

The Alliance

bulletin

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

Issue 130 : mid-December 2012/January 2013

www.itwalliance.com

Section one :

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

Section two (ongoing opportunities) :

- Travel products and services
- Travel guides

Appendix one

- The directory of opportunities for press card holders

Registering with the Alliance

To register with the Alliance visit : www.itwalliance.com, and register as a :

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

The Alliance press card



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

See Appendix one for opportunities for press card holders.

For more information email Ashley@itwalliance.com.

The Global Travel ITWA Prepaid Master Card



The International Travel Writers Alliance **Global Travel ITWA Prepaid MasterCard**, operates in partnership with Global Currency Exchange Network, one of the UK's leading foreign exchange companies.

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

The card is currently available to UK based journalists only.

<https://itwa.gcurrencycards.com/>

Join and follow



http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=2978414&trk=hb_side_g



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

Opportunities

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

Columbia

Colombia in January sees the South American country hosting the Hay Festival, the Carnival of Blacks and Whites and the Cartagena International Music Festival.

The Cartagena International Music Festival

Cartagena's International Music Festival starts 5 January 2013 and takes the theme of El Estilo Italiano (the Italian Style), celebrating Italian music from the 14th to 18th centuries.

The festival has also launched a new series entitled "Music from the Old to the New World" which will consist of five concerts dedicated to Latin American composers and performers whose work makes up the contemporary music stream.

The Carnival of Blacks and Whites

Pasto stages the Carnival of Blacks and Whites (Carnaval de Negros y Blancos), the largest celebration in southern Colombia between the 4 and 6 January each year.

The carnival dates back to the ancient times of the Pasto and Quillacinga Indians, who held celebrations in honour of their moon goddess as a way of pleading protection for their crops.

The Hay Festival

The Hay Festival, held between the 24 and 27 January 2013, sees the Walled City of Cartagena stage four days of events covering literature, film-making, journalism, music, and art.

Visit : www.colombia.travel. Journalists interested in travelling out to Colombia to write about the country, or to cover one of these events, contact amy@axistravelmarketing.com.

Sumahan on the Water, Istanbul

Sumahan on the Water, one of Istanbul's luxury boutique hotels, has received a 2012 World Luxury Hotel Award in the Best Historical Hotel Award category.

Occupying a historical building which was once a 19th-century Ottoman distillery, Sumahan on the Water, is situated on the waterfront of the upper reaches of the Bosphorus close to Cengelkoy on the Asian shores of Istanbul.

Visit : www.sumahan.com and www.luxuryhotelawards.com. To request a press visit contact: Rebecca Erol at sumahan@redmintcomms.co.uk.

Bradt Swaziland

Bradt Swaziland is the first guide on the country to be published in Europe.

Swaziland is Africa's second smallest country and its last absolute monarchy and author Mike Unwin, explores the wildlife reserves, wild hiking trails offering waterfalls, rock art, flora and birdlife.

The book divides Swaziland into four distinct regions, with detailed maps and itineraries, and includes a practical guide to neighbouring attractions easily accessed from Swaziland, including Maputo (Mozambique) and the Kruger Park (South Africa).

Visit : www.bradtguides.com. For review copies contact : Debbie Hunter at press@bradtguides.com.

Conrad Maldives Rangali Island

The six star Conrad Maldives Rangali Island is inviting guests to exchange their luxury villas and spa treatments for a stay in staff accommodation on a local island to help whale shark research.

Volunteers can spend up to four weeks in the Maldives conducting whale shark research and fostering community-focused conservation initiatives throughout the country.

They will also be collecting and analysing data and sharing their own much-needed skills to protect and save these gentle and endangered fish.

Sponsored by Conrad Maldives Rangali Island, the MWSRP is a leading authority on whale sharks in the Maldives and an active member of the international conservation coalition, the Shark Alliance.

MWSRP have been building up a demographic profile of the whale shark population in the Maldives and over the past six years have documented over 800 encounters.

The pioneering research of the MWSRP into the demography and movements of the whale shark population in the Maldives provides the scientific basis behind the programme's conservation goals.

Potential volunteers contact the charity and pay for their accommodation during their stay, which is around £1,035 for two weeks, plus flights.

The programme will run until February 2013.

Visit : www.conradmaldives.com. For press trip requests contact:
Gail Palmer at gail@ktapr.com.

WildJunket Magazine

WildJunket Magazine is a new-age digital magazine with an emphasis on adventure travel and special interest journey.

It is a finalist in the *Digital Magazine Awards 2012* for *Best Travel Magazine Award*.

To read a sample issue online : . Password: wjjun88

Alliance press card holders can receive a free annual subscription (four issues) via email. Those interested should email Alberto Molero with name card number and email address.

Visit : www.wildjunketmagazine.com. Contact Alberto Molero at alberto@wildjunket.com.

The West Somerset Railway and Dunster Castle, UK

The West Somerset Railway and the 1000 year old Castle in the medieval village of Dunster will be starting the 2013 season of Dunster Castle Express operations with special runs on 9 and 20 March.

The package includes a steam train ride from Bishops Lydeard (four miles from Taunton) and Dunster on the 10.25 departure for a quick coach link from the station and the Castle.

After some three hours at the Castle (which is in the care of the National Trust) the coach takes the passengers back to the station for the return journey to Bishops Lydeard.

The West Somerset is England's longest heritage railway and Dunster Castle is 1000 years old with a history that includes a major long term siege during the English Civil War.

There are a limited number of seats available for writers and journalists that will be allocated on a first requested, first served basis.

Visit : www.wsrail.net. Contact John Simms at john.com@wsrail.net.

Working with the Alliance

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

Other Alliance partners and agencies can be found at www.itwalliance.com.

Partners

The Hoste, Norfolk UK

The Hoste is a four star 18th century hotel, near famous North Norfolk beaches, in the village of Burnham Market, North Norfolk.

The hotel comprises six properties including a spa, two restaurants and 58 bedrooms – one of which Horatio Nelson stayed in!

The Hoste is surrounded by beautiful countryside, miles of unspoilt coastline, acclaimed nature reserves, picturesque villages and historic market towns.

Visit : www.thehoste.com. Contact : Kate Cleaver at kate@thehoste.com

Starwood Hotels & Resorts (Mallorca)

Starwood Hotels & Resorts Mallorca has a here hotel portfolio on the island of Mallorca : Sheraton Mallorca, Castillo Hotel Son Vida and St. Regis Mardavall

Visit : www.starwoodhotels.com. Contact : Christine Crespo at christine.crespo@starwoodhotels.com.

Home-land Tours (Israel)

Home-land Tours provide inbound tourism to Israel, and are for contacts from different countries to work with organizing groups to Israel.

Services include: guides, buses, hotels, meals and sites.

Visit : www.home-land-tours.com. Contact : Ofer Ogen at ofer@home-land-tours.com.

Taskonaklar (Turkey)

Taskonaklar is a new luxury, cave boutique hotel that combines history, nature and comfort. Each of the ten guestrooms are decorated in a unique style.

Guests can stay in a cave deluxe room with Jacuzzi and enjoy the best views of valleys and fairy-chimneys in Goreme, Cappadocia.

Visit : www.taskonaklar.com. Contact : Tolga Akarcali at tolga@taskonaklar.com.

Taskonaklar is a unique boutique hotel in Cappadocia, Turkey built in respect with the nature, history and local traditions.

Cicerone

Cirone publishes guidebooks for walkers, trekkers, mountaineers, climbers and cyclists.

Visit : www.cicerone.co.uk. Contact : Steph Earle at steph@cicerone.co.uk.

SYHA Hostelling Scotland

SYHA Hostelling Scotland is the largest network of Youth Hostels in Scotland, offering over 65 locations across the country.

SYHA Youth Hostels provide high quality, affordable accommodation with a friendly welcome for anyone travelling around beautiful Scotland - from individuals to families and groups.

Situated in some of Scotland's most stunning locations, many of the Youth Hostels offer private, en-suite rooms, all offer self-catering facilities and a good number also have a cafe or bistro.

SYHA also offers a range of activity holidays, from mountain skills and kayaking to photography and Tai Chi.

Visit : www.hostellingscotland.com. Contact : Wendy Grindle at wgrindle@syha.org.uk.

BV Tours

BV Tours create high-quality MP3 and app-based audio tours of popular cities in North America.

Visit : www.bvtours.com. Contact : Shani Kaplan at dsk.tours@gmail.com.

The Serai

The Serai a unique secluded hideaway nestled in the heart of nature. From coffee estate to thick jungles.

The Serai offers three exquisite resorts in India which pride themselves as a promoter of tryst with nature.

Whether it is a beautiful SLH affiliated resort bordering Belur and Halebidu (deemed UNESCO world heritage sites) in Chikmagalur, a wilderness resort in Bandipur National Park or a stunning locale on the river banks of Kabini, an unforgettable experience awaits at The Serai.

Visit : www.theserai.in. Contact : Sanjay Sinha at enquiries@theserai.in.

Lebanon

About Lebanon: A Heaven on Earth. Landscapes that change with the seasons, but are always bathed in the warm sun.

The daylight rising over Lebanon brings endless opportunities of fun, beach, nature and outdoor activities. You'll never know what to choose.

Whatever it will be, an unforgettable time awaits you under the shiny Lebanese sun

Visit : www.destinationlebanon.gov.lb. Contact : Esther Smirt at esp@esthersmith.biz.

The Pocono Mountains CVB

The Pocono Mountains CVB is the official destination marketing organization for the four county Pocono Mountains Region in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Visit : www.800poconos.com. Contact : Ann Pilcher at ann@poconos.org.

The Naples Players

The Naples Players are an award-winning community theatre in the heart of downtown Naples, FL. 10 shows per year in the 300 seat Blackburn Hall and the intimate Tobye Studio. Offering comedy, musicals and drama year round.

Visit : www.naplesplayers.org . Contact : Mary Shallies at mshallies@naplesplayers.org.

Athens Walks (Greece)

Athens Walks have a passion about the city of Athens. Our goal is to show you Athens through a locals perspective to experience the sites and the hidden treasures of this city. Our city tours combine 3 aspects; History - Cuisine - Nature.

Explore the glorious history of the city, the amazing and healthy greek cuisine and the natural beauty of Greece. Admire Attica sunsets enjoying your drink at Saronic gulf. Transfers with luxurious taxis and mini buses.

Visit : www.athens-walks.com. Contact : Konstantinos Chatzivasileiou at athenswalks@hotmail.gr.

WHL (Hong Kong)

WHL Group is the largest local-travel company in the world.

It is both a global network of companies that help travellers find unique ways to experience a destination through local tourism professionals, and a technology provider to those local tourism operators.

WHL Group companies empower local partners who have practice in experiential and mindful travel, and a local's knack for identifying, explaining and sustaining the distinctive qualities of a place.

Its companies include :

whl.travel	HotelLinkSolutions.com
UrbanAdventures.com	YourHolidayPromotion.com
GreenPathTransfers.com	Geotourism Development Foundation, and
Gunyah.com,	TheTravelWord.com.
LimeAndTonic.com	

Visit : www.whl.travel. Contact : EthanGelber at than@whl.travel.

Agencies

Grayling

Grayling is a global communications network, combining national champion businesses across 70 offices to deliver collective intelligence and authentic understanding of what unites and differentiates the many cultures and geographies in which we operate.

With over 1,000 staff we bring with us long-standing expertise in PR, government relations, investor relations, digital and events, and deep understanding in a range of sectors.

Visit : www.grayling.com. Contact : Sarah Highfield at sarah.highfield@grayling.com.

Hook Line and Thinker

Hook Line and Thinker is a PR agency representing travel and tourism clients in California, Micronesia and Asia.

Visit : www.hooklineandthinker.com. Contact : Molly Blaisdell at molly@hooklineandthinker.com.

News

iDBUS new route between London and Lyon

From 17 December, iDBUS will provide two daily services on the London - Paris CDG - Lyon route to add to its daily frequencies on the London-Lille-Paris Bercy.

iDBUS is also launching new routes to the South of Europe, which will give the opportunity to travellers from the UK to get connections to Turin and Milan from Lyon or Paris.

iDBUS is a service from SNCF, the French national railway.

Visit : www.idbus.co.uk and www.sncf.com. Contact : Shelley George at shelley.george@cohnwolfe.com.

Costa Navarino, Greece

The five star Costa Navarino, the sustainable destination in the Greek region of Messinia in southwest Peloponnese, is set to entice more British travellers from July 2013 when easyJet's starts a new direct flight from London Gatwick to Kalamata airport.

Visit : www.costanavarino.com. Contact : Maddie Smith at maddies@hillsbalfour.com.

Rainforest Expeditions

Rainforest Expeditions is a recipient of The Rainforest Alliance 2012 Sustainable Standard-Setter award.

The Peruvian ecotourism company takes guests to the Tambopata-Candamo Reserved Zone, which is 1.5 million hectares of pristine, still wild, tropical rainforest stretching from the Andean highlands to the Amazon lowlands.

It includes the Tambopata National Reserve, a 275,000-hectare conservation unit created by the Peruvian government in 1990 to protect the watersheds of the Tambopata and Candamo rivers.

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

OSI Hotels to roll out from 2013

Centara Hotels & Resorts has announced it will launch COSI Hotels in 2015 and plans to have at least 30 properties, in the Asia Pacific, operating by 2020.

The brand is "designed for cost-conscious travellers who mostly do all their own bookings on-line and who are searching for pocket-friendly accommodation prices".

Contact : Sharan Berry at sharanb@avenuesales.co.uk.

TrekAmerica

TrekAmerica has launched its 2013 brochure, which includes BOLT (Bus and Local Transport) tours throughout Central America.

BOLT tours offer hotel based travel across America, Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica, which can be 'BOLTed' together.

Visit : www.trekamerica.com. Contact : Maddie Smith at maddies@hillsbalfour.com.

Jambo Jet, Kenya

Kenya Airways' new low-cost subsidiary 'Jambo Jet' has received its first route licenses from the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority and is looking to commence operations by the end of 2012.

The airline plans to eventually operate six domestic and 16 international routes across Kenya and Eastern Africa from Nairobi Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, using a fleet of Boeing 737 aircraft.

Visit : www.kenya-airways.com. Contact : Maddie Smith at maddies@hillsbalfour.com.

US Airways

US Airways will start daily services none-stop between Charlotte, North Carolina and London Heathrow Airport in March 2013.

Visit : www.usairways.com and www.uk.visitnc.com. Contact : Maddie Smith at maddies@hillsbalfour.com.

Virgin Holidays

Virgin Holidays has launched its USA & Canada 2013 brochure with new destinations including Texas, Atlantic City and Plantation Country, Louisiana.

Visit www.virginholidays.co.uk. Contact : Natalie Wilson at Natalie.Wilson@virginholidays.com.

Leads

New York and Attraction Tickets Direct

Visitors to New York this winter can pre-book ice skating tickets in Central Park, one of the Big Apple's major attractions.

Attraction Tickets Direct is pre-selling tickets for The Wollman Rink, Central Park until April 2013.

Alliance press card holders can apply for review tickets from Attraction Tickets Direct.

Visit www.attraction-tickets-direct.co.uk. Contact : Antonia Robinson at antonia@goshpr.co.uk.

Malawi

Malawi specialist operator Robin Pope Safaris, has two luxurious Malawi properties and a third in the pipeline.

The African country has seen an increase in visitor numbers in recent years with the Majete Wildlife Reserve. The reserve saw the re-introduction of a lion population in August to give Majete the much-prized Big Five-status, a claim no other park in Malawi can make.

The lions' arrival has capped a ten-year turnaround for the park, one overseen by the philanthropic African Parks Network and part-funded by Robin Pope Safaris.

The 70,000-hectare Majete had suffered extensive poaching in the '80s and '90s, losing huge percentages of its mammals. But it has now been re-fenced, had its law-enforcement teams re-trained and re-equipped, seen its infrastructure vastly improved and been re-stocked with over 2,500 animals.

Mkulumadzi, which opened in 2011, offers upmarket accommodation and game drives, bush walks and safari boat trips.

Visit : www.robinpopesafaris.net. Contact : Richard Mellor at r.mellor@travelpr.co.uk.

Captain Cook Cruises Fiji

Captain Cook Cruises Fiji is offering children, 5 to 17 years of age, the chance to cruise free eat, when accompanied by a paying adult, on all 3, 4 and 7 night Fiji cruises.

The MV Reef Endeavour cruises around the Yasawa Islands or remote North of Fiji.

Visit www.captaincook.com.fj. Contact : Brooke Tolar at pr@captaincook.com.fj.

Elephant Eden, Bristol UK

A new 20 acre elephant sanctuary called Elephant Eden will open in North Somerset zoo in summer 2013.

Elephant Eden will become one of the largest elephant exhibits in Europe.

Designed to offer welfare-improvements to elephants already living in captivity, Elephant Eden could become home to elephants with behavioural issues which are causing them difficulties in their current homes, rescue animals, or elephants from collections with a lack of space.

Key features will include a heated elephant house four times larger than recommended by EAZA zoo standards.

The 20 acre outdoor environment, which will include woodland, mud wallows and crops for strip-grazing.

Visit : www.noahsarkzoofarm.co.uk. Contact: Jon Woodward at jon.woodward@noahsarkzoofarm.co.uk.

Island Expeditions, Belize and Yucatan

Island Expeditions specializes in Belize and Yucatan adventure travel, offering small group trips to places where few others travellers go.

This includes remote coral reefs, tropical rainforests and rich indigenous cultures.

Island Expeditions is committed to responsible tourism, conservation and local education, supporting the Belize Zoo, Belize Audubon Society and local conservation initiatives. For student groups, Island Expeditions has been offering specialized programs for high schools, colleges and universities for over 20 years.

National Geographic Adventure Magazine rated Island Expeditions as one of the 'Best Travel Companies on Earth'.

Visit : www.islandexpeditions.net. Contact : Trish Brown trish@islandexpeditions.net.

The Lauren Berger Collection

The Lauren Berger Collection is highlighting its "home from home" properties in New York city (Manhattan/Tribeca) and the surrounding countryside including the Hamptons, New Rochelle, Greenwich CT.

The Lauren Berger Collection comprises private residences: serviced rooms, apartments, houses and villas worldwide for one night, one week or full relocation.

Visit : www.laurenbergercollection.com. Contact : Antonia Deeson at antonia@deesonanddeeson.com.

The Year of Natural Scotland

The aim of the Year of Natural Scotland 2013 is to promote Scotland's natural heritage, showcase Scotland's natural environment and grow tourism spend the country.

Nature-based activities are currently worth nearly 40% of all tourism spend in Scotland and wildlife tourism worth £127 million per year to the Scottish economy.

The year is a partnership between the Scottish Government, Scottish Natural Heritage, VisitScotland and EventScotland alongside a number of partners including:

Cairngorms National Park	Scotland Food & Drink
Creative Scotland	Scottish Environment Link
Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh	Scottish Enterprise
Scottish Youth Hostel Association	Highlands & Islands Enterprise, and
Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park	Wild Scotland.
National Trust for Scotland	Forestry Commission Scotland
Historic Scotland	

Visit : www.visitscotland.com/natural. Contact : Rebecca Morris at yearofnaturalscotlandpr@visitscotland.com.

The Sarojin, Thailand

The Sarojin hotel is offering guests to enjoy an authentic street food tour and cookery class followed by the opportunity to prepare a meal for over 20 disabled children in Khao Lak, Thailand.

The Sarojin's new "Street Food, Cook for Kids" package is designed to bring guests into contact with the 'real' Thailand, its people and its local food.

This new experience complements The Sarojin's "Glimpse of Local Life" tours, which provide a sensitive and educational interaction between guests and the local community.

The Sarojin is located on an 11km stretch of secluded white sand beach in Khao Lak, a 55 minute drive north of Phuket Airport.

It is surrounded by five national parks and the dive sites of the Similan and Surin Islands.

Visit: www.sarojin.com. Contact : Sarah Habicht at sarah@humewhitehead.co.uk.

Travelodge, UK

Travelodge has introduced a hotel room, into 12 of its properties, which will allow guests to sleep 'under the stars' in their bed.

A technique has been used, by artist Carl Marshall, to create the 'Night Sky' effect. During the day, the ceilings look plain white but in darkness the stars appear to twinkle.

The Travelodge cosmic night sky panorama hotel room is available at the following Travelodge hotels:

Birmingham Bull Ring	Liverpool Strand
Blackpool South Shore	London City Road
Bournemouth Seafront	Manchester Central Arena
Bristol Central Mitchell Lane	Newcastle Central
Cardiff Atlantic Wharf	Newquay, and
Edinburgh Central Waterloo	Torquay

Visit : www.travelodge.co.uk. Contact : pressoffice@travelodge.co.uk.

The Association of Corporate Travel Executives

The Association of Corporate Travel Executives (ACTE) is a leading, non-profit organization representing the global business travel industry.

Its aim is to unite travel executives around the world, providing them with education, news, knowledge, research and networking opportunities.

Visit : www.acte.org. Contact : Heather Durkee at hdurkee@jgordonassociates.com.

Walking through the gastronomic Italy

Hedonistic Hiking and World Expeditions are offering a trip through gastronomic Northern Italy.

This thirteen day walking tour starts in Parma, the gourmet capital of Emilia-Romagna, then takes in Tuscany, the Ligurian coast and the wine-growing hills of Piedmont before finishing in Turin.

Visit : www.hedonistichiking.com.au and www.worldexpeditions.com. Contact : Annabel Purling at apurling@hotmail.com.

The Volcanoes Safaris' Partnership Trust

Volcanoes Safaris and the Volcanoes Safaris Partnership Trust are to launch new Community and Conservation Centre in Kyambura, Uganda in 2013.

The two organisations are leaders in conservation and community support in Uganda and Rwanda, recently winning a 2012 Global Vision Award for Sustainability. The Community and Conservation Centre in Kyambura will focus on wildlife and conservation education.

Volcanoes Safaris specialises in mountain gorilla and chimpanzee safaris to Uganda and Rwanda.

Visit : www.volcanoessafaris.com. Contact : Puja Khanna at puja@starmarketingpr.co.uk

Rijeka re-launches

Plans are underway to re-launch Rijeka as a tourist destination. Rijeka Gateway, a EUR 300 million project will transform the city into a more attractive destination.

Plans include the construction of a mega yacht marina, 600 luxurious units and an impressive congress centre.

Visit : www.croatia.hr/en. Contact : Jasmin Othman at Jasmin.Othman@Rooster.co.uk.

What's on

The Gasparilla Inn & Club Annual Food & Wine Weekend Gasparilla, Florida

11 to 13 January 2013

Gasparilla Island is one of a string of barrier islands along the southwest Gulf Coast of Florida between Fort Myers and Tampa.

The Gasparilla Inn & Club has been the premier resort hotel on the island since 1913.

Its Annual Food & Wine Weekend gives gourmards and wine enthusiasts the chance to learn the cooking techniques of leading chefs, taste wines from the world's most famous regions, and experience a wide assortment of delectable cuisine.

A specially priced weekend package includes:

- deluxe accommodations for two
- an exclusive welcome reception and dinner
- culinary demonstrations and wine tasting events, and
- the Master Chef's Dinner

Visit : www.the-gasparilla-inn.com. Contact : Kristi Fowler at kfowler@gasparillainn.com.

For more information on this part of Florida visit : www.fortmyers-sanibel.com. Contact Nancy Hamilton at NHamilton@leegov.com.

Reykjavik Arts Festival, Iceland

May 2013

The Reykjavík Arts Festival is held every year in May and is one of Northern Europe's oldest and most respected arts festivals. It features theatre events, dance shows, music concerts and art exhibitions.

Visit : www.listahatid.is/en. Contact : Ingimundur Sigfússon at artfest@artfest.is.

Dublin Dance Festival, Ireland

14 to 26 May 2013

The Dublin Dance Festival showcases the best international contemporary dance through performances, workshops, master classes and seminars.

Visit : www.dublindancefestival.ie. Contact : Eleanor Creighton at eleanor.creighton@dublindancefestival.ie

World Championship Barbecue Cooking Contest, Memphis, Tennessee, USA

16 to 18 May 2013

Over 230 teams compete for the title of World Champion and around \$90k in prizes. Billed as the largest pork barbecue-cooking contest on Earth.

Visit : www.memphisinmay.org. Contact : Diane Hampton at dhampton@memphisinmay.org.

Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival, Vancouver, Canada

11 June to 14 September 2013

From open-backed tents in Vanier Park, against a backdrop of mountains, sea, and sky visitors enjoy four of the Bard's performances during the annual Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival. Considered a signature summer activity in Vancouver.

Visit : www.bardonthebeach.org. Contact : Wendy Underwood at wunderwood@tourismvancouver.com.

Canada Dance Festival, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

June 2013

The festival showcases Canada's most contemporary, innovative, and leading-edge dance choreographers and companies. Over 25 performances take place, including 12 world premieres.

Visit : www.canadadance.ca. Contact : Debra Beauregard at dbeauregard@nac-cna.ca.

Holland Festival, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

1 to 26 June 2013

The festival focuses on music, dance, theatre, multidisciplinary productions and visual arts. Holland's largest performing arts festival. Around 90 performances take place including opera, theatre, music, visual arts and dance.

Visit : www.hollandfestival.nl. Contact : Norbert Bode at norbert@hollandfestival.nl.

Vancouver International Jazz Festival

June/July 2013

The TD Canada Trust Vancouver International Jazz Festival brings some of international ambassadors to Vancouver for 400 concerts in 40 venues across the city. Each day from noon, jazz of all styles and stripes resonates throughout Vancouver.

Visit : www.coastaljazz.ca. Contact : Wendy Underwood at wunderwood@tourismvancouver.com.

Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival, Manchester, Tennessee, USA

13 to 16 June 2013

Festival held on 700 acres of farmland and dubbed 'the American Glastonbury'. Over 100 bands and 20 comedians perform across more than 10 stages

Visit : www.bonnaroo.com. Contact : Ken Weinstein at publicity@bonnaroo.com.

Events in the Dominican Republic 2013

The Cigar Festival, Dominican Republic

17 to 22 February 2013

The sixth annual "Cigar Festival" of the Dominican Republic will be held in Santiago, the self-styled Cigar Capital of the Caribbean and the country's second largest city.

Visit : www.procigar.org.

Humpback Whales Observation Season

January to March 2013

Humpback Whales Observation Season: View the 3,000 to 5,000 whales that migrate to the waters of the Bay of Samaná on a guided boat tour.

Visit : www.nature.org

Caribbean Baseball Series

February 2013

Held in Santo Domingo at the Quisqueya Baseball Stadium, the Caribbean Baseball Series hosts the best teams from Mexico, Venezuela and the Dominican Republic.

Dominican Carnival

February/March 2013

Dominican Carnival, has origins dating back to 1520, and is a tradition inherited from Spanish forefathers. Each city on the island has a celebration with parades every Sunday of the month.

Punta Cana Carnival

Visitors and locals alike celebrate Punta Cana Carnival in Punta Cana Village every March.

The annual parade features carnival troops from throughout the country, costumed characters and live performances.

Visit : www.puntacana.com.

Master of the Ocean

April 2013

An annual kite boarding and surfing competition held in Cabarete Bay on Dominican Republic's North Coast.

Visit : www.MasteroftheOcean.com

Puerto Plata Cultural Festival

June 2013

Normally held the third week of June, the Puerto Plata Cultural Festival offers an insight into Dominican culture with Folk Music, traditional African tribal dances, salsa and merengue.

Kite boarding World Cup

June 2013

Cabarete, the self-styled Kiteboarding Capital of the World, is known for hosting spectacular kite boarding events.

Visit : www.cabareteevents.com

Merengue Festival in Santo Domingo

July and August 2013

Every year top bands perform at Santo Domingo's seaside promenade, El Malecón. Locals and tourists dance on the beach, in hotels and throughout the capital with amateur DJs on every block.

Optimist Dinghy Association (IODA) World Sailing

Championship

July 2013

The championship is the most important sailing event in Dominican Republic with 300 children and youth sailors from 70 different countries taking part.

Visit : www.optiworlds2012.org.

Dominican Jazz Festival

November 2013

The annual jazz festival is held in Cabarete and Santiago and attracts the international and national jazz musicians.

best

Visit : www.DRjazzfestival.com

Visit : www.godominicanrepublic.com. Contact : Esther Smith at pr.uk@godominicanrepublic.com.

Events in Britain in 2013

Year of Natural Scotland. All year

Scotland's natural environment is the number one reason why people visit the country. The Year of Natural Scotland will invite visitors to discover Scotland's natural landscapes, flora and fauna, historic landscapes, natural larder, green tourism and nature in cities.

Visit : www.visitscotland.com.

Derry, Northern Ireland

The city of Derry will be the UK's first City of Culture with a programme for 2013 including the Turner Prize being held outside England for the first time; music, dance and theatre.

Visit : www.cityofculture2013.com

The 150th anniversary of the London Underground

The oldest subway in the world celebrates 150 years of operation on 9 January, with special events planned all year to mark the occasion. The first passenger trip on the London tube will be recreated with steam trains, an exhibition of posters at the London Transport Museum, and disused stations will be used for theatre and film screenings.

Visit : www.ltmuseum.co.uk/whats-on/tube150.

The View from the Shard, London

1 February 2013

The Shard, which is the tallest building in Western Europe, opens The View from the Shard to the public on 1 February. It will also be possible to stay in the 1,016ft high building from March when luxury hotel the Shangri-la opens, occupying floors 34 to 53 of Renzo Piano's distinctively iconic tower.

Visit : www.theviewfromtheshard.com and www.shangri-la.com.

125th anniversary of the Jack the Ripper murders, and new London Dungeon

3 April 2013

The year also marks the 125th anniversary since Jack the Ripper prowled the streets of London, spreading fear in the city and the London Dungeon attraction will move to underground vaults in County Hall, next to the London Eye.

The dungeons will highlight 1000 years of London history with live acts, special effects and thrill rides that highlight Jack the Ripper and other characters like Sweeney Todd and Guy Fawkes.

Visit : www.thedungeons.com.

The Coronation Festival

60th anniversary of the Queen's Elizabeth's Coronation

2 June 2012

Following The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012, marking 60 years of Her Majesty's reign, 2013 mark the 60th anniversary of the Queen's coronation. The Diamond Jubilee, celebrated in 2012, marked 60 years since The Queen took over the throne following the death of her father, King George VI. But her official coronation was on 2 June 1953.

The occasion will be marked with a Coronation Festival at Buckingham Palace from 11-14 July, showcasing more than 200 Royal Warrant Holders (companies awarded the seal of approval from The Queen, Prince of Wales and Duke of Edinburgh).

Visit : www.coronationfestival.com

100th anniversary of the Chelsea Flower Show

21 – 25 May 2013

2013 marks the centenary of the Royal Horticultural Society's Chelsea Flower Show, which is a premier showcase for horticultural excellence and a society occasion. The show has grown from 244 exhibitors in 1913 to over 500 today, attracting 157,000 visitors every year.

Visit : www.rhs.org.uk

Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park reopens

27 July 2013

Now named the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, the site that held the majority of London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic events will be opening in phases over the next few years, with the first part – the North Park and Multi Use Arena – open to visitors from 27 July 2013.

Visit : www.noordinarypark.co.uk.

New visitor experience at Stonehenge

Autumn 2013

One of Britain's most iconic landmarks, Stonehenge, is due a major transformation in 2013.

A busy road currently passes right by the UNESCO World Heritage Site but work is underway to divert it and return the stone circle to a more spiritual state, befitting its history. The monument will be reunited with 'The Avenue' – its ancient processional approach.

The £27million project will also see a state-of-the-art new visitor centre open 1.5 miles away, with access to the site by regular shuttle services.

Visit : www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/stonehenge

Centenary of Benjamin Britten

22 November 2013

The musician's life will be celebrated throughout 2013 in Britain with a focus on Aldeburgh, the coastal town in Suffolk (East of England), where the composer lived and worked for most of his life.

Visit : www.aldeburgh.co.uk and www.britten100.org.

VisitBritain

VisitBritain is Britain's national tourism agency, responsible for marketing Britain overseas.

Visit : www.visitbritain.com. Contact : pressandpr@visitbritain.com.

Reasons to write about

Gale South Beach & Regent Hotel, Miami, Florida

Following a \$35 million restoration that gutted and rebuilt the original structure of the two adjoining properties, the Gale South Beach & Regent Hotel has reopened.

Visit www.GaleHotel.com. Contact : Anna Wolstenholme at anna@firstpr.co.uk.

Uçhisar, Cappadocia. Turkey

Uçhisar, is the highest town in Cappadocia, Turkey and the Castle on Mt. Erciyes can be seen from any spot in the region and here are to be found hollowed-out containers, rock tombs and a large water cistern that bears witness to early human existence in the area.

Pigeon Valley, has canyon, hills and unusual rock formations created from the eroding rains and winds of thousands of years. It takes its name from the thousands of small pigeon nests carved into the volcanic formations by the early inhabitants of the region.

The Valley also has prehistoric dwellings carved out of the rock and cities dug into the underground.

The Taskonaklar Boutique Hotel

The Taskonaklar Boutique Hotel, a member of Great Hotels of the World, has rooms and suites carved into volcanic formations. The accommodations combine subterranean spaces, rough-hewn walls and stone archways with fresh air in the form of terraces and balconies, with views of the unusual landscape.

Visit : www.taskonaklar.com. Contact : Tolga Akarcalı at tolga@taskonaklar.com.

AdventureSmith Explorations

Small ship cruise company AdventureSmith Explorations is highlighting its cruises to Costa Rica and the Panama Canal

Three mid-winter departures of an 8-day Costa Rica & Panama Canal adventure aboard the 62-passenger Sea Lion come with a cruise extension available to the Monteverde Cloud Forest.

In both countries guests walk rain forest trails in national parks and wildlife reserves, swim, snorkel and kayak Panama's Isla Coiba.

There's also the chance to learn the lore of the canal and visit Barro Colorado with scientist escorts from the Smithsonian Research Station.

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

The Northern Lights in Northern Sweden

Off the Map Travel is claiming that visitors could be twice as likely to see the northern lights during the 2013 solar maximum.

The solar magnetic activity that causes aurora displays follows an 11 year cycle with the next maximum due in early 2013.

A solar maximum is shown by an increase in the number of sunspots, intense periods of magnetic activity, visible on the face of the Sun. Although the aurora can be seen from a number places, the Abisko and Björkliden region of Northern Sweden are widely regarded as one of the best in the world.

Set amongst the mighty mountains of the Arctic, 120 miles north of the Arctic Circle, Abisko and Björkliden are located within a rain shadow and away from the bright lights of the cities, providing some of the clearest and darkest skies in the world for seeing the northern lights.

Off the Map Travel tailor make a travel itinerary to the region.

Visit www.offthemaptravel.co.uk. Contact : Mark Hayward at mark@swaycommunications.co.uk.

Skyfall In Scotland

The 23 Bond film, Skyfall, has a number of Scottish locations including a chase sequence filmed in the Highlands on the A82 near the peak of Buachaille Etive Mor.

VisitScotland is promoting other Bond-inspired activities including :

Highland Safaris, Aberfeldy, Perthshire

Highland Safaris offer Land Rover trips to spot red deer, grouse, the elusive mountain hare or the soaring eagle while traveling through forests, mountains and moors on private hill tracks.

Visit : www.highlandsafaris.net.

The Outer Hebrides

Thirty miles off the North West coast of Scotland lie the Outer Hebrides, an island chain that sits on the edge of Europe.

The islands offer white beaches and Atlantic waves, dark moorland and mountains, wildlife and a rich and vibrant culture. Each island has an individual culture and history and routes around the islands pass puffins, porpoises, deer and dolphins.

Visit : www.hebridean-tourism.org and www.visithebrides.com.

Scotland's five ski resorts

Scotland has five ski resorts skiing, snowboarding and snow sports tuition.

Visit : wwwski.visitscotland.com.

Highland Fling Bungee, Perthshire

Highland Fling Bungee is the UK's first static bungee jump.

Located near to the site of the Battle of Killiecrankie, a specially constructed bungee jump platform is suspended below the Garry Bridge over the River Garry near Pitlochry in Highland Perthshire.

Visit : www.bungeejumpscotland.co.uk.

Visit : www.visitscotland.org. Contact Katy Gilzean at katy.gilzean@visitscotland.com.

Palm Springs, California

Places to stay in Palm Springs

Avanti

Avanti is one of Palm Springs' newest mid-century style boutique hotels.

Visit : www.avantihotels.com.

Colony 29

Colony 29 is a new boutique hotel set amidst the “Art Colony”, a seven-acre compound built in 1929, on the lower slopes of the San Jacinto Mountains.

Visit : www.colony29palm Springs.com.

Hilton Palm Springs Resort

The Hilton Palm Springs, located downtown in the village of Palm Springs, is completing a \$10 million renovation project.

Visit : www.palmsprings.hilton.com.

Sparrows Hotel

Previously known as El Rancho Lodge, this property is currently under renovation and is expected to reopen as Sparrows Hotel this winter.

The hotel dates back to the 1950s when Palm Springs gained recognition as a great Hollywood hideaway. It is located on Palm Canyon Drive among a variety of individual shops, galleries, restaurants and attractions can be enjoyed by visitors.

Bearfoot Inn

Located in Palm Springs’ historic Movie Colony, in the Uptown Design District, Bearfoot Inn is a men’s only resort in a newly-renovated, mid-century property.

It is due to open in Spring 2013. The Bearfoot Inn welcomes all men but particularly caters to a gay male clientele.

Visit : www.bearfootinn.com.

Moonlight Hike

Trail Discovery, a desert safari outdoor guide service, has introduced an evening tour. The Full Moon Hike takes in the foothills of Palm Springs, where visitors can enjoy the moonrise and views of the valley and city lights.

Visit : www.palmspringshiking.com.

Wonders of the Coachella Valley

Desert Adventures, one of the largest outdoor adventure companies in the Greater Palm Springs area, has launched a new eco-tour: Wonders of the Coachella Valley.

Visit : www.red-jeep.com.

Attractions

Palm Springs Art Museum Architecture and Design Center

The Palm Springs Art Museum recently purchased a 1960’s era former bank building that it will restore to its original specifications.

The building, which was originally known as the Santa Fe Savings Bank, will be called the Palm Springs Art Museum Architecture Design Center, Edwards Harris Pavilion. It will house the museum’s growing collection of architecture and design-related pieces. The Palm Springs Art Museum and Design Center is anticipated to open in 2014.

Visit : www.psmuseum.org.

Palm Springs Bureau of Tourism

The Palm Springs Bureau of Tourism is the city's official destination marketing organisation whose focus is to promote the city to consumers, the media, and domestic and international trade buyers.

Visit : www.VisitPalmSprings.com. contact : Sarah Habicht at Sarah@humewhitehead.co.uk.

The Azores

The Azores is an archipelago of nine volcanic islands situated in the North Atlantic Ocean west of Lisbon and southeast of Newfoundland.

The islands are São Miguel, Santa Maria, Faial, Pico, São Jorge, Terceira, Graciosa, Corvo and Flores. Due to the varied geology the islands support a wide range of flora, fauna and birdlife.

The area is known for marine life and is home to many species of whales and dolphins, many of which can still be spotted in winter.

The Azores Carnival

9 – 12 February 2013

Carnival is celebrated throughout the islands. In Ponta Delgada, Grand and Masquerade Balls take place during these four days.

Visit : www.visitazores.com. Contact : Tanya Hillman at Tanya.hillman@kbc-pr.com.

A place to stay

The Villa Rosa Hotel, Nairobi

Kempinski Hotels is set to open one of the country's most luxurious properties, the Villa Rosa Hotel on Chiromo Road as well as tented camp, Olare Camp in a Maasai Mara conservancy in early 2013.

Alliance press card holders are invited to request a press review stay at the the Villa Rosa Hotel and or Olare Camp.

Visit : www.kempinski.com/en/nairobi/hotel-villa-rosa and www.magicalkenya.co.uk. Contact: Hilary Philpott at hilary.philpott@kempinski.com.

Jade Mountain and Anse Chastanet, Saint Lucia

Jade Mountain and Anse Chastanet are located on St. Lucia's quiet south-western coast on 600 acres of lush tropical foliage bordering one of the island's best beaches.

They enjoy views of St. Lucia's Piton World Heritage site and are surrounded by two bays that are part of a designated marine reserve protecting miles of colourful coral reefs teeming with tropical fish.

Being situated in the southern part of the island, major sightseeing attractions such as the Rainforest, Botanical Gardens, Drive-In Volcano and Sulphur Springs are all within easy reach.

Deep sea fishing excursions, boat shopping trips to the capital, hiking tours up Gros Piton mountain, scuba diving, jungle biking, ocean kayaking, tennis, sailing and numerous water sports are also available.

Visit : www.jademountain.com and www.ansechastanet.com. Contact : Lucia Roberts at lucia@grifcopr.com.

The Coral Strand Smart Choice Hotel, Mahé

The Coral Strand Smart Choice Hotel is located on Beau Vallon Bay on the island of Mahé in the Seychelles.

Visit : www.coralstrand.com. contact : Emily at emily@connectedpr.com.

Blow Up Hall 5050, Poznań, Poland

Taking styling queues from cult 1966 movie Blow Up, the old brewery complex has been converted into a combination of the Art hotel with shopping arcade, dance centre and the contemporary gallery Art Station 5050.

Poznań is a city on the Warta river in west-central Poland. There is no central reception area in the hotel, no room key or door numbers. Clicking a button on the iPhone offered for use during a stay lights a screen next to the room and the door opens.

Visit : www.blowuphall5050.com. Contact : Steve Dobson at theunusual@uhotw.com.

Sri Lanka

Jungle Beach Resort, Sri Lanka

Located on the east coast of Sri Lanka in the hamlet of Kachaveli, the recently opened Jungle Beach, is a short drive north of the former naval port of Trincomalee. This boutique hotel is the newest addition to the portfolio of UGA resorts, which also has Ulagalla, in Sri Lanka's cultural triangle.

#20 Middle Street

#20 Middle Street is a mid 18th-century, Dutch colonial villa in the heart of the Dutch colonial town of cosmopolitan Galle – a large town on Sri Lanka's seductive southwest coast.

Visit : www.ampersandtravel.com/itineraries/Sri-Lanka. Contact : Julia Perowne at ampersand@verypcc.com.

DoubleTree by Hilton in Merida, Mexico

The DoubleTree by Hilton has opened in Merida, the largest city and capital of Mexico's state of Yucatan.

Built around an early 20th century mansion, the four-story DoubleTree by Hilton Merida is located close to the avenue the avenue "Paseo de Montejo", a 19th century boulevard inspired by the Champs Elyseés lined with lush trees and elegant mansions.

Hilton Worldwide currently has a portfolio of 28 hotels and resorts in Mexico and is planning openings in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama, Peru and Uruguay.

Visit : www.doubletree.com. Contact : Anita Clements at anita@hamilton-pr.com.

The Dial House Hotel, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire UK

The Dial House Hotel is located in one of Britain's prettiest villages and is well placed for exploring the Cotswolds.

Dating back to 1698, The Dial House is one of the oldest buildings in Bourton-on-the-Water, with stone walls and a setting near the River Windrush. Its restaurant has been awarded 2 AA Rosettes.

Visit : www.dialhousehotel.com. Contact : info@prideofbritainhotels.com.

Botanique Hotel & Spa, Brazil

The Botanique Hotel & Spa is located midway between Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

Visit : www.botanique.com.br. contact : Julia Perowne at botanique@verypcc.com.

In the Caribbean

Ocean Two, Barbados

This new four star beachfront resort at Saint Lawrence Gap on the south coast of Barbados. Saint Lawrence Gap, Christ Church is one of the best known neighborhoods on the island and often just called "The Gap".

www.oceantwobarbados.com

Blue Waters & The Cove Suites, Antigua

This resort has evolved from being a 16 room guest house in the 1960's to now offering over 100 rooms, suites and villas. It is located in 17 acres of lush, tropical gardens, with views of beaches and secluded coves.

Visit : www.bluewaters.net.

Coco Reef Resort & Spa, Tobago

Overlooking the only privately owned white sand beach in Tobago, the Coco Reef Resort sits in ten acres of landscaped tropical gardens. Two of the Caribbean's top golf courses are close by as is the Tobago Forest Reserve.

Visit : www.cocoreef.com. Contact : Katie Gorrill at katiegorrill@hotmail.co.uk.

Langshott Manor Hotel, Surrey UK

Langshott Manor is a luxury 16th century boutique hotel in Surrey, UK surrounded by three acres of private gardens and an ancient moat. It is suited to a hotel break or as a luxury hotel near Gatwick Airport and its Mulberry Restaurant has two AA rosettes.

Visit : www.alexanderhotels.co.uk/langshott. Contact : info@prideofbritainhotels.com.

Royal Princess, Dubrovnik

Importanne Resorts has opened the five star hotel Royal Princess in the historical town of Dubrovnik. The hotel offers views of the Adriatic sea and facilities including a virtual golf simulator, cruises, day trips and a spa centre.

Visit : www.importanneresort.com. Contact : Jasmin Othman at Jasmin.Othman@Rooster.co.uk.

The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur

The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur, which has opened, incorporates the iconic Hotel Majestic building, documented as a national heritage site under the Antiquities Act.

Built in the 1930s, the original hotel became one of the great landmarks of Kuala Lumpur and a place for glamorous social events, government receptions and the residence for international visitors.

The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur is a member of The Leading Hotels of The World.

Visit : www.ytlhotels.com and www.majestickl.com. Contact : Hannah Summers at Hannah@grifcopr.com.

Pentillie Castle, Cornwall UK

Pentillie Castle launches as the new home of Motorsport in the South West Stunning Cornish castle launches new motorsport events for 2013

Pentillie Castle and Estate on the banks of the river Tamar in Cornwall is now open for a range of motorsport events.

Following the inaugural Pentillie Festival of Speed in summer 2013 the Castle's owners have decided to expand the motorsport events on their calendar to include bespoke and private events for vintage and modern car lovers.

Events planned include car club events, car rallies, touring treasure hunts and 4x4 test drives through the estate woodland and tracks. The Castle also has B&B accommodation.

Visit : www.pentillie.co.uk. Contact : Dawn Bebe at dawnbebe@weareonshore.com.

Centara Poste Lafayette Resort & Spa Mauritius

The Centara Poste Lafayette Resort & Spa Mauritius, Centara Hotels & Resorts first venture on the island of Mauritius, has opened.

The resort hotel is located on the eastern side of the island and is set in it's own gardens on the beach and with its own lagoon.

Centara Hotels & Resorts has 38 deluxe and first-class properties in Thailand and a further 18 resorts in the Maldives, Vietnam, Bali Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Mauritius.

Visit : www.centarahotelsresorts.com. Contact : Kanokros Sakdanes at kanokrossa@chr.co.th.

Innside by Meliá hotels, Spain

Meliá Hotels International will open its first two Innside by Meliá hotels in Spain in early 2013.

The first will be the Innside Madrid Génova, located in the central Alonso Martínez square and the second hotel the Innside Madrid Luchana.

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 has a portfolio of 350 hotels in 35 countries on four continents under its brands: Gran Meliá, Meliá, ME, Innside, Tryp by Wyndham, Sol and Paradisus.

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

The Daios Cove Luxury Resort & Villas, Crete

The five star Daios Cove Luxury Resort & Villas is located on a hillside overlooking its own private cove near Aghios Nikolaos and Elounda.

The Daios Cove has an infinity pool, two cocktail bars, a state-of-the-art spa, four restaurants and a variety of outdoor activities.

Visit : www.daioscove.com. For press trips contact : Clair Horwood at clairhorwood@grifcopr.com.

DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Phuket – Surin Beach

The DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Phuket – Surin Beach, which has just opened, is located on the west coast of the island on Surin Beach.

Phuket is one of Asia's leading leisure destinations and is known for its white sandy beaches, pristine waters and inland mountains.

Hilton Worldwide currently manages six properties in Thailand including :

- Conrad Bangkok
- Millennium Hilton Bangkok
- Hilton Pattaya
- Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort and Spa
- Hilton Hua Hin Resort and Spa, and
- Conrad Koh Samui.

The group will open Hilton Sukhumvit Bangkok and DoubleTree by Hilton Sukhumvit Bangkok in 2013.

Visit : www.doubletree.com. Contact : Maggie Giddens at maggie.giddens@hilton.com.

L'Apogée Courchevel, France

The Oetker Collection has opened L'Apogée Courchevel in Le Jardin Alpin, in the French Alps.

Other hotels in the group include:

- Le Bristol Paris, Brenners Park in Baden-Baden
- Hotel du Cap-Eden-Roc in Cap d'Antibes, and
- Chateau Saint-Martin and Spa in Vence.

It also manages Palais Namaskar in Marrakech, and Saint-Barth Isle-de-France in the French West Indies.

Visit : www.oetkercollection.com. Contact: Paul Charles at oetker@verypcc.com.

The Birchwood Inn, St. Petersburg, Florida

The Birchwood Inn, St. Petersburg is due to open in February 2013 on Beach Drive in downtown St. Petersburg.

The boutique hotel will have 20 guest rooms and a 200-seat restaurant offering internationally inspired, locally-sourced cuisine and a rooftop bar with views across the city's waterfront.

The Birchwood Inn is within walking distance of the Chihuly Collection, an array of complex glass sculptures and environmental art from artist Dale Chihuly, as well as the world-renowned Dalí Museum, which houses an impressive 2,000 piece collection of original Salvador Dalí artworks.

Visit www.visitstpeteclearwater.com. Contact : Jill Duffell at jill.duffell@rooster.co.uk.

The St. Regis Mauritius Resort

The new St. Regis Mauritius Resort, is the brand's first hotel in Africa and the 30th St. Regis hotel worldwide.

The St. Regis Mauritius Resort is located on the beach at the southwestern tip of island, at the UNESCO World Heritage site of Le Morne, bordered by a turquoise lagoon.

The hotel is modelled on a Victorian sugar-baron's manor house set in a historical estate.

The St. Regis Mauritius Resort follows recent openings in :

- Hainan and Shenzhen in China
- Doha and Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi, and
- Bal Harbour in the US.

Visit www.stregis.com/mauritius. Contact : Gail Palmer at gail@ktapr.com.

Generator Hostel

Established in 1995, Generator is Europe's fastest growing hostel brand and offers stylish accommodation in leading European cities - London, Berlin, Copenhagen, Dublin, Hamburg and Venice.

All hostels feature single, twin and quad rooms as well as larger dorms, some female only, with excellent shower and bathroom facilities.

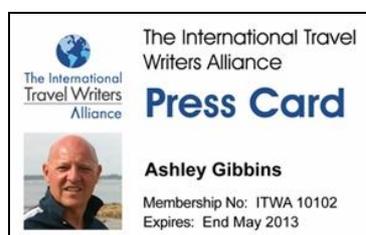
Characterised by their contemporary design, central locations, vibrant atmosphere, food and beverage menus reflecting the local culture and competitive prices, each hostel offers free WiFi in all public areas, a luggage room and laundry service. Generator is ideal for individual travellers, families and groups.

Visit : www.generatorhostels.com. Contact : Christien Jansen at christien.jansen@generatorhostels.com

Alliance initiatives

The International Travel Writers Alliance Press Card

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



Press Card holders will receive the card itself, confirming the holders identity as a member of the International Travel Writers Alliance and the members logo for use on your email signature, website and stationery.

There will be ongoing support from the Alliance in advance of - or during – a members travels with regard to confirming membership with editors or travel industry representatives etc, and first call press trip opportunities sourced by the Alliance.

For more information email Ashley@itwalliance.com.

The Global Travel ITWA Prepaid MasterCard

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



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

The card is currently available to UK based journalis only. The Alliance is looking to extend the initiative worldwide.

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

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

The Alliance Syndication Network

The Alliance Syndication Network is a new initiative from the International Travel Writers Alliance, that will be of interest to journalists who have, or contribute to, online travel publications including travel websites and blogs, bulletins and newsletters etc.

Each Syndicate member will :

- provide brief information on their own online presence, and
- agree to consider publishing a sentence on and link to appropriate features produced by other members in the Syndicate.

Other networking between Syndicate members will be developed.

By co-operating in this way, each Syndicate member should be able to increase the circulation of their own features considerably - and attract dedicated followers in the process.

For more information contact : Ashley Gibbins at Ashhley@itwalliance.com.

Travel guides

The following travel publishers will provide review copies to Alliance members.

AA Travel Guides

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

Eland Publishing

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

Fisher's Travel SOS

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

Global Travel Publishers

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

Globetrotters LogBook

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

Inn House Publishing

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

Insight

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

In your pocket guides

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

Jane's Smart Art Guides

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

Jonglez Publishing

www.jonglezpublishing.com. Alexandre They at
alexandre@editionsjonglez.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

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

www.allwaystraveller.com

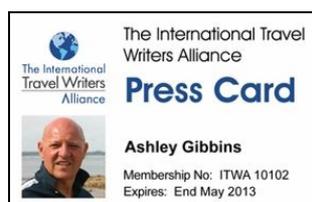
Ashley Gibbins FCIPR, MCIOJ
0776 419 8286
Ashley@itwalliance.com

Appendix one



Press card opportunities

Opportunities for Alliance press card holders directory : December 2012



The following press trip opportunities are being offered to press card holders by the Alliance's partners worldwide.

Alliance members should quote their press card number when making contact with the media contact and be prepared to show their card if, and when, requested. Alliance partners have been requested to ask for a member's press card number.

Information on obtaining an **International Travel Writers Alliance Press Card** can be found in *Travel products and services* below or by emailing Ashley@itwalliance.com

Opportunities A to E

- 40Berkeley, Boston
- Adventure Cat Sailing, San Francisco Bay
- Africa Safari Holidays
- Bath Tourism Plus
- The Broadway Collection New York
- BusyBus, Liverpool & Chester – UK
- The Castle Inn Hotel, Lake District UK
- Champagne-Ardenne Tourisme
- Charming Hotels Madeira
- Ciclismo Classico
- City Running Tours-Chicago
- Cotswolds Inns & Hotels
- The Ebrington Arms, UK
- The Elphinstone Hotel, Scotland
- EUROPA-PARK, Germany
- Experience Nottinghamshire

Opportunities F to O

- Focus Hotels
- Frontier Travel
- Frontiers Travel
- Generator Hostels, Europe
- Great Hotels of the World
- The Haweswater Hotel, Cumbria UK
- Helpful Holidays, UK
- Hidden Pousadas Brazil
- Holidaylettings
- Home Base Holidays
- The Horseshoe Inn, Scottish Borders
- The Inn on Fifth, Naples, Florida
- Ker & Downey Botswana
- Kempinski Hotels Worldwide
- Kempinski Gold Coast City, Ghana
- Kempinski Russia
- Knock Castle Hotel and Spa, Scotland
- La Residencia Mallorca
- Linthwaite House, Cumbria UK
- LocalGuiding, worldwide
- The Loch Melfort, Scotland
- Love Loch Lomond, Scotland
- Murada, and Hotel Mar i Vent, Mallorca
- Michael Neave Kitchen and Whisky Bar, Edinburgh
- The Marriott Paris Champs-Elysees, Paris
- Mir Corporation
- Newcastle Gateshead Marriott Hotel Metrocentre
- New York Circle Line Sightseeing Cruises
- Norfolk Hideaways, UK
- OAM Hotels, Thailand
- The Oetker Collection, Europe

Opportunities P to Z

- Lovelady Shield, Cumbria
- Mallorca Hotels: Hotel Bon Sol Resort & Spa, Hotel Tres and Hotel Dalt
- The Pheasant Inn, Cumbria UK
- Pembrokeshire, South West Wales
- Pocono Mountains, Pennsylvania
- Ravenstone Manor, Cumbria UK
- Reykjavik Bike Tours, Iceland
- Rosalie Bay Resort, Dominica
- The Royal Park and The Cranley, London
- Rushton Hall, Northamptonshire, UK
- Saigon Streets, China
- Sail Lofts St Ives
- Secret London
- Shama and Shama Luxe, Asia
- Shakespeare Country, UK
- Shieldhill Castle Hotel, Scotland
- St Mary's Hall Hotel, Scilly
- Swaziland and Malawi
- theExplorateur
- Three Nelson Hotels in Cheshire, UK
- Tipi Adventure, Herefordshire UK
- Tongabezi Lodge, Zambia
- Visit Orlando
- VisitCornwall
- Wedgwood the Restaurant, Edinburgh
- Welcome to Yorkshire, UK
- Wilderness Scotland
- The West Somerset Railway
- www.cornwallscottages.co.uk

40Berkeley, Boston

40Berkeley, located in the heart of Boston, is New England's largest hostel and a leading budget traveler destinations on the East Coast. It is one of *HostelWorld's* forTop 10 Hostels in the US.

40Berkeley will be delighted to consider providing accommodation to Alliance press card holders able to profile the hostel in their features.

Visit : www.40Berkeley.com. Contact : Oliver Mernick-Levene at 40berkeleyhostel@gmail.com.

Adventure Cat Sailing, San Francisco Bay

Adventure Cat Sailing will be delighted to 'comp' Alliance press card holders.

Visit : www.adventurecat.com. Contact : Sharon Schrum at sharon@adventurecat.com

Africa Safari Holidays

Africa Safari Holidays will be happy to offer any press trip services to Alliance press card holders who are looking to travel to East Africa.

Visit : www.africasafariholidays.net. Contact : Agnes Njagi at info@africasafariholidays.net

Bath Tourism Plus

Bath Tourism Plus will host press visits for Alliance press card holders to the Georgian and UNESCO World Heritage city of Bath.

Visit : www.visitbath.co.uk. Contact : Audra McSherry at audra_mcsberry@bathtourism.co.uk

The Broadway Collection New York

The Broadway Collection New York, a group of 24 new and classic Broadway musicals, will host Alliance press card holders with a commission.

Visit : www.broadwaycollection.com. Contact : Della Tully at Della.Tully@btinternet.com

BusyBus, Liverpool & Chester, UK

Sightseeing tour BusyBus, will host Alliance press card holders (with a guest) on a review basis.
Visit: www.busybus.co.uk. Contact : Vera de Ruyter: vera@busybus.co.uk

The Castle Inn Hotel, Lake District UK

The Castle Inn Hotel is a four star family hotel located in the northern Lake District. The property offers large spacious rooms and is situated just moments from Lake Bassenthwaite and close to Skiddaw, one of the area's most popular peaks.

The Castle Inn is always happy to hear from Alliance press card holders who are interested in stories about the Lake District.

Visit : www.castleinncumbria.co.uk. Contact : Samantha Marsh at samantha@infinitypublicrelations.co.uk

Champagne-Ardenne Tourisme

Champagne-Ardenne Tourisme is four French departments boasting historic sites and châteaux, walking and cycling routes, a variety of sports, superb natural scenery and Champagne will be pleased to consider press visits for Alliance press card holders.

Visit : www.champagne-ardenne-tourism.co.uk. Contact: Doug Goodman at doug@douggoodmanpr.com

Charming Hotels Madeira

Charming Hotels Madeira are pleased to offer Alliance press card holders special rates and will consider offering accommodation to press card holders with a confirmed commission.

Visit: www.charminghotelsmadeira.com. Contact: Antonio Silva at asilva@charminghotelsmadeira.com

Ciclismo Classico

Ciclismo Classico will consider offering tours to Alliance press card holders with a commission.

Ciclismo Classico is a specialised "boutique" tour operator that offers authentic and exciting cycling vacations. Its well-crafted educational trips in Italy, France, Spain, Austria and New England are active immersions into local art, language, music and, of course, delicious cuisine.

Visit : www.ciclismoclassico.com. Contact : Adam York at adam@sublimepub.com

City Running Tours-Chicago

City Running Tours-Chicago will be delighted to give free 5k running or walking tours to Alliance press card holders.

Visit : www.cityrunningtours.com/chicago. Contact : Marlin Keesler at marlin@cityrunningtours.com

Cotswolds Inns & Hotels

Cotswolds Inns & Hotels has won the AA Small Hotel Group of the Year award for 2012-13. The groups portfolio includes :

The Cotswold Inns & Hotels collection includes:

The Bay Tree, Burford	
The Manor House Hotel, Moreton-in-Marsh	The Broadway Hotel, Broadway
The Bear of Rodborough, Stroud	The Lamb Inn, and
The Swan, Bibury	The Hare & Hounds Hotel, Tetbury

Cotswolds Inns & Hotels will be delighted to consider offering Alliance press card holders accommodation for review purposes.

Visit : www.cotswold-inns-hotels.co.uk. Contact : Sue Heady at sue@headycommunications.com.

The Ebrington Arms, UK

The Ebrington Arms is a 17th Century inn in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the rolling hills of the Cotswolds at Ebrington near Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire.

This Cotswold country pub offering award-winning food (awarded 2 rosettes by The Michelin Guide) and ales (winner of the CAMRA North Cotswolds Pub of the Year 3 times in a row) will be delighted to consider offering review accommodation on a case by case basis.

Visit : www.theebringtonarms.co.uk. Contact : Anna Sharp at anna@asharppr.com.

The Elphinstone Hotel, Biggar, Scotland

Situated in the centre of Biggar, thirty miles outside of Edinburgh, the Elphinstone Hotel is a traditional and charming Coaching Inn, with a history going back over 400 years. The Elphinstone Hotel will be delighted to consider hosting Alliance press card holders able to review.

Visit : www.elphinstonehotel.co.uk. Contact : Su Hesketh at su@crimsonedge.co.uk.

EUROPA-PARK

EUROPA-PARK, which is Germany's biggest theme park, located in the tri-border region of Germany, France and Switzerland, offers guests more than 100 attractions and international shows in 13 European themed areas, over 90 hectares.

EUROPA-PARK will be delighted to offer complimentary entrance press card holders plus one other where they have a written commission and on presentation of the card.

Visit : www.europapark.com. Contact : presse@europapark.com.

Experience Nottinghamshire

Experience Nottinghamshire invites Alliance press card holders to visit Robin Hood country. There will be the chance to see the Major Oak in Sherwood Forest, try your hand at archery, visit England's oldest pub and meet Robin Hood himself on a special guided tour.

Website: www.experiencenottinghamshire.com/robin-hood. Contact: Erin Huckle at erin.huckle@experiencenottinghamshire.com

Focus Hotels

Focus Hotels invite Alliance press card holders 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

Frontier Travel

Frontier Travel organise tailor-made holidays to Canada in both Summer and Winter.

The company will consider offering individual press trips for Alliance press card holders who can get commissions from UK national newspapers, websites or high end publications with large circulations.

Visit : www.frontier-canada.co.uk and www.frontier-ski.co.uk. Contact: Dave Ashmore at dave@frontier-travel.co.uk

Frontiers Travel

Frontiers Travel will consider offering tours to Alliance press card holders on assignment.

Frontiers Travel specialise in the finest worldwide fly fishing and shooting destinations.

Visit : www.frontierstravel.com. Contact : Adam York at adam@sublimepub.com

Generator Hostels

Generator Hostels is a European hostel chain with properties located in Berlin, Copenhagen, Dublin, Hamburg, London and Venice.

The group has over 4,500 beds in Europe and attracts over 1.2million visitors worldwide each year. Adding to the chain will be a hostel in Barcelona, and another in Berlin Mitte, both in 2013.

Generator Hostels will be delighted to consider review accommodation to Alliance press card holders.

Visit : www.generatorhostels.com. Contact : Christien Jansen at ChristienJansen@generatorhostels.com.

Great Hotels of the World

Great Hotels of the World represent over 200 of the world's finest hotels and resorts would be pleased to consider offering press trip accommodation to alliance members.

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

The Haweswater Hotel, Cumbria UK

The Haweswater Hotel, an art-deco hotel located next to the secluded Haweswater Reservoir, Cumbria, UK, will be happy to consider offering accommodation to Alliance press card holders.

Visit : www.haweswaterhotel.com. Contact : Samantha Marsh at samantha@infinitypublicrelations.co.uk

Helpful Holidays, UK

Helpful Holidays, UK will consider offering accommodation to Alliance press card holders with a commission from suitable media.

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

Hidden Pousadas Brazil

Hidden Pousadas offers independent travellers recommendations for uniquely beautiful places to visit and stay in Brazil. Alliance press card holders with commissions for Brazil can enquire about staying at Pousadas within the special collection, outside of high season.

Visit : www.hiddenpousadasbrazil.com. Contact : Fola Odumosu at fola@hiddenpousadasbrazil.com

Holidaylettings

Holiday Lettings offers a range of traditional and unique villas, cottages and apartments worldwide and will consider arranging accommodation at its listed properties for Alliance press card holders.

Visit : www.holidaylettings.co.uk. Contact: Emilie and Kate on press@holidaylettings.co.uk

Home Base Holidays

Home Base Holidays is pleased to offer one year complimentary home exchange membership to Alliance press card holders on assignment to cover home swap or budget holiday ideas.

Visit : www.homebase-hols.com. Contact : Lois Sealey at info@homebase-hols.com

The Horseshoe Inn, Scottish Borders

The Horseshoe Inn is situated in a former blacksmiths shop in Eddleston within the picturesque Scottish Borders, five miles north of Peebles.

It has an award-winning fine dining restaurant, a bar and bistro as well as eight individually decorated bedrooms within the Lodge, a former Victorian primary school.

The Horseshoe Inn will be delighted to consider hosting Alliance press card holders able to review.

Visit : www.horseshoeinn.co.uk. Contact : Su Hesketh at su@crimsonedge.co.uk.

The Inn on Fifth, Naples, Florida

The Inn on Fifth is a luxurious, 87-room boutique hotel in the heart of downtown Naples in Southwest Florida will be delighted to consider accommodations for Alliance press card holders on assignment.

In December 2012, the Inn will offer an additional 32 new club level suites.

Visit : www.innonfifth.com. Contact : Katharina Lane at katharina@hayworthcreative.com

Kempinski Hotels worldwide

Hoteliers since 1897, Kempinski has travelled the world in search of the most fascinating destinations without ever forgetting the finest traditions of its European heritage.

With luxury holiday resorts, business and Spa hotels around the world, every Kempinski Hotel is unique, designed for guests who value five star holidays and luxury getaways.

Kempinski will be pleased to consider providing accommodation to International Travel Writers Alliance press card holders on a case-by-case basis.

Visit: www.kempinski.com. Contact: Hilary Philpott at hilary.philpott@kempinski.com

Kempinski Gold Coast City, Accra, Ghana

The five-star Kempinski Hotel Gold Coast City, is set to open early 2013, next to the Accra International Conference Centre, State House and National Theatre. The hotel is the centrepiece of Accra Gold Coast City, a new downtown for the capital.

The Kempinski Hotel Gold Coast City will be delighted to consider press visits for Alliance press card holders on a case-by case basis.

Visit : www.kempinski.com/accra. Contact Kathryn Peel at kathryn@ophirpr.co.uk.

Kepinski Hotels in Russia

St Petersburg

The Kempinski Hotel Moika 22 is located in a charming and historical area, in the very heart of St Petersburg, on the Moika River, opposite the renowned Hermitage Museum and Palace Square. The Hotel is just two minutes walk from the Nevsky Prospect and close to all major sights and shopping.

Moscow

The 5 star Hotel Baltshug Kempinski Moscow offers the best views of the Kremlin. Located in the heart of Moscow.

Gelendzhik

The Kempinski Grand Hotel Gelendzhik, is a new luxury resort and congress hotel on the Black Sea coast of Russia.

Kempinski will be pleased to consider providing accommodation to International Travel Writers Alliance press card holders on a case-by-case basis.

Visit: www.kempinski.com. Contact: Hilary Philpott at hilary.philpott@kempinski.com.

Ker & Downey Botswana

Ker & Downey Botswana, located in the heart of the Okavango Delta and Moremi Game Reserve, will be pleased to consider press visits to Alliance press card holders with a commission.

Visit : www.kerdowneybotswana.com. Contact : Honour Schram de Jong at honour@honourway.com

La Residencia Mallorca

La Residencia, Mallorca will consider offering one or two night's bed and breakfast accommodation from mid September-May to Alliance press card holders with a commission.

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

Linthwaite House Hotel, Lake Windemere, Cumbria, UK

Located on 14 acres of peaceful, picturesque grounds and overlooking Lake Windermere, Linthwaite House is a luxury hotel in the Lake District. The hotel's grounds are perfect for a peaceful stroll and trout fishing is available in the estate's own tarn.

Linthwaite House will be delighted to consider hosting Alliance press card holders able to review.

Visit : www.linthwaitehousehotel.com. Contact : Su Hesketh at su@crimsonedge.co.uk.

LocalGuiding

LocalGuiding is an online service connecting travellers with independent, local tour guides in destinations worldwide. It currently has guides in over 500 destinations in 100 countries worldwide - and is recruiting new guides all the time.

LocalGuiding has tour guides in :

Albania	Dominica	Latvia	Slovenia
Angola	Ecuador	Lithuania	South Africa
Argentina	Egypt	Malawi	South Korea
Armenia	England	Malaysia	Spain
Australia	Estonia	Malta	Sri Lanka
Austria	Ethiopia	Mauritius	Switzerland
Bangladesh	France	Mexico	Syria
Barbados	Georgia	Monaco	Tanzania
Belarus	Germany	Morocco	Thailand
Belgium	Greece	Myanmar	The Bahamas
Belize	Guatemala	Namibia	Tunisia
Bhutan	Honduras	Nepal	Turkey
Bolivia	Hong Kong	Netherlands	Uganda
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Hungary	Panama	Ukraine
Botswana	Iceland	Peru	United Arab Emirates
Brazil	India	Philippines	United States of America
Bulgaria	Indonesia	Poland	Uruguay
Cambodia	Ireland	Portugal	Uzbekistan
Canada	Israel	Puerto Rico	Venezuela
Chile	Italy	Republic of Serbia	Vietnam
China	Jamaica	Romania	Zambia
Colombia	Japan	Russia	Zimbabwe
Costa Rica	Jordan	Saint Kitts and Nevis	
Croatia	Kazakhstan	Scotland	
Cuba	Kenya	Senegal	
Czech Republic	Kyrgyzstan	Slovakia	

LocalGuiding will be delighted to hear from Alliance press card holders looking for a local tour guide in the destinations it covers.

Visit : www.LocalGuiding.com. Contact : Robert Blessing at rb@localguiding.com.

Loch Melfort Hotel, Argyll, Scotland

The Loch Melfort is a family run hotel on the coast of Argyll, set in the Scottish West Highlands. All rooms have sea views over Asknish Bay towards Jura, Shuna and Scarba.

The Asknish Bay Restaurant has been awarded two Rosettes by the AA every year since 2000.

The Loch Melfort will be delighted to consider hosting Alliance press card holders able to review.

Visit : www.lochmelfort.co.uk/. Contact : Su Hesketh at su@crimsonedge.co.uk.

Lovelady Shield, Cumbria, UK

Lovelady Shield is an elegant Georgian Country House Hotel near Alston, Cumbria. It stands on the site of a former 13th century convent on the banks of the River Nent and within secluded gardens and un-spoilt countryside.

The hotel can also act as a base from which to visit the UK's Lake District, Hadrian's Wall, the North Pennines, Durham Cathedral and the Yorkshire Dales.

The hotel has 2 rosette awards from the AA , and their restaurant provides elegant surroundings in which to enjoy the award winning cuisine prepared by our Master Chef, Barrie Garton. Lovelady Shield will be delighted to consider hosting Alliance press card holders able to review.

Visit : www.lovelady.co.uk. Contact : Su Hesketh at su@crimsonedge.co.uk.

Love Loch Lomond, Scotland

Love Loch Lomond is a group of tourism operators passionate about the Loch Lomond and Clyde Sea Lochs area will be delighted to host press visits for Alliance press card holders as well as to offer a range of story ideas and activities.

Visit: www.lovelochlomond.com. Contact: Johanna Campbell at Johanna@johannacampbell.com.

Mallorca Hotels: Hotel Bon Sol Resort & Spa, Hotel Tres and Hotel Dalt Murada, and Hotel Mar i Vent, Mallorca

Mallorca Hotels will be pleased to offer accommodation to Alliance press card holders with a commission for city breaks to Palma and spa & yoga, cycling, walking, hiking, cultural and other activities on the island.

Visit : www.hotelbonsol.es, www.hoteltres.com, www.daltmurada.com and www.hotelmarivent.com.

Contact : Cathryn Hicks at cathryn@douggoodmanpr.com.

The Marriott Paris Champs-Elysees, Paris

The Marriott Paris Champs-Elysees, the only five-star hotel on the Champs-Elysees, will be happy to offer accommodation to Alliance press card holders in the city on an assignment.

Visit: www.parismarriott.com. Contact: Bernice Saltzer at bernice@sortedpr.com

Michael Neave Kitchen and Whisky Bar, Edinburgh, Scotland

Michael Neave Kitchen and Whisky Bar has recently opened on Old Fishmarket Close in the heart of Edinburgh's old town.

Situated in the heart of the Capital and easily accessible from all parts of town the restaurant is set over two floors where diners can relax and indulge in a cocktail in the contemporary bar upstairs before or after their meal .

The eponymous kitchen and whisky bar is the first acquisition by the gifted young chef who has worked with talented chefs from The Bonham and the Amber restaurant in the Scotch Whisky Experience.

Michael Neave Kitchen and Whisky Bar will be delighted to consider hosting Alliance press card holders able to review.

Visit : www.michaelneave.co.uk. Contact : Su Hesketh at su@crimsonedge.co.uk.

Mir Corporation

Mir Corporation will consider offering tours to Alliance press card holders on assignment. Mir Corporation is a well-established tour-operator specialising in tours to Russia, the Trans-Siberian Railroad and tours to Central Asia.

Visit : www.mircorp.com. Contact : Adam York at adam@sublimepub.com

Newcastle Gateshead Marriott Hotel Metrocentre

Newcastle Gateshead Marriott Hotel Metrocentre has completed a £500,000 refurbishment to its leisure facilities.

The hotel, which is next to the Metrocentre, the biggest shopping centre in Europe, will be happy to host Alliance press card holders who would like to visit the North East of the UK.

Visit : www.marriott.co.uk/hotels/travel/nclgh-newcastle-gateshead-marriott-hotel-metrocentre
Contact : Bernice Saltzer at bernice@SortedPR.com.

New York Circle Line Sightseeing Cruises

New York Circle Line Sightseeing Cruises will be delighted to host Alliance press card holders with a commission.

Visit: www.circleline42.com. Contact: Lisa Chamberlain at lisa.chamberlain@btinternet.com

Norfolk Hideaways

Norfolk Hideaways is a holiday cottage/self-catering holiday company with 200 coastal cottages in North Norfolk.

Norfolk Hideaways will be delighted to hear from Alliance press card holders on assignment. Press trips are available and subject to dates and availability.

Visit : www.norfolkhideaways.co.uk. Contact : Danielle Howard at danielle@junglepr.com.

The Oetker Collection - Masterpiece Hotels

The Oetker Collection - Masterpiece Hotels are one-of-a-kind, five-star hotels individually designed, with a unique character and distinctive atmosphere.

They are situated in some of the world's most appealing locations, such as Antibes, Baden-Baden, Marrakesh, Paris and Vence.

The Oetker Collection will be pleased to consider offering accommodation to Alliance press card holders - on a case-by-case basis.

Visit : www.oetkercollection.com. Contact : Julia Perowne at jp@verypcc.com

The Pheasant Inn, The Lake District UK

Located at the bottom of Sale Fell and close to Bassenthwaite Lake, the Pheasant Inn dates back to the 17th century and was the haunt of huntsman John Peel. It is situated at the unspoilt northern end of the Lake District, within easy reach of Keswick and Cockermouth.

The hotel bar, one of the most well known bar in the Lake District, is full of local character and characters some of whom are very knowledgeable and opinionated!

The Pheasant Inn will be delighted to consider hosting Alliance press card holders able to review.

Visit : www.the-pheasant.co.uk. Contact : Su Hesketh at su@crimsonedge.co.uk.

Pembrokeshire, South West Wales

Pembrokeshire, South Wales will be delighted to consider offering accommodation to Alliance press card holders with a commission in suitable media.

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

The Pocono Mountains, Pennsylvania

The Pocono Mountains region is 2,400 square miles of mountains, lakes, rivers, waterfalls and woodlands in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The four-county region offers year round outdoor recreation, seasonal festivals and fairs, lavish spas and fine dining. The Pocono Mountains is two hours from Philadelphia and New York City.

The Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau will be delighted to consider press trip requests from Alliance press cardholders.

Visit : www.800poconos.com. Contact : Elizabeth A. Richardson at Erichardson@poconos.org.

Ravenstone Manor, Keswick, Cumbria UK

Ravenstone Manor is a family run hotel situated just a short drive from the market town of Keswick in the Lake District.

Overlooking Bassenthwaite Lake, and set against the backdrop of Skiddaw, Ravenstone Manor provides guests with a vantage point to fully appreciate the beauty of the Lake District. The grounds of the Hotel are a great start for many walks for any ability; a short amble through Dodd Wood looking for Ospreys nesting or the odd deer to a hike to the summit of Skiddaw.

Ravenstone Manor will consider hosting Alliance press card holders able to review.

Visit : www.ravenstonemanor.co.uk. Contact : Su Hesketh at su@crimsonedge.co.uk.

Reykjavik Bike Tours

Reykjavik Bike Tours will provide press tours of Iceland's capital for Alliance press card holders. Visit : www.icelandbike.com. Contact : Stefan Helgi Valsson at valsson@centrum.is

Rosalie Bay Resort, Dominica

Rosalie Bay Resort, an eco-luxury and wellness retreat on the Nature Island of Dominica in the Caribbean, located along the Atlantic Ocean at the edge of a UNESCO World Heritage site,

The Rosalie Bay will be happy to consider accommodations for Alliance members on assignment.

Visit : www.rosaliebay.com. Contact: Julie Harper at julie@madiganpratt.com.

The Royal Park and The Cranley, London

The Royal Park and The Cranley, two luxury, boutique hotels located in central London are delighted to welcome Alliance press card holders with suitable commissions.

Visit : www.theroyalpark.com and www.thecranley.com. Contact : Li Boatwright at Li@storringtoncommunications.com

Rushton Hall Hotel and Spa, Northamptonshire

Rushton Hall Hotel and Spa offers guests the chance to stay in what has been a stately home in rural Northampton since 1438.

Everything about Rushton Hall is grand from the moment you pass through its heavy timber doors.

Most stunning, however, is the great hall with its magnificent timber roofing, ornate plasterwork, stained glass windows and fireplace.

Rushton Hall will be pleased to consider offering accommodation to Alliance press card holders.

Visit : www.rushtonhall.com. Contact : jacky Mcaulay at j.Mcaulay@rushtonhall.com.

Saigon Streets

Saigon Streets, which run 3 to 3.5 hour street food tours in Ho Chi Minh City, will be delighted to provide Alliance press card holders with a tour for review purposes.

Visit : www.saigonstreeteats.com. Contact : Barbara Adam at theboss@thedropoutdiaries.com.

Sail Lofts St Ives

This group of 12 award winning luxury holiday apartments surrounding a central courtyard, just metres from Porthmeor Beach in St Ives, with their own 'holistic' Ocean Spa, will be pleased to consider offering accommodation to Alliance press card holders with a commission.

Visit: www.thesaillofts.co.uk. Contact: Peter Hutchinson at peter@thesaillofts.co.uk.

Secret London – An unusual guide and Unusual bars & restaurants

Following the success of “Secret London – An unusual guide” (Amazon bestseller) Jonglez Publishing has launch its first iPhone applications:

- Secret London – An unusual guide, and
- Secret London – Unusual bars & restaurants

Alliance press card holders able to review the applications can receive a code to download the app for free (iPhone users only).

Visit : www.itwalliance.com. Contact : Alexandre They at alexandre@editionsjonglez.com.

Shama and Shama Luxe

Shama and premier brand Shama Luxe is a collection of Asia based luxury boutique serviced apartments.

Shama:

Shama Sukhumvit, Bangkok
Shama Causeway Bay, Hong Kong
Shama Central, Hong Kong
Shama Fortress Hill, Hong kong
Shama Hollywood, Hong Kong

Shama Midlevels, Hong kong
Shama Tsim Sha Tsui, Hong kong
Shama Wanchai, Hong Kong
Shama Century Park, Shanghai
Shama Xujiahui, Shanghai

Shama Luxe:

Shama Luxe Grand Central, Dalian
Shama luxe Huashan, Shanghai

Shama Luxe Xintiandi, Shanghai

Shama and brand Shama Luxe will be delighted to consider providing accommodation to Alliance press card holders on a case-by-case basis.

Visit : www.shama.com. Contact : Jessica Flood AT JessicaF@hillsbalfour.com.

Shakespeare Country

Shakespeare Country UK will host Alliance press card holders 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 Aspinwall at tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk

Shieldhill Castle, the Clyde Valley, Scotland

Shieldhill Castle hotel is a 4 star hotel set in the upper Clyde valley 30 minutes from both Edinburgh and Glasgow.

The Castle dates back to 1199 and offers great character and charm amongst elegant surroundings. The principal building has 16 en suite bedrooms, and the newly refurbished stable block has created a courtyard setting for an extra 10 en suite rooms.

In the grounds of the Castle and the surrounding areas, there are plenty of activities that can be organised for individuals or groups, including Falconry, Paintball, Game Shooting, Clay Pigeon Shooting, Helicopter flights, Hot Air Balloon rides, Fishing and Golf.

Shieldhill Castle will be delighted to consider hosting Alliance press card holders able to review.

Visit : www.shieldhillcastlehotel.co.uk. Contact : Su Hesketh at su@crimsonedge.co.uk.

St Mary's Hall Hotel, Scilly

St Mary's Hall Hotel, the Isles of Scilly is happy to provide press trip opportunities to Alliance press card holders.

Visit : www.stmaryshallhotel.co.uk. Contact : Karen Baker at karen@mercury-pr.co.uk

Swaziland and Malawi

Geo Group will be delighted to consider press trips to either Swaziland or Malawi for Alliance press card holders with suitable commissions.

Visit : www.thekingdomofswaziland.com and www.malawitourism.com. Contact: Kelly White at tourism@geo-group.co.uk

theExplorateur

theExplorateur reviews hotels, shops, restaurants and travel-related products around the world.

theExplorateur will consider offering Alliance press card the opportunity to review any of its properties.

Visit : www.theExplorateur.com. Contact Gabriella Ribeiro Truman at gabriella@trumarketing.com

Three Nelson Hotels in Cheshire, UK

The Grosvenor Pulford Hotel & Spa, The Pheasant Inn and The Bear's Paw will be happy to accommodate Alliance press card holders with a commission.

Visit : www.grosvenorpulfordhotel.co.uk, www.thepheasantinn.co.uk and www.thebearspaw.co.uk
Contact : Karen Floyd at karen.floyd@symmetrypr.com

Tipi Adventure, Herefordshire UK

Tipi Adventure offers alternative UK holidays on the River Wye in Herefordshire.

Here visitors can stay in luxury tipis along the riverside and take part in daily paddles along the river itself in Canadian Canoes.

The holidays are suitable for anyone aged four upwards and as tuition and buoyancy aids are provided, no previous canoeing experience is required.

Tipi Adventure would be delighted to hear from any Alliance press card holders who would like to know more about the company. Media visits are also available outside of the peak school holiday periods.

Visit : www.tipiadventure.co.uk. Contact : Samantha Marsh:
samantha@infinitypublicrelations.co.uk

Tongabezi Lodge, Zambia

Tongabezi Lodge, upstream from Victoria Falls, and the new eco-friendly Sindabezi Island are located on the Zambezi River in Zambia. Tongabezi will be delighted to consider press visits to their properties from Alliance press card holders with a commission.

Visit : www.tongabezi.com. Contact : Honour Schram de Jong at honour@honourway.com

Visit Dublin

Visit Dublin offers Alliance press card holders visiting on-assignment a Media Pass (the Dublin Pass), which provides free entry to 34 visitor attractions in Dublin.

Visit : www.visitdublin.com and www.dublinpass.com. Contact : Catherine McCluskey at
Catherine.mccluskey@failteireland.ie

Visit Orlando

Visit Orlando offers Alliance press card holders visiting on-assignment a complimentary Journalist VIP Passport.

Visit : www.VisitOrlando.com/media. Contact : Amy Rodenbrock at
amy.rodenbrock@visitorlando.com

Visit Cornwall

Cornwall is located in the far west of Great Britain on a peninsula pointing into into the Atlantic Ocean, and with 300 miles of coastline.

Cornwall is also the location of mainland Great Britain's most southerly promontory, The Lizard, and one of the UK's most westerly points, Land's End, while a few miles off shore and even further west is an archipelago of tiny islands that make up the Isles of Scilly.

For Alliance press card holders visiting Cornwall with suitable commissions, *VisitCornwall* will be pleased to offer bespoke itinerary arrangements and assist in negotiating complimentary or reduced rate accommodation and entry to attractions and activities.

Visit : www.visitcornwall.com. Contact : Julia Hughes at julia.hughes@visitcornwall.com

Wedgwood the Restaurant, Edinburgh, Scotland

Paul Wedgwood and Lisa Channon opened Wedgwood the Restaurant in 2007.

Paul gains inspiration for his style of dishes from regular travels around the world. Favourite dishes in the restaurant include Panko and black sesame crusted mullet or Pork belly, Diver caught scallops wrapped in caul fat.

Paul is also renowned for using interesting wild herbs and salads which feature regularly on the menu especially at lunchtime.

Wedgwood the Restaurant will be delighted to consider hosting Alliance press card holders able to review.

Visit : www.wedgwoodtherestaurant.co.uk. Contact : Su Hesketh at su@crimsonedge.co.uk.

Welcome to Yorkshire

Welcome to Yorkshire, which is the official Destination Management agency for the English county of Yorkshire, has one clear priority, to make Yorkshire the most popular destination in the UK for business and leisure.

In just two years *Welcome to Yorkshire* has grown the value of the county's tourism and visitor economy from £5.9bn to £7bn per annum.

Welcome to Yorkshire will be delighted to consider press trip opportunities for Alliance press card holders with an appropriate commission.

Visit : www.yorkshire.com/mediacentre. Contact : Graham Poucher at gpoucher@yorkshire.com

The West Somerset Railway, UK

The West Somerset Railway is Britain's longest standard gauge "heritage" railway and runs steam trains on a daily basis from early April to early October and on elected dates in other months.

The route is from Bishops Lydeard (4 miles from the Somerset County Town of Taunton) to the small seaside resort of Minehead and the Railway carries some 200,000 passengers each year.

The West Somerset Railway will be delighted to offer Alliance press card holders free travel on its trains. Please book tickets in advance.

Visit : www.west-somerset-railway.co.uk. Contact : John Simms at john.com@wsrail.net

Wilderness Scotland

Wilderness Scotland will consider offering press trip facilities to Alliance press card holders.

Visit : www.wildernessscotland.com. Contact: Ben Thorburn at ben@wildernessscotland.com

www.cornwallcottages.co.uk

www.cornwallcottages.co.uk a specialist internet holiday cottage agency with over 230 properties throughout the Duchy, will be delighted to consider offering self-catering accommodation to Alliance press card holders with a commissioned feature.

Visit: www.cornwallcottages.co.uk. Contact: Jess Money at jess@suebradburypr.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



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www.allwaystraveller.com

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