



The Alliance

bulletin

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Key information on a no-frills format for professional who travel to write, edit, broadcast or create images.

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The media contacts listed in the bulletin will be delighted to hear from Alliance members worldwide



[The International Travel Writers Alliance](http://www.itwalliance.com)



[writersalliance](https://twitter.com/writersalliance)

Registering with the Alliance

To register with the International Travel Writers Alliance visit : www.itwalliance.com, click to enter the site and click on [Register as a member/editor/partner](#) or [agency](#).

Opportunities

Alliance members looking to take advantage of any of the following opportunities should be on assignment, with a commission or able to obtain one.

For ongoing opportunities for Alliance members see Alerts (below) or visit : www.internationaltravelwritersalliance.com.

The Salzburg festivals

The Austrian city of Salzburg lives up to its reputation as one of the world's great festival cities with the summer long Salzburg Festival season offering over 4,000 music and theatre events.

Beyond the festival events themselves, the medieval streets and the squares of Salzburg's historic city centre comes alive with visitors thronging the sidewalk cafes and restaurants to be entertained by all manner of buskers.

The Salzburg festivals

The Salzburg Whitsun Festival

25 to 28 May 2012

Visit : www.salzburgfestival.at

The Salzburg Literature Festival

30 May to 3 June 2012

Visit : www.literaturfest-salzburg.at

sommerszene

5 to 22 July 2012

Sommerszene, Salzburg's international dance and theatre festival, offers free performances of contemporary dance and theatre productions by young, international and elite performers. Visit : www.sommerszene.net

The Salzburg Festival

20 July to 2 September 2012

The 2012 Salzburg Festival, itself, runs for six weeks instead of the previous five, and will see 232 opera, concert and theatre performances in 14 city venues, ranging from Mozart to modern and traditional to experimental.

The Festival opening on 20 and 21 July, 2012 is a street festival of performances, musical events and the chance to meet Festival stars and get behind the scenes views. Visit : www.salzburg.info

The Salzburg Festival will be supported by a programme of performances, between 16 July and 25 August, 2012, by the Mozarteum University's International Summer Academy and the Salzburg International Summer Academy for the Visual Arts.

Visit : www.summeracademymozarteum.at and www.summeracademy.at

Visit : www.salzburg.info. To discuss press trips to Salzburg contact : Gunda Bleckmann at Bleckmann@salzburg.info.

The Dublin pass

Visit Dublin offers Alliance members visiting on-assignment a Media Pass (the Dublin Pass), which provides free entry to 34 visitor attractions in Dublin

Visit : www.visitdublin.com and www.dublinpass.com. Contact : Catherine McCluskey at Catherine.mccluskey@failteireland.ie.

Australia's Gold Coast

Gold Coast Tourism is currently inviting travel journalist with a suitable commission to register their interest in independent media trips.

Australia's Gold Coast offers spectacular coastline, world-class surfing, subtropical rainforests and national parks. Other reasons to write about the Gold Coast includes :

- Gold Coast City, which is the most biologically-diverse city in Australia, with vegetation ranges from mountain rainforest to coastal wetlands
- 287 average days of sunshine annually
- 100,000 hectares of nature reserves and World Heritage sites. The Gold Coast is home to the largest subtropical rainforest remnant in the world and 260 kilometres of walking tracks
- 323 species of bird
- 11 wineries located on the newly created Gold Coast Food and Wine Trail.
- 72kms of coastline with an average water temperature of 22 degrees
- 40 resort and championship golf courses
- It is one hour's drive to the Gold Coast from Brisbane

Australia's Gold Coast has two international airports served by 30 airlines worldwide.

Visit: www.VisitGoldCoast.com. Contact : Natalie Schofield at natalies@hillsbalfour.com.

The Outdoor Writers Association of California Spring Conference

The Outdoor Writers Association of California (OWAC) is inviting Alliance members to join its Spring Conference in Morro Bay, California on 7 and 8 May 2012.

The city's tourism board has put together a list of activities that highlight Morro Bay's outdoor attractions including sport fishing, horseback riding, kayaking, golfing and hiking.

Participants are also being encouraged to arrive early and stay on after the conference with courtesy rates arranged at the conference hotel, the Inn at Morro Bay. The conference fee is a subsidised \$160.00 fee per person.

Those who might like to join OWAC can pay a \$35.00 annual membership fee and attend each conference for the reduced cost of \$110.00.

Visit : www.owac.org. Contact : Yvonne Graham at owac.director@gmail.com mentioning your membership of the Alliance.

Press trip to St Kitts

1 to 8 May 2012

Journalists interested in writing, tweeting or blogging about family holidays in St Kitts for respected media can request a place on the *Kids 'r' VIPs* press trip.

Kids 'r' VIPs is an all island programme that makes kids feel special and a solution for families travelling to St. Kitts and Nevis.

The initiative offers kids a chance to do something really different on holiday, whether it's learning how to sail or to play cricket, explore the beautiful rainforests or do something adventurous such as zip-lining or accompanying the turtle night patrol.

The programme is accompanied by a booklet which can be downloaded via the St. Kitts official website.

Alliance members interested in joining this press trip should outline your media outlet, including stats for online media and blogs. For printed publications, the tourist board is looking for a minimum one page article including fact box information and a guaranteed publication date within six weeks of the trip.

Visit : www.stkittstourism.kn. Contact Deirdre Cumberbatch at deirdre@talktoriver.com.

CitySightseeing Worldwide

CitySightseeing Worldwide is one of the world's leading, hop-on-hop-off, open top bus tour operators offering multi-lingual commentary or live guide.

Alliance members producing features an article a specific City Sightseeing tour destination can apply for a complimentary ticket or two.

Alliance members/family/friends can receive a 20% discount from all 100 City Sightseeing tours around the world by booking via its website.

All the ITWA member needs to do is visit www.city-sightseeing.com and click on the relevant tour page for details and using dedicated code ITWA20

Visit : www.city-sightseeing.com. Contact : Graham Toone at Graham.Toone@city-sightseeing.com.

Events in Tahiti and her islands

Tahiti is the largest island in the Windward group of French Polynesia in the southern Pacific Ocean.

Tahiti Tourisme will be interested in hearing from Alliance members, with confirmed commissions, who might be interested in covering any of the following annual events :

FIFO Tahiti

February

This is the international Oceanian Documentary Film Festival of Tahiti with festival short film screenings, script writing and shooting workshops at the "Maison de le Culture".

The festival aims to showcase the best of the documentary production of the region.

Visit : en.fifo-tahiti.com

Tahiti Moorea Marathon

February

The marathon is held in Temae on the island of Moorea.

Visit : www.temooreaclub.pf

Tahiti Pearl Regatta

16 to 20 May 2012

This is a Sailing-race between Raiatea, Tahaa and Bora Bora, opened to all types of sailboats for all nationalities and combines ocean courses with lagoon competitions, accompanied by festive evenings.

Visit : www.tahitipearlregatta.org.pf

Stand Up World Tour

May 2012

The Stand Up World Tour was established in 2009 to highlight the growth in the sport of Stand Up Paddling. Stand Up World Tour shows now reach 220 countries.

Visit: www.standupworldtour.com

Tahiti-Moorea Sailing Rendez-zous

24 to 26 June 2012

This is an interactive event between tourists, sailors and locals.

Three days of festivities begin at Papeete Harbour with a sail to Moorea, followed by a variety of local competitions on Tahiti's sister island, such as outrigger canoe races, javelin-throwing, fruit-carrying races, stone lifting and a coconut shredding contest.

Visit: www.portdepapeete.pf

Ukulele Festival

23rd June 2012

This musical contest held in Tahiti's Commune of Hitia'a on the East coast, is open to all levels of musicians and styles.

Tahiti Golf Open

2nd to 6th July 2012

The Olivier Bréaud International Golf Course in Atimaono, Papara, about 40 kilometers (25 miles) from Papeete (Tahiti), hosts the annual Tahiti International Golf Open, a stop on the Pacific Tour.

Visit : www.golftahiti.net

Heivā Va'a i Tahiti and Heivā i Bora Bora - "The Celebration of Life"

July

Heivā is the largest annual cultural festival in Tahiti and it takes place at To'ata Square in Papeete and Moto'i Place in Vaitape, Bora Bora.

Visit: www.heivanui.com

Billabong Pro Surfing Competition

20 to 31 August 2012

From May to November, the waves at Teahupoo attract the more expert surfers as the freshwater flowing from the mountains inhibits coral growth and creates some of the most exhilarating waves in Tahiti. The Billabong Pro Surfing competition attracts the best surfing talent from around the world.

Visit: www.billabongpro.com

Hawaiki Nuiva'a

7 to 9 November

This is a traditional "va'a", or outrigger canoe, race of more than 100 canoes between the Leeward Islands of Huahine, Raiatea, Tahaa and Bora Bora.

The finish line is on the beach of Matira Point (Bora Bora).

Visit : www.ftvaa.pf

Hura Tapairu

27 November to 1 December 2012

Hura Tapairu is a traditional dance competition held at the Cultural Center "Te Fare Tauhiti Nui" in Papeete

Visit: www.maisondelaculture.pf

Visit : www.tahiti-tourisme.co.uk. Contact: Natalie Schofield at natalie@tahiti-tourisme.co.uk.

Ripley's Believe It Or Not! London

Ripley's Believe It Or Not! London at Piccadilly Circus displays more than 700 curiosities from all around the world.

Visit : www.ripleyslondon.com. To arrange a press trip contact Natalie Eales at Natalie.Eales@sirencomms.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.

Partners

Ammergau Alps (Germany)

The organisation providing information about the region Ammergau Alps, accommodation and travel tips for individuals and groups, incoming services and media relations.

Visit : www.ammergauer-alpen.de. Contact : Nicole Richter at nr@ammergauer-alpen.de.

Promoting Poole (UK)

Promoting Poole as a high quality, modern visitor destination - world renown for watersports, fine dining and its superb environment.

Visit : www.pooletourism.com. Contact : M Holland at m.holland@pooletourism.com.

Aurora Expeditions (Australia)

Aurora Expeditions is an Australian-owned adventure company specialising in Expedition cruises to wild and remote places.

Each voyage is led by a team of expert naturalists, geologists, historians, staff and crew who help to unlock the wonders of these special places with the use of flexible, innovative itineraries.

Deeply committed to education and preservation of the environment, Aurora Expeditions' philosophy is to respectfully visit wilderness areas in turn creating ambassadors for their protection.

Visit : www.auroraexpeditions.com.au. Contact : Fiona Twyford at fiona@auroraexpeditions.com.au.

Garmisch-Partenkirchen (Germany)

Discover your true nature is the central philosophy encompassing the tourist attractions offered at the renowned holiday destination of Garmisch-Partenkirchen all year round.

In the midst of beautiful mountain views, the most famous town of the Bavarian Alps offers a wide variety of top notch holidays.

At the foot of Mount Zugspitze, nature is splendid and mighty, the memories gained between the mountains and the valleys, the water and the sky are unique. Impressive historic facades and lovingly painted houses as well as its charming inhabitants give the town an open atmosphere and a sense of joie de vivre, which is touching, moving and unforgettable.

Visit : www.gapa.de. Contact : Elisabeth Brück at pr@gapa.de.

Mendocino Hotel (USA)

Established in 1878 and overlooking the Pacific, the historic Mendocino Hotel has the food, views, comfort and magic to turn your vacation into a tradition.

Visit : www.mendocinohotel.com. Contact : Alyson Blair at frontdesk@mendocinohotel.com.

The ICE PACK brand

The ICE PACK brand (In Case of Emergency) was developed as a means to provide critical communication tools, life-saving resources and training to those who may encounter a disaster or emergency while traveling domestically or internationally.

ICE PACK develops emergency travel go-packs which places everything you may need in a critical situation while on travel at your fingertips, including satellite communications, water purification, food, medical, shelter, lighting and even solar power.

Visit : www.ice-pack.com. Contact : Troy Perry at tperry@ice-pack.com.

Agencies

Freshwater Scotland

Freshwater Scotland is a tourism, hospitality, leisure and lifestyle specialist agency.

Visit : www.freshwater-uk.com. Contact : Liddy alison.liddy@freshwater-uk.com.

News

The Frequent Business Traveler GlobeRunner Awards

Alliance members are being encouraged to vote for the Frequent Business Traveler GlobeRunner Awards. Nominees include every major airline and hotel chain etc.

Visit : www.frequentbusinesstraveler.com. Contact : Jonathan Spira at jspira@basex.com.

Red Mangrove Tortuga Reserve, Ecuador

Red Mangrove Galapagos and Ecuador Lodges has purchased 20 acres adjacent to the Galapagos National Park, to create the Red Mangrove Tortuga Reserve.

The reserve, which is close to the Aventura Lodge on Santa Cruz, will give the threatened Galapagos giant tortoise free and unobstructed movement.

While there are a number of tortoise farms dotting the islands, Red Mangrove's will be the first actual reserve for these giant reptiles.

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

Air Malta

Air Malta is Malta's National Airline will operate weekly charter flights from Malta to Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Exeter, Newcastle and Norwich Airports between May and October.

The airline also serves Malta from London Heathrow, Gatwick and Manchester Airport as well as 40 scheduled destinations in Europe, North Africa.

Visit www.airmalta.com. contact : Gail Palmer at Gail@ktapr.com.

The National Trust for Scotland

The National Trust for Scotland is to hold its existing group admission rates at 85% of its historic attractions until the end of 2013. The Trust has 90 historic attractions and gardens across Scotland, including Culloden Battlefield, Inverewe Garden & Estate, Culzean Castle & Country Park.

Visit : www.nts.org.uk. Contact : traveltrade@nts.org.uk.

Germany

Germany saw over 60 million overnight stays by foreign visitors in 2011, a new record and an increase of 3.5 million

Visit : www.germany.travel. Contact : Nadine Wenn at nadine.wenn@germany.travel.

The Wales Coast Path

The Wales Coast Path, which opens on 5 May, will make Wales the first in country in the world to have a path along its entire coastline.

Ramblers Cymru is inviting the world to share in this Welsh triumph with 870 miles of walking.

Visit: www.ramblers.org.uk/wales. Contact : press@ramblers.org.uk.

MSC Cruises

MSC Cruises is to introduce the French Antilles as a new destination for the 2012-2013 winter season.

The inaugural voyage begins on 30 November 2012 when MSC Lirica departs from Genoa, Italy for a 16-day/15-night cruise, arriving at her new homeport in Martinique just over two weeks later.

The 59,000-ton MSC Lirica has capacity for a total of 2069 guests in 780 cabins.

Visit www.msccruises.co.uk and www.msccpressarea.com. Contact : isabellas@msccruises.co.uk.

The History Colorado Centre, Denver

Denver's newest cultural attraction, the History Colorado Centre, opens on 28 April 2012.

Colorado is a four-season destination offering adventure and recreational activities, an active arts scene, Western heritage, distinctive cuisine, and 26 renowned ski resort areas.

The state's landscape boasts natural hot springs, the headwaters of four major rivers, nine national parks and monuments, and 54 mountain peaks that top 14,000 feet.

Visit : www.visitcolorado.com. Contact : Fiona Pettitt at fiona@cellet.co.uk.

Leads

Alliance members looking to take advantage of any of the following leads should be on assignment, with a commission or able to obtain one.

Inca Rail

Inca Rail, is a 100% Peruvian owned-Company offering authentic rail journeys between the Sacred Valley of the Incas and Machu Picchu, The Lost City of the Incas.

The Incan Fortress town of Ollantaytambo, gateway to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Machu Picchu, is the Inca Rail base.

Visit : www.incarail.com. Contact : Byron Shirto at byron@talkingstickmktg.co.uk.

New Cycling trips from UTracks

European activity holiday specialist UTracks has a number of new cycling trips for 2012 including: Ancient Venetian Empire By Bike

Italy, Slovenia, Croatia: Explore three countries by bike in one week on this new cycle journey through historic towns and seaside landscapes.

Normandy Cycle

Normandy is a region with a long history and a rich heritage and this cycle will take you through the monuments, the traditions and the splendours of the Norman coast.

Cycle Sicily

A cycle in southeast Sicily, the largest island in the Mediterranean, known for its beaches, cuisine and history.

The German Danube

The Danube, Europe's second longest river, courses through ten countries on route to the Black Sea. This cycling tour leads along the entire German part of the Danube, from where the Brigach and Breg rivers join to where it crosses over to Austria.

Burgundy Canals & Vineyards

A cycle that offers a concentration of the charms of France's wine region of Burgundy.

Visit : www.UTracks.com. Contact : Tom Panagos at tom@saltmarshpr.co.uk.

Electric bikes with Discover France

French touring company, Discover France is offering cycle tours using hybrid electric bicycles with easy-to-charge battery motors.

Discover France Adventures has been organizing bicycle tours and hiking tours in France since 1994 and is one of only four licensed tour operators to the Tour de France.

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

Arizona, Tahiti and Portugal's Alentejo vie for astronomy tourism

An increasing number of travellers are looking to exploit the potential for astronomy tourism.

Arizona

On 20 May 2012, visitors to the Grand Canyon will be able to experience a fiery ring of sunlight shining around the moon's dark silhouette during a total eclipse.

The path of the eclipse will make landfall in the western United States along the California-Oregon coast and will pass over central Nevada, southern Utah and northern Arizona.

Visit : www.nps.gov/grca.

Tahiti

On 5 June 2012, the Earth will witness the transit of Venus which will pass exactly between the earth and sun, an event that will not take place again until 2117. The best visibility viewpoints will be in the Pacific, between Tahiti and Japan. Visitors are being encouraged the view this event from the island of Tahiti or Moorea.

Visit : www.tahiti-tourisme.com.

Portugal

UNWTO and UNESCO have granted Alqueva in the Alentejo region of Portugal with official 'Starlight Tourism Destination' certification.

The Alentejo is the largest region in Portugal, occupying approximately a third of the country but with only 7.1% of the country's population. The Alqueva Dark Sky Reserve covers 3,000 square kilometres of the region.

Visit : www.turismoalqueva.pt/dark-sky.

Contact : Jennifer Byles at jenniferb@hillsbalfour.com.

Go Ape!, UK

Go Ape! the UK's forest adventure company is opening its new tree top adventure course at Trent Park, Enfield, Middlesex, UK - the 28th Go Ape! site to open due.

Visitors to Go Ape! can go on forest zip wires, cross wooden walkways and bridges, climb tree-top ladders and take to Tarzan Swings whilst safely attached to a harness.

Visit : www.goape.co.uk. Contact : Donna Bennett at Donna.Bennett@berkeleypr.co.uk.

New walking route in the Algarve

The Algarve, Portugal, will be launching the Vicentina Route along the rugged western coast of the region in spring 2012.

The route will run from Santiago do Cacém in the Alentejo to Sagres in the Algarve and is to be integrated into the extensive European GR11 route part of the GR footpath network of paths, tracks and trails.

Visit : www.casasbrancas.pt and www.visitalgarve.pt. Contact : Jennifer Byles at jenniferb@hillsbalfour.com.

What's on

Information for professional travel writers, editors, broadcasters and photographers on annual events and celebrations worldwide.

Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival

14 and 15 and 21 and 22 April 2012

Northern California's Japanese American community gather in San Francisco's Japantown to celebrate their 45th annual Cherry Blossom Festival.

Each year more than 200,000 people attend this tribute to the color and grace of the Japanese culture and the diversity of the Japanese American community.

Visit www.nccbf.org. Contact : Alexandra Cave at ACave@sanfrancisco.travel.

Queen's Day, Holland

30 April 2012

The Dutch celebration of their queen's birthday and a public holiday.

The whole country becomes an open air street party with the Dutch dressing up in their quirkiest orange outfits.

Although Queen Beatrix' birthday is actually on 30 January, she decided after her coronation to keep her mother's birthday as the official day for celebrations.

Visit : www.holland.com. Contact : Rianne Ojeh at rojeh@holland.com.

TRACK, Ghent, Flanders

12 May to 16 September 2012

TRACK, a large-scale, city-wide exhibition to be held in the Flanders city of Ghent, will see 30 international artists working at indoor and outdoor locations.

Ghent itself is a medieval city with over 900 listed buildings.

Visit : www.track.be and www.visitflanders.co.uk. Contact : Anita Rampall at anita@visitflanders.co.uk.

Meadowlark Nature Festival, British Columbia

17 to 21 May 2012

The 15th Meadowlark Nature Festival is an annual celebration of all things wild in the Okanagan and Similkameen valleys in British Columbia.

The festival incorporates guided nature walks and hikes; bird watching and cycling tours; indigenous cultural excursions, art exhibits and classes, and green building tours.

Visit : www.meadowlarkfestival.bc.ca. Contact : Carla Mont at Carla.Mont@gov.bc.ca.

London Nightrider Charity Ride

9 June 2012

Classic Tours, the organisation that originated the concept of overseas charity challenges, will be staging a 100km moonlit cycle ride through London on 9 June 2012.

Over £1 million is set to be raised, in the process, for hundreds of good causes from large national organisations to local charities.

To take part in Nightrider, a registration fee of £39 and a minimum sponsorship target of £175* approx. is required. Nightriders can choose from over 120 charities to support.

Visit : www.classictours.co.uk. Contact : Gina Thomas at gina@classictours.co.uk.

Sheridan WYO Rodeo week, Wyoming

6 to 15 July 2012

The 82nd Annual Sheridan WYO Rodeo, is part of the Million Dollar Tour of Professional Rodeos, which is one of the best professional rodeos in the country.

Visit : www.sheridanwyoming.org. Contact : Penny L. Becker at stt@sheridanwyoming.org.

Bastille Day in Pondicherry, India

14 July 2012

Pondicherry is a little piece of France in south India. A tiny French colony in British India since the 17th century, Pondicherry has never lost its Gallic spirit.

Every year on the 14 July, this Francophile town celebrates Bastille Day with aplomb. The tricolor flies from homes and a spectacular parade winds through the streets to the sound of La Marseillaise.

The ITC Grand Chola in Chennai is a place from which to explore the unique town of Pondicherry.

Visit : www.itchotels.in/ITCGrandChola. Contact : Alicia at ad@verypcc.com.

Reasons to write about

Alliance members looking to take advantage of any of the following should be on assignment, with a commission or able to obtain one.

Sea turtles on Dominica

Dominica's annual sea turtle hatch takes place between March and August under the watch of the Dominica Sea Turtle Conservation Organisation.

Visitors to the island can be added to the 'turtle alert' list to stay updated on the night-time arrival of turtles on the Caribbean island's Rosalie Bay Beach, Londonderry Beach and Bout Sabe Beach in La Plaine.

Sea turtle watching is done only under strict standards to ensure preservation of the species.

A representative of the Nature Enhancement Team (NET) ensures that spectators follow the rules for interacting with and watching the turtles and that their eggs are protected. The team also records turtle activity, nests and hatchings.

Dominica is an island in the Eastern Caribbean, lying south of Guadeloupe and north of Martinique.

Visit : www.discoverdominica.com. For press trip requests contact: Tom Panagos at tom@saltmarshpr.co.uk.

The London 2012 Festival

The London 2012 Festival, is set to be a spectacular 12-week nationwide celebration bringing together leading artists from across the world with the very best from the UK.

It runs from Midsummer's Day on 21 June and running until the final day of the Paralympic Games on 9 September 2012.

The London 2012 Festival will celebrate the range, quality and accessibility of the UK's world-class culture including dance, music, theatre, the visual arts, fashion, film and digital innovation.

Visit : www.london2012.com/festival. Contact : Lucinda Morrison at lmorrison@nationaltheatre.org.uk.

Journeys of Distinction Light

Luxury travel company, Journeys of Distinction, is rolling out its Journeys of Distinction Light, which offers a collection of holidays that make most of time and budget.

The inaugural Light tours for Summer 2012 include trips to Borneo, Burma, Costa Rica and in Europe, Spain, Italy and Croatia.

Each of the 21 tours has been researched by the Journeys of Distinction team to balance free time to explore with group sightseeing tours.

Using mainly 3 star hotels on shorter duration trips, Journeys of Distinction Light means travellers can enjoy the trips while paying less.

Itineraries include :

Italian Lakes and City Splendours : a nine-day tour from Milan to Verona and the picturesque Italian Lakes.

The Natural Wonders of Borneo: A thirteen-day tour including a visit to the orangutans and the other natural wonders of Borneo.

India's Golden Triangle: a nine-day exotic tour of India including the Taj Mahal and the tigers of Ranthambore.

Burma Encounter: a 14 day tour to discover Burma, its people and way of life.

Journeys of Distinction itself is a luxury travel company offering Tours to 30 worldwide locations including China, Australia, South America, Africa, Canada, India, Japan, Russia and Sri Lanka.

Visit : www.jod.uk.com. For press trip requests contact : Seb at jod@brazenpr.com.

Birdwatching in Kenya

More than 1,100 different species of birds are found in Kenya, which is 12% of the world's total bird population.

There are also 60 'Important Bird Areas' in Kenya, set in habitats ranging from forests to wetlands and arid plains to rich grasslands. Kakamaga Forest Reserve, which is situated at the north-east edge of Lake Victoria, is an area of virgin tropical rainforest contains a number of threatened species not found elsewhere in Kenya.

The rolling grasslands that make up the Maasai Mara, have a host of birds species including the Secretary Bird (*Sagittarius serpentarius*), Yellow-throated Sandgrouse (*Pterocles gutturalis*) and Giant Kingfisher (*Megaceryle maxima*).

The Samburu National Reserve, Meru National Park and Tsavo East and West National Parks all have rivers running through them, and the stands of tall acacias along the banks attract many species such as Martial Eagle (*Polemaetus bellicosus*), Buff-crested Bustard (*Eupodotis gindiana*).

Close to Nairobi, Lake Nakuru National Park is home to one million resident lesser and greater flamingos, providing one of Kenya's seminal images.

Visit : www.kenyabirding.org, www.magicalkenya.com and www.aberdaresafarihotels.com. Contact : Daniela Resenterra at danielar@hillsbalfour.com.

A place to stay

Alliance members looking to take advantage of any of the following opportunities should be on assignment, with a commission or able to obtain one.

The Gran Meliá Rome Villa Agrippina hotel

The Gran Meliá Rome Villa Agrippina hotel will open in one of the exclusive areas of the Eternal City in April. It is located in the centre of the city by the Tiber River and close to the Coliseum, Saint Peter's Basilica, the Castel Sant'Angelo, Piazza Navona and the Oratorio del Gonfalone.

The hotel stands on the site of what was once the Villa of Agrippina, named in honor of the mother of famous Roman emperor Nero. The archaeological remains unearthed during its construction will be on display throughout the galleries and communal areas of the building.

Visit : www.solmelia.com/hotels/italy/rome/gran-melia-rome. Contact : Anita Katch at anita@katchpr.com.

Wynyard Hall, County Durham UK

Fans of hit TV drama Downton Abbey can experience the aristocratic lifestyle for themselves by staying in a British stately home that has played host to royalty.

Wynyard Hall, on the outskirts of the historic city of Durham, was formerly the home of one of Britain's most aristocratic families and is now a luxurious country house hotel which has been carefully restored to its former grandeur.

Now, visitors can join a guest list which has included the present Queen, King Edward VII and King George V as well as the Duke of Wellington, Charles Dickens and Sir Winston Churchill.

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

All-inclusive resorts in the Caribbean

Trident Castle, Port Antonio, Jamaica

Trident Castle, a collection of 40 suites divided between 17 beach-front villas and Trident Castle itself, opens in October 2012.

Visit : www.geejamcollection.com.

Goodeneye, Oracabessa, Jamaica

Goodeneye, the former Caribbean retreat where Ian Fleming penned all 14 Bond novels, has reopened after an 18 month closure with 11 new Beach Cottages and six new lagoon suites to the 52 acre estate. Visit : www.goodeneye.com

Strawberry Hill, Blue Mountains, Jamaica

Strawberry Hill is a newly refurbished 50-acre mountain top boutique resort of Georgian-style cottages over 3,000ft above sea level. Bob Marley chose Strawberry Hill to convalesce after he was shot Visit : www.islandoutpost.com

The Caves, Negril, Jamaica

This adults only Island Outpost hotels has has 13 hand-crafted wood and stone that-roofed cottages located in lush vegetation and caves. Visit : www.islandoutpost.com

Mount Hartman Bay Estate, Grenada

Mount HartmanBay Estate is a luxury, eight-bedroomed, boutique retreat on its own peninsular and beach. Visit : www.bespokehotels.com/mounthartmanbay

Jumby Bay, Antigua

Jumby Bay is a private island retreat two miles off the coast of Antigua with 40 guest rooms and suites as well as Villas and estate homes for holiday rental. Visit : www.jumbybayresort.com

Contact : Rosalind at Rosalind@rivapr.co.uk.

St Regis, Doha and the Intercontinental Doha The City

With nearly 80 new hotels and 42 hotel apartments under construction, Qatar's hospitality sector is growing at a great rate.

The latest properties to open their doors are the St Regis Doha, and the Intercontinental Doha The City.

St. Regis Doha is the brand's first property in the destination offering 336 rooms, including 70 suites, all with views of the Arabian Gulf and private beach access. Visit : www.stregisdoha.com.

The InterContinental Doha The City has six restaurants and two lounges, including 'Strata,' which on levels 55 and 56 of the building is the highest restaurant in Doha. Visit : www.ichotelsgroup.com.

Visit : www.qatartourism.gov.qa. Contact : Jennifer Byles at jenniferb@hillsbalfour.com.

Hotel Palomar, Phoenix, Arizona

The 250-room Hotel Palomar will open in summer 2012 in the downtown Phoenix area in a new mixed-use development called CityScape.

Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants will operate the new luxury boutique hotel in a 34-story tower at One South Central that will also include approximately 200 luxury residential condominium units, plus shops on the lower levels.

Visit : www.kimptonhotels.com and www.arizonaguide.com. Contact : Jennifer Byles at jenniferb@hillsbalfour.com.

The Inn on Fifth, Naples, Florida

The upscale Inn on Fifth, located on Fifth Avenue South in downtown Naples, has unveiled eight new vacation packages for 2012.

The new packages make the most of the Inn's distinctive downtown locale, its Spa on Fifth, golf privileges and all the best that Naples has to offer.

Visit www.InnonFifth.com. Contact : Katharina Lane at katharina@hayworthcreative.com.

Generator Hostels

Generator Hostels is to open a third hostel in Germany and its second in Berlin, in the first half of 2013.

Berlin Mitte will accommodate almost 600 guests, with single, double and shared rooms for up to eight people, including female -only dorms.

A hostel in Barcelona is also due to open in spring 2013.

Generator Hostels currently has properties in Berlin, Copenhagen, Dublin, Hamburg, London and Venice.

www.generatorhostels.com. Contact : Oliver Mernick-Levene at Oliver.Mernick-Levene@lewispr.com.

Disney's Art of Animation Resort, Orlando

Orlando only specialist, Complete Orlando is taking bookings for Disney's Art of Animation Resort, which opens in May 2012.

Guests can choose between 1,120 themed animated based animated Walt Disney and Disney Pixar classics including Finding Nemo, The Lion King, Cars and 864 rooms inspired by the Little Mermaid.

Visit : www.completeorlando.com. Contact Kylie Jenkins at kylie@goshpr.co.uk.

The St. Regis Saadiyat Island Resort, Abu Dhabi

The St. Regis Saadiyat Island Resort, Abu Dhabi has opened on the beaches of Saadiyat, a short minute drive from the city centre and a 20-minute drive from Abu Dhabi International Airport

The hotel is the first of three St. Regis hotels to open this year in the Middle East the St. Regis Abu Dhabi situated on the Corniche and the St. Regis Doha in Qatar.

In addition, the St. Regis Mauritius Resort will open in 2012 and the newly renovated St. Regis Aspen Resort will reopen.

Visit : www.stregissaadiyatland.com and www.starwoodhotels.com. Contact : Sarah Whitham at Sarah.Whitham@starwoodhotels.com.

New York Helmsley Hotel

Starwood Hotels & Resorts and Host Hotels & Resorts is to undertake a \$65 million renovation of the historic New York Helmsley Hotel which will then fly the Westin flag.

When work is completed in June, the new hotel will join its sister property, Westin New York at Times Square in midtown Manhattan.

Visit : www.westin.com. Contact : Sarah Whitham at Sarah.Whitham@starwoodhotels.com.

The Sheraton Heathrow Hotel, London

The Sheraton Heathrow Hotel has completed a major refurbishment of its public areas.

Visit : www.sheratonheathrowhotel.com. Contact : Sarah Whitham at Sarah.Whitham@starwoodhotels.com.

Section two : ongoing opportunities

Alerts

Ongoing independent press trip opportunities for Alliance members

- **Visit Dublin** offers Alliance members visiting on-assignment a Media Pass (the Dublin Pass), which provides free entry to 34 visitor attractions in Dublin. Visit : www.visitdublin.com and www.dublinpass.com. Contact : Catherine McCluskey at Catherine.mccluskey@failteireland.ie.
- **Hidden Pousadas Brazil**, which offers independent travellers with a one-stop collection of uniquely places to stay, will offer accommodation to Alliance members out of high season. Visit : www.hiddenpousadasbrazil.com. Contact : Fola Odumosu at folo@hiddenpousadasbrazil.com.
- **Adventure Cat Sailing, San Francisco Bay**, will be delighted to 'comp' Alliance travel writers. Visit : www.adventurecat.com. Contact : Sharon Schrum at sharon@adventurecat.com.
- **BusyBus, Liverpool & Chester – UK** a sightseeing tour operator will be delighted to host Alliance members and journalists (with a guest) on a review basis. Visit: www.busybus.co.uk . Contact : Vera de Ruiten: vera@busybus.co.uk.
- **Visit Orlando** offers Alliance members visiting on-assignment a complimentary Journalist VIP Passport. Visit : www.VisitOrlando.com/media. Contact : Amy Rodenbrock at amy.rodenbrock@visitorlando.com.
- **La Residencia, Mallorca** will be delighted to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members on assignment. Visit : www.laresidencia.com. Contact : Louise Davis at louise.davis@laresidencia.com.
- **The Broadway Collection New York**, a group of 17 new and classic Broadway musicals, will be delighted to host Alliance members with a commission. Visit www.broadwaycollection.com Contact: Della Tully at Della.Tully@btinternet.com
- **Luxe PR**, a specialist agency representing 2,000 hotel guestrooms in London and across England will be delighted to host Alliance members for a review stay in one of its central London hotels, or its country house hotels based in Derbyshire, Yorkshire and the Cotswolds. Visit : www.luxepr.com. Contact : Tamsin Cocks at tamsin@luxepr.com.
- **The Marriott Paris Champs-Elysees**, which is the only five-star hotel on the Champs-Elysees, will be happy to offer accommodation to Alliance members who are in the city on an assignment. Visit : www.parismarriott.com. Contact Bernice Saltzer at bernice@sortedpr.com.
- **Bath Tourism Plus** will host press visits to the Georgian and UNESCO World Heritage city of Bath. Visit : www.visitbath.co.uk. Contact : Lucy Ryder at lucy_ryder@bathtourism.co.uk.
- **City Running Tours-Chicago** will be delighted to give free 5k running or walking tours to Alliance members. Visit : www.cityrunningtours.com/chicago. Contact : Marlin Keesler at marlin@cityrunningtours.com.
- **The German city of Frankfurt** will be delighted to consider hosting Alliance members. Visit : www.frankfurt-tourismus.de. Contact : Gisela Moser at moser@infofrankfurt.de.

- **The Cyprus Tourism Organisation** will host group and individual trips for Alliance members with a commission. Visit : www.visitcyprus.com. Contact : June Field at june.field@kallaway.com.
- **theExplorateur** reviews of hotels, shops, restaurants and travel-related products around the world. Visit : www.theExplorateur.com. For press trips to review any of theExplorateur properties contact Gabriella Ribeiro Truman at gabriella@trumarketing.com.
- **Three Nelson Hotels in Cheshire**: The Grosvenor Pulford Hotel & Spa (www.grosvenorpulfordhotel.co.uk), The Pheasant Inn (www.thepheasantinn.co.uk) and The Bear's Paw (www.thebearspaw.co.uk) will be happy to accommodate Alliance members with a commission. Contact : Karen Floyd at karen.floyd@symmetrypr.com.
- **Great Hotels of the World**, representing over 200 of the world's finest hotels and resorts would be pleased to consider offering press trip accommodation to alliance members. Visit www.ghotw.com. Contact: Brooke Jester at bjester@ghotw.com.
- **The Cranley and The Royal Park** two London luxury, boutique townhouse hotels will be pleased to consider providing accommodation to Alliance members on commission. Visit www.thecranley.com or www.theroyalpark.com. Contact : Li Boatwright at li@storringtoncommunications.com.
- **Mead Brown**, a vacation rental company in Costa Rica, is happy to host writers on assignment. Visit : www.meadbrown.com. Contact : Michael Brown at michael@meadbrown.com.
- **LocalGuiding.com** – Personal tours by local guides, will be pleased to offer tours around the world to Alliance members. Visit: www.LocalGuiding.com. Contact: Robert Blessing at rb@localguiding.com.
- **Shakespeare Country**, UK will host Alliance members and their family for one or two nights with passes to visit the attractions and tickets to the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, subject to availability. Visit : www.Shakespeare-Country.co.uk. Contact : Tanya Aspinall at tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk.
- **Mallorca Hotels: Hotel Bon Sol Resort & Spa, Hotel Tres and Hotel Dalt Murada, and Hotel Mar i Vent, Mallorca** will be pleased to offer accommodation to Alliance members with a commission. Visit : www.hotelbonsol.es, www.hoteltres.com, www.daltmurada.com and www.hotelmarivent.com. Contact Cathryn Hicks at cathryn@douggoodmanpr.com
- **Atholl Estates, Perthshire, Scotland** will be delighted to host Alliance members. The country estate has historic lodges, modern woodland lodges and a 5-star holiday park. Onsite activities include a pony trekking centre, land rover safaris, stunning gardens/wildlife and the historic Blair Castle. Visit: www.atholl-estates.co.uk. Contact: Lee MacGregor at lee@leemacgregorpr.com.
- **The five-star Arlberg Hospiz Hotel and its sister four-star Goldener Berg in St. Christoph am Arlberg, Austria** has the 600 year old wine cellar of the Brotherhood of St. Christoph. Visit : www.hospiz.com. Contact Karen Luard at kp@kpcommunications.co.uk
- **The Villa Pambuffetti in Montefalco, Umbria, Italy** will be pleased to offer accommodation to Alliance members. Visit : www.villapambuffetti.com. Contact Alessandra Pambuffetti at info@villapambuffetti.com.
- **Eustatia Island, British Virgin Islands** an extraordinary 26-acre, low impact, private island estate will be happy to host press visits for Alliance members with an appropriate commission. Visit : www.eustatia.com. Contact: Alastair Abreheart, alastair@broadswordpr.com.

- **Africa Safari Holidays** will be happy to offer any press trip services to professional travel journalist to East Africa. Visit : www.africasafariholidays.net. Contact : Agnes Njagi at info@africasafariholidays.net.
- **Reykjavik Bike Tours** provide press tours of Iceland's capital for Alliance members. Visit : www.icelandbike.com. Contact : Stefan Helgi Valsson at valsson@centrum.is.
- **Champagne-Ardenne Tourisme**, four French departments boasting historic sites and chateaux, walking and cycling routes, a variety of sports, superb natural scenery and Champagne will be pleased to consider press visits for Alliance members. Visit : www.tourisme-champagne-ardenne.com. Contact: Doug Goodman at doug@douggoodmanpr.com.
- **Health retreats on Vancouver Island**, British Columbia, Canada. Visit : www.vancouverisland.com. Contact : Pamela Irving at livingcomms@telus.net.
- **Red Mangrove Galapagos Lodges** offers a land-based alternative to exploring the Galapagos that until now was a cruise-only destination. Visit : www.redmangrove.com. Contact : Dave Wiggins dave@travelnewssource.com
- **Middlethorpe Hall & Spa**, Yorkshire, UK will be delighted to offer DB&B and use of the Spa to Alliance members. Visit : www.middlethorpe.com. Contact Daisy Parker at daisy@iscott.co.uk.
- **Swaziland and Malawi** : Geo Group will be delighted to consider press trips to either Swaziland or Malawi for Alliance members with suitable commissions. Visit : www.welcometoswaziland.com and www.malawitourism.com. Contact: Kelly White at tourism@geo-group.co.uk.
- **Holidaylettings**, which offers a selection of chalets and apartments around the world will consider arranging accommodation at its listed properties. Visit : www.holidaylettings.co.uk. Contact : Kate Stinchcombe-Gillies at kate@holidaylettings.co.uk.
- **Malta** will be happy to consider for press trips for Alliance members. Visit : www.visitmalta.com. Contact : Anne Kapranos at Anne@essence-communications.com.
- **Peckforton Castle, Cheshire UK** a grade I listed building, built in the 1840s in the style of a medieval castle will be delighted to host Alliance members on a review basis. Visit : www.peckfortoncastle.co.uk. Contact : Karen Floyd at karen.floyd@symmetrypr.com.
- **Tongabezi Lodge**, which is upstream from Victoria Falls, and the new eco-friendly Sindabezi Island are located on the Zambezi River in Zambia. Tongabezi would be delighted to consider press visits to their properties to Alliance members with a commission. Visit : www.tongabezi.com. Contact Honour Schram de Jong at honour@honourway.com.
- **Ker & Downey Botswana**, located in the heart of the Okavango Delta and Moremi Game Reserve, will be pleased to consider press visits to Alliance members with a commission. Visit : www.kerdowneybotswana.com. Contact : Honour Schram de Jong at honour@honourway.com.
- **Adventure Life**, which provides small group tours to Central and South America that have a positive impact on the local culture and environment, will consider press trip requests. Visit : www.adventure-life.com. Contact : Adam York at adam@sublimepub.com.
- **Rosen Hotels** will be delighted to host Alliance members who will be in the Orlando area, at the new 1500-room, 14-story Rosen Shingle Creek. Visit www.rosenshinglecreek.com. Contact Mary Deatrick at mdeatrick@cfl.rr.com.

- **Migis Lodge on the shores of Maine's Sebago Lake** invites travel journalists to experience Maine Lakeside Luxury. Visit : www.migis.com. Contact : Susan Soltero at ssoltero@cmcommunications.com.
- **The North West Development Agency** area, which includes Cumbria, Lancashire, Manchester, Liverpool and Cheshire will be delighted to host Alliance members with commissions. Visit : www.nwda.co.uk. Contact : Oliver Bennett at oliverbennett@blueyonder.co.uk.
- **The George Hotel, Edinburgh, Scotland** will be delighted to host Alliance members with a commission. Visit : www.principal-hayley.com/venues-and-hotels/the-george-hotel. Contact : Megan Davidson at megan@crimsonedge.co.uk.
- **The Peace and Plenty, Bahamas** will be delighted to provide accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: www.peaceandplenty.com. Contact: Hazel Heyer at hazel_heyer@hotmail.com.
- **The Grand Hyatt San Antonio, Texas** is a 1003-room, 37-storey luxury hotel, which has just opened in the bustling heart of the Alamo City. The Grand Hyatt San Antonio, Texas will be happy to consider providing accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: www.hyatt.com. Contact: Alison Wood at Alison@grifcopr.com.
- **Ranch Rider** stays are steeped in tradition, allowing travellers to sample an authentic western experience. Ranch Rider will be pleased to consider press trip facilities to Alliance members. Visit: www.ranchrider.com. Contact: Siobhan at siobhan@tionlondon.co.uk.
- **Lower Zambezi, Zambia** : Sausage Tree Camp located within the heart of the Lower Zambezi National Park in Zambia will be pleased to consider press visits to Alliance members with a commission. Visit : www.honourway.com. Contact : Honour Schram de Jong at honour@honourway.com.
- **Wiltshire**, located in the heart of the south-west of England has a number of high quality luxury hotels and a whole host of unique attractions. Visit : www.visitwiltshire.co.uk. Contact : Samantha Marsh: samantha@infinitypublicrelations.co.uk.
- **Knockomie Hotel, Forbes, Scotland**, will be delighted to consider press trips from Alliance members for a 2-night stay in one of their 15 individually-themed rooms and dinner on one of the nights in their recently refurbished restaurant, The Grill. Visit: www.knockomie.co.uk. Contact: Lee MacGregor at lee@leemacgregorpr.com.
- **South Lakeland Parks** is the north-west UK's leading holiday park operator featuring nine sites within Morecambe Bay, Ribble Valley and Lake District. Visit : www.southlakelandparks.co.uk. Contact : Samantha Marsh: samantha@infinitypublicrelations.co.uk
- **Cumbria Tourism**, the tourism body for Cumbria, UK incorporating the Lake District will be delighted to let Alliance members sample its delights from the great outdoors and exciting attractions to stylish hotels and high quality restaurants. Visit : www.golakes.co.uk.
- **South Luangwa, Zambia** : The Luangwa Valley has long been regarded as one of Africa's finest wildlife destinations. Their portfolio includes Kapani Lodge and Kakuli, Luwi, Nsolo and Mchenja Camps. Norman Carr Safaris would be delighted to consider press visits to their properties to Alliance members with a commission. Visit : www.honourway.com. Contact : Honour Schram de Jong at honour@honourway.com.
- **New York Circle Line Sightseeing Cruises** will be delighted to host Alliance members with a commission. Visit: www.circleline42.com Contact: Lisa Chamberlain at lisa.chamberlain@btinternet.com

- **The Haweswater Hotel**, a new art-deco hotel located next to the secluded Haweswater Reservoir, Cumbria, UK, will be happy to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members. Visit : www.haweswaterhotel.com. Contact : Samantha Marsh: samantha@infinitypublicrelations.co.uk
- **Premier Cottages** has a range of stunning four and five star self-catering holiday cottages throughout the UK, Channel Islands and Ireland. Visit : www.premiercottages.co.uk. Contact : Liz Blakeborough at liz@blakeborough.com.
- **St Mary's Hall Hotel**, the Isles of Scilly is happy to provide press trip opportunities to Alliance members. Visit : www.stmaryshallhotel.co.uk. Contact : Karen Baker at karen@mercury-pr.co.uk
- **Woodovis Park**, the independently run holiday park on the edge of Dartmoor, Devon UK invites Alliance members to review. Visit : www.woodovis.com. Contact : Samantha Kirton at samantha@independentpr.co.uk
- **1066 Country** which comprises the area of Battle, Bexhill, Hastings, Herstmonceux, Pevensey and Rye in East Sussex, UK. Visit : www.visit1066country.com. Contact : Jane Ellis at jjmellis@hastings.gov.uk.
- **The Wineport Lodge, Glasson County Westmeath, Ireland** is happy to arrange press Alliance Members and can provide a range of story ideas related to food, wine, romance, weddings/honeymoons and spa escapes. Visit : www.wineport.ie. Contact: Nina Zapala at zapala@fzkllc.com.
- **The Inn on Fifth**, a luxurious, 87-room boutique hotel located in the heart of downtown Naples in Southwest Florida will be delighted to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members. Visit www.innonfifth.com. Contact : Kelly Grass Prieto at kelly@hayworthcreative.com.
- **base2stay Liverpool** will be delighted to offer accommodation for Alliance members able to review the hotel. Visit : www.base2stay.com/press_page/Liverpool.html. Contact : Jon Brown at brown@paversmith.co.uk.
- **Visit Chester and Cheshire and Visit Lincoln and Lincolnshire** will be delighted to host Alliance members with a commission. Visit : www.visitchester.com and www.lincoln.gov.uk. Contact : Oliver Bennett at oliverbennett@blueyonder.co.uk.
- **Swiss-Belhotel International**, manages hotels, resorts and residences throughout the Asia Pacific, Southeast Asia, China and The Middle East regions. Visit : www.swiss-belhotel.com. Contact : Ayla Hass at aylahaas@swiss-belhotel.com.
- **Pembrokeshire, South West Wales** will be delighted to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members with a commission. Visit: www.pembrokeshire.com. Contact: Pat Edgar PRMatters@dsl.pipex.com
- **The Rutland Hotel, Edinburgh**, will be delighted to invite Alliance members to review this boutique hotel. Visit www.therutlandhotel.com. Contact Yvonne or Fiona at info@nicheworks.co.uk.
- **The Galapagos Islands** : Quasar Expeditions would like to invite Alliance members to cover trips aboard the M/Y Grace, its vintage yacht in the Galapagos Islands. Visit : www.galapagosexpeditions.com/gracepresskit.php. Contact : Paul Schicke at paul@quasarex.com.
- **Focus Hotels** invite Alliance members to review their three and four-star properties located in key destinations across the UK. Visit : www.focushotels.co.uk. Contact : Nat Frogley at nat@bacall.net.

- **The 5* Blythswood Square Hotel**, Glasgow, formerly headquarters to the Royal Scottish Automobile Club, has been redeveloped by the Town House Collection Visit www.blythswoodsquare.com or www.thetownhousecollection.com. Contact: Jo Murphy at Jo@thespaprcompany.com.
- **Aspects Holidays** specialises in providing self-catering accommodation, from luxury apartments to traditional fisherman's cottages in and around St Ives and the West Cornwall area of the UK. Aspects will be pleased to consider press visits to Alliance members with a commission. Visit www.aspects-holidays.co.uk. Contact : Karen Baker at karen@mercury-pr.co.uk.
- **The Inn at Lathones**, Scotland's only 4 star inn, is delighted to consider press trips from Alliance members. The 17th-century listed building near St Andrews is one of Scotland's oldest coaching inns and boasts 21 recently refurbished external rooms/suites, an award-winning restaurant, an intimate stone-walled bar and converted stables that host regular music events. For more information visit: www.theinn.co.uk Contact: Lee MacGregor at lee@leemacgregorpr.com
- **Cornwall Cottages** will be delighted to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: www.cornwallcottages.co.uk. Contact: Sue Bradbury at jess@suebradburypr.com.
- **Hartland Peninsula Arts**, which runs landscape painting courses on the North Devon coast will be pleased to offer courses to Alliance members. Visit : www.landscapepaintingholidays.co.uk. Contact: Karen Outred at ko@freelancepr.fsnet.co.uk.
- **Frontier Travel** organise tailor-made holidays to Canada in both the Summer (www.frontier-canada.co.uk) and the Winter (www.frontier-ski.co.uk). The company will consider offering individuals press trips for Alliance members. Contact: Dave Ashmore at dave@frontier-travel.co.uk.
- **Sail Lofts St Ives**, a group of 12 luxury holiday apartments just metres from Porthmeor Beach, will be pleased to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members with a commission. Visit: www.thesaillofts.co.uk. Contact: Peter Hutchinson at peter@thesaillofts.co.uk.
- **The Alfajiri Villas and Galdessa Camp** would like to invite Alliance members to stay at Alfajiri Villas (www.alfajirivillas.com) or Galdessa Camp (www.galdessa.com). Visit : www.FazendinPortfolio.com. Contact Sarah Fazendin at sarah@fazendinportfolio.com.
- **The Peat Inn and 5-star restaurant** in St.Andrews, Scotland will provide Alliance members able to review the Inn will receive complimentary dinner, bed and breakfast including guest. Visit : <http://www.thepeatinn.co.uk>. Contact : Megan Davidson at megan@crimsonedge.co.uk.
- **The Isles of Scilly** will be delighted to consider offering travel and accommodation to Alliance members on assignment, with a commission or who are able to obtain one. Visit: www.simplyscilly.co.uk. Contact: Karen Baker at karen@mercury-pr.co.uk.
- **The Park Hyatt Istanbul-Maçka Palas, Turkey** will be delighted to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: www.hyatt.com. Kathryn Peel at Kathryn@grifcopr.com.
- **Helpful Holidays, UK** will be delighted to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: www.helpfulholidays.com. Contact: Pat Edgar at PRMatters@dsl.pipex.com.
- **Jet2.com and Jet2holidays.com** will be happy to consider offering flights and holiday opportunities. Contact: www.pressoffice@jet2.com.

- **Wilderness Journeys** will be delighted to consider offering press trip facilities to Alliance members. Visit : www.wildernessjourneys.com. Contact: Stevie Christie at stevie@wildernessjourneys.com.
- **Divi Resorts, the Caribbean** will be happy to consider accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: www.diviresorts.com. Contact: Jacqueline Burton at jburton@fwv-us.com.
- **Charming Hotels Madeira** will be pleased to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: www.charminghotelsmadeira.com. Contact: Antonio Silva at asilva@charminghotelsmadeira.com.
- **Sea Kayak Adventures** explore Baja and Canada's newest marine parks and prolific whale watching destinations by sea kayak with Sea Kayak Adventures. Sea Kayak Adventures will be happy to provide press trip facilities to Alliance members. Visit: www.seakayakadventures.com. Contact: Nancy Mertz at info@seakayakadventures.com.
- **The View Hotel, Monument Valley, Arizona, USA**, which opened in September 2008, is situated on the Navajo Tribal Park, on the border of Arizona and Utah. The View Hotel will be delighted to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: www.MonumentValleyView.com. Contact: Mike Finney at mike@azcomgroup.com.
- **The Menzies Welcombe Hotel Spa & Golf Club, Stratford-upon-Avon** will be delighted to offer dinner, bed and breakfast at this country house hotel to Alliance members able to review the property. Visit : www.menzieshotels.co.uk. Contact : Tanya Aspinwall at tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk
- **Rosen Hotels** will be delighted to host Alliance members who will be in the Orlando area, at the new 1500-room, 14-story Rosen Shingle Creek. Visit www.rosenshinglecreek.com. Contact Mary Deatrick at mdeatrick@cfl.rr.com.
- **The Peace and Plenty, Bahamas** will be delighted to provide accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: www.peaceandplenty.com. Contact: Hazel Heyer at hazel_heyer@hotmail.com.
- **Ranch Rider** stays are steeped in tradition, allowing travellers to sample an authentic western experience. Ranch Rider will be pleased to consider press trip facilities to Alliance members. Visit: www.ranchrider.com. Contact: Siobhan at siobhan@tionlondon.co.uk

Travel products and services

The following providers of travel products and services will be happy to provide these to Alliance members in return for a credit or review.

Airport lounges in London

No.1 Traveller is a London-based company specialising in airport lounges and transfers. It operates lounges at Heathrow Terminal 3, Gatwick North and South Terminals and Stansted.

No.1 Traveller is happy to offer a 50% discount rate for all Travel Writers Alliance members.

Those interested should contact No1@3-monkeys.co.uk when wishing to make a booking with :

- Full name (as it appears on your passport)
- Flight date / time
- Flight number
- Which airport / terminal

Visit : www.No1Traveller.com. Contact : Charlotte Spencer at Charlotte.Spencer@3-monkeys.co.uk.

Teva

Teva's Contoured Ribbon Mush is the most comfortable flip flop in the world. Using state of the art memory foam you will feel like you are walking on clouds when walking on the beach, boardwalk or pavement this summer.

Visit : www.teva.co.uk. To review the product range contact : Jenny Scott at jenny@brandnation.co.uk.

ELITE's luxury car hire

ELITE's luxury car hire is the largest Pan-European operation of its kind with almost 400 exclusive models including Aston Martin, Audi, Bentley, Ferrari, Lamborghini, Maserati, BMW, Mercedes Benz, Porsche and Land Rover.

For travellers who prefer not to drive, ELITE is affiliated to a network of limousines with drivers serving over 600 cities.

Elite is offering Alliance members a 20% discount on car rental throughout its fleet with a complimentary car upgrade.

Visit : www.eliterent.com. Contact : Maritza Morales at maritza@eliterent.com

Dollar rent a car

Dollar rent a car will be delighted to offer a discount to Alliance members on car rental in the USA in return for a credit. Discounts will be agreed on a case-by-case basis.

UK, European and Australian licence holders should contact : Cheryl Richardson at Cheryl.Richardson@DTAG.com or on + 44 (0) 20 7630 4620.

Visit : www.dollar.co.uk. US and Canadian licence holders should email a request via the Dollar website : www.dollar.com.

Aether mobile

Alliance members can get a 10% discount on aether mobile – the global roaming mobile service, which offers savings on using a mobile phone when abroad.

The service is aimed at leisure and business travellers travelling outside of their home country. Discount is offered on initial SIM+credit orders, plus 10% on all subsequent top ups

The aether mobile SIM card into any unlocked phone.

Visit : www.aether-mobile.com. Contact : Samantha Osborough at samantha.osborough@aether-mobile.com.

The Leisure Pass

The Leisure Pass Group creates all-inclusive 'smart' passes, for cities around the world. The purchase price covers entrance to all attractions, fast-track entry at a number of attractions, and gives discounts at shops, theatres, service providers and restaurants.

Alliance members can get review passes for the cities covered.

Visit : www.leisurepassgroup.com. Contact : Katie.wright@sirencomms.com.

Travel guides

The following travel publishers will be happy to provide review copies to Alliance members where credit or review will follow.

AA Travel Guides

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

Anova Books

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

Berlitz

www.berlitzpublishing.com.

Bradt Travel

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

Brit's Guide

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