



The Alliance

bulletin

Issue 104 : September 2011: www.itwalliance.com

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

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



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



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

Registering with the Alliance

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

Opportunities

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

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

The 2nd Global Bird Watchers Conference, Gujarat, India

19 to 22 January 2012.

Alliance members are invited to request a place on the 2nd Global Bird Watchers Conference, Gujarat, India takes place at Ahmedabad with field trips in the area.

The press trip will be fully funded by Tourism Corporation of Gujarat

Gujarat is a state in western India. It has a coastline of 1,600 km, most of which lies on the Kathiawar peninsula.

It is bordered by Rajasthan to the north, Maharashtra to the south, Madhya Pradesh to the east and the Arabian Sea as well as the Pakistani province of Sindh on the west. Its capital is Gandhinagar, while its largest city is Ahmedabad.

Gujarat has 831 wetlands areas with 438 coastal and 393 inland, including 231 reservoirs.

Apart from providing food and habitat to a variety of resident birds, the wetlands in the state provides the perfect habitat for migratory birds.

The important bird species in Gujarat are :

- the Great Indian Bustard
- Houbara Bustard
- Lesser Florican
- four species of harriers
- the Lesser Flamingo
- Sarus Crane
- Demoiselle Crane
- Common Crane
- three species of Pelicans
- six species of Storks, and
- four species of Bulbuls

The Flamingo City in Kachchh is the breeding ground for the Lesser Flamingoes that visit the area in millions for breeding and the Great Indian Bustards are found in the Kachchh Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary

Visit : www.gujarattourism.com. For more information on the press trip contact : Uttej Rao at uttej@jnraoindia.com.

Great Hotels of the World

Great Hotels of the World offers a collection of the best 4 and 5 star luxury hotels and resorts.

Each hotel is selected for its dedication to the highest standards of luxury, unique sophistication, surroundings and innovative facilities.

Great Hotels of the World are very happy to accommodate Alliance members at its member properties worldwide.

Visit : www.ghotw.com. Contact : Ashleigh Silverman at asilverman@ghotw.com.

The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta® will take place October 1 through October 9.

What started as a radio promotion in 1972, with 13 balloons in attendance, has grown to be the largest gathering of balloons and most photographed event in the world. This year's event will feature more than 500 hot air and gas balloons taking to the skies during the nine day event. View complete release.

Alliance members are invited to obtain media credentials for the event.
Visit : www.balloonfiesta.com/media. Contact : Megan Mayo at media@itsatrip.org.

The Swan, Lavenham, Suffolk UK

The iconic 15th century Swan at Lavenham, in the English county of Suffolk, has just completed a two year refurbishment that has seen the elegant public areas and 45 bedrooms and suites revitalised, plus a new reception area and the opening of its contemporary-style Brasserie.

Steeped in history, the half-timbered Swan Hotel is a charming, quintessentially English hotel, set in the heart of one of the country's best preserved Tudor villages.

It dates back to the 1400s when it played a key role in Lavenham's burgeoning wool trade. Widely recognised as one of the region's landmark hotels,

The Swan, which has an AA four star rating and an AA two rosette restaurant, will be delighted to consider offering accommodation to Alliance member.

Visit : www.theswanatlavenham.co.uk. Contact : Pat Edgar at PRMatters@dsl.pipex.com

Combe House, near Exeter, Devon UK

Combe House, winner of the 2010 Devon Hotel of the Year Award - is a Grade I Elizabethan Manor located in a 3,500 acre country estate where Arabian horses and pheasants roam freely.

Combe is approached by a mile long drive from the picture postcard village of Gittisham and is close to the sea and a short drive from the Cathedral city of Exeter.

Tucked away in the woods at the entrance is the restored Combe Thatch Cottage – a romantic hideaway for two with its own private walled garden.

Combe House will be delighted to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members.

Visit www.combehousedevon.com. Contact: Pat Edgar at PRMatters@dsl.pipex.com

The Sandman Signature Hotel Newcastle, UK

The Sandman Signature Hotel Newcastle, which opens on 5 September 2011, is the first hotel to be launched in the UK by the Canada-based Sandman Signature Group.

The boutique hotel is in the heart of the city in what was formerly the headquarters of Scottish and Newcastle Brewery.

Visit : www.sandmansignature.com. For press facility visits contact : Bernice Saltzer at bernice@SortedPR.com.

Bed&Fed: Unique Places to Stay

Bed&Fed is a network of 'home from home' guest rooms across the UK and Ireland that offers visitors an experience similar to staying with family friends with kitchen supper, bed and a simple breakfast.

With Bed&Fed guests could find themselves staying :

- in an 18th century schoolhouse with the Dowdings in Hampshire
- in a sleek Edinburgh townhouse with the Sempills
- with the Ogden's who live in a restored 350 years old, Grade II listed farmhouse in Meopham, near London
- with Ann Monk has her 1691 farmhouse in the heart of historic Hampshire, which was frequently visited by Jane Austin
- in Somerset, with the Richmonds who grow their own organic fruit and vegetables on their Grade II listed farm
- with Elizabeth Cope (a well-known Irish artist) and her husband Geoffrey are the hosts at Shankill Castle (1708) in Kilkenny where their son and daughter are also artists.

All Bed&Fed accommodation costs between just £35/€40 - £50/€55 per person per night.

Visit : www.bedandfed.co.uk. To request review accommodation at any Bed&Fed property contact : Annabella Forbes at chiefchick@bedandfed.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.

Partners

Best of Britain & Ireland

Best of Britain & Ireland is the 'must attend' travel trade industry event of the year, attracting hundreds of exhibitors from across England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales and thousands of domestic and international trade buyers, visitors and media.

This 'trade only' event showcases the tourism product of Britain and Ireland, highlights new developments in the sector, provides networking, business opportunities and educational seminars for exhibitors and trade visitors aimed at increasing tourism business and profit for buyers and suppliers. It has the full support of Britain and Ireland's tourism industries.

Visit : www.bestofbritainandirelandevent.co.uk. Contact : Sam Warnock at sam@expom.co.uk.

Melbourne and Victoria CVB

MCVB is a not-for-profit company that markets Melbourne and Victoria as a premier business events destination, identifies and bids for business events, and provides free assistance to associations to bid for national and international business events.

Melbourne has a long history in staging successful major events and conferences.

Visit : www.mcvb.com.au. Contact : Rebecca Elliott at rebecca.elliott@mcvb.com.au.

The Ski Club of Great Britain

The Ski Club of Great Britain is a not-for-profit snowsports club which offers membership benefits to 33,000 members.

Visit : www.skiclub.co.uk. Contact : Victoria Norman at vicky.norman@skiclub.co.uk.

The Quad Cities (USA)

As the largest metropolitan area on the Mississippi River between Minneapolis and St. Louis, the Quad Cities is made up of the riverfront cities of Rock Island and Moline/East Moline in Illinois, and Davenport and Bettendorf in Iowa.

The Quad Cities--home to over 400,000 residents--is an easy 2½-hour drive from Chicago, Illinois, or Des Moines, Iowa, or flight in to the Quad City International Airport in Moline.

The Quad Cities is the only place where the mighty river runs east to west and the area offers affordable adventures, including:

- John Deere world headquarters
- gaming and non-gaming riverboats
- historical sites
- Native American sites
- Museums
- golf, bike paths
- dining, shopping, and exciting festivals and special events.

Visit : www.visitquadcities.com. Contact : Jessica Waytenick at jwaytenick@visitquadcities.com.

Festival du Voyageur (Canada)

Dubbed “The World’s Largest Kitchen Party”, Festival du Voyageur celebrates the joie de vivre of the fur traders, who established the Red River Colony and the ever-growing French-Canadian community in Western Canada.

The spirit and culture of the Voyageur is present in the vibrant community that comes together to celebrate, every February, their history through this event.

Visit : www.festivalvoyageur.mb.ca. Contact : Emili Bellefleur at ebellefleur@festivalvoyageur.mb.ca

Le Grand Lodge (Canada)

Le Grand Lodge is a Scandinavian-style log four-star hotel and conference center located in the internationally renowned resort destination of Mont-Tremblant, Québec, Canada.

It boasts 111 suites fully equipped with kitchens and fireplaces, a private beach on Lake Ouimet, spa services, sauna, steam room, exercise facilities, semi-Olympic indoor pool and a wide range of four season activities.

Its modern conference facilities can accommodate up to 600 and offers all the latest technology. The award-winning restaurant Chez Borivage has become a destination unto itself.

Visit : www.legrandlodge.com Contact : Johanne Emond at emondj@sympatico.ca.

[Groupaccommodation.com](#)

Groupaccommodation.com has been providing thousands of profitable group bookings for its owners for more than 7 years. It is the market leader and our owners stay with us year on year.

Visit : www.groupaccommodation.com Contact : Denice Hill at denicehill@groupaccommodation.com.

[Lama \(Dubai\)](#)

Lama is one of the top DMC company based in Dubai, UAE with highly professional staff providing best services to our client. The company also provides a hotel booking services with over 80,000 hotels around the world.

Visit : www.lama.ae. Contact : Bishwanath Sharma at biswanaths@live.com.

[Hobnob Tours \(USA\)](#)

Hobnob Tours provides historical walking tours in San Francisco, California. Several neighborhoods are explored during easy two hour walks: fashionable Nob Hill, stately Financial District and artistic Union Square and Chinatown.

Visit : www.hobnobtours.com. Contact : Valarie Huff at valtour@comcast.net.

[Sun Ocean \(Maldives\)](#)

Sun Ocean is a leading Maldives based travel agency that can arrange flight and tour handling, hotel bookings, diving safaris in the Maldives and Sri Lanka.

Visit : www.sunoceanmaldives.com. Contact : Mohamed Saeed at m.saeed@sunoceanmaldives.com.

Agencies

[Luxe PR](#)

Luxe Public Relations is a dynamic and creative agency, specialising in PR for luxury and design hotels, serviced apartments, restaurants and spas.

They are one of the leading agencies in the sector with the ability to generate high quality media coverage of their clients in both UK and international publications.

Visit : www.luxepr.com. Contact : Tamsin Cocks at tamsin@luxepr.com

[Explore Communications \(UK\)](#)

Explore Communications is a public relations and marketing consultancy for the travel and leisure industries.

Contact : Rachel Martin at rachel@explorepr.co.uk

[Anne Abrams \(USA\)](#)

Anne Abrams is a free lance marketing and public relations consultant based in the Bay Area/Northern California, specializing in entertainment, lifestyle, food/wine and travel projects.

Contact : Anne Abrams at goanne@comcast.net

Alpha Dog Public Relations USA

Alpha Dog Public Relations is a recognized leader in the hospitality industry, providing public relations and marketing services for resorts, spas, restaurants and other luxury services and goods. President Susan Hartzler is a veteran in the industry with more than 30 years experience.

Visit : www.alphadogpr.com. Susan Hartzler at susan@alphadogpr.com

News

Vietnam Airlines'

London will become 27th destination and 14th country served by Vietnam Airlines' in December 2011.

A member of the SkyTeam alliance since June 2010, Vietnam Airlines' route network covers 20 cities in Vietnam and extends internationally to destinations in Europe, Asia and Australia. Plans are underway to launch services to the US west coast.

Visit : www.vietnamairlines.com. Contact : Louise Cook at louise@bacall.net.

The VisitBritain Hosted Buyers Marketplace

The European Tour Operators Association (ETOA) and UKinbound have joined forces with VisitBritain to plan the VisitBritain Hosted Buyers Marketplace (HBM), which will take place in 2012.

It will provide an opportunity for British tourism suppliers and destinations to meet and do business with 150 specially selected international buyers from some 20 countries being brought over and hosted by VisitBritain for the occasion.

The Hosted Buyers Marketplace will be held at Wembley Stadium on 19 March 2012, the day prior to ETOA and UKinbound's well-established Britain & Ireland Marketplace (BIM) at the same venue.

Participating markets include Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Canada, China, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UAE and the USA.

Online registration for both events will be live in mid-September. For more information on or to register an interest in these events, please contact info@etoa.org or call 020 7499 4412.

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

Virgin Atlantic

New mood lighting has been introduced into the cabins of Virgin Atlantic's latest A330 aircraft to encourage relaxing, stress-free air travel for its passengers.

Visit : www.virginatlantic.com. Contact Anna Catchpole at anna.catchpole@fly.virgin.co

What's Happening Magazine, UK

What's Happening Magazine is looking for travel features.

Visit : www.whatshappeningmagazine.net. Contact : Mike Mendoza at mikehappeningmag@aol.com.

Snowdonia National Park, Wales

The autumn scenery and wildlife of the Snowdonia National Park have provided the inspiration for a new weekend photography course planned for October.

The Slate Shed B & B at Graig Wen, Arthog, near Dolgellau has teamed up with experienced professional photographer Jeremy Moore to arrange the course from 13-16 October 2011.

Visit : www.slateshed.co.uk and www.wild-wales.com. Contact : Sarah at sarah@graiwen.co.uk.

La Ciotat, France

The Plage Lumière in La Ciotat has introduced Europe's only beach smoking ban.

Visit www.en.tourisme-laciotat.com. Contact : Sabrina Delcuratolo at sabrina@firstpr.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.

Somerset's Guy Fawkes Carnivals, UK

November is carnival month in the UK county of Somerset, with eight night time processions that are as spectacular as any in the world.

Over 100 huge floats illuminated by thousands of light bulbs and which take a year to create, pass through the streets in a tradition stretching back to the 1600's and the Gunpowder plot.

The November carnivals start with the biggest in Bridgwater on 4 November, with the three hour procession followed by Squibbing (the simultaneous firing of lots of large fireworks) in the High Street.

Visit : www.bridgwatcarnival.org.uk

The other carnival dates are :

- North Petherton : 5 November
- Burnham-on-Sea/Highbridge : 7 November
- Shepton Mallet : 9 November
- Midsomer Norton : 10 November
- Wells - 11 November
- Glastonbury : 12 November, and
- Weston-super-Mare : 14 November

Visit : www.visitsomerset.co.uk. Contact : Yolanda Copes-Stepney at Yolanda.Copes-Stepney@visitengland.org.

The Canyons, Utah

The Canyons, Utah's Largest Single Ski And Snowboard Resort, is located in Park City, Utah.

Located just 4 miles from historic Main Street, Canyons is the closest Park City ski resort to the Salt Lake City International airport yet close enough to enjoy all the nightlife, dining and shopping that the town of Park City has to offer.

Over 100 bars and restaurants are just minutes away as well as all the other activities you should expect from a world class four season resort town.

Visit : www.thecanyons.com. Contact : Caitlin Martz at cmartz@thecanyons.com.

Dolomite Mountain Biking Tour

Dolomite Mountains has announced a new mountain biking trip through Italy's Dolomite Mountains that follows the route of the Südtirol Sellaronda HERO, an international sporting event akin to Tour de France.

Dolomite Mountains s.r.l. is the only local company based in the Dolomites that creates adventure experiences within the Dolomite valleys.

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

BikeToursDirect

BikeToursDirect provides a central resource for bicycle tours in Europe. The US company represents European and other overseas bicycle tour companies—currently nearly 200 routes in 30 countries—as well as local and regional tourist offices.

Visit : www.biketoursdirect.com. Contact Jennifer Hoff at jennifer@biketoursdirect.com

BnB Finder.com

A recent study titled : *2011 Portrait of American Travelers* found eight out of ten leisure travellers interested in staying at a bed & breakfast in the coming year.

The personalized service and amenities provided by the inns were cited as reasons for their decision.

Visit : www.bnbfinder.com. Contact : Rich Rodriguez at rich@bnbfinder.com.

Malawi

Ulendo Airlink is now serving the key Malawi tourist destinations of Likoma Island, the southern Lakeshore and Zambia's South Luangwa National Park, as well as Lilongwe and Blantyre.

The Republic of Malawi is a landlocked country in southeast Africa that was formerly known as Nyasaland. It is bordered by Zambia to the northwest, Tanzania to the northeast, and Mozambique on the east, south and west. The country is separated from Tanzania and Mozambique by Lake Malawi.

Visit : www.flyulendo.com and www.malawitourism.com. Kelly White at enquiries@malawitourism.com

VisitBritain

VisitBritain is Britain's national tourism agency, responsible for marketing Britain worldwide and developing Britain's visitor economy.

A non-departmental public body, funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, it works in partnership with thousands of organisations in the UK and overseas — the Government, the industry and our strategic partners in London, England, Scotland and Wales.

VisitBritain's will be looking to take advantage of the unique opportunity of the Royal Wedding, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the 2012 Olympic Games to showcase Britain and attract new visitors from the tourism growth markets of Asia and Latin America and to reinvigorate our appeal in core markets such as the USA, France and Germany.

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

Fabulous Follies, Palm Springs

The Fabulous Palm Springs Follies returns with its new show entitled *Hot !Hot! Hot!* playing 1 November 2011 to 20 May 2012, which celebrates summer holidays with a music and dance-filled journey through Mid-Century America.

Visit www.psfollies.com and www.VisitPalmSprings.com. Contact : Claire Winsor at claire@humewhitehead.co.uk

Oxfordshire, UK

Oxfordshire is a county in the South East region of England, bordering on Warwickshire and Northamptonshire (to the north/northeast), Buckinghamshire (to the east), Berkshire (to the south), Wiltshire (to the southwest) and Gloucestershire (to the west).

Visit : www.visitoxfordandoxfordshire.com. Contact : Heather Armitage at HArmitage@oxford.gov.uk.

What's on

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

The Art of Being British – St James's At Your Service, London

10 September 2011

Taking place along the full length of Jermyn Street, in the heart of St James's, London, the event is hosted by The Crown Estate and the Jermyn Street Association, encouraging visitors from all over the world to celebrate the service and craftsmanship of the many retailers, cafes, restaurants and bars in and around Jermyn Street.

Professional valets and butlers will be passing on some tricks of the trade to visitors.

Visit : www.jermynstreet.net. Contact : Susie Howard at susie.howard@sisteris.com.

World Creole Music Festival, Dominica

28 to 30 October 2011

The Caribbean island of Dominica will host the 15th World Creole Music Festival from 28 to 30 October. The Festival provides a platform for Creole music and culture and showcases the island's own local talent.

Visit www.discoverdominica.com. Contact : Chloe Buchanan at chloe@saltmarshpr.co.uk.

Fall and winter events in the USA

American Film Institute (AFI) Fest, Los Angeles, CA

3 to 10 November 2011

The 10-day AFI International Film Festival in Los Angeles has screenings at historic Hollywood venues such as Grauman's Chinese Theatre, the Mann Chinese 6 at the Hollywood & Highland Center, and the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel.

Visit : www.afi.com.

Visit : www.discoveramerica.com. Contact : Rebecca Felber at RFelber@ustravel.org.

Kona Coffee Cultural Festival, Hawaii, HI

4 to 13 November

This is Hawaii's oldest food festival, with an international lantern parade, a Miss Kona Coffee pageant, a coffee cupping competition, cultural costumes and art exhibits, and of course, coffee tasting.

Visit : www.konacoffeefest.com.

National Gingerbread House, Asheville, NC

17 November 2011 to 2 January 2012

This event displays the culinary craftsmanship of hundreds of imaginative and enchanting gingerbread creations at the annual competition held at the Grove Park Inn Resort & Spa, a landmark of grandeur in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains.

Visit : www.groveparkinn.com.

Oglebay Winter Festival of Lights, Wheeling, WV

11 November 2011 to 8 January 2012

More than one million lights illuminate nearly three hundred acres (121 hectares) of West Virginia hills at one of the nation's largest holiday light shows.

Throughout the six-mile (9.7 kilometers) drive, 75 larger-than-life displays dazzle guests, including glowing versions of Peanuts comic strip characters, Cinderella, and a Ferris wheel.

Visit : www.oglebay-resort.com.

A Country Christmas at Gaylord Opryland, Nashville, TN

18 November 2011 to 3 January 2012

Christmas with country flair as Opryland entertains guests with holiday favorites such as the Radio City Christmas Spectacular starring the Rockettes.

Visit : www.gaylordhotels.com.

Festival of Tree, Tulsa, OK

9 November to 11 December 2011

The 27th annual Festival of Trees ushers in the holidays at the Philbrook Museum of Art with an array of elaborate trees and unique decorations designed by local professional and student artists.

Visit : www.philbrook.org.

Yellowstone Ski Festival, West Yellowstone, MT

22 to 26 November

Skiers from all around the world to learn and train on the renowned Rendezvous Trail System in the snowy mountains of Montana.

The festival features ski camps, manufacturers' exhibits, motivational talks, clinics, and racing events.

Visit : www.yellowstoneskifestival.com.

Macy's Annual Thanksgiving Day Parade, New York, NY

24 November 2011

As one of New York City's top annual events, Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade has elaborate floats, marching bands, Broadway performers, recording artists, and most famously, the giant helium-filled balloons, attracting more than 2.5 million spectators each year to the holiday tradition.

Visit : www.nycgo.com.

72nd Annual Detroit Lions Thanksgiving Game, Detroit, MI

24 November 2011

A family-oriented Illinois tradition with hundreds of hand-crafted, whimsical scarecrows on display, live music and food.

Visit : www.detroitlions.com.

Dolfest, Girdwood, AK

17 to 19 December 2011

Alaska's premier ski destination celebrates the winter solstice and lights up the shortest day of the year with bonfires, musicians, fire and blacklight performers.

Visit : www.alyeskaresort.com.

Winter Whale Watching Week, OR

26 December 2011 to 1 January 2012

Witness the annual migration of grey whales as they pass by on their 12,000-mile (19,300-kilometers) swim south to the birthing lagoons of Baja, Mexico. Trained volunteers will be present at whale watching sites to enrich your brush with the beauty of nature.

Visit : www.whalespoken.org.

DiscoverAmerica.com provides travel information on all 50 states from the U.S. Travel Association and the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Visit : www.discoveramerica.com. Contact : Allie Baer at ABaer@ustravel.org.

October events in Taiwan

2011 Asia-Pacific Traditional Arts Festival

1-10 October 2011

Groups from across the Asia-Pacific region will converge on Yilan County to perform traditional songs, dances and to share other aspects of their vibrant, diverse cultures.

Visit : www.ncfta.gov.tw.

'Double Ten Day' (National Day)

10 October 2011

Taiwan's National Day celebrations take place across the island, with entertainments and ceremonies across all of Taiwan's major cities, where spectacular fireworks displays provide a fitting finale.

Visit : www.taiwan.net.tw.

Huashan Living Arts Festival

1-31 October 2011

The 2011 Huashan Living Arts Festival in Taipei will use performance arts to showcase Taiwan's creative energy, with the location - the redeveloped Huashan Creative Park - as a symbol of inspiration.

Visit : www.hlaf.com.tw. Visit : www.taiwan.net.tw. Alliance members interested in visiting Taiwan on an individual or group press trip should contact : David Ezra at david@saltmarshpr.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.

America's national parks

Described as "America's best idea", the National Parks system encompasses nearly 400 parks and historic sites across the country.

The top ten parks are :

- **Arizona's Grand Canyon**, which is one mile deep, 277 miles long and up to 18 miles wide.
- **Yellowstone National Park**, which was created in Montana and Wyoming in 1872, and is the first national park in the world. It's best known for Old Faithful geyser, which spews boiling water skyward roughly every 90 minutes
- **California's Yosemite National Park**, where the 2,425-foot Yosemite Falls is the highest measured waterfall in North America
- **Central Park, New York City**, has two skating rinks, 250 acres of lawns and dozens of bridges.
- **Florida's Everglades National Park**, where are essential for navigating the largest subtropical wilderness in the USA and home to the Florida panther, American crocodile and West Indian manatee.

- **Chicago's Grant Park** located downtown and Lake Michigan.
- **Acadia National Park, Maine**, which covers most of granite-peaked Mount Desert Island.
- **Tennessee's Great Smoky Mountains National Park**
- **The Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado**, which has more than 60 peaks over 12,000 feet, and
- **The Golden Gate Park, California**, which stretches three miles from San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury neighborhood to the Pacific Ocean

Visit : www.nps.gov and www.discoveramerica.com/ca/activities/national-parks-activity. Contact : Laiura at laura@cellet.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.

Outrigger Laguna Phuket Resort and Villas, Thailand

The 26-hectare Outrigger Laguna Phuket Resort and Villas, Thailand, has opened 19 ultra spacious new self contained suites in a mountain-view area of the property.

Visit : www.outriggerthailand.com. Contact : Contact Nancy Daniels at nancy.daniels@outrigger.com.

Peter Island Resort & Spa, British Virgin Islands

The British Virgin Islands archipelago has 60 stunning islands scattered amid turquoise blue sea

Peter Island the largest private island within the British Virgin Islands, is part of the BVI that runs along the Sir Francis Drake Channel. It is south of Tortola, west of Virgin Gorda and east of the U.S. Virgin Islands

The resort itself, and Islands Inns resort, has 32 ocean view rooms located by the marina and pool; 20 beach front junior suites on Deadman's Beach and three Villas are also available.

The spa, removed from the main resort, is located on Big Reef Bay offering pristine beaches for private yoga classes, brisk walking, sunbathing and a day of treatment.

Peter Island's on-site marina at Sprat Bay is a popular destination with yachtsmen from around the world. The deep-water marina features 15 slips and can accommodate up to 3 additional vessels alongside and a long T-dock for larger vessels.

Luxury yacht charters are arranged and many guests enjoy a few days on land combined with a high seas journey. The resort offers a fleet of motor yachts for trips.

Island Inns specializes in luxury hotels and villas throughout the Caribbean and the Bahamas.

Visit : www.islandinns.com. Contact : Kristin Rothbauer at kristin@anson-stoner.com.

Cheval Residences

Cheval Residences provide luxury, fully-serviced, mews houses, apartments, townhouses and city cottages located in desirable London locations including Kensington Gardens, Knightsbridge' and Hyde Park.

Designed for short or extended stays, Cheval Residences has 300 apartments across six properties in the most sought after London locations.

The company has now appointed the 'House of Kooser' to develop the Cheval Residences' brand in North America.

Visit www.chevalresidences.com and www.houseofkooser.com. Contact : Alison Hull at alison@luxep.com.

Château Les Carrasses, Languedoc-Roussillon, France

Château Les Carrasses, a 19th century wine domain and chateau estate, which opened in July as a luxury hotel, in the Languedoc-Roussillon region of the south of France, has announced a series of hosted wine workshops and qualification courses available throughout the autumn season.

Once a thriving winery, the last bottling at the Château was in 1988. Held in the vineyard they allow guests to get a taste of the lesser know wine region and gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the fine wines it is producing.

Visit www.lescarrasses.com. Contact : Melissa Holstegge at Melissa.Holstegge@brightergroup.com.

Park Hyatt Vienna

With a planned opening in 2013, the Park Hyatt Vienna is being created within an historic building in the city's First District.

Situated on Am Hof, one of Vienna's largest squares within the First District, which was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2001, the hotel will be located in the heart of the most exclusive shopping district in Vienna and within walking distance of the city's famous Opera House and other important sights, historic monuments, and museums.

One of fourteen Park Hyatt hotels under development worldwide, the Park Hyatt Vienna will become its hotel in Austria and the seventh Park Hyatt in Europe.

Thirteen previously-announced Park Hyatt hotels are also under development in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; Além-Tejo, Portugal; St. Georges, Bermuda; Changbaishan, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Ningbo, and Sanya Sunny Bay, China; Chennai, Hyderabad, and Mumbai, India; Marrakech, Morocco; and New York, United States.

Four of these new properties are due to open in the latter half of 2011.

Visit www.parkhyatt.com. Contact : Charlotte Hill at charlotte@grifcopr.com.

The Meliá Génova, Italy

Meliá Hotels International will open the five star Meliá Génova, Italy on 4 September 2011 as the third hotel operated by the company in the country.

The Meliá Génova is located in Via Corsica, in the heart of the city, in an historical building built in 1929 and now refurbished and converted into the Meliá Génova.

Before the end of the year the Spanish company will also open its second hotel in the Italian capital, the Gran Meliá Roma.

Meliá Hotels International was founded in 1956 in Palma de Mallorca (Spain) and is one of the world's largest resort hotel chains, as well as Spain's leading hotel chain.

It currently provides more than 350 hotels in 35 countries on 4 continents under its brands: Gran Meliá, Meliá, ME, Ininside, Tryp by Wyndham, Sol and Paradisus. Its product and service portfolio is complemented by Club Meliá, the only vacation club operated by a Spanish company.

Visit : www.melia.com. Contact : comunicacion@melia.com.

Grand Hyatt Goa, India

Hyatt Hotels has opened the Grand Hyatt Goa on India's west coast. The first Hyatt hotel to be located in vibrant North Goa, the hotel and spa are built in the architectural style of a 17th century Indo-Portuguese palace.

Located on the Bambolim Bay, the resort is situated just over four miles (7 km) from the capital city of Panaji and is located 20 minutes from the airport by car.

Grand Hyatt Goa joins Park Hyatt Goa Resort and Spa, located in South Goa.

Visit : www.goa.grand.hyatt.com. Contact : Lucia Roberts at lucia@grifcopr.com.

Palm Springs

The Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel

The Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel has opened Spa Del Sol offering spa treatments within steps from the pool. By appointment only, guests can indulge in massage treatments, facials, wraps, and poolside cabana treatments based on season.

Visit : www.renaissancepalmspringshotel.com.

Pura Vida

Located in the Warm Sands area, a new eight-suite boutique hotel opened in June 2011 catering to adult men.

The new owners, David Reid and Mark Oliver, will offer an all-inclusive experience from airport pickup to breakfast, special occasion packages, concierge services, poolside cocktail hour and more. Palm Springs has one of the highest concentrations of LGBT resorts in the world.

Visit : www.puravidaps.com.

Los Arboles Hotel

Located in downtown Palm Springs, the Los Arboles Hotel's new 21 rooms and suites offer guests amenities normally found only in larger properties.

www.losarboleshotel.com

Visit : www.VisitPalmSprings.com. Contact : Claire Winsor at claire@humewhitehead.co.uk

Elephant Pepper Camp, Kenya

Elephant Pepper Camp, Kenya has been awarded the Eco-Rating certification by Ecotourism Kenya, for outstanding levels of socio-economic investment, responsible resource use and environmental conservation.

Elephant Pepper Camp is situated in the protected Mara North Conservancy wilderness area.

The camp is located away from other lodges, in the heart of the African bush, with canvas tents furnished with en suite bathrooms with eco-friendly flush toilets and traditional safari showers.

Visit : www.elephantpeppercamp.com and www.ecotourismkenya.org. Contact : Cheli & Peacock at charlotte@chelipecock.co.ke.

The Macdonald Elmers Court Hotel & Resort, Lymington UK

Situated on the edge of the New Forest National Park near Lymington, the Macdonald Elmers Court Hotel & Resort has views of Hampshire's stunning Solent coast.

The original manor house, which dates back to 1820, is set in 23 acres of private grounds with facilities for a variety of outdoor activities plus two restaurants, a spa and 42 bedrooms set around separate courtyards.

The hotel is located for exploring the New Forest on foot, bike or horseback while the open top bus tour, which runs until end September, gives a good introduction to the wonderful heath and wooded landscapes.

Around 4,000 ponies roam freely; although they appear to be wild the animals are in fact owned by people called commoners who have historic right to graze them in the park.

September to December is a particularly good time to visit the New Forest to catch a show of orange, yellow and gold leaves in any of the wooded areas.

It's also said to be home to around 2,700 types of fungi many of which make appearances in the autumn, look around your feet and above your head on tree trunks and branches for their many different shapes and colours or join an organised Fungi Foray.

The Georgian market town of Lymington is around 15 minutes walk with its many shops, designer boutiques and galleries as well as two marinas and ferry for day trips to Yarmouth on the nearby Isle of Wight.

Visit www.MacdonaldHotels.co.uk/ElmersCourt. Contact : Pat Edgar at PRMatters@dsl.pipex.com.

The Tanjong Jara Resort, Malaysia

The Tanjong Jara Resort, located on Peninsular Malaysia's east coast, is undergoing a redevelopment and refurbishment between October 2011 and March 2012.

The resort is owned by YTL Hotels, whose Pangkor Laut Resort, was voted the world's best resort in 2003.

In recent years YTL Hotels has added hotels in Saint-Tropez, Niseko Village, and Shanghai and in 2012 will open in Borneo, in addition to the portfolio in Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and the UK.

Visit www.ytlhotels.com. Contact : EJ Flynn at EJ@grifcopr.com.

Section two : ongoing opportunities

Alerts

Ongoing independent press trip opportunities for Alliance members

- **Great Hotels of the World** are very happy to accommodate Alliance members at its member properties worldwide. Visit : www.ghotw.com. Contact : Ashleigh Silverman at asilverman@ghotw.com.
- **Bath Tourism Plus** will host press visits to the Georgian and UNESCO World Heritage city of Bath. Visit : www.visitbath.co.uk. Contact : Lucy Ryder at lucy_ryder@bathtourism.co.uk.
- **City Running Tours-Chicago** will be delighted to give free 5k running or walking tours to Alliance members. Visit : www.cityrunningtours.com/chicago. Contact : Marlin Keesler at marlin@cityrunningtours.com.
- **The German city of Frankfurt** will be delighted to consider hosting Alliance members. Visit : www.frankfurt-tourismus.de. Contact : Gisela Moser at moser@infofrankfurt.de.
- **The Cyprus Tourism Organisation** will host group and individual trips for Alliance members with a commission. Visit : www.visitcyprus.com. Contact : June Field at june.field@kallaway.com.
- **theExplorateur** reviews of hotels, shops, restaurants and travel-related products around the world. Visit : www.theExplorateur.com. For press trips to review any of *theExplorateur* properties contact Gabriella Ribeiro Truman at gabriella@trumarketing.com.
- **Three Nelson Hotels in Cheshire**: The Grosvenor Pulford Hotel & Spa (www.grosvenorpulfordhotel.co.uk), The Pheasant Inn (www.thepheasantinn.co.uk) and The Bear's Paw (www.thebearspaw.co.uk) will be happy to accommodate Alliance members with a commission. Contact : Karen Floyd at karen.floyd@symmetrypr.com.
- **The Cranley and The Royal Park** two London luxury, boutique townhouse hotels will be pleased to consider providing accommodation to Alliance members on commission. Visit www.thecranley.com or www.theroyalpark.com. Contact : Li Boatwright at li@storringtoncommunications.com.
- **Mead Brown**, a vacation rental company in Costa Rica, is happy to host writers on assignment. Visit : www.meadbrown.com. Contact : Michael Brown at michael@meadbrown.com.
- **LocalGuiding.com** – Personal tours by local guides, will be pleased to offer tours around the world to Alliance members. Visit: www.LocalGuiding.com. Contact: Robert Blessing at rb@localguiding.com.
- **Shakespeare Country**, UK will host Alliance members and their family for one or two nights with passes to visit the attractions and tickets to the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, subject to availability. Visit : www.Shakespeare-Country.co.uk. Contact : Tanya Aspinall at tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk.
- **Orlando Tourism** offers Alliance members visiting on-assignment a complimentary Journalist VIP Passport. Visit : www.VisitOrlando.com. Contact : Amy Voss at amy.voss@visitorlando.com.

- **Mallorca Hotels: Hotel Bon Sol Resort & Spa, Hotel Tres and Hotel Dalt Murada, and Hotel Mar i Vent, Mallorca** will be pleased to offer accommodation to Alliance members with a commission. Visit : www.hotelbonsol.es, www.hoteltres.com, www.daltmurada.com and www.hotelmarivent.com. Contact Cathryn Hicks at cathryn@douggoodmanpr.com
- **Atholl Estates, Perthshire, Scotland** will be delighted to host Alliance members. The country estate has historic lodges, modern woodland lodges and a 5-star holiday park. Onsite activities include a pony trekking centre, land rover safaris, stunning gardens/wildlife and the historic Blair Castle. Visit: www.atholl-estates.co.uk. Contact: Lee MacGregor at lee@leemacgregorpr.com.
- **The five-star Arlberg Hospiz Hotel and its sister four-star Goldener Berg in St. Christoph am Arlberg, Austria** has the 600 year old wine cellar of the Brotherhood of St. Christoph. Visit : www.stchristoph.at/alpenhotel . Contact Karen Luard at kp@kpcommunications.co.uk
- **The Villa Pambuffetti in Montefalco, Umbria, Italy** will be pleased to offer accommodation to Alliance members. Visit : www.villapambuffetti.com. Contact Alessandra Pambuffetti at info@villapambuffetti.com.
- **Eustatia Island, British Virgin Islands** an extraordinary 26-acre, low impact, private island estate will be happy to host press visits for Alliance members with an appropriate commission. Visit : www.eustatia.com. Contact: Alastair Abrehart, alastair@broadswordpr.com.
- **Africa Safari Holidays** will be happy to offer any press trip services to professional travel journalist to East Africa. Visit : www.africasafariholidays.net. Contact : Agnes Njagi at info@africasafariholidays.net.
- **Reykjavik Bike Tours** provide press tours of Iceland's capital for Alliance members. Visit : www.icelandbike.com. Contact : Stefan Helgi Valsson at valsson@centrum.is.
- **Champagne-Ardenne Tourisme**, four French departments boasting historic sites and chateaux, walking and cycling routes, a variety of sports, superb natural scenery and Champagne will be pleased to consider press visits for Alliance members. Visit : www.tourisme-champagne-ardenne.com. Contact: Doug Goodman at doug@douggoodmanpr.com.
- **Health retreats on Vancouver Island**, British Columbia, Canada. Visit : www.vancouverisland.com. Contact : Pamela Irving at livingcomms@telus.net.
- **Red Mangrove Galapagos Lodges** offers a land-based alternative to exploring the Galapagos that until now was a cruise-only destination. Visit : www.redmangrove.com. Contact : Dave Wiggins dave@travelnewssource.com
- **Midlethorpe Hall & Spa**, Yorkshire, UK will be delighted to offer DB&B and use of the Spa to Alliance members. Visit : www.middlethorpe.com. Contact Daisy Parker at daisy@iscott.co.uk.
- **Swaziland and Malawi** : Geo Group will be delighted to consider press trips to either Swaziland or Malawi for Alliance members with suitable commissions. Visit : www.welcometoswaziland.com and www.malawitourism.com. Contact: Kelly White at tourism@geo-group.co.uk.
- **Holidaylettings**, which offers a selection of chalets and apartments around the world will consider arranging accommodation at its listed properties. Visit : www.holidaylettings.co.uk. Contact : Lanisha Butterfield at lanisha.butterfield@holidaylettings.co.uk.
- **Malta** will be happy to consider for press trips for Alliance members. Visit : www.visitmalta.com. Contact : Anne Kapranos at Anne@essence-communications.com.

- **Peckforton Castle, Cheshire UK** a grade I listed building, built in the 1840s in the style of a medieval castle will be delighted to host Alliance members on a review basis. Visit : www.peckfortoncastle.co.uk. Contact : Karen Floyd at karen.floyd@symmetrypr.com.
- **Tongabezi Lodge**, which is upstream from Victoria Falls, and the new eco-friendly Sindabezi Island are located on the Zambezi River in Zambia. Tongabezi would be delighted to consider press visits to their properties to Alliance members with a commission. Visit : www.tongabezi.com. Contact Honour Schram de Jong at honour@honourway.com.
- **Ker & Downey Botswana**, located in the heart of the Okavango Delta and Moremi Game Reserve, will be pleased to consider press visits to Alliance members with a commission. Visit : www.kerdowneybotswana.com. Contact : Honour Schram de Jong at honour@honourway.com.
- **Adventure Life**, which provides small group tours to Central and South America that have a positive impact on the local culture and environment, will consider press trip requests. Visit : www.adventure-life.com. Contact : Adam York at adam@sublimepub.com.
- **Rosen Hotels** will be delighted to host Alliance members who will be in the Orlando area, at the new 1500-room, 14-story Rosen Shingle Creek. Visit www.rosenshinglecreek.com. Contact Mary Deatrick at mdeatrick@cfl.rr.com.
- **Migis Lodge on the shores of Maine's Sebago Lake** invites travel journalists to experience Maine Lakeside Luxury. Visit : www.migis.com. Contact : Susan Soltero at ssoltero@cmcommunications.com.
- **The North West Development Agency** area, which includes Cumbria, Lancashire, Manchester, Liverpool and Cheshire will be delighted to host Alliance members with commissions. Visit : www.nwda.co.uk. Contact : Oliver Bennett at oliverbennett@blueyonder.co.uk.
- **The George Hotel, Edinburgh, Scotland** will be delighted to host Alliance members with a commission. Visit : www.principal-hayley.com/venues-and-hotels/the-george-hotel. Contact : Megan Davidson at megan@crimsonedge.co.uk.
- **The Peace and Plenty, Bahamas** will be delighted to provide accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: www.peaceandplenty.com. Contact: Hazel Heyer at hazel_heyer@hotmail.com.
- **The Grand Hyatt San Antonio, Texas** is a 1003-room, 37-storey luxury hotel, which has just opened in the bustling heart of the Alamo City. The Grand Hyatt San Antonio, Texas will be happy to consider providing accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: www.hyatt.com. Contact: Alison Wood at Alison@grifcopr.com.
- **Ranch Rider** stays are steeped in tradition, allowing travellers to sample an authentic western experience. Ranch Rider will be pleased to consider press trip facilities to Alliance members. Visit: www.ranchrider.com. Contact: Siobhan at siobhan@tionlondon.co.uk.
- **Lower Zambezi, Zambia** : Sausage Tree Camp located within the heart of the Lower Zambezi National Park in Zambia will be pleased to consider press visits to Alliance members with a commission. Visit : www.honourway.com. Contact : Honour Schram de Jong at honour@honourway.com.
- **Wiltshire**, located in the heart of the south-west of England has a number of high quality luxury hotels and a whole host of unique attractions. Visit : www.visitwiltshire.co.uk. Contact : Samantha Marsh: samantha@infinitypublicrelations.co.uk.

- **Knockomie Hotel, Forbes, Scotland**, will be delighted to consider press trips from Alliance members for a 2-night stay in one of their 15 individually-themed rooms and dinner on one of the nights in their recently refurbished restaurant, The Grill. Visit: www.knockomie.co.uk. Contact: Lee MacGregor at lee@leemacgregorpr.com.
- **South Lakeland Parks** is the north-west UK's leading holiday park operator featuring nine sites within Morecambe Bay, Ribble Valley and Lake District. Visit : www.southlakelandparks.co.uk. Contact : Samantha Marsh: samantha@infinitypublicrelations.co.uk
- **Cumbria Tourism**, the tourism body for Cumbria, UK incorporating the Lake District will be delighted to let Alliance members sample its delights from the great outdoors and exciting attractions to stylish hotels and high quality restaurants. Visit : www.golakes.co.uk.
- **South Luangwa, Zambia** : The Luangwa Valley has long been regarded as one of Africa's finest wildlife destinations. Their portfolio includes Kapani Lodge and Kakuli, Luwi, Nsolo and Mchenja Camps. Norman Carr Safaris would be delighted to consider press visits to their properties to Alliance members with a commission. Visit : www.honourway.com. Contact : Honour Schram de Jong at honour@honourway.com.
- **New York Circle Line Sightseeing Cruises** will be delighted to host Alliance members with a commission. Visit: www.circleline42.com Contact: Lisa Chamberlain at lisa.chamberlain@btinternet.com
- **The Haweswater Hotel**, a new art-deco hotel located next to the secluded Haweswater Reservoir, Cumbria, UK, will be happy to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members. Visit : www.haweswaterhotel.com. Contact : Samantha Marsh: samantha@infinitypublicrelations.co.uk
- **Premier Cottages** has a range of stunning four and five star self-catering holiday cottages throughout the UK, Channel Islands and Ireland. Visit : www.premiercottages.co.uk. Contact : Samantha Marsh: samantha@infinitypublicrelations.co.uk.
- **St Mary's Hall Hotel**, the Isles of Scilly is happy to provide press trip opportunities to Alliance members. Visit : www.stmaryshallhotel.co.uk. Contact : Karen Baker at karen@mercury-pr.co.uk
- **Woodovis Park**, the independently run holiday park on the edge of Dartmoor, Devon UK invites Alliance members to review. Visit : www.woodovis.com. Contact : Samantha Kirton at samantha@independentpr.co.uk
- **1066 Country** which comprises the area of Battle, Bexhill, Hastings, Herstmonceux, Pevensey and Rye in East Sussex, UK. Visit : www.visit1066country.com. Contact : Jane Ellis at jjmellis@hastings.gov.uk.
- **The Wineport Lodge, Glasson County Westmeath, Ireland** is happy to arrange press Alliance Members and can provide a range of story ideas related to food, wine, romance, weddings/honeymoons and spa escapes. Visit : www.wineport.ie. Contact: Nina Zapala at zapala@fzkllc.com.
- **The Inn on Fifth**, a luxurious, 87-room boutique hotel located in the heart of downtown Naples in Southwest Florida will be delighted to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members. Visit www.innonfifth.com. Contact : Kelly Grass Prieto at kelly@hayworthcreative.com.
- **base2stay Liverpool** will be delighted to offer accommodation for Alliance members able to review the hotel. Visit : www.base2stay.com/press_page/Liverpool.html. Contact : Jon Brown at brown@paversmith.co.uk.

- **Visit Chester and Cheshire and Visit Lincoln and Lincolnshire** will be delighted to host Alliance members with a commission. Visit : www.visitchester.com and www.lincoln.gov.uk. Contact : Oliver Bennett at oliverbennett@blueyonder.co.uk.
- **Swiss-Belhotel International**, manages hotels, resorts and residences throughout the Asia Pacific, Southeast Asia, China and The Middle East regions. Visit : www.swiss-belhotel.com. Contact : Ayla Hass at aylahaas@swiss-belhotel.com.
- **Pembrokeshire, South West Wales** will be delighted to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members with a commission. Visit: www.pembrokeshire.com. Contact: Pat Edgar PRMatters@dsl.pipex.com
- **The Rutland Hotel, Edinburgh**, will be delighted to invite Alliance members to review this boutique hotel. Visit www.therutlandhotel.com. Contact Yvonne or Fiona at info@nicheworks.co.uk.
- **Dubai Tourism** will be interested in considering working with Alliance members on press trips to Dubai. Visit www.dubaitourism.ae. Contact Caroline Parrish at cparrish@thecommunicationgroup.co.uk.
- **The Galapagos Islands** : Quasar Expeditions would like to invite Alliance members to cover trips aboard the M/Y Grace, its vintage yacht in the Galapagos Islands. Visit : www.galapagosexpeditions.com/gracepresskit.php. Contact : Paul Schicke at paul@quasarex.com.
- **Focus Hotels** invite Alliance members to review their three and four-star properties located in key destinations across the UK. Visit : www.focushotels.co.uk. Contact : Nat Frogley at nat@bacall.net.
- **The 5* Blythswood Square Hotel**, Glasgow, formerly headquarters to the Royal Scottish Automobile Club, has been redeveloped by the Town House Collection Visit www.blythswoodsquare.com or www.thetownhousecollection.com. Contact: Jo Murphy at Jo@thesparcompany.com.
- **Aspects Holidays** specialises in providing self-catering accommodation, from luxury apartments to traditional fisherman's cottages in and around St Ives and the West Cornwall area of the UK. Aspects will be pleased to consider press visits to Alliance members with a commission. Visit www.aspects-holidays.co.uk. Contact : Karen Baker at karen@mercury-pr.co.uk.
- **The Inn at Lathones**, Scotland's only 4 star inn, is delighted to consider press trips from Alliance members. The 17th-century listed building near St Andrews is one of Scotland's oldest coaching inns and boasts 21 recently refurbished external rooms/suites, an award-winning restaurant, an intimate stone-walled bar and converted stables that host regular music events. For more information visit: www.theinn.co.uk Contact: Lee MacGregor at lee@leemacgregorpr.com
- **Cornwall Cottages** will be delighted to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: www.cornwallscottages.co.uk. Contact: Sue Bradbury at jess@suebradburypr.com.
- **Hartland Peninsula Arts**, which runs landscape painting courses on the North Devon coast will be pleased to offer courses to Alliance members. Visit : www.landscapepaintingholidays.co.uk. Contact: Karen Outred at ko@freelancepr.fsnet.co.uk.
- **The Discovery Collection**, independent specialist in boutique breaks to North Cyprus, Turkey, Puglia, Sicily, Malta and Gozo, will be happy to consider offering press visits to Alliance members. A varied programme includes beach and city breaks, twin-centre stays, walking holidays and special interest tours. Visit : www.thediscoverycollection.com. Contact: Jill Guest at jill@ocean-advertising.co.uk or on 020 7436

- **Frontier Travel** organise tailor-made holidays to Canada in both the Summer (www.frontier-canada.co.uk) and the Winter (www.frontier-ski.co.uk). The company will consider offering individuals press trips for Alliance members. Contact: Dave Ashmore at dave@frontier-travel.co.uk or on +44 (0) 20 8404 2447.
- **Sail Lofts St Ives**, a group of 12 luxury holiday apartments just metres from Porthmeor Beach, will be pleased to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members with a commission. Visit: www.thesaillofts.co.uk. Contact: Peter Hutchinson at peter@thesaillofts.co.uk.
- **The Alfajiri Villas and Galdessa Camp** would like to invite Alliance members to stay at Alfajiri Villas (www.alfajirivillas.com) or Galdessa Camp (www.galdessa.com). Visit : www.FazendinPortfolio.com. Contact Sarah Fazendin at sarah@fazendinportfolio.com.
- **The Peat Inn and 5-star restaurant** in St.Andrews, Scotland will provide Alliance members able to review the Inn will receive complimentary dinner, bed and breakfast including guest. Visit : <http://www.thepeatinn.co.uk>. Contact : Megan Davidson at megan@crimsonedge.co.uk.
- **The Isles of Scilly** will be delighted to consider offering travel and accommodation to Alliance members on assignment, with a commission or who are able to obtain one. Visit: www.simplyscilly.co.uk. Contact: Karen Baker at karen@mercury-pr.co.uk.
- **The Park Hyatt Istanbul-Maçka Palas, Turkey** will be delighted to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: www.hyatt.com. Kathryn Peel at Kathryn@grifcopr.com.
- **Helpful Holidays, UK** will be delighted to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: www.helpfuleholidays.com. Contact: Pat Edgar at PRMatters@dsl.pipex.com.
- **Jet2.com and Jet2holidays.com** will be happy to consider offering flights and holiday opportunities. Contact: www.pressoffice@jet2.com.
- **Wilderness Journeys** will be delighted to consider offering press trip facilities to Alliance members. Visit : www.wildernessjourneys.com. Contact: Stevie Christie at stevie@wildernessjourneys.com.
- **Divi Resorts, the Caribbean** will be happy to consider accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: www.diviresorts.com. Contact: Jacqueline Burton at jburton@fww-us.com.
- **Charming Hotels Madeira** will be pleased to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: www.charminghotelsmadeira.com. Contact: Cathryn Hicks at cathryn@douggoodmanpr.com.
- **Sea Kayak Adventures** explore Baja and Canada's newest marine parks and prolific whale watching destinations by sea kayak with Sea Kayak Adventures. Sea Kayak Adventures will be happy to provide press trip facilities to Alliance members. Visit: www.seakayakadventures.com. Contact: Nancy Mertz at info@seakayakadventures.com.
- **The View Hotel, Monument Valley, Arizona, USA**, which opened in September 2008, is situated on the Navajo Tribal Park, on the border of Arizona and Utah. The View Hotel will be delighted to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: www.MonumentValleyView.com. Contact: Mike Finney at mike@azcomgroup.com.
- **The Menzies Welcombe Hotel Spa & Golf Club, Stratford-upon-Avon** will be delighted to offer dinner, bed and breakfast at this country house hotel to Alliance members able to review the property. Visit : www.menzieshotels.co.uk. Contact : Tanya Aspinwall at tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk.

- **Rosen Hotels** will be delighted to host Alliance members who will be in the Orlando area, at the new 1500-room, 14-story Rosen Shingle Creek. Visit www.rosenshinglecreek.com. Contact Mary Deatrick at mdeatrick@cfl.rr.com.
- **The Peace and Plenty, Bahamas** will be delighted to provide accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: www.peaceandplenty.com. Contact: Hazel Heyer at hazel_heyer@hotmail.com.
- **Ranch Rider** stays are steeped in tradition, allowing travellers to sample an authentic western experience. Ranch Rider will be pleased to consider press trip facilities to Alliance members. Visit: www.ranchrider.com. Contact: Siobhan at siobhan@tionlondon.co.uk

Travel products and services

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

Kangol Headwear

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

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

Rhinocarhire.com

Leading car hire specialist, Rhinocarhire.com, is offering car hire assistance for press trips in 2011.

Vehicles are available worldwide in over 20,000 locations to include countries in Europe (France, Spain, Portugal, Italy etc), Africa, Asia, Australasia, North America and South America.

Visit www.rhinocarhire.com. Contact : Jemma Thompson on info@citruspr.co.uk.

Silhouette

Silhouette sunglasses provide 100% protection against UV A, B and C rays.

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

Simple

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

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

Mitchum

Keep your cool with Mitchum Anti-Perspirant and Deodorant. Available in stick, roll on and aerosol variants it will keep you feeling 'just showered fresh' all day.

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

Teva

Teva's Contoured Ribbon Mush is the most comfortable flip flop in the world. It uses state of the art memory foam for comfort when walking on the beach, boardwalk or pavement this summer.

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

John Masters Organics

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

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

Delph

Delph Sun Care offers a comprehensive range of family products from SPF 8 to 50, rated UVA 4* for their "superior" protection. The range has been fully tested to medical standards (not tested on animals) and is one of only 6 sun creams listed on the UK Drug Tariff allowing for prescribing by GP's.

To review the product range contact : Jenny Scott at jenny@brandnation.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 or on + 44 (0) 20 7391 4622.

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

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. Contact : Maritza Morales at maritza@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

The aether mobile SIM card into any unlocked phone.

Among the features and benefits :

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

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

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

The Leisure Pass

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

Alliance members can get review passes for the cities covered.

Visit : www.leisurepassgroup.com. Contact : Katie Wright at Katie.wright@sirenpr.co.uk.

Travel guides

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

AA Travel Guides

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

Anova Books

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

Berlitz

www.berlitzpublishing.com.

Bradt Travel

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

Brit's Guide

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

Cicerone

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

Dancing Traveller Media

www.DancingTravellerMedia.ca
Publisher@DancingTravellerMedia.ca

Eland Publishing

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

Fisher's Travel SOS

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

Global Travel Publishers

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

Globetrotters LogBook

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

Inn House Publishing

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

Insight

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

In your pocket guides

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

Jane's Smart Art Guides

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

Jonglez Publishing

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

Kuperard Publishers

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

Lonely Planet

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

Morris Communications

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

Odyssey Books & Guides

www.odysseypublications.com.
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.

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



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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

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