The Museum of Liberation.

Outlining the city's occupation, resistance, and the liberation, it also includes one of the few top-secret ENIGMA code machines used by the German military forces and cracked by the British.

Visit :

- www.visitgudena.com
- www.visitranders.com
- www.visitranders.com
- www.silkeborg.com
- www.visithorsens.dk
- www.visitskanderborg.com, and
- www.visitdenmark.com

Contact : Kathrine Lind Gustavussen at klg@visitdenmark.com.

A place to stay

The Marker Waterfront Resort Key West, Florida Keys

The Marker Waterfront Resort, which is located in Key West's Historic Seaport and Marina, is the first new-build resort in the destination for 20 years.

The Marker Resort's 96 tropically-inspired contemporary and luxury guest rooms feature plush bedding and a curated collection of art, literary works, and local amenities.

Each of the rooms offers a private balcony or patio with views of the historic Key West Harbor or tropical landscaped haven.

Visit : www.themarkerkeywest.com. Contact : Claire Kunzman at Claire@cam-pr.com.

Daios Cove Luxury Resort & Villas, Crete

The Daios Cove Luxury Resort & Villas is a privately owned, five-star luxury beach resort located on an unspoiled hillside in North East Crete.

The resort has a heated infinity pool with views out to sea, three cocktail bars, a 2500m2 state-of-the-arts Spa by Anne Semonin with two indoor fresh seawater pools, three restaurants, two tennis courts and a variety of water sport activities.

It is located on the waterfront in North-East Crete, close Agios Nikolaos.

Visit www.daioscove.com and www.daioscovecrete.com. Contact : Flora Beaumont flora@grifcopr.com.

Langham Palace, Haining, China

The Langham Palace, which has opened in Haining, is the five star hotel in what is one of the historic cities in Zhejiang province

It follows Langham hotel openings in Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Ningbo and Xiamen.

Langham Place, Haining is part of an integrated complex comprising a shopping centre, commercial offices and high-end serviced apartments.

It is a 90-minute drive to Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport and Railway Station, and one hour to the Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport.

Haining is a prime viewing location for the Qiantang River tidal bore and is known as China's "Leather Town."

Visit : www.langhamhotels.com. Contact : Vivienne Gan at vivienne.gan@langhamhotels.com.

Hotels on European Islands

LateRooms.com has selected six hotels on European islands :

South Stack Coastal Retreats, Anglesey, Wales

Located on the relatively undiscovered Isle of Anglesey, this coastal house offers cottages all of which have private grounds with sea views.

The Retreats lie close to the island lighthouse and overlooks the Wicklow mountains of Dublin across the sea.

Visit : www.southstackcoastalretreats.co.uk

Gold Suites, Imerovigli, Santorini, Greece

Situated in Imerovigli, Gold Suites is located in a cove offering sunsets and views of the sea and caldera.

Visit : www.andromedagoldsuites.com.

Raasay House, Raasay Island, Scotland

Raasay House is a base to explore the islands of Raasay and Skye and for activities including rock climbing and abseiling.

Visit : www.raasay-house.co.uk

Kivotos, Mykonos, Greece

This boutique hotel is located on a private beach in the Bay of Ornos, Kivotos and a short drive from Mykonos town.

Visit : www.kivotosmykonos.com

Excelsior Parco, Capri, Italy

This luxury boutique hotel has rustic charm that is faithful to its Italian roots.

Visit : www.excelsiorparco.com.

Bohemia Suites & Spa, Gran Canaria, Spain

Bohemia Suites & Spa, is a secluded, adult's only property surrounded by volcanic Gran Canaria and with views of the Atlantic Ocean and the rolling dunes of Maspalomas.

Visit : www.bohemia-grancanaria.com.

LateRooms.com is a UK leading online accommodation site, offering deals in over 55,000 properties worldwide, ranging from bed and breakfasts to five star luxury hotels.

Visit www.laterooms.com. Contact : Megan at laterooms@brazenpr.com.

Palm Springs celebrity home.

The Californian city of Palm Springs has a large selection of celebrity holiday homes for rent.

Palm Springs has a rich celebrity history that dates back to the 1920s when the 'two-hour rule' of Hollywood kept stars within two hours of the studio for last-minute film or photo shoots.

Palm Springs became a Hollywood retreat for stars including Dean Martin, Elvis Presley and Marilyn Monroe.

This summer, visitors can gain an insight into the lavish lifestyles of the rich and famous by renting a celebrity home.

These carefully-preserved, historic homes offer a retro-chic stay in Palm Springs with all the comforts and privacy of home, plus the frills of a holiday with outdoor pools and mountain views.

They include :

Twin Palms Estate : the original home of Frank Sinatra, one of the city's most famous former residents.

432 Hermosa : designed by renowned architect Donald Wexler in 1964 as a luxury retreat for Dinah Shore, a chart-topping female vocalist of the 1940s.

This iconic mid-century property has floor-to-ceiling windows that reveal the beauty of the desert and the majestic San Jacinto Mountains.

Sand Acre : a five-bedroom Spanish estate located in The Movie Colony district. Built in 1933, this historic house is rumoured to be where Marilyn Monroe and Joe DiMaggio spent time together.

Lemontini Retreat : a popular party spot for Dean Martin in the 1960s, this private retreat still features the white baby grand piano given to the film star.

Hacienda Las Palmas : believed to have been frequented by Katherine Hepburn and A Star Is Born director, George Cukor, for golf and tennis holidays in the 1950s.

With over 1,600 homes and condominiums to rent in Palm Springs, prices range from the upper level for celebrity homes to surprisingly affordable for smaller homes, bungalows and condos.

Those with an interest in celebrity history can take celebrity themed tours and star-studded events to famous Hollywood hangouts and the city's own Walk of Stars.

Visit : www.VisitPalmSprings.com. Contact : Sarah Habicht at sarah@humewhitehead.co.uk.

Beach House Antonetta, Torre Chianca, Puglia, Italy

Essential Italy this added the Beach House Antonetta in the Salento region of Puglia to its portfolio.

Located 15 kms from Lecce, this is where locals spend their holiday, enjoying the sandy beaches and calm Adriatic sea.

This house is only metres from the sandy beach plus has a private lido right on the doorstep.

Within a short walk of Beach House Antonetta there are bars, restaurants and shops. Further afield is Lecce, Val D'Itria and the seaside town of Otranto.

Visit : www.essentialitaly.co.uk/beach-house-antonetta. Contact : Anne Marie Francis
ams@essentialitaly.co.uk.

24 Royal Terrace, Edinburgh

24 Royal Terrace, is a new hotel located in one of Edinburgh's iconic Georgian terraces.

Designed by the architect William Playfair in the 1820s, the 16-bedroom hotel has undergone a million pound restoration that has retained the original architectural features of the building whilst introducing a contemporary interior design.

The hotel, which is close to the town centre, the hotel backs onto the Royal Gardens of Holyrood Palace and Calton Hill with commanding views across to the Firth of Forth.

Visit : www.24royalterrace.com. Contact : Laura Bardell at
laura.bardell@p1communications.com.

Carmelo Resort & Spa, Uruguay

Hyatt Hotels is to manage the Carmelo Resort & Spa in Carmelo, Uruguay.

Formerly a Four Seasons Hotel the resort will be operated as Carmelo Resort and Spa.

Located in Carmelo, Uruguay, the luxury resort is situated on the banks of the Rio de la Plata river, and is strategically situated for guests to enjoy the natural surroundings of southwest Uruguay.

The 44-guestroom resort incorporates Asian and South American design touches, including the use of imported woods.

All accommodations offer a private terrace for outdoor living and private dining, and views of the surrounding area that includes a eucalyptus forest, pine groves, vineyards, and the Rio de la Plata.

Consistently recognized as one of Latin America's top luxury hotels, Carmelo Resort & Spa was named Travel + Leisure's "World's Best Top 100 Resorts and Hotels" and Condé Nast Traveler's "Best Hotels/Resorts in South America."

The resort community of Carmelo has an airfield certified to receive international flights, as well as a private harbor and marina for those arriving by boat.

The nearby Narbona Estate gives visitors a first-hand look at Tannat wines and can take vineyard tours, grappa-making lessons and tastings and wine and cheese tastings.

Visit : www.carmeloresortspa.com/en. Contact : Ines at ines@brandinglatinamerica.com.

New openings and additions in England

Dreamland, Margate

From 1930s Caterpillars and 1940s Double Decker carousels, to 1970s Chair-O-Planes and modern adrenaline pumpers, Dreamland has been re-imagined to recreate a Victorian amusement park.

The park's Grade II listed, heritage Scenic Railway is set to re-open later in the summer.

Visit : www.dreamland.co.uk.

KidZania, Westfield London

Kidzania is an education-entertainment (or edu-tainment) brands.

Through role playing, children will become pilots, firefighters, police officers in its make-believe world, and will learn essential skills along the way, such as team work, independence, and financial management.

Visit : www.london.kidzania.com/en-uk

Shrek's Adventure, , London's Southbank

The 4D bus ride, Shrek's Adventure takes guests ...from the Swamp through 10 magical lands, where you'll meet Gingy, Puss-in-boots and the rest of the gang, as well some other familiar DreamWorks faces.

www.shreksadventure.com/london.

Chester Zoo Islands, Cheshire

Chester Zoo has opened an immersive recreation of six south-east Asian islands and their biospheres.

Within layers of mangroves and chirping swamps will be found Sumatran tigers, orangutans and macaques.

Visit: www.visitengland.com. Contact : Sophie Lemagnen at Sophie.Lemagnen@visitengland.org.

Islands opens up the natural climates of Panay, Papua, Bali, Sumatra, Sumba and Sulawesi, complete with some of the world's most magnificent wildlife – including carnivorous plants, prehistoric-looking birds and the impressive Sunda gharial crocodile.

Visit : www.chesterzoo.org/islands.

New Wedgwood Visitor Centre, Stoke-on-Trent

Wedgwood is a quintessentially English brand and its new visitor centre will open this summer to offer a new factory tour, museum, the country's first Wedgwood Tea Room and a master craft studio for hands-on activities.

Visit : www.wedgwoodvisitorcentre.com.

HMS M.33, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

In August HMS M.33 will join Portsmouth's collection of maritime antiques that includes HMS Victory and HMS Mary Rose on the Historic Dockyard in August.

Launched in May 1915, she is the sole remaining British veteran of the Gallipoli Campaign, and the only British warship from the First World War that will be open to the public in Gallipoli's centenary year.

Once opened, the boat will offer an immersive battle experience, bringing to life HMS M.33's history, the stories of the men who served on board, and the history of the Gallipoli Campaign.

Visit : www.historicdockyard.co.uk.



Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates

The Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah is one of seven emirates which together comprise the Federation of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

This federation was established 1971 and includes

- Abu Dhabi
- Dubai
- Sharjah
- Ajman
- Umm Al Qawain, and
- Fujairah

Ras Al Khaimah joined in 1972.

Ras Al Khaimah is located at the northern tip of the United Arab Emirates and has a coastline of 64 kilometres.

With a population of 300,000 its name is a translation of 'top of the tent'.

Climate

Although milder than the rest of the UAE, Ras Al Khaimah's climate is generally hot and dry, with a temperature exceeding 35C in July and August falling to 10C in January and February.

His Highness Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi is the ruler of Ras Al Khaimah and succeeded his father Sheikh Saqr bin Mohammad al Qasimi, who died in 2010 aged 92.

As one of the world's longest-serving monarchs, Sheikh Saqr bin Mohammad al Qasimi led his people from the era of pearl fishing into the prosperity of the 21st century.

Tourism in Ras Al Khaimah

The Emirate has a range of accommodation including five star luxury hotels.

The tourism offering includes :

Water adventures

The waters of the Gulf provide the conditions for scuba diving, snorkeling, sailing, kayaking and water skiing.

Al Hamra Marina & Royal Yacht Club

The Al Hamra Marina is the last significant fuelling stop for vessels in the Arabian Gulf.

It also hosts the Royal Yacht Club of Ras Al Khaimah and organizes water activities and competitions.

Golf

Ras Al Khaimah offers a choice of two 18 - hole championship Golf courses, Al Hamra Golf Club and Tower Links Golf Club.

Desert safaris

A desert safari in Ras Al Khaimah begins with a drive in a 4x4 vehicle across the desert and climbing sand dunes, often at a 45-degree angle.

Visitors also have the opportunity to experience a ride on a camel and enjoy a traditional Arabic dinner and entertainment around a camp fire.



Bassata desert village

The Bassata village offers visitors a desert experience with a wide variety of traditional Arabic activities including belly dancer, Egyptian Tanoura, falcon show, henna lady together with camel and horseback riding.

Falcon Show

Falconry is a traditional pastime in Ras Al Khaimah.

At the Banyan Tree Al Wadi, the first desert spa resort in the UAE, visitors can enjoy a spectacular show of falcons in the natural desert environment.

Home to Arabian gazelles and the Oryx the desert spa resort has a nature reserve which spans over 130 hectares.

Camel racing

Camel races are a traditional wintertime sport in Ras Al Khaimah. Races take place at weekends on the camel racetrack, surrounded by dunes and sheltered by the thickets of Ghaf trees in Digdaga and Hamraniya.

On weekdays the racetrack is usually busy with camel trainers and colorfully clad camels which trot up and down the track, building up their stamina for the weekend races.

The official camel races are held on Thursday afternoons and early on Friday morning from October throughout the winter season.

Iceland water park

The Iceland Water Park has a range of water slides and activities.

National Museum of Ras Al Khaimah

Built in middle of the 18th century during the emirate's invasion by Persians, the National Museum of Ras Al Khaimah was originally the house of the Royal Family.

Visit : www.rasalkhaimahtourism.com. Contact : Sofia Panayiotaki at Sofia@prmrdiaco.com.

In 1987, the late Sheikh Saqr Bin Mohamed Al Qassim opened the museum, which includes a number of local ancient monuments and a collection of archaeological artifacts.

Khatt Springs

A naturally hot spring, Khatt Springs has waters, rich in mineral content reach a depth of 90 feet underground and with temperatures approaching 40C° degrees.

Dhayah Fort

Originally built as a strategic military castle in the 16th century, the now rebuilt Dayah Fort is located on a mountain overlooking the Gulf,

Horse Riding

Horses are part of the Arabic heritage, and the long relationship between Arabs and there is a wide range of recreational riding facilities in Ras Al Khaimah.

Ras Al Khaimah Country Club

Discovering the desert on horseback is an exciting outdoor experience and this country club has a horse riding school where beginners can learn horse riding in only three days.

Al Jazirah Aviation Club

Visitors can take flights in a micro-light aircraft and powered parachutes.

Seawings

The Seawings Urban Experience flying boat takes off from the shores of Ras Al Khaimah on a 45 minute aerial tour of the emirate before flying to Dubai.

Prince of the Sea

Named after the first Arab Seaman Ahmad bin Majid, the "Prince of Sea", is a motorised yacht which offers visitors a variety of sailing trips around the coast.

Excursions include daytime, sunset and dinner cruises offering visitors various activities covering swimming, snorkelling and the opportunity of spotting one of the rare green turtles at Al Marjan Island.

The International Travel Writers Alliance



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

www.itwalliance.com

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