

# The Alliance

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# 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)

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

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#### Section two (ongoing opportunities) :

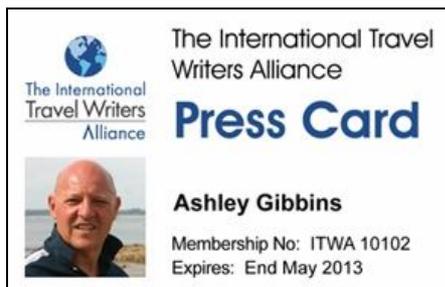
- Ongoing press trip opportunities
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## Registering with the Alliance

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.

**Press Card** holders receive :

- the card itself, confirming the holders identity as a member of the International Travel Writers Alliance
  - the members logo for use on your email signature, website and stationery
- support from the Alliance in advance of - or during – a members travels with regard to confirming membership with editors or travel industry representatives etc, and
  - first call on press trip opportunities sourced by the Alliance.

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

## 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 Thunder Challenge, USA**

Alliance members are invited to participate in the Thunder Challenge, which was launched this year by a former U.S. Army Blackhawk pilot, Rusty Schellman.

The Thunder Challenge is the first obstacle race series to be held on a challenging, Special Operations-style course that tests the physical and mental strength of elite and amateur athletes against U.S. Special Forces and Navy Seal training and challenges.

Navy Seals and U.S. Special Forces soldiers (including from the legendary Seal Team that took out Osama bin Laden) produce and monitor the events.

After a day of competing on one of the most physically and emotionally demanding courses in the world, adventure athletes have the satisfaction of knowing that they have completed one day of elite military training.

A portion of the proceeds of each race go to Project Sanctuary, a non-profit organization that helps support veterans and their families. Plans call for hiring wounded warriors into key positions as the company grows.

#### **Challenges will be held :**

- 4 and 5 August : Thunder Challenge Rockies in Castle Rock, CO
- 6 and 7 October : Thunder Challenge Steel in Pittsburgh, PA
- 8 and 9 December: Thunder Challenge Southern California (site TBA)

Visit : [www.thunderchallenge.us](http://www.thunderchallenge.us). Contact : Dave Wiggins at [dave@travelnewssource.com](mailto:dave@travelnewssource.com).

### **H1898 hotel, Barcelona**

Barcelona's H1898 hotel, one of the nine establishments in the Nuñez i Navarro portfolio, has relaunched its web site.

The hotel will be pleased to host Alliance members visiting Barcelona on assignment.

Visit : [www.hotel1898.com](http://www.hotel1898.com). Contact : Orbyce Comunicación at [pr@orbyce.com](mailto:pr@orbyce.com).

### **Ciclismo Classico**

Ciclismo Classico offers high-quality, educational cycling itineraries that celebrate the diversity of native peoples and their landscapes.

Educational trips in Italy, France, Spain, Austria and New England incorporate local art, language, music and cuisine.

Ciclismo is open to working with journalists from top-tier travel publications, high-circulation newspapers, or reputable websites & travel blogs.

Visit : [www.ciclismoclassico.com](http://www.ciclismoclassico.com). Contact : Adam York at [adam@sublimepub.com](mailto:adam@sublimepub.com).

## Art of the Olympians Museum and Gallery at the 2012 London Games

The Art of the Olympians Museum and Gallery (AOTO) will be in London for the 2012 Games to inspire individuals through a unique pop-up exhibition at UCL's Main Wilkins Building on Gower Street, London.

The exhibition which brings together Olympic memorabilia, artwork by Olympians, interactive opportunities and engaging exhibits showcasing an athlete's personal journey will be on display from 25 July to 13 August and is open to public who can visit the exhibition free of charge.

Based on a passion for art, sport and culture, the non-profit organisation headquartered in Fort Myers, Florida, continues to grow its global reach by promoting a spirit of corporation and inspiring individuals to achieve personal excellence.

What started with one man's vision, the late Al Oerter, four-time consecutive Olympic gold medalist in discus, has grown into a worldwide initiative driven by a family of more than 70 international Olympian Artists.

A series of media events will be held around the Art of the Olympians exhibition.

Visit [www.artoftheolympians.org](http://www.artoftheolympians.org). To register for the media events contact : Jules Ugo at [Jules@lotus-uk.co.uk](mailto:Jules@lotus-uk.co.uk).

## The Beaches of Fort Myers

The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel in southwest Florida includes: Sanibel Island, Captiva Island, Fort Myers Beach, Fort Myers, Bonita Springs, Estero, Cape Coral, Pine Island, Boca Grande & Outer islands, North Fort Myers, Lehigh Acres.

Visit : [www.fortmyers-sanibel.com](http://www.fortmyers-sanibel.com). Contact Nancy Hamilton at [NHamilton@leegov.com](mailto:NHamilton@leegov.com).

## The Isles of Scilly, UK

Lying 28 miles off the Cornish coast, the Isles of Scilly are known for their stunning white sand beaches, crystal clear Caribbean like waters and relaxed atmosphere.

But for those wanting to write more than just about sitting on a beach:

- Food and Drink Scilly –increasing numbers of artisan food and drink producers – vineyards, micro-brewery, fudge makers, ice cream producers, crab, lobster
- Active pursuits – sailing, windsurfing and kayaking, some of Europe's best dive sites, horse riding, swimming with seals, sea safaris, cycling and exploring deserted Islands
- Historic Scilly – the highest concentration of protected archaeological sites anywhere in the UK with over 80 Bronze Age burial chambers
- Walking – A network of excellent coastal paths and inter-linking inland lanes where its not about major mileage but simply enjoying the Islands by foot.
- Short breaks and escapes – a UK break with an altogether more Caribbean look and feel
- Flora and Fauna – the Isles of Scilly are home to a wide range of flora and fauna, with an abundance of wild flowers and wildlife to see up close
- Creative Scilly – a growing and highly talented band of artists, sculptors, glass and jewellery makers, ceramicists and photographers make the Islands their home

Visit : [www.simplyscilly.co.uk](http://www.simplyscilly.co.uk). If you are interested in any of these elements of the Isles of Scilly and have a commission for a feature then please contact Karen Baker at [Karen@mercury-pr.co.uk](mailto:Karen@mercury-pr.co.uk).

## Drakesbad Guest Ranch, California

Drakesbad Guest Ranch in Lassen Volcanic National Park (northeast California) is located in the national park's remote Warner Valley, has only 19 bungalows, cottages and lodge rooms and is open only from mid June to early October.

What makes Drakesbad appealing is that the ranch is within half-day hikes of three fascinating hydrothermal areas that contain: steaming fumaroles, bubbling mud, boiling springs, spurting geysers and surreal colors.

Longer hikes lead Drakesbad guests to isolated alpine lakes and impressive views of Lassen Peak, the world's largest plug dome volcano.

Lassen Volcanic is the only place where all four types of volcano can be seen. Often called "California's Yellowstone," Lassen Volcanic is one of the oldest, yet least visited of America's 397 national parks.

Because of Drakesbad's limited capacity, press visits are coordinated on a space available basis (no transportation included) and are available only to writers with assignments.

Visit : [www.drakesbad.com](http://www.drakesbad.com). Contact : John Poimiroo at [john@poimiroo.com](mailto:john@poimiroo.com).

## Aspects Holidays, St Ives, Cornwall UK

Aspects Holidays is one of Cornwall's leading self catering holiday specialists.

Its portfolio includes over 200 Cornish holiday properties, from traditional fisherman's cottages set in the heart of traditional chocolate box villages with cobbled streets to modern, chic coastal retreats.

Aspects Holidays will be delighted to hear from Alliance members looking to produce a piece on self catering holidays in the UK who have a commission or secured feature.

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).

## Feather Down Farm Days Adds California Farm Stay

Feather Down Farm Days, a farm stay provider with 54 farms in Europe and farms in New York and Illinois will be adding a third U.S. farm in California in late summer.

Feather Down provides authentic farm stay experiences for families on real working farms.

The newest location is near Oroville, CA on a farm that raises goats, cows and chickens and tends olive, nectarine, peach and plum orchards.

Families stay in Euro-designed tents, reminiscent of the mid 1800s with oil lanterns and candles to light the tent at night, a wood burning stove upon which to cook and fluffy duvets and country linens to cuddle beneath.

Activities include traditional farm chores (optional to guests, though most enjoy experiencing), such as collecting eggs, feeding farm animals, milking cows, hand-churning butter and tending gardens.

Press visits (not including transportation) are available on a space available basis to writers with assignments.

Visit : [www.featherdown.com](http://www.featherdown.com). Contact : John Poimiroo at [j.poimiroo@featherdown.com](mailto:j.poimiroo@featherdown.com).

**For ongoing opportunities for Alliance members see Alerts (below) or visit : [www.internationaltravelwritersalliance.com](http://www.internationaltravelwritersalliance.com).**

## The AllWays traveller bulletin



The International Travel Writers Alliance is now producing its monthly **AllWays traveller** bulletin.

AllWays traveller has been launched to provide independent travellers with an equally independent view of the world from the professional travel journalists in the Alliance.

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

**Download the June issue :**

[http://www.allwaystraveller.com/bulletin\\_AM/4%20June%202012.pdf](http://www.allwaystraveller.com/bulletin_AM/4%20June%202012.pdf)

If you would like to include items in future issues of the AllWays traveller bulletin or would like to submit features for the *AllWays online* section of the website email : [Ashley@itwalliance.com](mailto:Ashley@itwalliance.com).

## Working with the Alliance

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

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

### Partners

#### Hotel Goldener Berg, Austria

The Hotel Goldener Berg is a family run Hotel up over Lech right on the piste and in the walking area of Arlberg.

The four different Restaurants offer everything from Austrian cuisine to internationally praised fine dining. Children are taken care of all day in the Kiddy Club, while the parents enjoy the Alpin Spa. The wine cellar is one of the largest in Austria with over 900 different wines.

The Alter Goldener Berg dates back to 1430. In winter it is ski in – ski out, in summer it is the ideal location for hikes, mountain biking, climbing tours, rafting, canyoning and many more.

The Sporthotel in one of the largest skiing areas of Europe!

Visit : [www.goldenerberg.at](http://www.goldenerberg.at). Contact : Daniela Pfefferkorn at [daniela.pfefferkorn@goldenerberg.at](mailto:daniela.pfefferkorn@goldenerberg.at).

#### Jeathvin Safaris (Tanzania)

Jeathvin Safaris is a fully licensed tourism business situated in Dar es Salaam (head office) with branches in Zanzibar and Arusha.

It offers a variety of tour programs including mountain climbing, walking safaris, wildlife safaris, cultural tours, activity holidays, special interest holidays, marine tourism, hotel/lodge reservations, ticketing, logistics & transport, car hire, educational tourism, Eco-tourism to all Tanzania's national parks, game reserves, conservation areas, mountains, historical sites, and beach holidays in East, Central and Southern Africa's Touristy corridors.

Visit : [www.jeathvin.com](http://www.jeathvin.com). Contact : Jeath Prosper at [jeathvin@gmail.com](mailto:jeathvin@gmail.com).

## **Foxytrotters (USA)**

Foxytrotters specialises in domestic and international tours and cruises with gentle emphasis on Dancing when appropriate. We also love to show students major U.S. cities and International Destinations.

Visit : [www.foxytrotters.com](http://www.foxytrotters.com). Contact : Bonnie Daye at [tourandcruisedirector@Gmail.com](mailto:tourandcruisedirector@Gmail.com).

## **News**

### **Orlando becomes 1st destination to top 55 million visitors**

Orlando welcomed 55.1 million visitors in 2011, up 7.2% from the previous years record setting 51.4 million. Total domestic visits (business & leisure) accounted for 51.3 million visitors, a record for any US destination while international travellers totalled 3.8 million.

Visit : [VisitOrlando.com](http://VisitOrlando.com). Contact : Amy Rodenbrock at [amy.rodenbrock@visitorlando.com](mailto:amy.rodenbrock@visitorlando.com).

### **The Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam**

The Stedelijk Museum reopens on 23 September 2012 after an 8 year refurbishment.

A complete renovation of the Stedelijk's historic building, designed by A.W. Weissman and dating back to 1895, has converted virtually all of its program spaces into galleries, enabling the first comprehensive display the Stedelijk has ever mounted of its permanent collection.

Visit : [www.stedelijk.nl](http://www.stedelijk.nl). Contact : Evelina Hederer at [esugintaite@holland.com](mailto:esugintaite@holland.com).

### **Aroundgatwick.com**

Aroundgatwick.com is a new, on line tourist information library for visitors to the the Gatwick Airport region of the ESof England.

Visit : [www.aroundgatwick.com](http://www.aroundgatwick.com). Contact : Carol Plunkett at [cplunkett@tourismse.com](mailto:cplunkett@tourismse.com).

### **Summer Sale at Windjammer Landing, Saint Lucia**

Windjammer Landing Villa Beach Resort, Saint Lucia has an all-inclusive summer sale with rates starting from \$499\* per night for a family of four in a one-bed villa with an option for a plunge pool.

Families will also enjoy three meals daily, snacks, beverages including alcohol, access to both motorized and non-motorized water sports, plus and day and evening tennis.

Those aged 4-12 have the complimentary kids club, Jacquot, where arts and crafts, crab races, and this summer an exclusive.

Visit : [www.windjammer-landing.com](http://www.windjammer-landing.com). Contact : Nina Zapia at [nina@anson-stoner.com](mailto:nina@anson-stoner.com).

### **The Miami Trolley**

The City of Miami has launched its downtown trolley service making getting around downtown Miami and Brickell a whole lot easier.

The free downtown rubber-tire trolley system will run every 15 minutes and take passengers on Biscayne Boulevard south from the Omni district, across the Miami River and to the end of the Brickell financial and residential district, with marked stops at every block.

The trolleys will also make three loops: one around Mary Brickell Village, another out to Brickell Key, and a third past Margaret Pace Park just north of the old Omni complex.

Visit : [www.miamitrolley.com](http://www.miamitrolley.com). Contact : Suzie Sponder at [Suzie@gmcvb.com](mailto:Suzie@gmcvb.com).

## VisitBritain and the Mexico Tourism Board

VisitBritain and the Mexico Tourism Board have signed an agreement to help boost tourist flow between the two countries.

The memorandum of understanding will see VisitBritain and the Mexico Tourism Board providing insight into destination marketing, encouraging greater exchange of skills across the industry, and helping to foster cooperation between the two countries on tourism specific investment opportunities.

Visit : [www.visitbritain.org](http://www.visitbritain.org) and [www.visitmexico.com](http://www.visitmexico.com). Contact : Mark Di-Toro at [Mark.Di-Toro@visitbritain.org](mailto:Mark.Di-Toro@visitbritain.org).

## Tunisia

Visitors are returning to Tunisia following the country's Jasmine Revolution.

Figures released by the Tunisian National Tourist Office reveal a steady increase in visitors to the popular North African destination over the past 12 months.

Visit [www.cometotunisia.co.uk](http://www.cometotunisia.co.uk). Contact : Jasmin Othman at [Jasmin.Othman@Rooster.co.uk](mailto:Jasmin.Othman@Rooster.co.uk).

## Leads

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

### The Vogellisi Mountain Run, Adelboden, Switzerland

The annual Vogellisi Mountain Run takes place on Sunday 15 July 2012 when runners and Nordic walkers climb a vertical distance of over 800 metres.

The scenic route leads from Adelboden mineral to Sillerenbühl.

Starting at the Mineral Spring (1269m above sea level), the route leads upwards via Bergläger, Geils and Hahnenmoospass to the finish on Sillerenbühl (1974m above sea level).

Spurred on by spectators along the route, the regular participants will cover 13.4km (9 miles) and the Nordic walkers 9.2km (6 miles). Children can test their stamina on a special trail at the summit covering 1.3km and 135m vertical distance.

Visit : [www.vogellisi-berglauf.ch](http://www.vogellisi-berglauf.ch). Contact : Adrian Roesti at [a.roesti@adelboden.ch](mailto:a.roesti@adelboden.ch).

### The Markel Castle Triathlon Series

The Markel Castle Triathlon Series consists of five weekend races and three evening sprint races at castles across the UK and France throughout the summer, providing an open platform for triathletes of all abilities to compete nationally.

Each location, Lough Cutra Castle, Cholmondeley Castle, Castle Howard, Chateau de Chantilly and Hever Castle, has its own variation of the distances, providing an interesting and challenging Series.

The Series enables adults to compete individually or as a relay of two or a relay of three. Mixed relays are encouraged! The Markel Castle Triathlon Series aims to include families, so children and parents can race on the same day, making a great family day out. Children from 8 to 15 years can compete in varying distances and win medals and prizes.

Visit : [www.castletriathlonseries.co.uk](http://www.castletriathlonseries.co.uk). Contact : Yvonne Turner at [yvonne@castletriathlonseries.co.uk](mailto:yvonne@castletriathlonseries.co.uk).

## Top hotel projects

During June 83 top hotels opened including the Hard Rock Hotel Megapolis in Panama City and the Royal Alhambra Palace Hotel in Side/Turkey according to Tophotelprojects.

Another 78 international first-class and luxury hotel will open in July with August seeing 362 global hotel openings.

Tophotelprojects is a research service for international hotel construction projects and contact data.

Visit : [www.tophotelprojects.com](http://www.tophotelprojects.com). Contact : Carsten Hennig at [presse@tophotelprojects.com](mailto:presse@tophotelprojects.com).

## Chilterns Tourism Network UK

The Chilterns Tourism Network is a group of over 100 tourism businesses set up by those interested in promoting tourism in the Chilterns.

The Chiltern Hills form a chalk escarpment in South East England, much of which is officially as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. They stretch from Goring-on-Thames in Oxfordshire, through Buckinghamshire, via Dunstable Downs and Deacon Hill in Bedfordshire, to near Hitchin in Hertfordshire.[]

They offer scenic landscapes, market towns, chalk streams and downland, beech woodlands, orchid banks, red kites and a rural life.

Visit : [www.chilternsaonb.org](http://www.chilternsaonb.org). Contact Annette at [aweiss@chilternsaonb.org](mailto:aweiss@chilternsaonb.org).

## Arts Holland

In 2012 and 2013, the Netherlands Board of Tourism & Conventions is promoting the cultural offering of Holland.

Arts Holland let's visitors experience the quality, density and richness of Dutch arts, heritage, museums, design, fashion, theatre and more across four major cities- Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague and Utrecht.

Visit : [www.artsholland.com](http://www.artsholland.com) and [www.holland.com](http://www.holland.com). Contact : Evelina Hederer at [esugintaite@holland.com](mailto:esugintaite@holland.com).

## What's on

### Southport Air Show, UK

Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 September 2012

The 21st Southport Air Show is the biggest event of its kind in the North West with skilled pilots demonstrating some stunning aerobatics.

The flying programme this year includes The Red Arrows and the Typhoon (Eurofighter) already confirmed with other military and civilian to be announced in the coming weeks.

Visit : [www.visitsouthport.com](http://www.visitsouthport.com). Contact : Steve Christian at [steve@visitsouthport.com](mailto:steve@visitsouthport.com).

## In Holland

### **Summer Carnival Rotterdam**

27-28 July 2012

The annual Summer Carnival in Rotterdam sees the city become a tropical street party.

The Battle of Drums is a contest between the 4 best brass bands in Holland and is held on Friday evening. On the Saturday, there is a street parade and music throughout the city centre where Latin artists and DJ's perform at specially organised parties.

Visit : [www.zomercarnaval.nl](http://www.zomercarnaval.nl).

### **Canal Festival, Amsterdam**

10-19 August 2012

This festival is an annual classical music event featuring performances in extraordinary locations throughout central Amsterdam, along the IJ River and in Amsterdam Noord.

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

### **Gaudeamus Musical Week**

2-9 September 2012

The Gaudeamus Musical Week is an international festival for young composers and new music.

Visit : [www.muzyiekweek.nl](http://www.muzyiekweek.nl).

### **World Port Days, Rotterdam**

7-9 September 2012

The World Port Days is an opportunity for visitors to get a behind the scenes tour of the largest port of Europe.

Visit : [www.wereldhavendagen.nl](http://www.wereldhavendagen.nl).

### **Rubens, Van Dyck & Jordaens - Flemish Painters from the Hermitage**

17 September 2012 – 15 June 2013

The Hermitage presents a retrospective of Flemish painters with 75 paintings and 20 drawings, by the three giants of the Antwerp School: Peter Paul Rubens, Anthony van Dyck and Jacob Jordaens.

Visit : [www.hermitage.nl](http://www.hermitage.nl)

### **Amsterdam Dance Event**

17-21 October 2012

Europe's leading electronic music conference and the world's biggest club festival.

Visit : [www.amsterdam-dance-event.nl](http://www.amsterdam-dance-event.nl).

### **Crossing Border, The Hague**

14-17 November 2012

Crossing Border Festival in The Hague is one of the most popular international festivals for music and literature in Europe. During this controversial event, writers, musicians, poets and other artists combine spoken word, music, film and visual arts.

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

Visit : [www.holland.com](http://www.holland.com). Contact : Evelina Hederer at [esugintaite@holland.com](mailto:esugintaite@holland.com).

## The 5th President Bastille Festival, Bankside, London

14 July 2012

London's largest free Bastille Day festival will celebrate France's national day with an extravaganza of all things French on Saturday 14th July in London's historic Bankside.

Celebrating French food and culture, the festival will host a feast of culinary delights from food and drink sampling, French artisan food stalls and Président® cheese giveaways.

Throughout the day and evening Borough Market will be joining in with celebrations with great food from their array of French traders, wandering performers and a French themed demonstration kitchen..

Street entertainment including promenading performance artists and musicians promise to bring the streets to life in Bankside.

Website : [www.bastillefestival.co.uk](http://www.bastillefestival.co.uk). Contact : Louise Errington at [le@betterbankside.co.uk](mailto:le@betterbankside.co.uk).

### 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.**

#### African Fairways

African Fairways, a new operation launched in association with Personal Africa offers an inbound golfing travel service to golfers wishing to play in Southern Africa.

African Fairways has been set up by PGA Pro, Malcolm Fourie, and Steve Ellis, owner of Personal Africa.

Visit : [www.africanfairways.com](http://www.africanfairways.com). Contact : Malcolm Fourie at [malcolm@africanfairways.com](mailto:malcolm@africanfairways.com).

#### Scottish Castles

With Disney Pixar's new 3D animated movie, Brave arriving in cinema's this summer, independent small-group tour operator, Rabbie's, has launched a limited edition Scottish Castle Experience tour of the castles and landscapes that inspire the fantasy adventure film.

Departing from the World Heritage City of Edinburgh, Rabbie's new four-day adventure will include a boat trip to Lochleven Castle in Fife that imprisoned Mary Queen of Scots, and take in the Scottish castle trail to Royal Deeside and the Scottish Highlands.

Highlights include a private guided tour of Falkland Palace, the dramatic and evocative ruined cliff top fortress of Dunnottar Castle, one of the grandest Scottish baronial tower houses at Castle Fraser and the highest Distillery in Scotland at Dalwhinnie.

Visit [www.rabbies.com](http://www.rabbies.com). Contact : Alison Liddy at [alison.liddy@freshwater-uk.com](mailto:alison.liddy@freshwater-uk.com).

#### Birds in Columbia

With over 1880 species, Colombia is the number one country in the world for bird diversity, and Colombian ornithologists have now discovered a new endemic species of bird, the Antioquia Wren.

The new species is found in the dry Cauca River Canyon, a narrow valley enclosed by forests, in Northwestern Colombia, just 45 minutes outside Medellin.

The latest addition to the wren family can be told apart from its counterparts by its unique plumage coloration, the pattern of barring on its wings and tail, its smaller body size, and its distinctive birdsong.

The identification of this wren was the result of a two-year project by Colombian ornithologists Andrés Cuervo, Daniel Cadena, Diego Valderrama and Sandra Calderon.

Colombia's diversity of birds is due to the country's range of habitats.

Visit : [www.colombia.travel](http://www.colombia.travel). Contact : Amy Scott at [amy@axistravelmarketing.com](mailto:amy@axistravelmarketing.com).

### **Personal encounters with Queensland's marine life**

Queensland has over 7400km of coastline inhabited by hundreds of species of marine wildlife including :

#### **Humpback whales on Fraser Coast**

Seven thousand Humpback whales migrate over a 3,700 mile journey from Antarctica through the Fraser Coast each year.

Their pods can be spotted in the shallow coastal waters of the Great Barrier Reef but are best seen in the protected waters of Hervey Bay, known as the Whale Watching capital of Australia.

Kingfisher Bay Resort on Fraser Island offers packages.

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

#### **Dolphin feeding on Tangalooma Island**

There is the chance to cruise from Brisbane across Moreton Bay to the Tangalooma Wild Dolphin Resort on Moreton Island. Tangalooma Island Resort offers a Dolphin Adventure tours.

Visit : [www.tangalooma.com.au](http://www.tangalooma.com.au).

#### **Turtle encounters in Bundaberg**

Queensland is home to a large variety of turtles such as the loggerhead, green, leatherback and flatback, with some as old as 200 years.

From November to March every year, visitors can witness turtles up close as hundreds of turtles return to the waters of Australia's best known and most accessible sea turtle rookery, Mont Repos, just 15 kilometres from Bundaberg in the south.

Visit [www.bookbundabergregion.com.au](http://www.bookbundabergregion.com.au).

#### **Swim with dwarf minke whales in Cairns**

Visitors can experience seven-tonne dwarf minke whales in an environment that is both awe-inspiring and educational. It is not unusual for these gentle giants to come within a metre of snorkelers for an eye to eye encounter.

Visit : [www.marineencounters.com.au](http://www.marineencounters.com.au).

Visit : [www.experiencequeensland.com](http://www.experiencequeensland.com). Contact : Maddie Smith at [maddies@hillsbalfour.com](mailto:maddies@hillsbalfour.com).

### **The Bay Course, Costa Navarino, Greece**

The Bay Course, the second signature golf course at Costa Navarino has been named among the 'Best of the Best: Golf Courses' by the 24th annual list.

The Robb Report aims to recognise outstanding luxurious and exclusive new products and services; ranging from hotels and golf courses through to jewellery and vehicles.

Located in Costa Navarino, the prime, sustainable destination in the Greek region of Messinia in southwest Peloponnese and designed by golf course architect Robert Trent Jones Jr, the 18 hole Bay Course with a par-71 layout, is intended to provide an engaging test for both amateurs and professionals.

The Bay Course adds to the already extensive activity portfolio at Costa Navarino.

The golf in Costa Navarino is complimented by two 5-star hotels, The Romanos, a Luxury Collection Resort and The Westin Resort.

Visit : [www.costanavarino.com](http://www.costanavarino.com). Contact : Marina Papatsoni at [mpapatsoni@temes.gr](mailto:mpapatsoni@temes.gr).

## 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.**

### Beach House Turks and Caicos

The Beach House on the Caribbean island of Turks and Caicos opens at Providenciales in October 2012.

The Turks and Caicos Islands are a British Overseas Territory consisting of two groups of tropical islands in the West Indies. The larger Caicos Islands and the smaller Turks Islands, are known for tourism.

The hotel is located on Grace Bay adopts a 'no socks allowed' policy.

The full renovation of the two-acre property and plantation-style structure - formerly known as The Turks and Caicos Club - began May 21, 2012.

Visit : [www.beachhousetci.com](http://www.beachhousetci.com) and [www.turksandcaicostourism.com](http://www.turksandcaicostourism.com). Contact : Rebecca Widness at [rebecca@widness-co-pr.com](mailto:rebecca@widness-co-pr.com).

### South Place Hotel, London

Restaurateurs D&D London will open the South Place Hotel, its first hotel, in September 2012.

It is located between Moorgate and Liverpool Street in the City of London. South Place is hoping to bring something different to the Capital's hotel scene by Combining D&D restaurants, Conran-designed interiors and commissioned work by contemporary London artists.

D&D stands for Des and David, who led the buyout of Conran Restaurants in September 2006 and now operates more than 30 restaurants London, Paris, New York, Copenhagen and Tokyo. The hotel's Angler restaurant will be a British seafood restaurant overseen by Tony Fleming, previously Executive Chef at One Aldwych.

Visit : [www.southplacehotel.com](http://www.southplacehotel.com). Contact : Mallika Basu at [mbasu@thecommunicationgroup.co.uk](mailto:mbasu@thecommunicationgroup.co.uk).

### Z Victoria, London

Z Hotels has opened Z Victoria, its second central London property after Z Soho. The hotel is located on Lower Belgrave Street, just off Buckingham Palace Road.

Visit : [www.thezhoteles.com](http://www.thezhoteles.com). Contact Sophie at [sophia.davies@brightergroup.com](mailto:sophia.davies@brightergroup.com).

### **New Art Hotel Dulac, Amsterdam**

The Art Hotel Dulac is a new four stars hotel in the centre of Amsterdam. Housed in an historic bank building at the Haarlemmerstraat.

Visit : [www.arthoteldulac.nl](http://www.arthoteldulac.nl). Contact : Evelina Hederer at [esugintaite@holland.com](mailto:esugintaite@holland.com).

### **The Kinsterna Hotel and Spa, southern Peloponnese, Greece**

The the five star Kinsterna Hotel & Spa, is situated at the medieval citadel of Monemvasia with views over the Laconian plains and the Aegean Sea.

The property has retained its historic feel whilst providing five star luxury.

A drive from Athens to Kinsterna Hotel & Spa will allow visitors to take in some of the key archaeological sites of the Peloponnese from ancient Korinth and to Mycenae.

Guests can also visit the Byzantine Monastic area of Mystras. From then on the landscape changes to a moonlike craters with scattered cypress trees, picturesque villages and amazing beaches.

Visit : [www.kinsternahotel.gr](http://www.kinsternahotel.gr). Contact Katilena Alpe at [kat@dk-associates.co.uk](mailto:kat@dk-associates.co.uk).

### **Pangkor Laut Resort, Malaysia**

YTL Hotels has opened the Pangkor Laut Resort, an all-inclusive luxury spa located on the privately owned island of Pangkor Laut 1.6 km off the West Coast of Peninsular Malaysia.

Pangkor Laut Resort is set amid a two million year old rainforest, secluded bays and possesses what many regard as one of the world's most pristine beaches, Emerald Bay.

Visit : [www.ytlhotels.com](http://www.ytlhotels.com). Contact : EJ Flynn at [EJ@grifcopr.com](mailto:EJ@grifcopr.com).

### **The Old Rectory on the Lake, Talyllyn, Wales**

The Old Rectory is located on the banks of a lake at the foot of Cadair Idris between Dolgellau and Tywyn, mid-Wales.

The 100-year-old property has been converted into a gold award five star, three double bed roomed bed and breakfast establishment, which attracts visitors from around the world.

TripAdvisor has just awarded the business a 2012 Certificate of Excellence and its reviewers have this week rated The Old Rectory on the Lake as the top Bed and Breakfast in Wales!

Visit : [www.rectoryonthelake.co.uk](http://www.rectoryonthelake.co.uk). Contact : Duncan Foulkes at [duncan.foulkes@btinternet.com](mailto:duncan.foulkes@btinternet.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).
- **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).
- **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).
- **The Broadway Collection New York**, a group of 17 new and classic Broadway musicals, will be delighted to host Alliance members with a commission. Visit [www.broadwaycollection.com](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 : June Field at [june.field@kallaway.com](mailto:june.field@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: Brooke Jester at [bjester@ghotw.com](mailto: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](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 Aspinall at [tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk](mailto:tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk).
- **Mallorca Hotels: Hotel Bon Sol Resort & Spa, Hotel Tres and Hotel Dalt Murada, and Hotel Mar i Vent, Mallorca** will be pleased to offer accommodation to Alliance members with a commission. Visit : [www.hotelbonsol.es](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)
- **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 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)
- **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).
- **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](http://www.eustatia.com). Contact: Alastair Abrehart, [alastair@broadswordpr.com](mailto: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](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).
- **Health retreats on Vancouver Island**, British Columbia, Canada. Visit : [www.vancouverisland.com](http://www.vancouverisland.com). Contact : Pamela Irving at [livingcomms@telus.net](mailto: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](http://www.redmangrove.com). Contact : Dave Wiggins [dave@travelnewssource.com](mailto: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](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).
- **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](http://www.visitwiltshire.co.uk). Contact : Samantha Marsh: [samantha@infinitypublicrelations.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.knockomie.co.uk). Contact: Lee MacGregor at [lee@leemacgregorpr.com](mailto: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](http://www.southlakelandparks.co.uk). Contact : Samantha Marsh: [samantha@infinitypublicrelations.co.uk](mailto: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](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)
- **Woodovis Park**, the independently run holiday park on the edge of Dartmoor, Devon UK invites Alliance members to review. Visit : [www.woodovis.com](http://www.woodovis.com). Contact : Samantha Kirton at [samantha@independentpr.co.uk](mailto:samantha@independentpr.co.uk)
- **1066 Country** which comprises the area of Battle, Bexhill, Hastings, Herstmonceux, Pevensey and Rye in East Sussex, UK. Visit : [www.visit1066country.com](http://www.visit1066country.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.cornwallcottages.co.uk](http://www.cornwallcottages.co.uk). Contact: Sue Bradbury at [jess@suebradburypr.com](mailto: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](http://www.landscapepaintingholidays.co.uk). Contact: Karen Outred at [ko@freelancepr.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:ko@freelancepr.fsnet.co.uk).
- **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 individuals press trips for Alliance members. 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@crimsonedg.co.uk](mailto:megan@crimsonedg.co.uk).
- **The Park Hyatt Istanbul-Maçka Palas, Turkey** will be delighted to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: [www.hyatt.com](http://www.hyatt.com). Kathryn Peel at [Kathryn@grifcopr.com](mailto:Kathryn@grifcopr.com).
- **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@fww-us.com](mailto:jburton@fww-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 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).
- **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)

## Travel products and services

### The International Travel Writers Alliance Press Card

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



**Press Card** holders will receive :

- the card itself, confirming the holders identity as a member of the International Travel Writers Alliance
- the members logo for use on your email signature, website and stationery
- use of the members logo within the members profile on the Alliance website
- support from the Alliance in advance of - or during – a members travels with regard to confirming membership with editors or travel industry representatives etc, and
- first call press trip opportunities sourced by the Alliance.

For more information email **Ashley@itwalliance.com**.

### Other products and services

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

#### Airport lounges in London

No.1 Traveller is a London-based company specialising in airport lounges and transfers.

It operates lounges at Heathrow Terminal 3, Gatwick North and South Terminals and Stansted.

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

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 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.

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

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 : Samantha Osborough 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 on a specific City Sightseeing tour destination can apply for a complimentary ticket or two.

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

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