

# The Alliance

---

# bulletin

Providing key information on a no-frills format for professional who travel to write, edit, broadcast or create images. Editor : Ashley Gibbins : [Ashley@itwalliance.com](mailto:Ashley@itwalliance.com)

Issue 121 : August 2012 :

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

#### Section one :

- Opportunities
- New partners and agencies
- News and leads
- What's on
- Reasons to write about
- A place to stay

#### Section two (ongoing opportunities) :

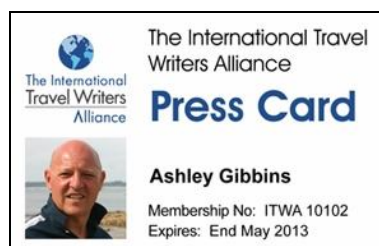
- Ongoing press trip opportunities
- Travel products and services
- Travel guides

#### Registering with the Alliance

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

- **Member** : travel journalists
- **Editor** : editors of publications
- **Partner** : tour, travel, transport and tourism industry representatives, or an
- **Agency** : PR and marketing agencies with travel related clients

#### The Alliance Press Card



**The International Travel Writers Alliance Press Card now** provides Alliance journalists with a formal recognition of their status and standing within the profession.

For more information email [Ashley@itwalliance.com](mailto:Ashley@itwalliance.com).

#### The The Global Travel ITWA Prepaid Master Card



The International Travel Writers Alliance has launched its **Global Travel ITWA Prepaid MasterCard**, a new initiative brought to you in partnership with Global Currency Exchange Network, one of the UK's leading foreign exchange companies.

The Prepaid Card is a smart and cost effective way to carry euros or dollars abroad -simply preload your Card then use it like a debit card to pay for goods at thousands of shops, restaurants and other outlets.

See travel products and services (below) or visit : <https://itwa.gcencurrencycards.com/?r=1952>.

#### Join and follow



[http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=2978414&trk=hb\\_side\\_g](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=2978414&trk=hb_side_g)



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

## 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.**

### **The Western Lake District Coast, UK**

The Western Lake District Coast has been showcased in a new collaboration between celebrity Chef Jean-Christophe Novelli and local wine merchant and Whitehaven Festival organiser Gerard Richardson.

Jean-Christophe and Gerard first worked together in 2010 to highlight Cumbrian produce, in a book entitled 'A Mad Frog and an Englishman Go Out in the Cumbrian Sun'.

The new collaboration, called 'A Mad Frog and an Englishman Go Fishing' follows the pair as they go in search of the freshest available fish and seafood and meet the characters that fish the local waters and keep the area's long seafaring heritage alive.

Visit : [www.western-lakedistrict.co.uk](http://www.western-lakedistrict.co.uk) for information on the area's many foods, activities and accommodation offerings.

To arrange a press visit please contact Greg Stephenson at [gstephenson@cumbriatourism.org](mailto:gstephenson@cumbriatourism.org).

### **EcoExperiencias in El Salvador**

EcoExperiencias in El Salvador is inviting Alliance members to explore the adventure travel opportunities this country offers.

Media with a strong assignment (s) are invited to participate in media tours with EcoExperiencias in the months of October and November 2012.

The hosted media visitation program is "Land Only" and does not include international air.

EcoExperiencias El Salvador has developed itineraries with international tour operators such as GAP Adventures and ResponsibleTravel.com.

The staff at EcoExperiencias seeks to work with adventure and ecotourism firms across the U.S. and Europe to create unique itineraries with its growing list of well-trained inbound operators

Visit : [www.ecoexperienciaselsalvador.com](http://www.ecoexperienciaselsalvador.com). Contact: Sara Widness at [sara@widnesspr.com](mailto:sara@widnesspr.com).

### **Extraordinary: Unusual shaped handbags,the Museum of Bags and Purses in Amsterdam**

18 September 2012 to 10 March 2013

The Museum of Bags and Purses Extraordinary exhibition will display handbags that have unusual shapes and sizes, including those resembling a fan, shark, or vase.

The Museum of Bags and Purses is home to the world's largest collection of handbags.

Comprising more than 4,000 objects, the collection offers a broad view of this popular item's history.

It includes bridal bags, pockets, coin purses, reticules, satchels, evening bags and designer bags by top fashion houses such as Chanel, Louis Vuitton and Hermès.

Visit : [www.tassenmuseum.nl/en](http://www.tassenmuseum.nl/en) and [www.visitholland.com](http://www.visitholland.com). For press trips opportunities contact: Rianne Ojeh at [rojeh@holland.com](mailto:rojeh@holland.com).

## London Cocktail Week, Seven Dials, Covent Garden

October 2012

London Cocktail Week, the biggest drinks festival in the UK will be held in the Seven Dials area of Covent Garden.

From Monday 8 to Sunday 14 October, the area will be encouraging visitors to experience the capital's cocktail culture in the area's mix of high end luxury hotels, underground bars, retail spaces and exclusive members clubs.

There will be tastings, masterclasses, pop up shops and cocktail parties.

Registrations for the £4 London Cocktail Week wristband will open in August 2012 at [Londoncocktailweek.com](http://Londoncocktailweek.com).

Seven Dials, Covent Garden's 'village', offers independent boutiques, heritage brands, quality British labels and indulgent beauty and grooming salons plus a diverse selection of food and drink establishments.

The area includes Monmouth Street, Earlham Street, Neal Street, Shorts Gardens, Mercer Street, Shelton Street, Neal's Yard and the Thomas Neal Centre.

Visit : [www.Londoncocktailweek.com](http://www.Londoncocktailweek.com) and [www.sevendials.co.uk](http://www.sevendials.co.uk).

Alliance members interested in press wristbands to London Cocktail Week should contact : Alex Frith at [sevendials@threepipe.co.uk](mailto:sevendials@threepipe.co.uk).

## Alternative Indian city breaks

ITC Hotels has a portfolio of ten super deluxe and premium hotels across India's key cities of New Delhi, Agra, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Bengaluru.

### Bengaluru and Mysore

The southern city of Bengaluru enjoys an English summer-day climate making it a fine destination for taking advantage of the parks, green space and botanical gardens that has earned it the title of India's Garden City.

Just a short drive away, the historical city of Mysore is a complete contrast to Bengaluru's regeneration and is the chance to visit the Mysore Palace and take in Chamundeshwari Hindu temple set on a hill with city views.

[www.itchotels.in/Hotels/itcgardenia.aspx](http://www.itchotels.in/Hotels/itcgardenia.aspx)

### Hyderabad – Temples & Tollywood

More commonly known as a modern Indian cyber city, Hyderabad is also of architectural interest with with mosques, palaces and temples from the Islamic age.

The Charminar or 'temple of four minarets' was built in 1591 as one of the first and finest monuments in the Kingdom of Golconda.

[www.itchotels.in/Hotels/itckakatiya.aspx](http://www.itchotels.in/Hotels/itckakatiya.aspx)

### Chennai and the Coromandel Coast

Set in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, Chennai and the Coromandel coast are an alternative introduction to India.

Reigning from the 9th to the 13th century, the Chola empire ruled over most of south India (as well as parts of southeast Asia) and their legacy as active patrons of the arts lives on today, with art, music, drama and poetry still flourishing in the region.

There is also the chance to visit the UNESCO world heritage city of Mahabalipuram and the seaside French colonial outpost of Pondicherry.

[www.itshotels.in/ITCGrandChola/index.html](http://www.itshotels.in/ITCGrandChola/index.html)

## **Kolkata**

The capital of India until 1911, Kolkata is the cultural and intellectual capital of the country.

As the second city of the Empire, visitors can take in a wealth of British colonial relics; from the Victoria Memorial, as white as the Taj Mahal, to the quintessentially British Tollygunge Club.

A side trip can be to Darjeeling, an archetypal hill station surrounded by emerald green tea plantation, beyond which, on the horizon, the great snow-capped peaks of the High Himalayas rise.

[www.itshotels.in/Hotels/itcsonar.aspx](http://www.itshotels.in/Hotels/itcsonar.aspx)

## **Mumbai and Goa**

Cosmopolitan Mumbai is the ultimate city break destination with sights, shopping, nightlife, Bollywood, Haji Ali's Mosque floating in the Arabian Sea and local life on Chowpatty beach.

Mumbai can be twined with with a trip to the beaches of Goa, reached in just one hour by plane.

[www.itshotels.in/Hotels/itcmaratha.aspx](http://www.itshotels.in/Hotels/itcmaratha.aspx)

## **Delhi & Agra**

India's capital is still a tried and tested starting point for an India exploration to the Red Fort; the old mosque of Jama Masjid; the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Humayun's Tomb (equal only to the Taj Mahal); Rajghat, the site of Gandhi's cremation and the President's Palace, complete with its regular crew of monkeys.

Agra has the Taj Mahal.

[www.itshotels.in/Hotels/itcmaurya.aspx](http://www.itshotels.in/Hotels/itcmaurya.aspx)

[www.itshotels.in/Hotels/itcmughal.aspx](http://www.itshotels.in/Hotels/itcmughal.aspx)

For further information and press trip requests contact Louise Ferrall at [itc@verypcc.com](mailto:itc@verypcc.com).

## **Working with the Alliance**

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

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

## **Partners**

### **Hedonistic Hiking (Australia)**

Hedonistic Hiking is a small company owned and operated by Jackie and Mick Parsons offering guided gourmet Walking Holidays in Italy and Australia.

The tours are fully escorted with great attention to detail.

The hotels on each hike are chosen for their authentic character and comfort, and fine dining experiences with top quality local wines means enjoying the very best produce the regions have to offer.

Groups are small and friendly and the support vehicle is always on hand. Mick and Jackie have homes in Tuscany and Victoria and are passionate about the food, the wine and the walking of both countries.

Visit : [www.hedonistichiking.com](http://www.hedonistichiking.com). Contact : Jackie Parsons at [info@hedonistichiking.com](mailto:info@hedonistichiking.com).

## Velti

Velti is the leading global provider of mobile marketing and advertising technology and solutions that enable brands, advertising agencies, mobile operators and media to implement highly targeted, interactive and measurable campaigns by communicating with and engaging consumers via their mobile devices.

Velti is a publicly held corporation based in Jersey, and trades on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol VELT.

Visit : [www.velt.com](http://www.velt.com). Contact : Simon Green at [sgreen@velt.com](mailto:sgreen@velt.com).

## Agencies

### Artemis Media Profile (UK)

Artemis Media Profile is one of the North West's leading public relations specialists. The team have managed the media for some of the world's biggest brands and today we implement high profile campaigns for some of the region's best known businesses.

Visit : [www.artemismediaprofile.co.uk](http://www.artemismediaprofile.co.uk). Contact : Emma Garner at [emma.garner@artemismediaprofile.co.uk](mailto:emma.garner@artemismediaprofile.co.uk).

### Taft (USA)

Taft is an award-winning agency that develops effective marketing strategies and breakthrough creative concepts that inspire audiences to action.

Whether it's advertising, marketing, public relations, digital media, corporate communications, leadership development or public affairs, Taft creates and delivers integrated programs across traditional and emerging media.

Founded in 1983, Taft offers strategic insight and creative excellence to regional, national, and international clients across industry segments including healthcare, technology, finance and travel and tourism.

Visit : [www.taftandpartners.com](http://www.taftandpartners.com). Contact : Laurie Edwards at [laurie@taftandpartners.com](mailto:laurie@taftandpartners.com).

## News

### The Mount Pleasant Hotel

The Mount Pleasant Hotel, Doncaster, UK has opened Therapié, its purpose-built health and wellness centre, offering a full range of expert treatments.

Visit : [www.mountpleasant.co.uk/therapie-spa](http://www.mountpleasant.co.uk/therapie-spa). Contact : Helen McIlroy at [rjm@mountpleasant.co.uk](mailto:rjm@mountpleasant.co.uk).

## Women scientists in the Middle East

Women scientists in the Middle East hoping to rise to senior positions are being given a helping hand by two experts in global leadership competencies.

Dr Liza Howe-Walsh and Dr Sarah Turnbull, from the University of Portsmouth Business School, have won funding to run workshops which could help revolutionise women's career paths.

The work in Qatar and the United Arab Emirates will investigate developing Arab women and explore the wider implications for women working in the life sciences and engineering professions.

The results will be presented at conferences in the Middle East in 2013.

Contact: Kate Daniell at [kate.daniell@port.ac.uk](mailto:kate.daniell@port.ac.uk).

## Barbados

The Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison, Barbados, has been included as a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage site.

Bridgetown and its Garrison are considered 'an outstanding example of British colonial architecture,' offering a story 'which testifies to the spread of Great Britain's Atlantic colonial empire.'

Visit : [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org) and [www.visitbarbados.org](http://www.visitbarbados.org). Contact Four bgb: Sam Hooper at [Samantha.hooper@fourbgb.com](mailto:Samantha.hooper@fourbgb.com).

## Kenya

Kenya is to build Africa's first underwater museum, located on its Indian Ocean coast.

Designs for the museum have already begun and it is expected to open in 2014 in the Malindi Marine National Park.

Famously known for its wildlife on land, Kenya also boasts incredible sea life including colourful coral reefs, sea turtles, manta ray, reef sharks and dolphins.

The museum will offer the opportunity to study the local marine life and shipwrecks in more detail.

Visit : [www.magicalkenya.com](http://www.magicalkenya.com). Contact : Susie Tempest at [susiet@hillsbalfour.com](mailto:susiet@hillsbalfour.com).

## Malaysia Airlines

Malaysia Airlines has been awarded 5-star status in the SKYTRAX World Airline Awards, joining a group of airlines to receive this ranking for consistent and high quality of product and service.

The World Airline Awards sees over 18 million travellers from over 160 countries and 100 different nationalities taking part each year in the world's largest independent passenger satisfaction survey to decide the winners.

Malaysia Airlines' operates international flights into KLIA with onward destinations including: Malaysia (Langkawi, Penang, Kota Kinabalu, Kuala Terengganu, Kuantan, Kuching, Johor Bahru); Australia (Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth, Melbourne, Sydney); New Zealand (Auckland); Indonesia (Bali/Denpasar, Jakarta); Thailand (Bangkok, Phuket); Myanmar (Yangon); Vietnam (Hanoi, Ho-Chi Minh City); Cambodia (Siem Reap, Phnom Penh) and Singapore.

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

## The Cambrian Mountains, Wales

Prince Charles, The Prince of Wales has appointed 12 new Cambrian Mountains Tourism Ambassadors to recognise their contribution to the area's economy and environment.

The ambassadors scheme was established formally in 2011 and now includes 27 members.

The initiative is a wide-ranging project that aims to help promote rural enterprise and add value to products and services in the Cambrian Mountains region of Mid Wales.

The area includes some of the most beautiful, unspoilt landscapes in Europe with rare natural habitats and wildlife plus ways of farming that have roots stretching back to the Middle Ages.

Visit : [www.cambrianmountains.co.uk](http://www.cambrianmountains.co.uk). Contact : Carly Butler at [carly@cambrianmountains.co.uk](mailto:carly@cambrianmountains.co.uk).

## The Paisley Canal line, Scotland

Network Rail and ScotRail have confirmed a £12m joint investment to electrify the 8km stretch of line between Glasgow Central and Paisley Canal by December 2012.

Designed by Thomas Telford, the Canal Line started life as a canal intended to link Glasgow with Ardrossan.

Converted by the Glasgow & South West Railway in 1885, it closed in January 1983 as a through route to Kilmacolm but reopened as a branch in July 1990, with the service becoming half-hourly a couple of years later on completion of a loop near Crookston.

Visit : [www.firstgroup.com](http://www.firstgroup.com). Contact : Clare Meikle at [Clare.Meikle@FirstGroup.com](mailto:Clare.Meikle@FirstGroup.com).

## American Airlines

American Airlines has launched a new daily nonstop service between Miami and the Brazilian city of Manaus, capital of Amazonas state and the largest city of the Amazon.

Manaus becomes the 14th destination served by American Airlines in Brazil.

Visit : [www.AA.com](http://www.AA.com). Contact : Polly Tracey at [Polly.Tracey@aa.com](mailto:Polly.Tracey@aa.com).

## 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.**

### The Rhythm & Blues Cruise

Among the current trend of full charter music cruises, the Rhythm & Blues Cruise sails from San Juan, Puerto Rico and will go Bluesin' deep into the Southeastern Caribbean between 27 October and 3 November 2012.

Two dozen bands spanning multiple genres (Chicago Blues, Zydeco, Americana, Hill Country Blues, Boogie Woogie) and generations will perform on five stages during the seven day, seven night voyage on Celebrity's Summit.

Visit : [www.BluesCruise.com](http://www.BluesCruise.com). Contact : Roger Naber at [scott@bluescruise.com](mailto:scott@bluescruise.com).

### Independent escorted touring through North and South Iceland

The Complete Best of Iceland is a 14 day tour from Iceland Adventure, with a pre and post night in Reykjavik, then six nights in North Iceland and five in the south.

Visit : [www.icelandadventure.com](http://www.icelandadventure.com). Contact : Holly J Nelson at [horsesnorth@taconic.net](mailto:horsesnorth@taconic.net).

### **Voyage Charters, the British Virgin Islands**

Voyage charters, which specialises in all-inclusive crewed charters as well as bareboat charters on catamarans in the British Virgin Islands, has introduced Voyage 600, accommodating up to 12 guests.

The Voyage 600 is the largest bareboat available to charter in the BVI's.

Visit : [www.voyagecharters.com](http://www.voyagecharters.com). Contact: Kathleen Gasparin at [Kathleen@vc-reservations.com](mailto:Kathleen@vc-reservations.com).

### **The International Kitchen**

The International Kitchen offers almost 100 cooking vacations and over 50 one-day cooking classes worldwide.

It focuses on intimate cooking experiences include hands-on cooking classes with professional chefs as well as food-related excursions such as wineries, market visits, limoncello factories on the Amalfi Coast, and truffle hunts in the Umbrian hills.

Visit : [www.theinternationalkitchen.com](http://www.theinternationalkitchen.com). Contact: Karen Herbst at [liz@theinternationalkitchen.com](mailto:liz@theinternationalkitchen.com).

### **RMI Roundup in Boise, Idaho**

RMI's annual Roundup will be held at the Red Lion Downtowner in Boise from 9 to 13 April 2013.

RMI's annual Roundup provides an opportunity for businesses, destinations and attractions in the four state region of Idaho, Montana, South Dakota and Wyoming to meet face-to-face with tour operators from Europe who specifically want to do business in our region.

Contact : [kbirrell@rmi-realamerica.com](mailto:kbirrell@rmi-realamerica.com)

### **Macau app**

Macau, which is a region of the People's Republic of China lies on the western side of the Pearl River Delta across from Hong-Kong.

It borders which Guangdong province to the north and facing the South China Sea to the east and south

iPhone and iPad users can now explore areas of Macau such as the UNESCO World Heritage listed "Historic Centre of Macau" with the support of the new "Macau Geoguide" free app, offering map browsing, keyword search and GPS mapping.

A mobile version of the "Macau Online Map" also visitors to navigate Macau by simply tapping in the name of a hotel, restaurant, street or place of interest.

Macau Taxi Translator" is a free tool visitors can download to translate street names and attractions into written Chinese and phonetic Cantonese on the go. Once downloaded, the tool requires no internet connection.

Macau is one of the most 'connected' cities in the world, with visitors able to get free wireless Internet access via the territory-wide WiFi Go service.

Visit: [www.webmap.gis.gov.mo](http://www.webmap.gis.gov.mo) and [www.macautourism.gov.mo](http://www.macautourism.gov.mo). Contact : contact: Raquel Fonseca at [raquel@humewhitehead.co.uk](mailto:raquel@humewhitehead.co.uk).



## What's on

### **VideoFest, Dallas Museum of Art**

27 to 30 September 2012.

The 25th anniversary of VideoFest will be held the Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 N. Harwood St. in downtown Dallas.

VideoFest is now the oldest and largest video festival in the United States.

Visit : [www.videofest.org](http://www.videofest.org). Contact: Lisa Taylor at [info@videofest.org](mailto:info@videofest.org).

### **Dimensions Electronic Music Festival, Pula, Croatia**

6 to 9 September 2012

A new electronic music festival will be held this September in the abandoned Fort Punta Christo.

Brought about by the same team that organised the hugely successful Outlook festival, Dimensions focusses on underground electronic sounds from across the globe.

Visit : [www.dimensionsfestival.com](http://www.dimensionsfestival.com) and visit [www.croatia.hr](http://www.croatia.hr). Contact : Jasmin Othman at [jasmin.othman@rooster.co.uk](mailto:jasmin.othman@rooster.co.uk).

### **Hot air balloon festivals in the USA**

#### **Color The Skies Hot Air Balloon Festival Ripon, California**

1 and 2 September 2012

Held during Labor Day Weekend, Color the Skies is central California's only hot air balloon festival bringing together Hot Air Balloonists, Skydivers, a synchronized kite show and Air George medical transport helicopter.

Visit : [www.colortheskies.com](http://www.colortheskies.com). Contact: Jessica Coleman at [jessica@colortheskies.com](mailto:jessica@colortheskies.com).

#### **Hot Air Festival Van Wert, Ohio**

7 and 8 September 2012

The Hot Air Festival returns to Van Wert, Ohio after seven years. Along with the balloons there is a NASCAR display, fireworks, light parade and concerts.

Visit : [www.vanwerthotairfestival.com](http://www.vanwerthotairfestival.com). Contact : Gerald T. Mazur at [jersons@msn.com](mailto:jersons@msn.com)

#### **Flying high in Kissimmee Florida, the Kissimmee International Balloon Festival of Festivals!**

This three-day festival has hot air balloon rides, WWII airplanes, helicopter rides and a main stage showcasing local and professional bands.

Visit : [www.kissimneefestival.com](http://www.kissimneefestival.com). Contact: Keith Charlton at [keith@floridahia.com](mailto:keith@floridahia.com).

#### **Havasu Balloon Festival and Fair, Arizon**

18 to 21 January 2013

The Havasu Balloon Festival and Fair is held in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, when over 50 balloons will be drifting over the London Bridge and dipping into Lake Havasu.

Visit : [www.havasuballoonfest.com](http://www.havasuballoonfest.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.

### Wine themed breaks in Southern France

#### Traditional wine making break in the Ardèche

There's the chance to discover traditional wine making techniques including cultivating the vines using horse drawn carts and crushing the grapes by foot during a three-day trip to the Rhône Crussol in the Ardèche where AOC Cornas and St Péray wines are produced.

Visit [www.larpenteur-tours.com](http://www.larpenteur-tours.com).

#### Party time in the Rhône Valley

The harvest is a pivotal moment in the Rhône Valley year and is usually marked by a series of festivals.

These include the Côtes du Rhône Harvest Announcement, which takes place on 1 September in Avignon, and has a grand wine themed procession through the streets of the city.

Visit : [www.foudevin.com](http://www.foudevin.com) and [www.tourelles.com](http://www.tourelles.com).

#### Award winning wine villages

Chusclan and Laudun in the Gard have recently been awarded the "Pole d'Excellence Rurale Vignobles et Paysages" accolade which rewards sites involved in promoting sustainable development and traditions through wine.

Mid-October is the best time to visit the area as villagers prepare to celebrate "Les Vendanges de l'Histoire" where whole village gives visitors a snapshot of a winegrower's life in the 1900's.

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

#### Tour the Mont Ventoux Vineyard

Renowned as one of the Tour de France's most challenging stages, the Piemont du Mont Ventoux also offers a unique terrain for local wine growers who have been producing distinctive vintages for many centuries.

Terraventoux now offers visitors the chance to enjoy the local scenery without the strain and tour the vineyards on electric solexes.

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

Contact : Edith Meyer at [edith@firstpr.co.uk](mailto:edith@firstpr.co.uk).

### Food tours USA

#### The Culinary Tours of Charleston, SC

The Culinary Tours of Charleston offer the Savor the Flavors tour, which is a tasting tour teaching guests the history and culture of Low Country cuisine and the Chef's Kitchen Tour, which is a behind-the-scenes look at some of Charleston's best kitchens.

Visit [www.culinarytoursofcharleston.com](http://www.culinarytoursofcharleston.com). Contact: Theresa Stratford at [theresa@bulldogtours.com](mailto:theresa@bulldogtours.com).

### **Boston Foodie Tours, MA**

Boston Foodie Tours focuses on award-winning best eats, including celebrity chefs, old food institutions, food trucks and farmers' markets.

Visit : [www.bostonfoodietours.com](http://www.bostonfoodietours.com). Contact: Audrey Giannattasio at [Audrey@bostonfoodietours.com](mailto:Audrey@bostonfoodietours.com).

### **Boston Food Tours, MA**

Boston Food Tours introduces tourists to Italian food culture on the North End Market Tour in Boston's Little Italy.

Along the way, the guide will also share a bit of neighborhood history, simple but special cooking tips, tastes of specific food ingredients and the best-kept secrets of neighborhood restaurants.

Visit : [www.bostonfoodtours.com](http://www.bostonfoodtours.com). Contact: Michele Topor at [michele@bostonfoodtours.com](mailto:michele@bostonfoodtours.com).

### **New York Food Tours, NY**

New York Food Tours provide food tasting tours in off-the-beaten path New York City neighbourhoods.

On this walking tour, guests taste ethnic foods and discover culture and history of Chinatown, Little Italy and other neighbourhoods.

Visit : [www.ahoynewyorkfoodtours.com](http://www.ahoynewyorkfoodtours.com). Contact: Alana Hoye at [ahoyny@hotmail.com](mailto:ahoyny@hotmail.com).

### **Buffalo Bites Food Tours, NY**

On Buffalo Bites Food Tours Elmwood Village Tour guests will eat an eclectic mix of tasty food samples at six different eateries.

Visit : [www.buffalobitesfoodtours.com](http://www.buffalobitesfoodtours.com). Contact: Laura Reed, Email: [lbsreed@gmail.com](mailto:lbsreed@gmail.com).

### **Mr Darcy's 200th birthday**

The 28 January 2013 marks 200 years since the first publication of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.

Places in the UK for Austen fans to visit include :

#### **Bath**

Jane Austin lived in Bath, where Austen lived between 1801 and 1806.

The city's preserved Georgian architecture remains unchanged from the streets depicted in *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion*.

The Jane Austen Centre, located in a Georgian town house just a few doors down from where she once lived. Inside, an exhibition of costumes, manuscripts, and film clips brings the author's world to life and explores the city's influence on her work.

Visit : [www.visitbath.co.uk/janeausten](http://www.visitbath.co.uk/janeausten).

#### **Derbyshire**

In 2005 Chatsworth was transformed into Pemberley for the making of the film '*Pride and Prejudice*'.

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

## **Berkshire**

A National Trust property, the 18th century palladian mansion Basildon Park, featured as Mr Bingley's humble home, Netherfield House.

Visit : [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/basildon-park](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/basildon-park)

## **Wiltshire**

Lacock, a preserved village dating from the 13th century, played the village of 'Meryton' in the BBC's 'Pride and Prejudice'.

Here the Bennet girls, in particular Lydia and Kitty 'whose minds were more vacant than their sisters', shopped for bonnets, sought the latest tittle-tattle from their Aunt Philips, and hoped to attract the attentions of the officers - in particular a certain Mr Wickham.

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

## **Hampshire**

Jane Austen's house in Chawton, Hampshire where she spent the last eight years of her life and where she wrote Mansfield Park, Emma and Persuasion, is now a museum where visitors can step back in time.

Visit : [www.jane-austens-house-museum.org.uk](http://www.jane-austens-house-museum.org.uk).

Visit : [www.visitengland.com](http://www.visitengland.com). Contact : Rebecca Holloway at [Rebecca.holloway@visitengland.org](mailto:Rebecca.holloway@visitengland.org).

## **Croatia**

Croatia offers 1,244 islands strung along its Adriatic coast, has 16 UNESCO Heritage Sites and eight national parks.

Croatian beaches are some of Europe's cleanest, according to the European Commission and the European Environmental Agency.

The country's coast is deemed second only to Cyprus for the quality and cleanliness of its waters, with 90 per cent of Croatian beaches judged to be of excellent quality.

### **First official Croatian camping app launched**

The Croatian Camping Association has launched an app to help visitors discover more about the country's camping offer.

Camping Croatia gives users access to over 200 campsites across Croatia, in three different languages.

Free to download and available on iPhone and Android, the app can be used offline, making it the perfect companion for overseas visitors.

### **New eco ethno village opened**

A new eco-village has opened for visitors on the edge of the Lonjsko Polje Nature Park in central Croatia.

Strug, in the village Plesno, encompasses eight properties which have been renovated in a traditional style.

Visit [www.croatia.hr](http://www.croatia.hr). Contact : James Brooke at [teamcroatia@rooster.co.uk](mailto:teamcroatia@rooster.co.uk).

## 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 Cross Foxes, Brithdir, Dolgellau, Wales**

The Cross Foxes at Brithdir, near Dolgellau has been awarded an Alastair Sawday's pub award for being an excellent inn with rooms.

The latest edition of Sawday's 'Special Places Pubs and Inns of England & Wales' comprises more than 900 of Britain's very best pubs with 12 selected to receive an award. The Cross Foxes' entry in the guide states: "Nicol and Dewi have worked wonders breathing new life into this stone built former farmhouse."

Visit : [www.crossfoxes.co.uk](http://www.crossfoxes.co.uk) and [www.sawdays.co.uk](http://www.sawdays.co.uk). Contact Nicole Gwynne at [hello@crossfoxes.co.uk](mailto:hello@crossfoxes.co.uk).

### **Historic homes in Rome, Florence or Tuscany**

Visitors to Italy can experience the romantic renaissance of historic Italy by staying in one of a selection of historic homes in Rome, Florence or Tuscany.

#### **Penthouse Marquis Lucifero, Rome**

Penthouse Marquis Lucifero, is located at the top of a medieval tower around the corner from the Campo dei Fiori.

The penthouse was once the family home of the Noble, Lancia family, relatives of the Princess Farnese. The grand Piazza of the same name Piazza Farnese is close by. The building itself was built over an ancient Roman temple still visible in the basement, dedicated either to Hercules or to the God Neptune.

#### **Apartment Palazzo Wilson Gattai, Florence**

Apartment Palazzo Wilson Gattai was designed and built in 1867 by an English artist Federigo Wilson for his own use.

It is located on Garden Square that was opened when Florence was the capital of Italy. The palazzo was recently restored while retaining the original 16th, 17th and 18th century influences.

#### **Villa Castello, Tuscany**

Then Villa Castello on the Tuscan coast was readapted into a residence during the 18th century.

The Castello has always been a family home and care has been taken in choosing the furnishings, the paintings and all the details over the years.

Visit [www.worldwide-accom.com](http://www.worldwide-accom.com). Contact : Laura Shelbourne at [laura@laurashelbourne.com](mailto:laura@laurashelbourne.com).

### **Ballygally Castle, Northern Ireland**

The 17th Century Ballygally Castle, one of the 6 Hastings Hotels, is one of Northern Ireland's finest hotels. The castle is located in the coastal town of Ballygally.

Built in 1625 and 26 miles north of Belfast, Ballygally Castle makes a good base for those wanting to explore the County Antrim Coast.

This summer will see the opening of the Giant's Causeway Visitor Centre.

The Giant's Causeway, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is located an hour's drive from the castle.

Following a major £18.5 million project by the National Trust the visitor centre will give guests that chance to explore and learn about this landscape.

Visit [www.hastingshotels.com](http://www.hastingshotels.com). Contact Sophie Furness at [Sophie@grifcopr.com](mailto:Sophie@grifcopr.com).

### **The Vale d'Oliveiras Quinta Resort and Spa, the Algarve, Portugal**

The Vale d'Oliveiras Quinta Resort and Spa, is a 5\* resort in the western Algarve.

The resort is 40 minutes drive from Faro Airport and a short five minute drive to the beach near the fishing village of Carvoeiro, the quieter end of the region.

The hotel provides a base to explore the natural beauty of the local fishing villages, coastal scenery and beaches of the western Algarve.

Visit [www.valedoliveirasresort.com](http://www.valedoliveirasresort.com). Contact : Rebecca Cleaver at [rebeccac@hillsbalfour.com](mailto:rebeccac@hillsbalfour.com).

### **Small Luxury Hotels in Greece**

Greece has always been a top holiday destination for international travellers and despite recent political and financial turbulence, tourism has remained resilient with only a slight drop in arrival figures.

Small Luxury Hotels of the World has a series of offers in a selection of it's Greek hotels including :

#### **Pietra e Mare Hotel, Mykonos**

Pietra e Mare Hotel looks out towards the Aegean Sea and the white sandy beach of Kalo Livadi on the magical Greek island of Mykonos. Visit : [www.slh.com/pietraemare](http://www.slh.com/pietraemare)

#### **On the Rocks, Santorini**

Located on the cliffs overlooking the Aegean, On the Rocks Hotel offers the traditional style and charm of Santorini. Visit : [www.slh.com/ontherocks](http://www.slh.com/ontherocks)

#### **Aqua Blu Boutique Hotel, Kos**

Aqua Blu Boutique Hotel, Kos is a shortwalk from the centre of Kos town. Visit : [www.slh.com/aquablu](http://www.slh.com/aquablu)

#### **Finikas Hotel Naxos, Naxos**

The Finikas Hotel Naxos overlooks the Bay of Agali on the island's south-west coastline. Visit : [www.slh.com/finikas](http://www.slh.com/finikas)

#### **Petra Hotel & Suites, Patmos**

The Petra Hotel Greece has 12 rooms and suites with paintings and sculptures by contemporary Greek artists. Visit : [www.slh.com/petra](http://www.slh.com/petra)

#### **Ostraco Suites, Mykonos**

Ostraco Suites, Mykonos is close to the narrow stone-paved alleys and blue-domed churches of Mykonos Town. Visit : [www.slh.com/ostraco](http://www.slh.com/ostraco).

Small Luxury Hotels of the World: The Small Luxury Hotels of the World (SLH) brand is a portfolio of small independent hotels, with over 520 hotels in 70 countries.

Visit [www.slh.com](http://www.slh.com). Contact : EJ Flynn at [EJ@Grifcopr.com](mailto:EJ@Grifcopr.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](http://www.visitdublin.com) and [www.dublinpass.com](http://www.dublinpass.com). Contact : Catherine McCluskey at [Catherine.mccluskey@failteireland.ie](mailto:Catherine.mccluskey@failteireland.ie).
- **Mallorca Hotels:** Hotel Bon Sol Resort & Spa, Hotel Tres and Hotel Dalt Murada, and Hotel Marivent, Mallorca will be pleased to offer accommodation to Alliance members with a commission. Visit : [www.hotelbonsol.es](http://www.hotelbonsol.es), [www.hoteltres.com](http://www.hoteltres.com), [www.daltmurada.com](http://www.daltmurada.com) and [www.hotelmarivent.com](http://www.hotelmarivent.com). Contact Cathryn Hicks at [cathryn@douggoodmanpr.com](mailto:cathryn@douggoodmanpr.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](http://www.hospiz.com). Contact Karen Luard at [kp@kpcommunications.co.uk](mailto:kp@kpcommunications.co.uk)
- **La Residencia, Mallorca** will be delighted to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members on assignment. Visit : [www.laresidencia.com](http://www.laresidencia.com). Contact : Louise Davis at [louise.davis@laresidencia.com](mailto:louise.davis@laresidencia.com).
- **DoubleTree by Hilton Golf Resort San Diego** will consider press review visits by Alliance members. Visit : [www.SanDiegoGolfResort.DoubleTree.com](http://www.SanDiegoGolfResort.DoubleTree.com). Contact : Patrick Lennon at [mail@patricklennon.com](mailto:mail@patricklennon.com).
- **Aspects Holidays**, one of Cornwall's leading self catering holiday specialists will be delighted to consider providing accommodation to Alliance members. Visit : [www.aspects-holidays.co.uk](http://www.aspects-holidays.co.uk). Contact : Karen Baker at [Karen@mercury-pr.co.uk](mailto:Karen@mercury-pr.co.uk).
- **The Isles of Scilly, UK** will be pleased to consider press trips for Alliance members. Visit : [www.simplyscilly.co.uk](http://www.simplyscilly.co.uk). Contact Karen Baker at [Karen@mercury-pr.co.uk](mailto:Karen@mercury-pr.co.uk).
- **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](http://www.hiddenpousadasbrazil.com). Contact : Fola Odumosu at [folat@hiddenpousadasbrazil.com](mailto:folat@hiddenpousadasbrazil.com).
- **Adventure Cat Sailing, San Francisco Bay**, will be delighted to 'comp' Alliance travel writers. Visit : [www.adventurecat.com](http://www.adventurecat.com). Contact : Sharon Schrum at [sharon@adventurecat.com](mailto: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](http://www.busybus.co.uk) . Contact : Vera de Ruiten: [vera@busybus.co.uk](mailto:vera@busybus.co.uk).
- **Visit Orlando** offers Alliance members visiting on-assignment a complimentary Journalist VIP Passport. Visit : [www.VisitOrlando.com/media](http://www.VisitOrlando.com/media). Contact : Amy Rodenbrock at [amy.rodenbrock@visitorlando.com](mailto:amy.rodenbrock@visitorlando.com).
- **The Broadway Collection New York**, a group of 24 new and classic Broadway musicals, will be delighted to host Alliance members with a commission. Visit [www.broadwaycollection.com](http://www.broadwaycollection.com) Contact: Della Tully at [Della.Tully@btinternet.com](mailto: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](http://www.luxepr.com). Contact : Tamsin Cocks at [tamsin@luxepr.com](mailto: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](http://www.parismarriott.com). Contact Bernice Saltzer at [bernice@sortedpr.com](mailto: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](http://www.visitbath.co.uk). Contact : Lucy Ryder at [lucy\\_ryder@bathtourism.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.cityrunningtours.com/chicago). Contact : Marlin Keesler at [marlin@cityrunningtours.com](mailto:marlin@cityrunningtours.com).
- **The Cyprus Tourism Organisation** will host group and individual trips for Alliance members with a commission. Visit : [www.visitcyprus.com](http://www.visitcyprus.com). Contact : Susannah Glynn at [Susannah.glynn@kallaway.com](mailto:Susannah.glynn@kallaway.com) or Jack Hickmott at [Jack.hickmott@kallaway.com](mailto:Jack.hickmott@kallaway.com).
- **theExplorateur** reviews of hotels, shops, restaurants and travel-related products around the world. Visit : [www.theExplorateur.com](http://www.theExplorateur.com). For press trips to review any of theExplorateur properties contact Gabriella Ribeiro Truman at [gabriella@trumarketing.com](mailto:gabriella@trumarketing.com).
- **Three Nelson Hotels in Cheshire**: The Grosvenor Pulford Hotel & Spa ([www.grosvenorpulfordhotel.co.uk](http://www.grosvenorpulfordhotel.co.uk)), The Pheasant Inn ([www.thepheasantinn.co.uk](http://www.thepheasantinn.co.uk)) and The Bear's Paw ([www.thebearspaw.co.uk](http://www.thebearspaw.co.uk)) will be happy to accommodate Alliance members with a commission. Contact : Karen Floyd at [karen.floyd@symmetrypr.com](mailto: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](http://www.ghotw.com). Contact: Ashleigh Silverman at [asilverman@ghotw.com](mailto:asilverman@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](http://www.thecranley.com) or [www.theroyalpark.com](http://www.theroyalpark.com). Contact : Li Boatwright at [li@storringtoncommunications.com](mailto:li@storringtoncommunications.com).
- **Mead Brown**, a vacation rental company in Costa Rica, is happy to host writers on assignment. Visit : [www.meadbrown.com](http://www.meadbrown.com). Contact : Michael Brown at [michael@meadbrown.com](mailto: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](http://www.LocalGuiding.com). Contact: Robert Blessing at [rb@localguiding.com](mailto: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](http://www.Shakespeare-Country.co.uk). Contact : Tanya Aspinwall at [tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk](mailto:tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk).
- **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](http://www.atholl-estates.co.uk). Contact: Lee MacGregor at [lee@leemacgregorpr.com](mailto:lee@leemacgregorpr.com).
- **The Villa Pambuffetti in Montefalco, Umbria, Italy** will be pleased to offer accommodation to Alliance members. Visit : [www.villapambuffetti.com](http://www.villapambuffetti.com). Contact Alessandra Pambuffetti at [info@villapambuffetti.com](mailto:info@villapambuffetti.com).
- **Africa Safari Holidays** will be happy to offer any press trip services to professional travel journalist to East Africa. Visit : [www.africasafariholidays.net](http://www.africasafariholidays.net). Contact : Agnes Njagi at [info@africasafariholidays.net](mailto:info@africasafariholidays.net).
- **Reykjavik Bike Tours** provide press tours of Iceland's capital for Alliance members. Visit : [www.icelandbike.com](http://www.icelandbike.com). Contact : Stefan Helgi Valsson at [valsson@centrum.is](mailto: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](http://www.tourisme-champagne-ardenne.com). Contact: Doug Goodman at [doug@douggoodmanpr.com](mailto:doug@douggoodmanpr.com).
- **Midlethorpe Hall & Spa**, Yorkshire, UK will be delighted to offer DB&B and use of the Spa to Alliance members. Visit : [www.middlethorpe.com](http://www.middlethorpe.com). Contact Daisy Parker at [daisy@iscott.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.welcometoswaziland.com) and [www.malawitourism.com](http://www.malawitourism.com). Contact: Kelly White at [tourism@geo-group.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.holidaylettings.co.uk). Contact : Kate Stinchcombe-Gillies at [kate@holidaylettings.co.uk](mailto:kate@holidaylettings.co.uk).
- **Malta** will be happy to consider for press trips for Alliance members. Visit : [www.visitmalta.com](http://www.visitmalta.com). Contact : Anne Kapranos at [Anne@essence-communications.com](mailto: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](http://www.peckfortoncastle.co.uk). Contact : Karen Floyd at [karen.floyd@symmetrypr.com](mailto: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](http://www.tongabezi.com). Contact Honour Schram de Jong at [honour@honourway.com](mailto: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](http://www.kerdowneybotswana.com). Contact : Honour Schram de Jong at [honour@honourway.com](mailto: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](http://www.adventure-life.com). Contact : Adam York at [adam@sublimepub.com](mailto:adam@sublimepub.com).
- **Migis Lodge on the shores of Maine's Sebago Lake** invites travel journalists to experience Maine Lakeside Luxury. Visit : [www.migis.com](http://www.migis.com). Contact : Susan Soltero at [ssoltero@cmcommunications.com](mailto:ssoltero@cmcommunications.com).
- **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](http://www.principal-hayley.com/venues-and-hotels/the-george-hotel). Contact : Megan Davidson at [megan@crimsonedge.co.uk](mailto:megan@crimsonedge.co.uk).
- **The Peace and Plenty, Bahamas** will be delighted to provide accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: [www.peaceandplenty.com](http://www.peaceandplenty.com). Contact: Hazel Heyer at [hazel\\_heyer@hotmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.hyatt.com). Contact: Alison Wood at [Alison@grifcopr.com](mailto: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](http://www.ranchrider.com). Contact: Siobhan at [siobhan@tionlondon.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.honourway.com). Contact : Honour Schram de Jong at [honour@honourway.com](mailto:honour@honourway.com).
- **Knockomie Hotel, Forres, 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](http://www.knockomie.co.uk). Contact: Lee MacGregor at [lee@leemacgregorpr.com](mailto:lee@leemacgregorpr.com).
- **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](http://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](http://www.honourway.com). Contact : Honour Schram de Jong at [honour@honourway.com](mailto:honour@honourway.com).
- **New York Circle Line Sightseeing Cruises** will be delighted to host Alliance members with a commission. Visit: [www.circleline42.com](http://www.circleline42.com) Contact: Lisa Chamberlain at [lisa.chamberlain@btinternet.com](mailto: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](http://www.haweswaterhotel.com). Contact : Samantha Marsh: [samantha@infinitypublicrelations.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.premiercottages.co.uk). Contact : Liz Blakeborough at [liz@blakeborough.com](mailto: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](http://www.stmaryshallhotel.co.uk). Contact : Karen Baker at [karen@mercury-pr.co.uk](mailto:karen@mercury-pr.co.uk)
- **1066 Country** which comprises the area of Battle, Bexhill, Hastings, Herstmonceux, Pevensey and Rye in East Sussex, UK. Visit : [www.visit1066ocountry.com](http://www.visit1066ocountry.com). Contact : Jane Ellis at [jjmellis@hastings.gov.uk](mailto: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](http://www.wineport.ie). Contact: Nina Zapala at [zapala@fzkllc.com](mailto: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](http://www.innonfifth.com). Contact : Kelly Grass Prieto at [kelly@hayworthcreative.com](mailto: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](http://www.base2stay.com/press_page/Liverpool.html). Contact : Jon Brown at [brown@paversmith.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.visitchester.com) and [www.lincoln.gov.uk](http://www.lincoln.gov.uk). Contact : Oliver Bennett at [oliverbennett@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.swiss-belhotel.com). Contact : Ayla Hass at [aylahaas@swiss-belhotel.com](mailto:aylahaas@swiss-belhotel.com).

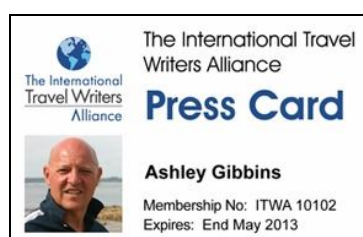
- **Pembrokeshire, South West Wales** will be delighted to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members with a commission. Visit: [www.pembrokeshire.com](http://www.pembrokeshire.com). Contact: Pat Edgar [PRMatters@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:PRMatters@dsl.pipex.com)
- **The Rutland Hotel, Edinburgh**, will be delighted to invite Alliance members to review this boutique hotel. Visit [www.therutlandhotel.com](http://www.therutlandhotel.com). Contact Yvonne or Fiona at [info@nicheworks.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.galapagosexpeditions.com/gracepresskit.php). Contact : Paul Schicke at [paul@quasarex.com](mailto: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](http://www.focushotels.co.uk). Contact : Nat Frogley at [nat@bacall.net](mailto: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](http://www.blythswoodsquare.com) or [www.thetownhousecollection.com](http://www.thetownhousecollection.com). Contact: Jo Murphy at [Jo@thespaprcompany.com](mailto:Jo@thespaprcompany.com).
- **The Inn at Lathones**, Scotland's only 4 star inn, is delighted to consider press trips from Alliance members. The 17<sup>th</sup>-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](http://www.theinn.co.uk) Contact: Lee MacGregor at [lee@leemacgregorpr.com](mailto:lee@leemacgregorpr.com)
- **Cornwall Cottages** will be delighted to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: [www.cornwallscottages.co.uk](http://www.cornwallscottages.co.uk). Contact: Sue Bradbury at [jess@suebradburypr.com](mailto:jess@suebradburypr.com).
- **Frontier Travel** organise tailor-made holidays to Canada in both the Summer : [www.frontier-canada.co.uk](http://www.frontier-canada.co.uk) and the Winter : [www.frontier-ski.co.uk](http://www.frontier-ski.co.uk). The company will consider offering individual press trips for Alliance members with or who can get commissions from UK national newspapers, websites or high end publications with large circulations. Contact: Dave Ashmore at [dave@frontier-travel.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.thesaillofts.co.uk). Contact: Peter Hutchinson at [peter@thesaillofts.co.uk](mailto:peter@thesaillofts.co.uk).
- **The Alfajiri Villas and Galdessa Camp** would like to invite Alliance members to stay at Alfajiri Villas ([www.alfajirivillas.com](http://www.alfajirivillas.com)) or Galdessa Camp ([www.galdessa.com](http://www.galdessa.com)). Visit : [www.FazendinPortfolio.com](http://www.FazendinPortfolio.com). Contact Sarah Fazendin at [sarah@fazendinportfolio.com](mailto: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](mailto:megan@crimsonedge.co.uk).
- **Helpful Holidays, UK** will be delighted to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: [www.helpfulholidays.com](http://www.helpfulholidays.com). Contact: Pat Edgar at [PRMatters@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:PRMatters@dsl.pipex.com).
- **Jet2.com and Jet2holidays.com** will be happy to consider offering flights and holiday opportunities. Contact: [www.pressoffice@jet2.com](mailto:www.pressoffice@jet2.com).
- **Wilderness Journeys** will be delighted to consider offering press trip facilities to Alliance members. Visit : [www.wildernessjourneys.com](http://www.wildernessjourneys.com). Contact: Stevie Christie at [stevie@wildernessjourneys.com](mailto:stevie@wildernessjourneys.com).
- **Divi Resorts, the Caribbean** will be happy to consider accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: [www.diviresorts.com](http://www.diviresorts.com). Contact: Jacqueline Burton at [jburton@fwv-us.com](mailto:jburton@fwv-us.com).

- **Charming Hotels Madeira** will be pleased to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: [www.charminghotelsmadeira.com](http://www.charminghotelsmadeira.com). Contact: Antonio Silva at [asilva@charminghotelsmadeira.com](mailto: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](http://www.seakayakadventures.com). Contact: Nancy Mertz at [info@seakayakadventures.com](mailto:info@seakayakadventures.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](http://www.menzieshotels.co.uk). Contact : Tanya Aspinwall at [tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk](mailto:tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk)
- **The Peace and Plenty, Bahamas** will be delighted to provide accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: [www.peaceandplenty.com](http://www.peaceandplenty.com). Contact: Hazel Heyer at [hazel\\_heyer@hotmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.ranchrider.com). Contact: Siobhan at [siobhan@tionlondon.co.uk](mailto:siobhan@tionlondon.co.uk)
- **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](http://www.MonumentValleyView.com). Contact: [jon@monumentvalleyview.com](mailto:jon@monumentvalleyview.com).

## Travel products and services

### The International Travel Writers Alliance Press Card

The Alliance has launched its **Press Card**.



Press Card holders receive the card itself and the members logo for use with email signatures and on websites and stationery.

Press card holders also receive ongoing support from the Alliance in advance of - or during – a members travels with regard to confirming membership with editors or travel industry representatives.

The Alliance is also negotiating a package of press trip and other opportunities with those of its travel industry partners who wish to work more closely with press card holders.

For more information email [Ashley@itwalliance.com](mailto:Ashley@itwalliance.com).

## The Global Travel ITWA Prepaid MasterCard

**The Global Travel ITWA Prepaid MasterCard is a new initiative brought to you in partnership with Global Currency Exchange Network, one of the UK's leading foreign exchange companies.**



The Prepaid Card is a smart and cost effective way to carry euros or dollars abroad -simply preload your Card then use it like a debit card to pay for goods at thousands of shops, restaurants and other outlets.

### The Benefits

- The Card is free to purchase if you load £200 or over (otherwise a fee of £6.95 applies) and there are no costs to top it up using a debit card
- Competitive exchange rates
- A safe\* and convenient alternative to cash when spending money overseas
- Top up anytime, even when abroad, simply load online and check your balance online
- Accepted worldwide wherever you see the MasterCard Acceptance Mark
- In-currency cash withdrawals at ATMs are \$2/€1.50 (The sterling card is 1.4%, min £1.00) and out-of-currency cash ATM withdrawals are \$2.00/€1.50 (The sterling card is 2.8%, min £1.50.) other ATM provider service charges may apply.

It can be an ideal way to keep track of all your business expenses

For more details and to apply for The Global Travel ITWA Prepaid MasterCard visit :

<https://itwa.gcencurrencycards.com/?r=1952>

\* The Prepaid Card is an electronic money product and although it is a product regulated by the Financial Services Authority, it is not covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. No other compensation scheme exists to cover losses claimed in connection with the Prepaid Card.

This means that in the event that Newcastle Building Society becomes insolvent your funds may become valueless and unusable and as a result you may lose your money MasterCard is a registered trademark of MasterCard International Incorporated. The Card is issued by Newcastle Building Society ("NBS") pursuant to licence by MasterCard International Inc.

NBS is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority as an issuer of e-money (registration no. 156058)

## Other products and services

### 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.

Visit : [www.No1Traveller.com](http://www.No1Traveller.com). Contact : Charlotte Spencer at [Charlotte.Spencer@3-monkeys.co.uk](mailto:Charlotte.Spencer@3-monkeys.co.uk).

### 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](mailto:Cheryl.Richardson@DTAG.com).

Visit : [www.dollar.co.uk](http://www.dollar.co.uk). US and Canadian licence holders should email a request via the Dollar website : [www.dollar.com](http://www.dollar.com).

## 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](http://www.visitdublin.com) and [www.dublinpass.com](http://www.dublinpass.com). Contact : Catherine McCluskey at [Catherine.mccluskey@failteireland.ie](mailto:Catherine.mccluskey@failteireland.ie).

## ELITE's luxury car hire

ELITE's luxury car hire is the largest Pan-European operation of its kind with almost 400 exclusive models.

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. Please mention special code Travel Writers Alliance – UK when booking.

Visit : [www.eliterent.com](http://www.eliterent.com). Contact : Jan Klima at [jan.klima@eliterent.com](mailto:jan.klima@eliterent.com).

## Æther 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. All æther mobile SIMs have a UK telephone number; +44 7.

Visit : [www.aether-mobile.com](http://www.aether-mobile.com). Contact : SamanthaOsborough at [samantha.osborough@aether-mobile.com](mailto: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](http://www.leisurepassgroup.com). Contact : Katie.wright@sirencomms.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 also receive a 20% discount from all 100 City Sightseeing tours around the world by booking via its website.

Visit [www.city-sightseeing.com](http://www.city-sightseeing.com) and click on the relevant tour page for details and using dedicated code ITWA20.

Free tickets have to be issued by our local operators whose telephone number is on the CitySightseeing website.

Visit : [www.city-sightseeing.com](http://www.city-sightseeing.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](http://www.shop.theaa.com/store/travel-guides).  
Contact : Katie Stephens at [katie.stephens@theaa.com](mailto:katie.stephens@theaa.com).

### Anova Books

[www.anovabooks.com](http://www.anovabooks.com). Helen Ponting at [hponting@anovabooks.co](mailto:hponting@anovabooks.co)

### Berlitz

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

### Bradt Travel

[www.bradtguides.com](http://www.bradtguides.com). Rachel Fielding at [rachel.fielding@bradtguides.com](mailto:rachel.fielding@bradtguides.com)

### Brit's Guide

[www.foulsham.com](http://www.foulsham.com). Margaret Lashbrook at [margaret.lashbrook@lineone.net](mailto:margaret.lashbrook@lineone.net) or Sue Wilkins at [wilkins@foulsham.com](mailto:wilkins@foulsham.com).

### Cicerone

[www.cicerone.co.uk](http://www.cicerone.co.uk). Contact : Sarah Spencer at [sarah@cicerone.co.uk](mailto:sarah@cicerone.co.uk)

### Eland Publishing

[www.travelbooks.co.uk](http://www.travelbooks.co.uk). Barnaby Rogerson at [barnaby@travelbooks.co.uk](mailto:barnaby@travelbooks.co.uk).

### Fisher's Travel SOS

[www.fisherstravelsos.com](http://www.fisherstravelsos.com). Furgan Syed at [furqan.syed@fisherstravelsos.com](mailto:furqan.syed@fisherstravelsos.com).

### Global Travel Publishers

[www.africa-adventure.com](http://www.africa-adventure.com). Kate Bandos at [kate@ksbpromotions.com](mailto:kate@ksbpromotions.com).

### Globetrotters LogBook

[www.globetrotterslogbook.com](http://www.globetrotterslogbook.com). Giedo Claes at [giedo@globetrotterslogbook.com](mailto:giedo@globetrotterslogbook.com)

### Inn House Publishing

[www.innhousepublishing.com](http://www.innhousepublishing.com). Kathryn McWhirter at [kathrynmcwhirter@bopenworld.com](mailto:kathrynmcwhirter@bopenworld.com).

### Insight

[www.insightguides.com](http://www.insightguides.com). Julia Spence at [Julia.spence@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:Julia.spence@ukonline.co.uk).

### In your pocket guides

[www.inyourpocket.com](http://www.inyourpocket.com). Craig Turp at [editor@inyourpocket.com](mailto:editor@inyourpocket.com).

### Jane's Smart Art Guides

[www.JanesSmartArt.com](http://www.JanesSmartArt.com). Jane McIntosh at [MJM@JanesSmartArt.com](mailto:MJM@JanesSmartArt.com)

### Kuperard Publishers

[www.kuperard.co.uk](http://www.kuperard.co.uk). Contact : Geoffrey Chesler at [geoffreychesler@btinternet.com](mailto:geoffreychesler@btinternet.com).

### Morris Communications

[www.themilepost.com](http://www.themilepost.com). Contact Kate Bandos at [kate@ksbpromotions.com](mailto:kate@ksbpromotions.com).

### Odyssey Books & Guides

[www.odysseypublications.com](http://www.odysseypublications.com). Contact : Caroline Eden at [caroline@odysseypublications.com](mailto:caroline@odysseypublications.com)

### Oxygen Books city-lit

[www.oxygenbooks.co.uk](http://www.oxygenbooks.co.uk) Malcom Burgess at [malcolm@oxygenbooks.co.uk](mailto:malcolm@oxygenbooks.co.uk)

### Rough Guides

[www.roughguides.com](http://www.roughguides.com). Contact : [press@roughguides.com](mailto:press@roughguides.com)

### Summersdale travel publications

[www.summersdale.com](http://www.summersdale.com). Contact : Dean at [dean@summersdale.com](mailto:dean@summersdale.com).

### Take two Books

[www.taketwobooks.com](http://www.taketwobooks.com) Sarah Duvalle at [Sarah@taketwobooks.com](mailto:Sarah@taketwobooks.com).

### Turnleft

[www.turnleftguides.com](http://www.turnleftguides.com) Contact: Nick Buteau at [nick@turnleftguides.com](mailto:nick@turnleftguides.com)

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



AllWays traveller provides independent travellers with an equally independent view of the world from the professional travel journalists in the Alliance

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

**Ashley Gibbins** FCIPR, MCIOJ  
0776 419 8286  
[Ashley@itwalliance.com](mailto:Ashley@itwalliance.com)

## AllWays traveller