



The Alliance

bulletin

Issue 109 : December 2011: www.itwalliance.com

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

Ashley@itwalliance.com

In this issue

- **Opportunities** : for group and individual press trips
 - **Working with Alliance members** : travel partners and their agencies
 - **News** : items of interest to travel journalists
 - **Leads** : story ideas
 - **What's on** : annual festivals and events
 - **Reasons to write about** : destinations and travel pursuits
 - **A place to stay** : and review hotels, resorts and other accommodation
- Section two : Ongoing opportunities**
- **Alerts** : ongoing press trip opportunities
 - **Travel products and services** : of interest to travel journalists
 - **Travel guides** : that will offer review copies
 - **The International Travel Writers Alliance and AllWays**

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 Hotel Fort Canning, Singapore

The Hotel Fort Canning, Singapore will be delighted to consider hosting Alliance members on assignment.

Once used as a base for the British Far East Command pre/post World War II in Singapore, the Hotel Fort Canning has been restored and re-opened as a chic boutique hotel with 86 rooms and suites, two restaurants and a THANN Spa.

Many original features of its colonial past have been retained including a multi-columned façade and grand staircase. The hotel forms part of Fort Canning Park, an historical landmark in the heart of Singapore located between Orchard Road, the Clarke Quay entertainment hub and the Central Business District (CBD).

The 'Battle Box' where General Percival surrendered Singapore to the Japanese in 1942 is a meetings or events venue.

Visit : www.hfcsingapore.com. Contact : Karen Luard at kp@KPcommunications.co.uk.

The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust

The UK based Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) have launched their 2011 Migration Watch programme by inviting Alliance members to visit one or more of its wetland centres.

There will be the chance to meet the experts, experience the spectacles of thousand of birds arriving from destinations worldwide and helping to count the flocks.

Birds you may see include Bewick's and whooper swans, pink-footed geese, teal, lapwing and curlew. The spectacular pochards or an elusive bittern – the 'tiger' of the wetland bird safari! In excess of 5 million birds from 60 species migrate to the UK every year from Canada, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia including 350,000 pink footed geese.

The WWT will tailor individual visits to any of its centres between now and 31 January 2012.

Visit : www.wwt.org.uk/migrationwatch. Contact Jackie Pedersen at jackie@macraecomunication.com.

Pound Ridge Golf Club, NYC

Pound Ridge Golf Club Located an hour north of New York City is the only Pete Dye-design in New York and one of the Metropolitan area's most sought after golfing experiences.

Pound Ridge has been created from 172 acres of cliffs, streams and wooded hills, with rock formations and boulders, wetlands and water hazards.

Alliance members in the NYC area are invited to play the course.

Visit : Www.PoundRidgeGolf.com. Contact : Glenn Gray at ggray@buffalocommunications.com.

Visit Norfolk - Closer than you think to London 2012

Norfolk Tourism has launched VisitNorfolk2012.com, a microsite to promote the UK county as a London 2012 base for visiting the Olympic Games.

VisitNorfolk2012.com is a one-stop shop for visitors arranging a holiday in Norfolk combined with a visit to the London Games.

It features information about Games venues as well as links for transport to and accommodation in Norfolk, things to do and key events, including the Cultural Olympiad and Torch Relay in the county.

There is also an interactive map of Norfolk that helps plan a stay in the county.

Norfolk Tourism is also running a series of competitions on VisitNorfolk2012.com to win short breaks to the county in 2012.

Visit : www.VisitNorfolk2012.com. For press trip opportunities to Norfolk contact : Paul Dickson at paul-dickson@btconnect.com.

A Day in 'Provence' - in the heart of the UK's Surrey Hills

Denbies Wine Estate, England's largest vineyard and Mayfield Lavender, organic lavender growers in the North Surrey Downs, are offering a unique day out in the Surrey Hills.

Denbies, established in 1986 with 265 acres planted under vine is internationally renowned for its' rosé wine.

Denbies Chalk Ridge Rose won the gold award for Best Rosé in the World at the 2011 International Wine Challenge.

The lavender harvest window is brief and intense, lasting from the beginning of June to the end of August.

A Day in 'Provence' in the heart of the Surrey Hills will begin at Mayfield Organic with an introduction by the owner of this beautiful organic lavender farm.

Visitors will be taken through the challenges of modern day lavender growing and provide a guided tour of the fields.

The Denbies Classic Winery Tour & Tasting commences in its 360° circular cinema where guests learn about the geology and history of the estate and the production process from vine to bottle.

A Day in 'Provence' in the heart of the Surrey Hills will provide a fascinating and highly enjoyable day out.

The Denbies Farmhouse B&B, which enjoys English Tourist Board '4 Stars silver' status, is located in the heart of the vineyard.

Visit : www.denbies.co.uk and www.mayfieldlavender.com. For more information or a press review visit to Denbies Wine Estate contact : Jeannette Simpson at jsimpson@denbiesvineyard.co.uk.

Luxury Backpackers

Travel guide publishers Luxury Backpackers have published Family Adventures in Style. The company will be happy to provide review copies to Alliance members.

Visit : www.luxurybackpackers.com. Contact: Jill Nash at jill@luxurybackpackers.com.

1,000 Places to See Before You Die

1,000 Places to See Before You Die, by Patricia Schultz, is the original '1000 places' book that launched a traveller's life wish-list together with a practical guide.

Originally published in 1993 the book has sold over 3 million copies and been translated into 25 languages. The second edition - also by Patricia - will be published 1 February 2012.

The book has been fully updated with 200 new entries, 28 new countries and 600 full-colour photographs and we hope you will find the new edition more experiential, informative and budget-friendly.

Patricia will be visiting London on 21 and 22 March and will be available for interview.

1,000 Places to See Before You Die IS published by Workman. For review copies contact : Claire Bowles at claire@clairebowlespr.co.uk.

Shabuway in the San Francisco Bay Area

Shabuway in the San Francisco Bay Area invites food and lifestyle writers of the Alliance to dine at their restaurants in Mountain View and San Jose to experience the traditional Japanese Shabu Shabu (hot pot).

Visit : www.shabuway.com. Contact Jaslin Yu at jaslinyu@gmail.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

The German National Tourist Office

For 60 years, the German National Tourist Office has worked in cooperation with the Federal Government to promote tourism to Germany.

Throughout the world it markets the diverse nature of travel to Germany. It promotes an enormous and appealing product: Germany as a travel destination.

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

Visit Delray Beach, Florida

The Delray Beach Marketing Cooperative wants to introduce travellers to our charming beachside town in Florida.

We are located one hour north of Miami between Ft Lauderdale and Palm Beach.

We stand ready to facilitate your trip by interfacing with local hotels, restaurants and attractions on your behalf. We'll even throw in a tour of the town via golf cart.

Visit : www.visitdelraybeach.us. Contact : Stephanie Immelman at simmelman@delraybeach.com

Cape Cod, Massachusetts

The Cape Cod CVB markets and promotes the beauty and culture of the resort destination of Cape Cod and the greater region to tour operators, media outlets and meeting planners throughout the world.

Visit : www.capecodchamber.org. Contact : Michele Pecoraro at michele@capecodchamber.org.

Premium Land Vacations (St Barts)

Somewhere between being a Tour Operator, a Travel Agency, Vacation Planner and a Concierge and Lifestyle management company, Premium Island Vacations presents guests with the choice of the best luxury rental villas and deluxe hotels on St Barts, hand picked and selected one by one to provide only the best St Barts has to offer.

Visit : www.premiumislandvacations.com. Contact : James Daltrey at james@premiumislandvacations.com.

India Mart

India Mart offers Indian trips that include wildlife -leisure, desert, wildlife, beach, heritage, culture, and a adventure tours for all ages

Contact : www.indiamart.com. Tariq Shahat wildlifeandromance@gmail.com

Vietnam Airlines

Vietnam Airlines is the national flag carrier of Vietnam.

Visit : www.vietnamairlines.com. Contact : Nam Bui Hai at bhnamasia@gmail.com.

Tatton Park (UK)

Tatton Park is an historic estate in Cheshire, with 2000 acres of parkland and four attractions to visit. Deer have been present since the 13th century and the meres attract a variety of birds and wildlife.

The Neo-Classical Mansion features art and antiques from the Egerton family collections, and the 50 acres of Gardens with designs dating from 250 years ago, providing year-round colour.

The Gardens showcase different areas such as the Topiary, Rose Garden, Walled Kitchen Garden and the Japanese Garden which is considered one of the best in Europe. There is also a working historic Farm and Tudor Old Hall to visit.

Visit : www.tattonpark.org.uk. Contact : Eleanor Gorsuch at eleanor.gorsuch@cheshireeast.gov.uk.

The Alpe-Adria: Tourism and Leisure Show, Slovenia

The Alpe-Adria: Tourism and Leisure Show is the central tourism event of the Alps-Adriatic region, which includes 10 individual regions of Italy, Austria and Hungary, as well as Slovenia and Croatia in their entirety.

It is also an event, where the visitors can identify themselves by various tourist types: Holidaymakers, Active leisure addicts, Travellers, Short trip-makers

Visit: www.alpeadria-tourismshow.com. Contact : Spela Bratun at spela.bratun@gr-sejem.si.

Experience my France (Canada)

Experience (my) France provides a very different kind of small group travel experience, a tour that does not seem like a tour, but a true, intimate, and authentic experience.

Visit : www.experiencemyfrance.com. Contact : Christian Henry at contact@experiencemyfrance.com.

Ghana Patlsa Travel & Tour

Ghana Patlsa Travel & Tour was founded by Patrick Tetteh Tamatey and co-founder Isaac Appiah with the aim to support African local communities and bring their traditions, customs, history, culture and voices to a global and international environment.

Patlsa Travel & Tour provides visitors, travellers and students with a true African experience and it encourages the interaction and cultural exchange among the local population and its visitors.

The programs it offer are flexible and can be organized according to our customers' needs.

Visit : www.patisaeducationaltraveltourism.yolasite.com. Contact : Patrick Tetteh Tamatey at pakamay@yahoo.com.

La Residencia (Majorca)

La Residencia is a top luxury hotel on Mallorca and part of the Orient-Express group.

The hotel will welcome the opportunity to work with the media to promote hotel and provide information on what is being done on the property.

Visit : www.laresidencia.com. Contact : Louise Davis at louise.davis@laresidencia.com.

Responsibletravel.com

responsibletravel.com is the world's leading company for responsible holidays.

In 2011 the company celebrated its 10th birthday and has sold \$100million worth of holidays since it launched. The site works with over 1,000 tourism suppliers to help market over 4,000 richer, deeper and more locally distinctive travel experiences that are better for destinations and local communities.

Visit : www.responsibletravel.com. Contact : Kristina Roe at krissy@responsibletravel.com.

Cumbria and the Lake District, United Kingdom

Cumbria and the Lake District is a perfect holiday destination, with a huge selection of accommodation to suit all tastes set against stunning views and some of England's finest scenery.

Take a trip to Cumbria and indulge yourself in quality food and drink from cosy Lake District pubs and inns to more formal restaurants.

For the more adventurous there are plenty of outdoor activities on offer from walking and cycling to rock climbing and abseiling.

If you prefer an amble around the shops and art galleries there is plenty to keep you entertained, with art exhibitions on throughout the year.

Visit : www.golakes.co.uk. Contact : Greg Stephenson at GStephenson@cumbriatourism.org.

Inbed.me

Inbed.me is the first social booking site for hostels, beds and couches.

The tool takes the beauty of the Social Web and brings it to the Travel Booking Market by allowing people to connect with fellow travellers before their trip even starts.

The company strongly believes that travel is not about the places you visit but about the people you meet along the way.

Visit : www.inbed.me. Contact : Jessica Festa at jessica@inbed.me.

Atmosphera Italia

Atmosphera Italia organises tours throughout Italy. Pamper yourself, pamper yourself at every moment and caress it can be unique and unforgettable.

Visit : www.atmospheraitalia.blogspot.com. Contact : Ernestina De Paola at info@atmospheraitalia.aitmitaliaservices.com.

Salom Travel (Uzbekistan)

Salom Travel are specialized in cultural and historical tours in Uzbekistan and Central Asia including Xingjian (Western China) and Northern Afghanistan.

The company also arrange tours of different types such as archeological tours, ethnographic tours, hiking tours, culinary tours and etc. Also we provide services as visa support, hotel bookings, air and train tickets, seminars and etc.

Visit : www.salom-travel.com. Contact : Otabek Karshiev at okarshiev@yahoo.com.

Agencies

FTI Consulting

FTI Consulting (formerly FD) provides strategic consultancy and PR advice to clients operating in a variety of sectors, including travel.

Visit : www.fticonsulting.com. Contact : Bree Sims at bree.sims@fticonsulting.com

Mason Williams

Mason Williams is one of the UK's leading independent consumer PR agencies. Now 25 years old, the consultancy has offices in London, Manchester and Mallorca.

Visit : www.mason-williams.co.uk. Contact : Christine Quansah at christine@mason-williams.com.

MacKenzie Communications

MacKenzie Communications is a San Francisco-based integrated marketing communications agency, serving clients locally, nationally and internationally. It has a diverse client base who rely on its ability to "connect the dots" between our clients, their customers and partners, the media, and the community.

Visit : www.mackenziesf.com. Contact : Janis MacKenzie at jmackenzie@mackenziesf.com.

News

TravelMeister Germany

The German National Tourist Office (GNTO) has just launched a new student campaign on Facebook to find a 'TravelMeister' youth ambassador for Germany.

Until the 12th of December, university students are being invited to submit a 50-word application plus photo on www.germany.travel/facebookcompetition. Contact : Nadine Wenn at nadine.wenn@germany.travel.

Korean Air

Korean Air has launched m.koreanair.com, a new mobile internet portal with a wide range of functions.

m.koreanair.com compliments Korean Air's mobile cargo website mcargo.koreanair.com.

The new service will also cover mobile check-in with seat selection, flight status and tracking and transit information.

Contact : Katie Turner at katie.turner@brightergroup.com.

Scottish Ancestry

An estimated 50 million people from around the world can lay claim to Scots ancestry and, in order to capitalise on the increasing interest in tracing family roots, VisitScotland has launched a guide to tracing Scottish ancestry which will highlight the unusual and surprising places people can go to learn more about their ancestors.

The guide comes in an easy to use map format and is suitable for those just starting to trace their routes to the more advanced and experienced.

Visit : www.visitscotland.com/surprise. Contact : James Lakie at martha.bryce@visitscotland.com.

The Travel Destination Germany

The *Travel Destination Germany* represented by the German National Tourist Office has been nominated as a finalist in the 'Best International Youth Destination' category of the 2011 British Youth Travel Awards.

Organised by The British Educational Travel Association (BETA), the annual awards recognise and raise the profile of organisations engaged in youth, student and educational travel.

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

The Passenger Shipping Association : Cruise Journalism Awards

The Passenger Shipping Association, which represents more than 40 cruise lines, is launching the PSA Cruise Journalism Awards to celebrate the best in cruise writing, broadcast and photography.

There are ten categories from river cruising to spas at sea and best cruise reportage.

Visit : www.the-psa.co.uk. Contact : Lois Kettlewell at lois.kettlewell@fourbgb.com.

Aboriginal Dance Festival : photo-exhibition in London

Carole Edrich's phot-exhibition of the Aboriginal Dance Festival in Australia will run at the Zerosette Photo Gallery until the end of April 2012.

It took Carole 18 months to set up the shoot and she was the first European invited to cover the event and the first pro-photographer ever to cover preparation for the dancing in the Women's Area.

Visit : www.zerosette.co.uk. Contact : Edrich Carole at edrich.carole.2@gmail.com.

Birmingham – Sparkling at Christmas

Birmingham's destination marketing agency has unveiled its national Christmas campaign in partnership with train operator Virgin Trains to raise the profile of the city during the busy festive season.

Birmingham – Sparkling at Christmas celebrates the Christmas period in Birmingham, Solihull and the Black Country.

Visit : www.christmasinbirmingham.com. Contact : Ellie Rance at Ellie.Rance@marketingbirmingham.com.

Virgin Atlantic : London to Vancouver

Virgin Atlantic the launch a new route from London Heathrow to Vancouver on 24 May 2012

As the airline's 34th worldwide route, Virgin Atlantic estimates that it will deliver around CAD\$54million of tourism revenue to the Vancouver market each year.

Visit : www.virginatlantic.com. Contact : Anna M Catchpole at Anna.Catchpole@fly.virgin.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.

Cruise to Marquesas Islands in French Polynesia

Film producer and author, Peter Crawford Will be guest lecturer on the Aranui 3's February Adventure Cruise to The South Pacific

The two-week voyage to the Marquesas Islands in French Polynesia, will depart from Tahiti on 4 February 2012.

The most remote , the French Polynesian Marquesas Islands, which comprises the archipelago in the world is best known for its wild beauty, cultural heritage and welcoming people.

The custom-built, state-of-the-art Aranui 3 is the only ship to sail the 2,200 mile round trip from Papeete to all six inhabited islands in the Marquesas.

Visit : visit www.aranui.com. Contact : Debra Taylor at debra@toucanmoon.com.

Walks in the Lakes region of Ardales, Andalucia, Spain

Martin Levien organises walking holidays and guided walks in the Lakes region of Ardales, Andalucia, in southern Spain.

This area is particularly good walking country. The bird life here is excellent, including such specialities as eagles, osprey, blue rock thrush, hoopoe, pink flamingo. The history embedded in the landscape stretches from 30,000-year-old cave paintings to Mozarabic ruins.

Visit : www.walking-in-spain.co.uk. Contact : Martin Levien at martin@walking-in-spain.co.uk.

Charles Dickens 2012

Dickens 2012 is an international celebration of the life and work of Charles Dickens, which will take place to mark the bicentenary of his birth.

Visit : www.dickens2012.org. Contact : Mark McCulloch at Mark.ncculloch@visits gland.com.

Western River Expeditions

Western River Expeditions provides lodge-to-lodge rafting trips on Oregon's Rogue River with three and four day trips scheduled weekly from 3 June to 26 August 2012.

Western River Expeditions is that runs professionally guided rafting trips in Utah, Idaho and Arizona.

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

The Yacht Week

The Yacht Week, which organises offshore chartered yachting holidays, is adding Turkey and Italy to its portfolio of destinations.

The Yacht Week, caters for travellers aged 22 to 35 to destinations in from over 40 countries in Europe and the Caribbean.

Its range of yachts range 38ft to 59ft with a skipper overseeing voyages across the Mediterranean, Aegean and Caribbean Seas by day and private island parties by night.

Visit : www.theyachtweek.com. Contact : pr@theyachtweek.com.

What's on

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

London's Southbank Centre Winter Festival

Southbank Centre's Winter Festival runs until 11 January 2012 throughout venues in the Southbank Centre itself and across the Thames-facing promenades.

Visit : www.southbankcentre.co.uk. Contact : Hannah Ainsworth at Hannah.Ainsworth@ideageneration.co.uk.

The Active Travel Show, Outdoor Show, London Bike Show and London Boat Show, Excel, London

12 to 15 January 2012

The Active Travel Show takes place at ExCeL, London alongside *The Outdoors Show*, *The London Bike Show* and the *Tullett Prebon London Boat Show*.

While *The Active Travel Show* is a newly launched event, *The Outdoors Show* has been running for 11 years, and *The London Bike Show* launched in 2011.

The two events combined with the *Tullett Prebon London Boat Show* attracted an audience of 70,034, in 2011 making it the largest consumer event in Europe for outdoors enthusiasts.

Visit : www.londonboatshow.com, www.theactivetravelshow.co.uk; www.theoutdoorsshow.co.uk and www.thelondonbikeshow.co.uk

For press tickets contact : Ian Chandler at Ian@vosmedia.co.uk.

Excursions™ 2012 Exhibition

Alexandra Palace, North East London
28 January 2012

Excursions is a major travel event organised by Tourism South East and Group Travel Organiser magazine.

With around 250 exhibitors all UK tourism sectors will be well represented plus some from Europe including : attractions, destinations, museums, castles, stately homes, gardens, theatres, river cruises, hotels and tour operators.

Alliance members can register at the link below for free entry into Excursions™ 2012 www.excursions.org.uk/visitorregistration/index.htm. Contact : Pat Edgar at PRMatters@dsl.pipex.com.

Morikami Museum & Japanese Gardens, Delray Beach, Florida

Since its opening in 1977, the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens has been a center for Japanese arts and culture in South Florida.

The museum has rotating exhibitions in its galleries, tea ceremonies performed monthly in its Seishin-an tea house, an educational outreach program with local schools and organizations, and Japanese traditional festivals celebrated for the public several times a year.

Oshogatsu New Year Celebration

8 January 2012

Visit www.morikami.org/newyear.

Hatsume Fair

Celebrating the first bud of spring, The Morikami's largest annual event, Hatsume, transforms the normally tranquil Morikami Park into a unique Japanese spring festival.

Visit www.morikami.org/hatsume.

Bon Festival

18 August 2012

Inspired by Obon, Japan's traditional three-day holiday honoring ancestors and thanking them for the quality of life enjoyed by the living, The Morikami celebrates Bon Festival with taiko drum performances, Japanese folk dancing, ghost stories, and a street fair with games and shop stalls.

Visit www.morikami.org/bon.

Excursions™ 2012 Exhibition

Alexandra Palace, North East London
28 January 2012

Excursions is a major travel event by Tourism South East and Group Travel Organiser magazine. Around 250 exhibitors from the UK and Europe will be represented including : attractions, destinations, museums, castles, stately homes, gardens, theatres, river cruises, hotels and tour operators.

Alliance members can register at the link below for free entry into Excursions™ 2012 www.excursions.org.uk/visitorregistration/index.htm. Contact : Pat Edgar at PRMatters@dsl.pipex.com.

Festivals in Adelaide, Australia

The Adelaide Fringe

24 February to 18 March 2012

Celebrating its 52nd year, the Adelaide Fringe is the largest arts festival in Australia, having seen record ticket sales of 334,000 in 2011.

The Adelaide Fringe provides the opportunity for local and international artists to showcase their talents and, with around 3,500 artists performing almost 5,000 shows at 325 venues last year, it is only rivalled by the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

www.adelaidefringe.com.au

The Adelaide Festival

2 to 18 March 2012

Focusing on the contemporary, The Adelaide Festival highlights the best in opera, theatre, dance, music, cabaret, new media events, literature, outdoor entertainment and the visual arts, while also featuring master classes, forums and a purpose-built late night club.

www.adelaidefestival.com.au.

Womadelaide

9 to 12 March

WOMAD - World of Music, Arts and Dance, is the internationally established festival co-founded by Peter Gabriel, bringing together artists from all over the globe, celebrating the world's many forms of music, arts and dance.

First presented in Australia in 1992, WOMADelaide celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2012 and, with more than 81,000 visitors over the four-day festival in 2011, it is one of the country's most popular outdoor music events.

www.womadelaide.com.au.

The Adelaide Cabaret Festival

8 to 23 June 2012

The Adelaide Cabaret Festival, which is a major annual event in the international and Australian Arts calendar, is the world's most comprehensive cabaret festival with a reputation of highlighting the best local, national and international artists with classic and contemporary cabaret performances.

www.adelaidecabaret.com.

Visit : www.southaustralia.com. For more information and to discuss media visits & feature ideas contact : Jovanka Ristich at jovanka@independent-pr.co.uk.

The Times presents Destinations: The Holiday & Travel Show

Manchester's EventCity : 19 to 22 January 2012

London Earls Court : 2 to 5 February 2012

Destinations: The Holiday & Travel Show has destinations highlighting culture from around the world with the features showcasing food, drink, dance, music, and arts & crafts.

Visit www.destinationsshow.com. For press tickets contact : [silke@exclamationpr](mailto:silke@exclamationpr.com) at silke@exclamationpr.co.uk.

British Design 1948–2012, V&A Museum London

31 March to 12 August 2012

The Victoria and Albert Museum in London is to hold a major exhibition designed to coincide with the 2012 London Olympics.

British Design 1948–2012 will showcase 60 years of British creative talent and document the transformation of design in Britain since the post-war 'Austerity Games' of 1948.

The exhibits will come from the museum's unrivalled collections and include product design, fashion and textiles, furniture, ceramics and glass, theatre design, graphics, photography, architecture, fine art and sculpture.

Visit : www.vam.ac.uk. Contact :: Alice Evans at a.evans@vam.ac.uk.

Scottish Snowdrop Festival

4 February to 18 March 2012

Visit Scotland's popular Scottish Snowdrop Festival 2012 will include over 50 gardens showcasing their snowdrop spots, some of which are open exclusively for the event.

Properties taking part in the festival range from castles and classic country estates to woodland walks, walled gardens and urban retreats. There is also magical Snowdrops by Starlight night time experience.

Some of the gardens taking part include:

Cambo Estate , Fife

Carpeted in snowdrops each year, the 70 acres of woodland at Cambo Estate in Fife is home to the National Collection of 300 species of snowdrop.

Visit: www.visitscotland.com/surprisesnowdrop.

Traquair House, Scottish Borders

The woodlands and grounds of Traquair House have a spectacular showing of snowdrops that will be open for the first time this year.

Castle Kennedy, Dumfries & Galloway

Located on an isthmus surrounded by two large natural lochs, the gardens extend to 75 acres of landscaped terraces and avenues.

Cleghorn, Lanarkshire

An 18th century garden which is currently being renovated. Mature trees and shrubs, with masses of snowdrops spread around and views to the south of Tinto Hill and the Cleghorn Glen.

Visit : www.visitscotland.com/surprisesnowdrop. Contact : Martha Bryce at martha.bryce@visitscotland.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.

LocalGuiding

LocalGuiding, the online service connecting travellers with independent, local tour guides in destinations worldwide, has launched Tour Request.

Tour Request will let travellers create customized tours from local guides around the world. Independent travellers are increasingly looking to get a 'one-off' tour that meets their specific needs when visiting a particular destination.

With *LocalGuiding's* new, free, *Tour Request* online function, it is now possible for travellers to outline a desired tour and submit this, on a short form, via the *LocalGuiding* website.

LocalGuiding tour guides interested in running the tour will send the traveller a personalised offer. The traveller can then decide which tour best meets their needs before working with the chosen guide on the detail of the tour.

LocalGuiding guides are passionate locals who like to share their expertise with others, independent private tour guides or small tour companies.

To get to know the guide behind each tour offer, the LocalGuiding website provides a detailed profile of each guide with personal information about interests, years of guiding experience and credentials.

Guides can also be contacted direct to develop a pre-trip relationship.

Visit : www.localguiding.com/en/tour-requests. For more information or to request a press tour with guides at any of the LocalGuiding destinations contact: Robert Blessing at rb@localguiding.com.

Picasso in Britain

Tate Britain in London is to hold the first exhibition to explore Pablo Picasso's lifelong connections with the UK.

Picasso and Modern British Art will look at the artist's evolving critical reputation in Britain and how British artists responded to his work. More than 150 works from major public and private collections around the world will be on display.

They will show his growing fame in Britain as a figure of controversy and celebrity and trace how his work was exhibited and collected here during his lifetime.

The exhibition will demonstrate his impact on 20th-century British modernism through seven artists: Duncan Grant, Wyndham Lewis, Ben Nicholson, Henry Moore, Francis Bacon, Graham Sutherland and David Hockney.

The paintings on show will include a painting symbolic of Picasso's affection for England: his 1925 painting, *The Three Dancers*, which Tate acquired from the artist after his 1960 exhibition.

Visit : www.tate.org.uk/britain. Contact: Selina Jones at Selina.Jones@tate.org.uk.

West Virginia's golf courses

West Virginia's golf courses can offer a challenging game with stunning backdrops.

Located in the New River – Greenbrier Valley region lies the Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs, offering three championship golf courses.

The Old White Course was built in 1913 and the Greenbrier, redesigned by Jack Nicklaus, is listed as a National Historic landmark for its classical architecture, while the third, the Meadows Course, was designed by Bob Cupp in 1999.

The Resort at Glade Springs is also located in the region and has three championship courses. .

The Central part of West Virginia offers the Gary Player-designed Raven Golf Club at Snowshoe Mountain in the Potomac Highlands, the Canaan Valley Resort in the Allegheny Mountains and Stonewall Resort in the Mountain Lakes region.

Located in the northern area in Wheeling is Oglebay Resort with two championship courses, one designed by Arnold Palmer and one by Robert Trent Jones.

On the Eastern side is the Woods Resort, close to the Cacapon Resort State Park, and the Robert Trent Jones Sr. designed golf course. 2,300 feet above sea level and set between two mountain ranges.

Also in this region lies the secluded Locust Hill Golf Course, just outside historic Charles Town

West Virginia's golf courses can be accessed from direct flights into Washington DC with a further one hour drive to the eastern side of the state or connecting domestic flights to West Virginia's capital city of Charleston.

Visit www.wvtourism.com. Contact : Jane Wilson at ww@attachecommunication.co.uk.

The Kielder Observatory, Northumberland UK

Kielder Forest is officially the darkest place in England, with over 250 square miles of woodland on the border of Northumberland with Scotland.

It also has its own state-of-the-art, wood-clad observatory on the slopes of Black Fell above Kielder Water.

The Observatory, designed by Charles Barclay Architects, is Kielder's most recent art and architecture project, developed to provide a permanent base for amateur astronomers.

Visit : www.kielderobservatory.org. Contact : Mark McCulloch at Mark.ncculloch@visitsgland.com.

Alaska

Winter mushing in Alaska

Anchorage-based Salmon Berry Tours will offer a new winter mushing program in partnership with Dallas Seavey Racing.

The four-hour adventure includes a dog sled ride, snowshoe stroll, trail-side treat and the chance to meet and learn about the equipment, mushers and dogs needed to compete in the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

Salmon Berry Tours offers a variety of scheduled and custom tours across Southcentral and Interior Alaska ideal for groups or individual travelers.

Other popular winter tours include the Ultimate Iditarod Adventure Package, the Northern Lights Late-Night Special, Winter Turnagain Turnaround Tour and more.

Visit www.salmonberrytours.com. Contact: Candice McDonald at reservations@salmonberrytours.com.

Wrangell, Alaska

Located in the heart of Alaska's Inside Passage, Wrangell is home to a variety of wildlife, scenery and adventures.

A trip to Wrangell can include getting up close to a glacier, fishing, hiking, golfing, soaking in a natural hot springs or viewing brown and black bears at the Anan Wildlife Observatory.

In late July, the community hosts Bearfest, a celebration of Wrangell's bears that includes a symposium, bear-viewing, photography workshops and family activities.

Each spring Wrangell hosts the Stikine River Birding Festival. The Stikine River Delta is a major stop on the Pacific Flyway for over 14,000 snow geese, over 10,000 sandhill cranes and more than 2,000 eagles, the largest springtime concentration of eagles in North America.

Wrangell is linked with other Inside Passage communities via the Alaska Marine Highway System, and Alaska Airlines offers daily flights.

Visit : www.wrangellalaska.org. Contact: Carol Rushmore at ecodev@wrangell.com.

British Olympic Cities

New research from VisitBritain on inbound visits to towns and cities across the UK suggests that Britain's Olympic cities are becoming increasingly popular tourist destinations.

While London and Scottish capital Edinburgh maintain their position as the two most popular destinations for inbound visitors, places such as Cardiff, Glasgow, Manchester, Newcastle and Windsor have also attracted tourists.

Visit : www.visitbritain.org. Contact : Mark Di-Toro at mark.di-toro@visitbritain.org.

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.

Luttrellstown Castle, Ireland

Luttrellstown Castle, which is one of Ireland's finest 5 star resorts and a first class golf and country club, will be delighted to consider hosting Alliance journalists with a commission.

The Castle is located in 500 acres of lush parkland and includes a fishing lake and championship golf course between the city and the airport

Over the years many notable people have spent some time at the Castle.

Queen Victoria, Prince Rainier and Princess Grace of Monaco, Fred Astaire, Douglas Fairbanks and Ronald Reagan have all enjoyed time at Luttrellstown Castle.

More recently Paul Newman and the pop group REM have stayed in the Castle.

Finally, Luttrellstown Castle was also at the centre of global media attention when Victoria and David Beckham married there in 1999.

The resort has now embarked on a marketing strategy to focus attention on the Castle and its potential to attract national and international guests to the estate.

Visit : www.luttrellstowncastle.com. Contact : Colm Hannon at enquiries@luttrellstowncastle.com

Park Hyatt Abu Dhabi Hotel

Hyatt Hotels Corporation and Abu Dhabi National Hotels have opened the Park Hyatt Abu Dhabi Hotel and Villas. The hotel is the first Hyatt-branded property in the UAE capital.

The hotel is located on the natural island of Saadiyat along a five mile stretch of environmentally protected white sand beach and within minutes of Abu Dhabi's prime business district and Corniche.

The Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority expects to receive 2.7 million visitors to the region by 2012, with key attractions including the Corniche, Emirates Heritage Village, Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, Ferrari World Abu Dhabi and the Yas Marina.

Plans are also underway to open a Louvre Abu Dhabi, Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, and the Zayed National Museum.

Visit : www.abudhabi.park.hyatt.com. Contact : Emma Powell at Emma@grifcopr.com.

Costa Navarino, Greece

Costa Navarino, the sustainable destination in the Mediterranean, located in the Greek region of Messinia in the southwest Peloponnese, has recently introduced a series of philosophical walks for guests led by university professors.

These include topics taken from the writings of antiquity, which explore and shed light on the broader impact of ancient Greek philosophical thought in the world. Costa Navarino is within close reach, the historical background unfolds through Neolithic settlements, Mycenaean palaces, Classical temples, Byzantine churches and medieval castles.

Visit : www.westincostanavarino.com. Contact : Jessica Flood at jessicaf@hillsbalfoursynergy.com.

Powder White

Independent ski-holiday provider Powder White has highlighted its top five Alpine boutique hotels for the winter 2011/12 season.

Hotel Banyan, St Anton, Austria

The Banyan is an upmarket hotel with modern and minimal rooms the heart of St Anton.

Hotel Seizana, Courchevel 1650, France

The Hotel Seizana is a luxury 20-room hotel located at the foot of the ski runs in the heart of Courchevel 1650. The rear terrace, enjoys views of the Courchevel valley.

Hotel Ormelune, Val d'Isere, France

The 46-room Ormelune, is a boutique hotel located on Val d'Isere's main drag.

Hotel Nevai, Switzerland

The Hotel Nevai – located in the heart of Verbier – is known for its après-ski high jinks.

Le Portetta, Courchevel 1650, France

Le Portetta – the sister property of Conde Nast Johansens' Country Hotel of the Year Lime Wood and The Pig – is in a ski-in/ski-out position at the foot of the slopes.

Visit : www.powderwhite.com. Contact : Paul Charles at powderwhite@verypcc.com.

San Miguel de Allende

The San Miguel de Allende is located in an artists' village, Mexico's oldest town, in the mountains north of Mexico City.

Visit : www.rosewoodsanmiguel.com. Contact Sophie Furness at Sophie@grifcopr.com

Wynyard Hall Country House

Wynyard Hall Country House Hotel in Tees Valley is a magnificent 18th century mansion which has entertained everyone from royalty to Winston Churchill to Hollywood stars. The Spa at Wynyard Hall opens in January.

Visit : www.wynyardhall.co.uk. Bernice Saltzer at bernice@sortedpr.com

DoubleTree at Hilton Newcastle Airport Hotel.

The new 175 bedroom hotel at Newcastle Airport is suited for anyone flying in-or out -from Tyneside.

Visit : www.hilton.co.uk/NewcastleGateshead. Contact : Bernice Saltzer at bernice@sortedpr.com.

Mandarin Boutique Hotel, Turkey

The Mandarin Boutique Hotel is located in a rural retreat in south-west Turkey, a few miles beyond the lagoon and beaches of Oludeniz.

The Mandarin has eight luxurious guestrooms - most with four-poster beds and all with large Jacuzzi tubs. The more active will find fabulous walking terrain with the Lycian Way nearby and easy access to activities such as scuba-diving, horse-riding and paragliding, and archaeological sites.

Visit : www.villamandarin.com. Contact : Ghislain Charles Sireilles at mail@villamandarin.com.

New Nullagvik Hotel, Alaska

The Northwest Arctic city of Kotzebue opened the doors of a brand new hotel owned and operated by NANA, the regional Alaska Native Corporation for the area.

The new Nullagvik Hotel replaces the original hotel of the same name that was a mainstay in Kotzebue since 1975.

The new Nullagvik Hotel includes 78 guest rooms and an observation deck overlooking Kotzebue Sound. Kotzebue is located 26 miles north of the Arctic Circle and can be reached by air via Alaska Airlines or Era Aviation.

Home to popular fishing rivers and the Kobuk 440 sled dog race, visitors can experience Kotzebue through a helicopter tour or charter flight with Bering Air, visit LaVonne's Fish Camp to experience subsistence lifestyle of the Inupiat people or take part in a city tour offered by the Nullagvik Hotel.

Visit : www.nullagvikhotel.com. Contact: Shelley Byrd at shelley.byrd@nmsusa.com.

The Mount Hartman Bay Estate, Grenada

The Mount Hartman Bay Estate, the latest addition to the Bespoke Hotels collection, is a boutique retreat Grenada. It is located on a private beach in a sheltered bay on this Caribbean island.

Grenada is just 21 miles long and 12 miles wide with a population of around 90,000. The island has an exceptional variety of landscapes for such a small area with a central mountain range, lush forests, gorges with tumbling waterfalls and stunning beaches.

Offshore are numerous reefs and wrecks to explore, and there are around fifteen species of whales and dolphins to be seen.

Bespoke Hotels operates and manages over 50 properties including Wyck Hill House Hotel & Spa in The Cotswolds and Bermondsey Square Hotel and Ten Manchester Street in central London as well as properties in the Caribbean.

Visit www.mounthartmanbay.com. Contact : Jacinta at jacinta@rivapr.co.uk.

Section two : ongoing opportunities

Alerts

Ongoing independent press trip opportunities for Alliance members

- **Shabuway in the San Francisco Bay Area** invites food and lifestyle writers of the Alliance to dine at their restaurants in Mountain View and San Jose to experience the traditional Japanese Shabu Shabu (hot pot). Visit : www.shabuway.com. Contact Jaslin Yu at jaslinyu@gmail.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@luxep.com.
- **PlanetWildlife**, which specialises in wildlife holidays worldwide will be pleased to consider press trip requests from Alliance members www.planetwildlife.com Contact Karen Luard at kp@kpcommunications.co.uk
- **The Mariott 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 Aspinal at tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk.
- **Orlando Tourism** offers Alliance members visiting on-assignment a complimentary Journalist VIP Passport. Visit : www.VisitOrlando.com. Contact : Amy Voss at amy.voss@visitorlando.com.
- **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 Abrehart, 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

- **Midlethorpe 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_hey@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, 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. 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.visit1066ocountry.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@fww-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.

Kangol Headwear

Kangol's straw hat collection will complement your every summer look with styles ranging from contemporary and classic trilby's to glamorous beach brim hats.

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

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.

Silhouette

Silhouette sunglasses provide 100% protection against UV A, B and C rays. If Silhouette's IQ POL Sunglasses were suntan lotion, they would correspond to the European protection factor 32.

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

Simple

Californian footwear brand Simple has your feet ready for summer with these eco friendly organic cotton plimsoles. Exclusive to Schuh, they are available in white and navy with ribbon laces- the perfect footwear for French Riviera chic.

Visit : www.simpleshoes.com. To review the product range contact : Jenny Scott at jenny@brandnation.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.

John Masters Organics

Make every day a day at the beach with John Masters Organics Sea Mist Sea Salt Spray with Lavender. It protects the hair and provides extra body, volume and texture, also helping to enhance curls for natural beach beautiful hair.

Visit : www.johnmasters.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.

Terms & Conditions:

- subject to availability at time of booking
- valid rental & booking period: Jan 1st - Dec 31, 2011
- offer valid for car rentals in Switzerland, Italy, France & Monaco, Germany
- applies to all car categories and Elite Rent-a-Car rental tariffs (Shopping/Tradition)
- blackout period for complimentary car upgrade is 1 July to 15 September 15 to 31 December 2011
- Elite Rent to be mentioned and contacts included in fact box of subsequent editorial feature

Please mention special code Travel Writers Alliance – UK when booking with Elite Rent-a-Car.

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.

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

The aether mobile SIM card into any unlocked phone.

Among the features and benefits :

- service available in 206 countries worldwide on over 565 mobile networks and free to receive calls in 65 countries
- up to 80% off the cost of making a call from abroad
- free to receive an incoming SMS and sending an SMS is 10p in Europe and 34p for the rest of the World.
- voicemail service accessible from any location
- pay as you go with no penalties for non use no line rental, contract or service fees and full itemised billing

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

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 at Katie.wright@sirenpr.co.uk.

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

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

Cicerone

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

Eland Publishing

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

Fisher's Travel SOS

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

Global Travel Publishers

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

Globetrotters LogBook

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

Inn House Publishing

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

Insight

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

In your pocket guides

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

Jane's Smart Art Guides

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

Jonglez Publishing

www.jonglezpublishing.com. Contact : Thomas Jonglez at info@jonglezpublishing.com.

Kuperard Publishers

www.kuperard.co.uk. Contact : Geoffrey Chesler at geoffreychesler@btinternet.com.

Lonely Planet

www.lonelyplanet.com. Contact : Europe, Middle East and Africa: Laura Lindsay at laura.lindsay@lonelyplanet.co.uk, North America: Rana freedman pressUSA@lonelyplanet.com
Asia Pacific : Jessica Foley at Jessica.foley@lonelyplanet.com.au

Luxury Backpackers

Visit : www.luxurybackpackers.com. Contact: Jill Nash at jill@luxurybackpackers.com

Morris Communications

www.themilepost.com. Contact Kate Bandos at kate@ksbpromotions.com.

Odyssey Books & Guides

www.odysseypublications.com. Contact : Caroline Eden at caroline@odysseypublications.com

Oxygen Books city-lit

www.oxygenbooks.co.uk Malcom Burgess at malcolm@oxygenbooks.co.uk

Rough Guides

www.roughguides.com. Contact : press@roughguides.com.

Summersdale travel publications

www.summersdale.com. Contact : Dean at dean@summersdale.com.

Take two Books

www.taketwobooks.com Sarah Duvalle at Sarah@taketwobooks.com.

Turnleft

www.turnleftguides.com Contact: Nick Buteau at nick@turnleftguides.com

The International Travel Writers Alliance

AllWays traveller



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

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

Ashley Gibbins FCIPR, MCIOJ

Chief Executive, The international Travel Writers Alliance
Managing Editor, *AllWays traveller*

0776 419 8286
Ashley@itwalliance.com