



# The Alliance

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## bulletin

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Issue 117 : June 2012 : [www.itwalliance.com](http://www.itwalliance.com)

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

[Ashley@itwalliance.com](mailto:Ashley@itwalliance.com)

### In this issue

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



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



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

### Registering with the Alliance

To register with the International Travel Writers Alliance visit : [www.itwalliance.com](http://www.itwalliance.com), click to enter the site and click on [Register as a member](#) (journalist)/[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](http://www.internationaltravelwritersalliance.com).**

### Amari Hotels, Thailand

Amari is the centrepiece of the ONYX Hospitality Group portfolio of hotel brands, with a network of properties in Thailand from seaside and mountain locations to urban locations including Bangkok, Pattaya, Koh Chang, Koh Samui, Phuket and, new for 2012, Hua Hin.

Amari is inviting Alliance members to spend a one/two night stay at one of its properties for review purposes.

Visit : [www.amari.com](http://www.amari.com). Contact : Natalie at [natalies@hillsbalfour.com](mailto:natalies@hillsbalfour.com).

### Eye for Travel

Eye for Travel is looking to commission B2B content that will be of interest to the travel industry.

The audience includes hotels, airlines, online travel agents (OTAs), meta search, cruise, car hire, GDS, ferry, rail, tour operators, mobile/marketing/social media/ marketing/web solutions providers, academics.

Visit : [www.eyefortravel.com](http://www.eyefortravel.com). For more information contact : Pamela Whitby at [pamela@eyefortravel.com](mailto:pamela@eyefortravel.com).

### Media visits to Great Yarmouth - Norfolk's capital of fun

Great Yarmouth is one of the UK's top seaside resorts with stunning beaches, a revitalised seafront, exceptional maritime heritage and a superb range of indoor and outdoor attractions.

#### Media invitation

Journalists are invited to visit the Greater Yarmouth area in 2012.

Individual visits for two to three nights can be arranged, staying in hotels, guesthouses, campsites and holiday parks. Train travel can be included from London Liverpool Street for London based journalists.

Visit : [www.great-yarmouth.co.uk](http://www.great-yarmouth.co.uk). Journalists interested should contact Paul Dickson at [paul@isis-norfolk.co.uk](mailto:paul@isis-norfolk.co.uk).

### Bournemouth, UK

Bournemouth Tourism would like to invite Alliance members with a commission for a two night press trip to discover what's new at one of the UK's premier tourist destinations. Story ideas could include :

- new hotels
- the Bournemouth Air Festival and the new Bournemouth Food Festival
- a seven mile stretch of beach - voted the UK's best by Trip Advisor users

Visit : [www.visitbournemouth.com](http://www.visitbournemouth.com). Contact : Sheron Crossman at [Sheron.crossman@bournemouth.gov.uk](mailto:Sheron.crossman@bournemouth.gov.uk).

## **The Pavezzo Country Retreat, the Greek island of Lefkada**

The Greek island of Lefkada is located between Corfu and Cephalonia, and is known for its beaches (Porto Katsiki, Mylos, Kathisma), Onasis's island of Scorpios and the art festivals, organised every year.

It is reached by a daily one hour flight from Athens to Aktion airport, which is 30min from the city of Lefkada and reached across a small bridge that connects Lefkada with mainland Greece.

On the east side of the island, up on a hill overlooking the sea, is the village of Katouna. During the 50's it was abandoned by its villagers because the distance from the beach- 3km- was a major obstacle for the fishing community.

During the last two decades, many of those houses, have been acquired by new owners, the village is being reborn and is starting to get lively once again.

The Pavezzo Country Retreat has been created from renovated 19th Century houses. It comprises nine properties ranging from maisonettes to villas with private pools, all individually furnished with local antiques and set in gardens.

Visit : [www.pavezzo.gr](http://www.pavezzo.gr). For more information and press trip requests contact : Aaron Moore at [aaron.moore@mediacofss.com](mailto:aaron.moore@mediacofss.com).

## **The Menzies Welcombe Hotel Spa & Golf Club, Stratford upon Avon**

The Menzies Welcombe Hotel Spa & Golf Club, Stratford upon Avon has been awarded the 2012 Certificate of Excellence by TripAdvisor.

This luxury country house hotel is located on the outskirts of Stratford-upon-Avon. The Welcombe is inviting Alliance members able to feature the hotel to enjoy two nights complimentary accommodation for two people with dinner on one night, breakfast both mornings, spa treatments and golf.

Visit : [www.welcombehotelstratford.co.uk](http://www.welcombehotelstratford.co.uk). Contact : Tanya Aspinwall at [atbTanya@marketingaloud.co.uk](mailto:atbTanya@marketingaloud.co.uk).

## **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**

#### **Abercrombie & Kent Villas & Chalets**

Abercrombie & Kent Villas & Chalets provides luxury accommodation throughout Europe specialising in luxury villas & chalets in France and Italy.

Visit : [www.akvillas.com](http://www.akvillas.com). Contact : Claire Allen at [callen@abercrombiekent.co.uk](mailto:callen@abercrombiekent.co.uk).

## Mövenpick Hotels & Resorts

Mövenpick Hotels & Resorts, an international upscale hotel management company with over 16'000 staff members, is represented in 24 countries with 71 hotels and resorts.

More than 30 further properties are planned or under construction. Focusing on expansion in its core markets of Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia, Mövenpick Hotels & Resorts specialises in business and conference hotels, as well as holiday resorts, all reflecting a sense of place and respect for their local communities.

Visit : [www.moevenpick-hotels.com](http://www.moevenpick-hotels.com). Contact : Marion Schumacher at [marion.schumacher@moevenpick.com](mailto:marion.schumacher@moevenpick.com).

## Tatton Park (UK)

Tatton Park annually welcomes over 750,000 visitors to visit the deerpark, the Mansion, Gardens, Old Hall and Farm.

There is evidence of people living on the land from the Bronze Age, and the estate was acquired by the Egerton family in 1598. Generations of the family lived here until 1958 when it was bequeathed to the National Trust.

Over 100 events are staged each year from car shows to outdoor theatre and Christmas events. There are several speciality shops on-site and the restaurant utilises local and estate-grown produce.

The third Tatton Park Biennial takes place this summer, featuring contemporary art commissioned from international and local artists themed on "Flights of Fancy", reflecting the human urge to fly alongside the aeronautical legacy of Tatton and the region.

Visit : [www.tattonpark.org.uk](http://www.tattonpark.org.uk). Contact : Katherine McInnes at [katherine.mcinnis@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:katherine.mcinnis@cheshireeast.gov.uk).

## MacArthur Beach State Park, Florida

At a time when natural areas along south Florida's coast are almost nonexistent, MacArthur Beach State Park stands out as an "island in time". Nestled on a barrier island, the Park is a treasure which has been preserved for present and future generations to experience.

Exploring two miles of pristine beach, swimming, snorkeling and fishing in the clear blue waters of the Atlantic are only the beginning of the fun; other amenities include a Nature Center, Beach Outfitters Gift Shop, playground, nature trails, kayak rentals, and picnicking facilities along with special events offered throughout the year.

Visit : [www.macarthurbeach.org](http://www.macarthurbeach.org). Contact : Cheryl Houghtelin at [cheryl@macarthurbeach.org](mailto:cheryl@macarthurbeach.org).

## The British Association of Snowsport Instructors (BASI)

BASI is the official training & grading body for snowsport instructors in the United Kingdom.

Since 1963 BASI has been providing training pathways in Skiing, Snowboarding, Adaptive, Telemark, and Nordic. BASI currently has 6,000 licenced Members and deliver training courses both in the UK and Europe.

Visit : [www.basi.org.uk](http://www.basi.org.uk). Tania Alliod at [Tania@basi.org.uk](mailto:Tania@basi.org.uk).

## **The Maine Windjammer Association**

The Maine Windjammer Association is comprised of 13 historic sailing ships that offer 3- to 6-day cruises along the coast of Maine from May to October. Guests enjoy great sailing, delicious meals, spectacular scenery and abundant wildlife, as well as time to explore off-the-beaten-path islands and villages.

The MWA represents North America's oldest fleet of traditional sailing ships, many of which are National Historic Landmarks. Each windjammer carries between 6 and 40 guests in cozy single and double cabins.

Guests are invited to participate in all shipboard activities, from taking a turn at the wheel to raising and lowering sails. All cruises depart from Camden, Rockport or Rockland, located in Midcoast

Visit : [www.sailmainecoast.com](http://www.sailmainecoast.com). Contact : Meg Maiden at [meg@sailmainecoast.com](mailto:meg@sailmainecoast.com).

## **Door 2 Door**

Door 2 Door is a coach holidays company based in England offering 100s of holidays across the UK, Europe and Worldwide.

The company features tours from over 30 of the UK's leading operators, all available to book online, from nationwide pickups.

In addition to offering traditional UK coach holidays from Torquay to Tenby, Door 2 Door offers exciting event packages to some of the hottest events in the calendar, not to mention cruise holidays, Disneyland Paris trips, theatre breaks, day trips and seasonal getaways.

From Borneo to Brazil, the Grand National to the Grand Prix, if you're looking for an escorted tour we've got it. You can even party at the New Orleans Mardi Gras or barter for camel's at India's Pushkar Camel Fair.

Visit : [www.door2tour.com](http://www.door2tour.com). Contact : Rachel Jones at [askmore@door2tour.com](mailto:askmore@door2tour.com).

## **Air Viceroy (UK)**

Air Viceroy was established in 1980, a local independent travel agency specialising in luxury holidays, cruises and business travel.

They have a long standing reputation for providing the very best service and value, offering expert knowledge and advice, the widest range of products and special offers - always with a personal touch.

All holidays and travel arrangements are protected through ABTA bonding, so customers can book with absolute confidence, whether they travel for leisure or for business.

Visit : [www.airviceroy.co.uk](http://www.airviceroy.co.uk). Contact : Julie Baker at [JBaker@airviceroy.co.uk](mailto:JBaker@airviceroy.co.uk).

## **Abode Chester**

Abode Chester is a strikingly modern property located in the city centre overlooking the famous Racecourse. Home to Michael Caines Restaurant and Champagne Bar.

Visit : [www.abodehotels.co.uk](http://www.abodehotels.co.uk). Contact : Amy Jordan at [scochester@abodehotels.co.uk](mailto:scochester@abodehotels.co.uk).

## **Abode Manchester (UK)**

Abode Manchester is located less than five minutes walk from Piccadilly train station. Home to Michael Caines Restaurants.

Visit : [www.abodehotels.co.uk](http://www.abodehotels.co.uk). Contact : Amy Jordan at [scochester@abodehotels.co.uk](mailto:scochester@abodehotels.co.uk).

## **UNIQ Travel (Australia)**

UNIQ Travel is an independent travel management company specialising in tailor made, bespoke travel experiences for discerning travellers planning holidays in Central & Eastern Europe or travelling to Australia and New Zealand.

UNIQ Travel help travellers determine their ideal destination and design ultimate holidays including customised trips, shopping tours, concert tickets, restaurant bookings, cooking classes, art tours, best flight options, luxury resorts, boutique hotels, lodges etc.

Visit : [www.uniqtravel.com](http://www.uniqtravel.com) Contact : Luiza Nowakowska at [contact@uniqtravel.com.au](mailto:contact@uniqtravel.com.au).

## **Agencies**

### **Jungle Public Relations**

Jungle Public Relations is an Award Winning PR and Marketing agency based in the east of England.

Visit : [www.junglepr.com](http://www.junglepr.com). Contact : Danielle Howard at [danielle@junglepr.com](mailto:danielle@junglepr.com).

### **Poimiroo (USA)**

Poimiroo represents :

- Yosemite Resorts
- Feather Down Farm Days USA
- Redding CVB
- The California Parks Company
- DogTrekker.com
- National Parks Promotion Council

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

## **News**

### **AITO Conference in Madeira**

The Association of Independent Tour Operators and its specialist travel agents will hold their 2012 joint overseas conference on the Portuguese island of Madeira between 14 and 17 June 2012

The conference will be sponsored by the Portuguese National Tourist Office and the Madeira Promotion Bureau.

Visit : [www.aito.co.uk](http://www.aito.co.uk) and [www.madeirapromotionbureau.com](http://www.madeirapromotionbureau.com). Contact : Joana Dias at [joanadias@ap-madeira.pt](mailto:joanadias@ap-madeira.pt).

## Barrier-free Frankfurt, Germany

The Frankfurt Tourist+Congress Board has published a new brochure for disabled travellers.

The brochure promotes Frankfurt's many tourist attractions, focusing in particular on their ease of accessibility and various other disability-friendly aspects.

Visit : [www.frankfurt-tourismus.de](http://www.frankfurt-tourismus.de). Contact : Gisela Moser at [barrierefrei@infofrankfurt.de](mailto:barrierefrei@infofrankfurt.de).

## Travel City Direct

Travel City Direct, which focuses on affordable, quality holidays to Florida and Las Vegas, has launched the new 2013/14 brochure.

Visit : [www.travelcitydirect.com](http://www.travelcitydirect.com). Claudia Moore at [Claudia.Moore@virginholidays.co.uk](mailto:Claudia.Moore@virginholidays.co.uk).

## Maiden-voyage

maiden-voyage.com, the business travel network for professional women has signed a partnership deal with award winning international car parking company Q-Park.

maiden-voyage.com members will enjoy a 15% discount on all pre-booked parking at participating car-parks.

Visit : [www.maiden-voyage.org](http://www.maiden-voyage.org). Contact Carolyn at [carolyn@maiden-voyage.org](mailto:carolyn@maiden-voyage.org).

## Leads

### Camping at the Games

In the run up to the London 2012 Olympic Games, outdoor experts 'Camping at the Games' has teamed up with a number of local schools and community sports grounds in London, Reading and Weymouth, to provide camping pitches for as little as £10 per night.

Visit : [www.campingatthegames.com](http://www.campingatthegames.com). Contact : Danielle Spriggs at [danielle.spriggs@captiveminds.com](mailto:danielle.spriggs@captiveminds.com).

### Red Mangrove Galapagos and Ecuador Lodges

Red Mangrove Galapagos and Ecuador Lodges have been awarded the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) Five-Star Dive Resort designation, just the second one of its kind in the Galapagos Islands.

The rating is the highest rating standard within PADI and to achieve it a dive resort must have attained and maintain exceptional standards in the dive industry.

Red Mangrove Galapagos and Ecuador Lodges in 2007 introduced a land-based alternative to exploring the Galapagos that heretofore was a cruise-only destination.

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

## Walking in the Algarve, Portugal

### The Rota Vicentina

The Rota Vicentina is a walking trail that runs along the rugged western coast of the Algarve to Sagres, offering stunning coastal views.

The route runs from Santiago do Cacém in the Alentejo to Sagres in the Algarve and is integrated into the extensive European GR11 route, which connect Sagres to St. Petersburg.

Over 60% of the land in the Algarve is protected and the new route is part of a tourism initiative created to promote areas of the Algarve beyond its popular southern coast.

The Costa Vicentina is one of the best preserved coastal areas of southern Europe and the majority of the area sits within the Costa Vicentina Natural Park.

### The Via Algarviana

Another walking route is the Via Algarviana, which is one of the best ways to see the region's hinterland.

Visitors can travel on foot, bicycle or horseback along the extensive 240km network of paths between Alcoutim in the east and Cape St Vincent in the west.

Visit : [www.rotavicentina.com/en](http://www.rotavicentina.com/en), [www.viaalgarviana.org](http://www.viaalgarviana.org) and [www.visitalgarve.pt](http://www.visitalgarve.pt). Contact : Josie Self at [josies@hillsbalfour.com](mailto:josies@hillsbalfour.com).

## Ospreys in mid-Wales

The protection team guarding the nest of a breeding pair of ospreys in Mid Wales is expecting the first of three eggs to hatch over the next week.

The ospreys, named Monty and Nora, returned to the Dyfi Osprey Project on Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust's Cors Dyfi Reserve at Derwenlas near Machynlleth earlier this spring.

Last year, they hatched three eggs in the nest and the trio of young birds has been tracked to Africa. They were first ospreys to hatch alongside the River Dyfi since 1604.

Visit : [www.dyfiospreyproject.com](http://www.dyfiospreyproject.com) and [www.morbenisaf.co.uk](http://www.morbenisaf.co.uk). Contact : Duncan Foulkes at [duncan.foulkes@btinternet.com](mailto:duncan.foulkes@btinternet.com).

## Ski Portillo, Chile

From 25 August to 11 September 2012, Ski Portillo, Chile Wine Festival Week will give guests the opportunity to learn about Chilean wine.

Winemakers will offer personally crafted tastings every afternoon as part of après-ski activities in the comfort of Hotel Portillo.

Ski Portillo is an all-inclusive ski resort located in the high Andes of Chile, with views of the 'Laguna del Inca' and some of the best powder snow in the Southern Hemisphere.

Visit [www.skiportillo.com](http://www.skiportillo.com). Contact : Martina at [martina@traveltradeuk.com](mailto:martina@traveltradeuk.com).



## **The Madame Zabre Villa, the Seychelles**

The Madame Zabre Villa has opened at Desroches, a private island in the Seychelles.

Visit : [www.desroches-island.com](http://www.desroches-island.com). Contact : Li Boatwright at [li@storringtoncommunications.com](mailto:li@storringtoncommunications.com).

## **Polperro, Cornwall UK**

The village of Polperro in Cornwall is highlighting reasons to visit this historic fishing village.

Polperro, which is situated on the South East coast of Cornwall, is one of the most picturesque and charming villages with its own working harbour and narrow winding lanes crammed with white-washed fisherman's cottages, many only accessed by foot.

Reasons to visit Polperro include :

### **Outstanding natural beauty**

Polperro is situated in an 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty', was one of the first Conservation Areas in S.E Cornwall, and also lies in an area of Heritage Coast.

### **The Polperro Arts Festival**

The Polperro Arts Festival (16 to 24 June) is a week-long festival of music, arts, dance and comedy.

### **A fascinating past**

The village dates back to the 13th century, with fishing the main occupation of its inhabitants for centuries. Pilchards were caught in abundance in the 19th century and processed and packed in three factories near the harbour.

Smuggling was commonplace when Britain was at war in the 18th century, with tea, gin, brandy and tobacco smuggled to Polperro from Guernsey.

The 'Heritage Museum of Smuggling and Fishing' houses a collection of early photographs, ship models and memorabilia dating back over 200 years.

Polperro is well situated to explore further into Cornwall and is in close proximity to key attractions such as the Eden Project, the Lost Gardens of Helligan, the towns of Fowey, St Austell and Charlestown plus the National Trust properties of Lanhydrock, Anthony House and Cotehele.

Visit [www.polperro.org](http://www.polperro.org) and [www.lovepolperro.com](http://www.lovepolperro.com).

Alliance members interested in visiting Polperro should contact : Tanya Aspinwall at [Tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk](mailto:Tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk).

## **The Venice Simplon-Orient-Express**

The Venice Simplon-Orient-Express (VSOE) will embark on a series of scheduled rail voyages taking it up to Scandinavia in 2013 and visiting Stockholm for the first time.

The two-night rail voyage will run from Venice to Stockholm, via an overnight stop in Copenhagen.

Visit : [www.vsoe.com](http://www.vsoe.com). Contact : Anna Nash at [anna.nash@orient-express.com](mailto:anna.nash@orient-express.com).

## Making Waves at the Hyatt Regency London – The Churchill to October 2012

The Hyatt Regency London – The Churchill has launched 'Making Waves: International Contemporary Art from the Saatchi Gallery'.

The exhibition, displayed throughout the hotel's lobby and restaurant areas, features works by artists from the UK, the US, Germany, Greece, Poland, Iran, Tunisia, Democratic Republic of Congo, India and South Korea.

In doing so it shows the diversity of work being made by some of the most promising emerging artists within the global art world. The exhibition also highlights London's position as one of the world's most important art hubs as well as being a centre for sporting excellence.

Visit : [www.london.churchill.hyatt.com](http://www.london.churchill.hyatt.com) and [www.saatchi-gallery.co.uk](http://www.saatchi-gallery.co.uk). Contact : Emma Powell at [Emma@grifcopr.com](mailto:Emma@grifcopr.com).

## What's on

### Edinburgh Summer Festivals 2012 Highlights

Edinburgh's 12 major festivals turn the historical capital of Scotland into one of the most vibrant stages for world class performers and artists. Edinburgh's Festivals peak during August, when more than 25,000 artists, entertainers and thinkers populate the city with over 1,000 shows per day.

The August festivals date back to 1947 and today comprise :

- Edinburgh International Film Festival 20 June- 1 July
- Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival 20 July – 29 July
- Edinburgh Art Festival 2 August – 2 September
- Edinburgh Festival Fringe 3 – 27 August
- The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo 3 – 25 August
- Edinburgh International Festival 9 August – 2 September, and
- Edinburgh Mela 31 August – 2 September

Visit : [www.edinburghfestivals.co.uk](http://www.edinburghfestivals.co.uk). Contact : Charlotte Gosling at [charlotte.gosling@festivalsedinburgh.com](mailto:charlotte.gosling@festivalsedinburgh.com).

### The USA Pro Cycling Challenge, Colorado

The second USA Pro Cycling Challenge will place in Colorado between 20 and 26 August 2012.

The route of the Challenge will take riders through the Colorado Rockies and visit 12 official host cities for the starts and finishes of each stage.

These will be Durango, Telluride, Montrose, Crested Butte, Gunnison, Aspen, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge, Colorado Springs, Golden, Boulder and Denver.

Colorado is a four-season destination offering adventure and recreational activities, an abundant arts scene, Western heritage and 26 renowned ski resort areas. There are natural hot springs, the headwaters of four major rivers, many lakes and reservoirs, nine national parks and monuments, and 54 mountain peaks that top 14,000 feet.

Visit : [www.USAProCyclingChallenge.com](http://www.USAProCyclingChallenge.com) and [www.visitcolorado.com](http://www.visitcolorado.com). Contact : Fiona Pettitt at [fiona@cellet.co.uk](mailto:fiona@cellet.co.uk).

## The Vintage and Wilderness Festivals, UK

### **The Vintage Festival, Boughton House, Northamptonshire**

13 and 15 July 2012

The Vintage Festival at Boughton House, Northamptonshire between 13 and 15 July is a celebration of the Best of British music, food, fashion, film, art and design between the 1920s-1980s.

Broughton House sits within an A Grade I listed, 2,345 acre park, of landscapes, waterscapes and woodlands.

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

### **The Wilderness Festival, Cornbury Park estate, Oxfordshire**

10 to 12 August 2012

The Wilderness Festival is a celebration of the arts and outdoors bringing together musicianship, theatre, talks, panel debates, late-night parties, outdoor pursuits and food experiences.

It was named the UK's 'Best New Festival' at the Festival Awards UK.

Visit : [www.wildernessfestival.com](http://www.wildernessfestival.com). Contact :Madeleine Fairley at [madeleine@thisisinkling.com](mailto:madeleine@thisisinkling.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.**

### **Outdoor South Australia**

#### **Flinders By Foot**

Flinders By Foot, which are three and five day walking tours led by Rawnsley Park Station owner Tony Smith and bushwalking author Kym Tilbrook, have been designed for travellers with a good level of fitness.

The tours cover up to 21kms each day and include some relatively difficult climbs such as the 1,170m-high St Mary's Peak, the highest point in the Wilpena Pound. Other highlights include a climb to Rawnsley Bluff which begins at 4.30am in time to see the sun rise and enjoy the wildlife.

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

#### **Kangaroo Island Wildlife Expedition**

Southern Ocean Lodge has introduced Expedition Kangaroo Island, a week-long wildlife guided tour of Australia's 'Galapagos' combined with luxury accommodation.

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

#### **Lake Eyre**

Goin' Off Safaris, who are specialists in off-the-beaten track touring, are featuring the usually dry Lake Eyre. Located in the middle of the Outback, the Lake Eyre basin covers around 17% of Australia and, as the world's largest internally draining system and fifth largest terminal lake in the world.

Heavy summer rains across the Outback has seen more than its average yearly rainfall in just a few days.

Visit : [www.goinoffsafaris.com.au/lake-eyre-tour](http://www.goinoffsafaris.com.au/lake-eyre-tour). Contact : Jovanka Ristich at [jovanka@independent-pr.co.uk](mailto:jovanka@independent-pr.co.uk).

### **Feather Down Farm Days USA**

Feather Down Farm Days USA, provides fun, educational and authentic farm stay experiences for young families.

The farm stay lodging provider was established in the Netherlands in 2003 and now has more than 54 working farms in Great Britain, France, Germany and the United States.

Its US farms are located in New York and Illinois. A third farm will open late this summer near Oroville, California

has selected ITWA Partner John Poimiroo (Poimiroo & Partners – El Dorado Hills, Calif.) to assist with public relations and publicity for its U.S. locations.

Feather Down Farm Days appeals most to families (with children aged 2 – 15 years old) who seek a vacation that provides a deeper connection with rural living, nature and healthy eating.

Guests stay in comfortably fitted and furnished tents described as “Shabby Chic” and participate in such aspects as collecting eggs, petting animals, picking vegetables for dinner and the gentle rhythm of life on a farm.

Opportunities for travel writers on assignment (transportation not included) and their families to stay at the new California Feather Down farm will be available from late July.

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

### **Italo trains, Italy**

Rail travellers in Italy now have a choice of high speed services on routes between major Italian cities, since new Italo trains began running on April 28.

Italo services are operated by Italian company NTV, the first privately run high speed operator to launch since deregulation of the European rail network in 2010.

Initially, Italo services run between Milan and Naples, calling in Bologna, Florence and Rome en route.

Services will be extended to cover more high speed routes later in the year, with new destinations including Venice, Turin and Salerno, gateway to the Amalfi Coast to be introduced.

Italo services are also the first completely ticketless trains.

Customers will simply need to provide the train staff with a reference given to them at the time of booking and the staff will be able to retrieve all their details from a mobile PDA device.

To help international travellers, all Italo staff are English speaking.

Visit : [www.raileurope.co.uk](http://www.raileurope.co.uk). Contact Amanda Monroe at [amonroe@raileurope.co.uk](mailto:amonroe@raileurope.co.uk).

## Los Angeles

Los Angeles has a number of new hotels and attractions opening in 2012 to help support the city's boast as the entertainment capital of the world.

### **Universal Studios Hollywood**

The Universal Studios Hollywood Transformers attraction opens in May, combining 3D-HD media with special effects and robotics in a flight simulator thrill ride ride.

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

### **California Science Centre**

In the Autumn of 2012, the California Science Centre unveil the Space Shuttle Endeavour as the centrepiece of it's new Air and Space Centre.

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

### **Six Flags Magic Mountain in San Fernando Valley**

Six Flags Magic Mountain in San Fernando Valley opening later this month will be the world's tallest vertical drop ride, dropping 40 stories at speeds of up to 85 mph.

Visit : [www.sixflags.com/magicMountain](http://www.sixflags.com/magicMountain)

### **Hotels in LA**

#### **Hotel Bel-Air**

The Hotel Bel-Air has reopened after extensive refurbishment and redesign

The work has retained the familiar Spanish Colonial architecture splashed in "Bel-Air pink to reflect the hotel's the glamorous eras of the 1930s, '40s and '50s.

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

#### **Hotel Amarano Burbank**

In the San Fernando Valley, the Hotel Amarano Burbank is the only luxury boutique hotel in Burbank.

It is located in the heart of the entertainment district, close to Warner Bros Studios, Universal Studios and NBC Studios.

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

#### **The Shore Hotel**

The Shore Hotel is a new beachside retreat in Santa Monica on the site of the former Pacific Sands.

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

Visit : [www.discoverlosangeles.com](http://www.discoverlosangeles.com). Contact : Louise Swanne at [louise.swanne@rivapr.co.uk](mailto:louise.swanne@rivapr.co.uk).

## A place to stay

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

### **The Tommy Watson, Adelaide, Australia**

The Art Series Hotel Group is to open a property in Adelaide in September 2013.

Like the groups other properties in Melbourne, the new hotel will be named after a prominent Australian artist, this time indigenous painter Tommy Watson.

The hotel will be based in Walkerville, a suburb of Adelaide with views of the Adelaide Hills, the city centre and the River Torrens.

Visit : [www.artserieshotels.com.au](http://www.artserieshotels.com.au). Contact : Jovanka Ristich at [jovanka@independent-pr.co.uk](mailto:jovanka@independent-pr.co.uk).

### **Pentillie Castle and Estate, Cornwall UK**

Pentille Castle and Estate has been named Best Bed and Breakfast in Britain 2012 by Visit England.

The stunning luxury castle was awarded Gold in the Visit England Awards for Excellence. The Awards are the highest accolade for any tourism business.

Visit : [www.pentillie.co](http://www.pentillie.co). Contact: Simon Whittam at [simonwhittam@weareonshore.com](mailto:simonwhittam@weareonshore.com).

### **Rome Cavalieri, Waldorf Astoria Hotels & Resorts**

The Rome Cavalieri, Waldorf Astoria Hotels & Resorts has introduced a Spring Awakening package that gives guests the to enjoy a day of pampering in the Cavalieri Grand Spa Club enjoying his and hers saunas, a Turkish bath, hydro massage pool, fitness centre and a Technogym.

Each Spring Awakening guest will also receive complimentary Ferragamo Tuscan Soul toiletries to continue their pampering when the day is over.

Located on a hilltop overlooking the city, and surrounded by green park land, the Rome Cavalieri, Waldorf Astoria Hotels & Resorts offers tranquility close to one of the world's most vibrant cities.

Visit : [www.romecavalieri.com](http://www.romecavalieri.com) and [www.waldorfastoria.com](http://www.waldorfastoria.com). Contact : Lucia Roberts at [lucia@grifcopr.com](mailto:lucia@grifcopr.com).

### **Pentillie Castle and Estate, Cornwall UK**

Pentille Castle and Estate has been named Best Bed and Breakfast in Britain 2012 by Visit England.

The stunning luxury castle was awarded Gold in the Visit England Awards for Excellence. The Awards are the highest accolade for any tourism business.

Visit : [www.pentillie.co](http://www.pentillie.co). Contact: Simon Whittam at [simonwhittam@weareonshore.com](mailto:simonwhittam@weareonshore.com).

## **The Culloden Estate & Spa, Belfast and The Merrion Hotel, Dublin**

The historic, cultural cities of Dublin and Belfast are being offered via a package from the Culloden Estate & Spa, Belfast and The Merrion Hotel, Dublin.

The breaks offer guests gourmet meals, private tours of each city and luxurious five-star accommodation.

**The 5 star Culloden Estate & Spa** is located high on the wooded slopes of the Holywood hills, overlooking Belfast Lough and the County Antrim coastline.

Built as an official palace for the Bishops of Down, the Culloden stands in 12 acres of secluded gardens 5 miles from Belfast City Centre.

**The 5 star Merrion, Dublin** is located in the heart of the city centre.

Created from four Georgian Townhouses and a contemporary Garden Wing, the 142 bedrooms and suites are arranged around two 18th century gardens.

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

## **[hotelsunder100.co.uk](http://hotelsunder100.co.uk)**

New website [hotelsunder100.co.uk](http://hotelsunder100.co.uk) highlights quirky, independent hotels under £100 a night in India, Sri Lanka and Zambia.

These include :

**Lake Lodge, Colombo, Sri Lanka** : A family owned, value for money, boutique bolthole in the heart of the city, within walking distance of the shopping districts, a choice of restaurants and cultural sites.

**Labboo'z Lodge, Maheshwar, India** : Based within a 16th century gatehouse to the Ahilya Fort, the lodge's cafe serves up vegetarian meals that can be served on a terrace overlooking the river.

**Palagama Beach Resort, Kalpitiya, Sri Lanka** :Overlooking the Indian Ocean, the resort is located in an untouched part of the west coast with thatched cabanas at the end of sandy paths.

**Bundi Vilas, Bundi, India** : Built against the rampart walls of Bundi Garh Palace which rise above the town, guests enter the 300 year old boutique property through its original 40 ft stone archway.

**The Dune Eco Village Resort & Spa, Tamil Nadu, India** : A 35 acre eco-friendly beach hotel a Paradise Spa offering Ayurvedic treatments, Yoga, meditation and alternative therapies.

**Elephant Valley, Tamil Nadu, India** : This eco farm hotel is situated in Palni Hills - a 100 acre nature reserve and organic farm which welcomes eco-tourists and nature lovers all year round.

**The Black Buck Lodge, Velavadar National Park, India** : Located opposite India's only tropical grassland with a National Park status, the lodge offers air-conditioned stone cottages.

**Fort Barli, Rajasthan, India** : A 325 yr old heritage property, located in Ajmer. The walls of the fort rise up from the centre of the village and its ramparts offer a view of the village.

Visit [www.hotelsunder100.co.uk](http://www.hotelsunder100.co.uk). Contact: Rebecca Clever at [rebeccac@hillsbalfour.com](mailto:rebeccac@hillsbalfour.com).

## Generator Hostels

Generator Hostels, one of Europe's leading hostel chain is launching its 'Summer of Love' campaign to mark London's 'iconic' summer.

It features events such as a Queen for the Day competition and the creation of a pop up park and beach bar at its London hostel.

Generator Hostel is converting its outdoor terrace into a beach bar with palm trees and coconuts, music and cocktails.

Generator Hostels is Europe's fastest growing hostel chain, with hostels located in Berlin, Copenhagen, Dublin, Hamburg, London and Venice.

Its hostel in Barcelona, scheduled to open in early 2013.

Visit : [www.generatorhostels.com](http://www.generatorhostels.com). Contact : Kate Axelby at [generatorhostels@lewispr.com](mailto:generatorhostels@lewispr.com).

## Rome Cavalieri, Waldorf Astoria Hotels & Resorts

The Rome Cavalieri, Waldorf Astoria Hotels & Resorts has introduced a Spring Awakening package that gives guests the to enjoy a day of pampering in the Cavalieri Grand Spa Club enjoying his and hers saunas, a Turkish bath, hydro massage pool, fitness centre and a Technogym.

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Created from four Georgian Townhouses and a contemporary Garden Wing, the 142 bedrooms and suites are arranged around two 18th century gardens.

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



# Section two : ongoing opportunities

## Alerts

### Ongoing independent press trip opportunities for Alliance members

- **Visit Dublin** offers Alliance members visiting on-assignment a Media Pass (the Dublin Pass), which provides free entry to 34 visitor attractions in Dublin. Visit : [www.visitdublin.com](http://www.visitdublin.com) and [www.dublinpass.com](http://www.dublinpass.com). Contact : Catherine McCluskey at [Catherine.mccluskey@failteireland.ie](mailto:Catherine.mccluskey@failteireland.ie).
- **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).
- **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 [folo@hiddenpousadasbrazil.com](mailto:folo@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.luxep.com](http://www.luxep.com). Contact : Tamsin Cocks at [tamsin@luxep.com](mailto:tamsin@luxep.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 Abreheart, [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)
- **Middlethorpe 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).
- **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](http://www.aspects-holidays.co.uk). Contact : Karen Baker at [karen@mercury-pr.co.uk](mailto: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 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@crimsonedge.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.simplyscilly.co.uk). Contact: Karen Baker at [karen@mercury-pr.co.uk](mailto: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](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@fwv-us.com](mailto:jburton@fwv-us.com).

- **Charming Hotels Madeira** will be pleased to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: [www.charminghotelsmadeira.com](http://www.charminghotelsmadeira.com). Contact: Antonio Silva at [asilva@charminghotelsmadeira.com](mailto:asilva@charminghotelsmadeira.com).
- **Sea Kayak Adventures** explore Baja and Canada's newest marine parks and prolific whale watching destinations by sea kayak with Sea Kayak Adventures. Sea Kayak Adventures will be happy to provide press trip facilities to Alliance members. Visit: [www.seakayakadventures.com](http://www.seakayakadventures.com). Contact: Nancy Mertz at [info@seakayakadventures.com](mailto:info@seakayakadventures.com).

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

### Airport lounges in London

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

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

No.1 Traveller is happy to offer a 50% discount rate for all Travel Writers Alliance members. Those interested should contact [No1@3-monkeys.co.uk](mailto: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](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.

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 Osborogh at [samantha.osborogh@aether-mobile.com](mailto:samantha.osborogh@aether-mobile.com).

## The Leisure Pass

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

Alliance members can get review passes for the cities covered.

Visit : [www.leisurepassgroup.com](http://www.leisurepassgroup.com). Contact : Katie.wright@sirencomms.com.

## CitySightseeing Worldwide



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

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

Alliance members/family/friends can 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. 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

#### **Kuperard Publishers**

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

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

0776 419 8286  
Ashley@itwalliance.com

