

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 120 : mid-July 2012 :

www.itwalliance.com

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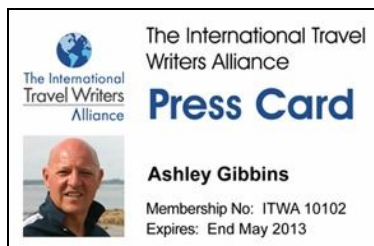
- Ongoing press trip opportunities
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Registering with the Alliance

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 : Travel products and services.

For more information email Ashley@itwalliance.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.

Visit Britain media opportunities during the Olympics

With many media visiting the UK during the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Visit Britain has put together a package of press opportunities.

These include media exclusive, complimentary or heavily discounted offers. Click here to download the full brochure of offers and incentives throughout London, England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The media offers cover culture and heritage, coastlines and countryside, sport and food, music and fashion. Most offers are available to 15 October 2012, although some run until the end of 2012.

To take advantage of the offers, Alliance members will need to have valid media accreditation or London Media Centre accreditation.

Each offer needs to be applied for directly with the product or attraction whose contact details are included with the offer.

To download the offers visit :

<http://media.visitbritain.com/ImageLibrary/downloadMedia.ashx?MediaDetailsID=307658>. Contact : the VisitBritain Media Team at pressandpr@visitbritain.com.

The Berlin Pass

The Berlin Pass offers access to these and over 50 other top attractions in the German capital, including the Berliner Dom, all the Museum Island attractions and the Checkpoint Charlie Museum.

The two and three-day pass also includes a sightseeing bus tour and public transportation throughout Berlin.

The Leisure Pass Group runs the sightseeing pass schemes in London, Paris, New York and now Berlin. Alliance members can get a copy of the Berlin Pass for review purposes.

Visit : www.berlinpass.com. Contact : Katie Wright at Katie.wright@sirencomms.com.

Lefkada, Greece

The Greek island of Lefkada has some of the Mediterranean's best beaches, quaint traditional villages and a label as one of Greece's most picturesque.

Located on a hillside in Lefkada's stunning countryside, the Pavezzo Country Retreat comprises renovated 19th Century houses. The retreat is in an excellent position from which to explore the natural and historical sites of Lefkada.

The island was ruled by the Venetians, Turks, French and British, before its accession to the Greek state in 1864. The coastline is rugged, especially on the western side of the island, where cliffs plunge down to beautiful beaches. Inland the hills are dotted with olive groves and vineyards.

Away from the beach, visitors explore the mountainside, pretty traditional mountain villages and the waterfalls of Rahi at Nidri.

Lefkada Town hosts its annual folk festival in August.

Visit : www.pavezzo.gr. For press trip requests contact Aaron Moore at Aaron.Moore@mediacofss.com.

St Mary's Hall Hotel, Scilly, UK

St Mary's Hall Hotel is located on the island of St Mary's, the Isles of Scilly.

The largest island of the UK's only archipelago is some 28 miles West of Lands End.

This elegant and completely refurbished townhouse is just a 2 minute walk from Porthcressa and Town Beaches and only 5 minutes level walking from the quay and the perfect location from which to explore these wonderful Islands.

Since its refurbishment the hotel has also become known for the quality of the food produced with its restaurant - Spirit - which combines fantastic local ingredients, such as crab and lobster and rare breeds meat reared on the hotel owner's own farm.

Alliance members interested in producing features such as Island holidays, unusual UK destinations to visit, short breaks, romantic escapes, ideal locations for empty nesters should contact Karen Baker

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

Towan Valley, Cornwall UK

Towan Valley, a luxury development of 16 two, three and four bedroom properties. properties, has just opened on the North Cornish Coast.

The development is located in a wooded valley a few few minutes walk from one of Cornwall's best Blue Flag beaches.

The South West Coast Path with its views along the North Cornish Coast and iconic ruins of engine houses from Cornwall's once booming 18th Century mining industry is right on the doorstep.

Towan Valley is suited to those seeking a more natural Cornish holiday destination.

Alliance members can write about activities such as surfing, walking, cycling or simply relaxing on one of Cornwall's best beaches.

Feature ideas perfect for Towan Valley include:

- Cornwall – Off the Beaten Track
- Out of Season Cornwall
- Historic Cornwall
- Active Cornwall
- Art Cornwall

Towan Valley will be delighted to hear from Alliance members interested in a press trip to experience the development.

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

Teylers Museum Haarlem discovers three new drawings by Raphael

Three recently rediscovered drawings by Raphael (1483-1520) will be unveiled at a major Raphael exhibition to be held in Teylers Museum (28 September 2012 to 6 January 2013)

Teylers Museum now owns twelve – rather than nine – drawings by Raphael. The three new drawings are:

- Portrait of a young man (1515-17)
- Flying Putto (1518), and
- Joshua speaks to the Israeli tribal leaders in Sichem (1516-18).

The drawings used to be attributed to Raphael's pupils. Raphael had a studio where he worked closely with many pupils on large commissions, including the world famous 'Stanze' at the Vatican.

Visit : www.rafael2012.nl and www.holland.com. For more information and press trip opportunities contact: Rianne Ojeh at rojeh@holland.com.

Jura Whisky 'Community Spirit' Photography Competition

Jura single malt whisky, in partnership with Olympus, is launching an online photography competition to find images from across the world that best embody the theme of 'community spirit'.

Three budding amateur photographers are being offered the chance to win an unforgettable trip to the island of Jura, off Scotland's dramatic West Coast.

The island is famed for its small and close-knit community of less than 200, united by the island they love and the warmth of its people.

The walls of the Distillery Visitor Centre are adorned with photos of Diurachs (the Gaelic name for the people of Jura), past and present, who have all played their part in contributing to the island's famous community spirit.

To experience Jura's island life for themselves, amateur photographers are invited to submit photographs that best tell a story of community spirit.

These images could include photos of groups or individuals that evoke the spirit of the neighbourhood in which they live, or even photos of festivals and events that conjure the character of a particular place.

Each one of the three winners and their partners will enjoy a week's all-expenses stay in the exclusive Jura Lodge and a VIP tour of the Jura distillery and island.

The winners will also receive an Olympus PEN E-PL3 camera to create a lasting memento of their visit to Jura, and a photography workshop on the island from award-winning photographer David Nightingale.

Visit : www.isleofjura.com/communityspirit and www.chromasia.com. Contact : Harry Hussain at hhussain@webershandwick.com.

Blackpool, UK

The UK resort of Blackpool has much to offer beyond the traditional 'seaside' vacation including :

SEA LIFE Blackpool

SEA LIFE Blackpool is home to one of the largest collections of tropical sharks in Europe. Housing more than fifty spectacular displays and over 1,000 assorted sea creatures it takes visitors on a journey from the coastline and sandy shallows to the ocean depths.

Visit : www.visitsealife.com/blackpool.

The Blackpool Tower Dungeon

Then The Blackpool Tower Dungeon comprises ten actor led shows, that takes guests on a fun journey of the North West's most horrible 1,000 years of history.

visit : www.the-dungeons.co.uk/blackpool/en.

Madame Tussauds Blackpool

Madame Tussauds has added HM the Queen, the Duke & Duchess of Cambridge to its collection of wax figures.

Visit : www.madametussauds.com/blackpool.

The Blackpool Tower Eye

The Blackpool Tower Eye offers views of the North West's coastline. The newly refurbished Tower top gives 360 degree views and there's an all new SkyWalk.

Visit : www.theblackpooltower.com

Visit : www.visitblackpool.com. For press passes and press trip opportunities contact : Seb at seb@brazenpr.com.

The Yarn Market Hotel, Dunster, Somerset

With England suffering from a period of inclement weather, the Yarn Market Hotel in Dunster has launched a "Raincheck Holiday" promotion.

Dunster, which is located on the edge of the Exmoor National Park, lies in a microclimate and will often avoid rain at all when other places are suffering heavy storms and flooding.

Under its Raincheck Holidays the hotel will offer up to 100% of accommodation costs if it rains in Dunster during the day.

The medieval village of Dunster has its Castle at one end of the High Street, which is owned by the National Trust.

Exmoor offers spectacular scenery and an abundance of wildlife.

The Yarn Market will consider requests for accommodation from Alliance members with a commission.

Visit : www.yarnmarkethotel.co.uk/raincheck and www.Exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk. Contact : Antony Brunt at hotel@yarnmarkethotel.co.uk.

Working with the Alliance

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

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

Partners

Honeymooners Review Guide

The Honeymooners Review Guide focuses entirely on Romance and Honeymoon Travel. We use only top professional travel writers via contract.

Visit : www.luvtrip.com. Contact : Ronald Haller at ron@honeymoonersreviewguide.com.

Ferretti Tourism (Switzerland)

Ferretti Tourism represents Swiss tourism service providers in the UK and Nordic markets

Visit : www.ferretti-tourism.com. Contact : Maria Adriansén at maria@ferretti-tourism.com.

Isle of Jura

Off the west coast of Scotland lies one of nature's best kept secrets, the Isle of Jura. Populated by a community of less than 200 known as Diurachs (the Gaelic name for the people of Jura), it is a place of myth, legend and intrigue – and an award-winning range of single malt whiskies, which hold the promise of good fortune for all those that believe.

There are four classic bottlings in the Jura Collection: Origin 10, Superstition, Diurach's Own and Prophecy

Visit : www.isleofjura.com. Contact : Harry Hussain at hhussain@webershandwick.com.

The Chilterns Tourism Network (UK)

The Chilterns Tourism Network is made up of over 100 small tourism suppliers in the Chilterns area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Contact : Mary Tebje at marytebje@ymail.com.

Travel and Leisure News (USA)

Travel and Leisure News distributes a weekly press release newsletter featuring Festivals, Fairs & Events; Food and Wine Events; Arts, Culture, Theater; Accommodations; Museums/Attractions; Adventure/Tours; CVBs/Tourism Bureaus. News is mostly North America.

Visit : www.TravelandLeisureNews.com. Paul McKenzie at editor@travelandleisurenews.com.

Always a chance (UK)

Always A Chance was established in memory of James Cooper and James Kouzaris who were tragically murdered whilst on holiday in Sarasota, Florida on April 16th 2011.

The charity aims to create a legacy for both men by supporting victims of violent crime whilst removing the endemic social causes which lead to violence and criminality amongst young people.

Visit : www.alwaysachance.org.uk. Contact : Paul Davies at info@alwaysachance.org.uk.

News

TrueGreece.org

True Greece is an initiative by the Greek National Tourism Organisation to highlight Greece as a travel destination by providing a web-based platform of official and reliable information.

The website provides interviews with opinion leaders in the travel industry; tourists' testimonials, videos, photos; as well as tips and informative articles on what's happening in Greece, from a real perspective.

www.visitgreece.org.

South African Airways

SAA has launched a service between Johannesburg and Maun, Botswana.

The morning non-stop flight from New York to Johannesburg serves to connect the following morning to Maun and the chance to start discovering the Okavango Delta by that afternoon.

Visit : www.flysaa.com. Contact : Elizabeth Ninomiya at ElizabethNinomiya@flysaa.com.

Germany

Germany has won 'Best Overseas Country for Groups' at The 2012 Group Travel Awards.

Two tourist attractions in Germany were also shortlisted: the Volkswagen theme park, 'Autostadt', in Wolfsburg and 'Siegfried's Mechanical Music Cabinet Museum' in Rüdesheim.

Lufthansa was shortlisted in the 'Best Airline for Groups' category.

Visit : www.germany.travel. Contact : Victoria Kyme at victoria.kyme@germany.travel.

The Renaissance Hollywood Hotel, California

Loews Hotels & Resorts has purchased the Renaissance Hollywood Hotel at Hollywood Boulevard in California, which will undergo a multi-million dollar renovation later this year.

Since opening in 2001, the hotel has become a premier location in Hollywood with views of the Hollywood sign and the Walk of Fame.

Visit : www.loewshotels.com. Contact : Shane Fortey at shane.fortey@kbc-pr.com.

Discover New England app

The Discover New England Travel Guide is now available for the iPad and iPhone via a new, free Essentially America App. The Discover New England Travel Guide offers useful tips for those visiting the New England States.

Visit : www.discovernewengland.co.uk. Contact : Jo Thomas at jo.thomas@kbc-pr.com.

Malaysia Airlines

Malaysia Airlines has launched a discount fares to destinations across Southeast Asia, and Australasia – including Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Indonesia, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand.

The promotion also coincides with the launch of the airlines non-stop Airbus A380 superjumbo service from London Heathrow to Kuala Lumpur from 2 July 2012.

Visit : www.malaysiaairlines.com. Contact : Alicia at ad@verypcc.com.

McCarran International Airport, Las Vegas

McCarran International Airport has opened its new \$2.4 billion terminal 3.

Visit www.mccarran.com and www.visitlasvegas.co.uk. Contact : Josie Self at josies@hillsbalfour.com.

Leads

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

Botanical tour to Jordan

Cox & Kings, the world's longest established tour operator, is offering a one-off escorted botanical tour to Jordan from 18 – 27 April 2013.

Led by English garden and landscape designer Paul Hervey-Brookes, the 10-night tour will experience the rich flora of the region when the desert is in bloom.

Jordan has over 2,500 plant species, of which 100 are endemic, and the tour includes visits to Dihbeen Forest, Dana Biosphere Reserve, Wadi Rum desert and the magnificent Royal Botanic Gardens, where it is possible to see some of these.

Cox & Kings is the world's longest established travel company. Its history stretches back more than 250 years to 1758 when Richard Cox was appointed regimental agent to the Footguards (later the Grenadier Guards).

The company's fortunes grew hand in hand with the British empire and by the early 20th century the company was acting as agent and banker throughout the armed forces and as a shipping agent.

Today, Cox & Kings organises escorted small-group tours and private tailor-made travel in the Indian Subcontinent, Latin America, the Middle East, the Far East, Africa, Europe, Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific, and the Caribbean.

It has operations in London, the US, Japan, Australia and throughout India.

Visit : www.coxandkings.co.uk. Contact : Katie Parsons at katie.parsons@coxandkings.co.uk.

The Orange County Regional History Center, Orlando

The Orange County Regional History Center, housed in a restored historic five-story 1927 county courthouse in downtown Orlando, showcases the collection of the Historical Society of Central Florida.

The museum, a Smithsonian Institution affiliate and accredited by the American Association of Museums, features three floors of permanent exhibitions and also presents nationally important limited-run exhibitions.

Visit : www.thehistorycenter.org. Contact : Sherry Meadows Lewis at sherry.lewis@ocfl.net.

Hiking and Biking in Val d'Isère

The French Alpine resort of Val d'Isère in summer offers a range pursuits for walkers, cyclists and mountain bikers.

These can be undertaken in areas including the Vanoise National Park, Iseran Mountain Pass and Ouillette Lake. Riders now have access to a series of special tracks for novice and expert riders, with 21 downhill trails, eight endurance runs, two cross-country circuits and one family ride.

There are also 32 long and short hiking trails as well as professional guides available. The new cultural walking route, '7 Chapel Circuit' is a gentle walk geared to families with young children. The Solaise Express Chairlift, Olympique Cable Car and Borsat Chairlift will be open from 30 June and 2 September 2012.

Visit : www.valdisere.com. Contact : Charlie Fox at Charlie@grifcopr.com.

Golf at the Carnegie Club, Skibo Castle, Scotland

The Carnegie Club at Skibo Castle is offering public tee times to non-residents until October 2012.

The private members-only club, which is located near Dornoch in the North East of Scotland, is known for its 18-hole championship Carnegie Links golf course.

Formerly the summer home of US philanthropist and steel magnate, Andrew Carnegie, Skibo Castle provides accommodation within the castle itself and in 12 family lodges which are dotted around the 7,500 acre estate.

Visit : www.carnegieclub.co.uk. Contact : Katy Renwick at katy.renwick@carnegieclub.co.uk.

Fungi foraging in Wales

The Metropole Hotel in Llandrindod Wells is engaging the services of fungi expert Daniel Butler to run fungi safaris in a region known for mushrooms of all kinds. These include chanterelles, porcini, wood hedgehogs, giant puffballs and parasols.

The Metropole is owned by Justin Baird-Murray and his sister, Sarah, who are the fifth generation of their family to be running the hotel.

Visit : www.metropole.co.uk. contact : Nerys Lloyd-Pierce at nerys@lloyd-pierec.co.uk.

Traverse City, Michigan

National Geographic Magazine has named Traverse City, Michigan as one of the best summer trips 2012.

Traverse City is a beach town with 180 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline and 149 inland lakes of 10 acres or more. National Geographic Magazine praised the area for its quaint port villages, sandy beaches, historic lighthouses, rolling orchards and family-friendly festivals.

It also highlighted the area's amazing Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes with the 150-foot Dune Climb and the beautiful Lake Michigan beach.

Traverse City features alongside other notable destinations such as St Petersburg, Russia, Barcelona, Spain and Argyll and the Isles in Scotland.

Visit : www.traversecity.com. Contact : Fiona Pettitt at Fiona@cellet.co.uk.

What's on

Snape Proms, Snape Maltings Concert Hall, Aldeburgh, Suffolk, UK

1 to 31 August 2012

The Snape Proms runs throughout the month of August at Snape Maltings Concert Hall with a different concert each night at 7.30pm.

Performances include jazz, rock, classical, poetry, comedy and folk, and starts on Wednesday 1 August with Ruthie Henshall – singer, actress and TV personality, star of Broadway and the West End.

Visit : www.aldeburgh.co.uk and www.visitsuffolk.com. Contact : Danielle Howard at danielle@junglepr.com.

The Sri Lankan Airlines Golf Classic 2012

9 to 12 August 2012

The Sri Lankan Airlines Golf Classic 2012 is to be held at the Nuwara Eliya Golf Club.

Built in 1889 the 18 hole course is the second oldest in Sri Lanka and sits in a valley 6233 feet above sea level in the central hills of Sri Lanka's tea country.

Nuwara Eliya was funded by Samuel Baker during the British Colonial era and is known as 'Little England' with many of the buildings still retaining colonial features. Being at a high altitude gives it a mean annual temperature of 12-16 degrees Celsius in contrast to the 26-30 degrees Celsius at Reef Villa & Spa on the coast.

Accommodation for the tournament can be at the Reef Villa and Spa, a luxury boutique hotel set in acres of tropical gardens with palm fringed pavilions and reflection pools.

Visit : www.reefvilla.com. Contact : Bernadette Barker at bernadette@reefvilla.com.

One Of These Days, Blackpool, UK

8 and 9 December 2012

One Of These Days at Blackpool Winter Gardens will provide a showcase for a number of other international festivals including Field Day, the Oya Festival, Melt!, Kendal Calling and the Glastonbury Dance Village.

Visit : www.oneofthesedaysfestival.com. Contact Georgia at georgia@thezeitgeistagency.com.

Miami Spice

1 August to 30 September 2012

The 11th Annual Miami Spice Restaurant Programme has discounted three-course lunch and dinner menus in restaurants throughout the Greater Miami area.

The expanded format of Miami Spice: presented by American Express and sponsored by Stella Artois and BACARDI® rum will consist of a two restaurant groups: Luxury Restaurants and Fine Dining Restaurants.

Luxury restaurants will offer three course prix-fixe lunches at \$23 per person, dinners at \$39.

Fine dining restaurants will feature menus at \$19 for lunch, \$33 for dinner. All Miami Spice menus include an appetizer, entrée and dessert as part of the fixed price, which excludes tax and gratuities.

Visit : www.iLoveMiamiSpice.com and www.MiamiAndBeaches.com. Contact : Edith Meyer at edith@firstpr.co.uk.

UK Pride celebrations

Manchester Pride

17 – 27 August

Manchester has a thriving LGBT scene, centred around 'The Gay Village' in Canal Street.

The Village has a collection of gay bars, most of them are straight-friendly and the popularity of the area with heterosexuals underlines the welcoming open-minded attitude.

The New Union Hotel & Show Bar, built in 1865, was one of the first gay establishments in Manchester and has been a gay venue ever since.

Visit : www.manchesterpride.com. Contact : Mark McCulloch : Mark.McCulloch@visitengland.org.

Pride Brighton & Hove Celebrates 20 Years

1 September 2012

Brighton is celebrating 20 years of everything lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender in a week-long extravaganza of events and parties.

Since 1992 Brighton Pride has evolved into one of the biggest Pride festival in the UK with the resort being known as the Gay Capital of Europe.

Brighton Pride culminates in a carnival parade and party in Preston Park.

Visit : www.Brightonpride.org. Contact : info@onlyinbrighton.co.uk.

Rutland Food Festival, Rutland Water UK

Saturday 15 September 2012

A celebration of all the food and drink on offer in and around Rutland. From small family run farm shops to traditional bakeries and award winning butchers, there is something for all tastes in England's smallest county.

Come and sample thirst quenching ciders and beers, nibble on pork pies and cheeses and savour organic freshly cooked sausages and Dexter old spot burgers. Rutland Day is on the same site as the Food Festival, and has a line-up of live music.

Visit : www.discover-rutland.co.uk. Contact : Mary Copley at mcopley@rutland.gov.uk.

Reasons to write about

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

Thirty years of Graceland, Memphis

Elvis Presley's Graceland mansion in Memphis, Tennessee first opened its doors to the public in 1992.

It is now the second most visited building in American - after the White House! The busiest time of the year is August, during the annual commemoration of Elvis' death.

August 2012 marks the 35th anniversary of the death of the King of Rock'n'Roll, when Graceland expects to greet its 18th million visitor! Built by a Memphis chiropractor for his wife in 1939, and named after her aunt Grace, Elvis bought the property in March 1957 and it remained his home until his untimely death aged only 42 in 1977.

Graceland has a host of Elvis memorabilia, including stage suits, gold records and private jets. Among the first visitors to Graceland was Paul Simon, who used the home as the inspiration for what he called the best song he'd ever written....'Graceland'.

Visit : www.elvis.com/grace and www.eep-south-USA.com. Contact : Info@deep-south-usa.com.

Orienteering in the Dolomites

The Dolomites, declared a UNESCO world heritage site, are the backdrop to Alta Badia's second orienteering competition between 14 and 16 September. 2012.

The Dolomites are a mountain range located in north-eastern Italy.

The contest is organised by the Alta Badia Tourist Board, as part of the "Trofeo delle Regioni 2012" (Regional Trophy).

Orienteering, in Italy also called "the woodland sport", is a sport that uses special maps with conventional signs that are the same all over the world.

It is a time trial in which competitors, aided by a detailed map and compass, must reach the finish line as fast as possible, by passing through a series of check points. You can compete individually or as a team, passing through the various check points in the area.

During the summer there are orienteering courses for tourists that aim to offer information and allow lovers of the Dolomites to enjoy orienteering.

Visit : www.altabadia.org and www.altabadiaorienteering.com. Contact : Maria Cristina Caccia at mariacristina.caccia@mentalitasportiva.it and Nicole Dorigo at press@altabadia.org.

Longleat Safari & Adventure Park, Wiltshire, UK

Longleat Safari & Adventure Park has been voted the UK's best animal or sea life attraction at the 2012 Group Travel Awards.

Also short listed were Chester Zoo, London Aquarium, Whipsnade Zoo and Woburn Safari Park.

Over the past 18 months Longleat has embarked on an ongoing programme of investment and acquisition.

The Bishopstrow House and Spa Hotel in Warminster and Homewood Park Hotel & Spa in Hinton Charterhouse have been aquired.

At the park itself, the Cheetah Kingdom, is a new giraffe feeding platform, and there is a major new lakeside gorilla enclosure and a walkthrough lemur exhibit.

Longleat Safari & Adventure Park is set within 900 acres of 'Capability' Brown landscaped grounds in Warminster, Wiltshire UK.

Visit www.longleat.co.uk and www.longleathotels.co.uk. Contact : Florence Wallace at flo.wallace@longleat.co.uk.

The Cancun Underwater Museum

The Cancun Underwater Museum, located in the waters of the Manchones Natural Park (between Cancun and Isla Mujeres), is undertaking the third phase of its development with the introduction of approximately 60 new sculptures by British artist Jason de Caires Taylor.

Since 2010, sculptures have been sunk to the bottom of the ocean in two phases and marine life has slowly moved into the museum area.

Cancun is located in the northern part of the southeastern Mexican state of Quintana Roo.

The most popular tourism destination in Mexico and Latin America has added to its sun, beach, and nightlife, by creating a five-day route that will offer visitors a chance to experience adventure and interaction with nature.

Visit : www.cancun.travel. Amy Scott at amy@axistravelmarketing.com.

Texas

The Aquatica, SeaWorld, San Antonio

The Aquatica at SeaWorld in San Antonio has opened giving visitors up-close experience with marine animals.

Visit : www.seaworldparks.com/seaworld-sanantonio/Aquatica-San-Antonio.

Six Flags Fiesta Texas, San Antonio

Six Flags Fiesta Texas in San Antonio will introduce Sky Screamer this summer.

The ride will spin thrill seekers 200 feet in the air and once at full swing, it will soar them in a 98-foot circle at speeds up to 40mph.

www.sixflags.com/fiestatexas.

The Historic Pleasure Pier on Galveston Island

The Historic Pleasure Pier theme park on Galveston Island has opened.

The park is based on the original Pleasure Pier that was built on the island in the 1940s, and will offer 16 rides, a full-service restaurant, midway games, shopping and live entertainment.

Visit : www.pleasure-pier.com.

The Schlitterbahn Beach Resort

The Schlitterbahn Beach Resort will open this summer in South Padre Island, with the new 221-room resort will featuring family suites, a variety of shops and restaurants and unlimited access to the indoor and outdoor waterparks.

Visit : www.schlitterbahn.com/spi.

Visit : www.traveltex.com. Contact : Natalie Schofield at natalies@hillsbalfour.com.

Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk

Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk is promoting itself as a UK short break destination.

The city has St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Britain's smallest pub, the UK's only surviving Regency Playhouse and one of the largest breweries in the country.

The town is home to one of the most important monasteries of medieval Europe and Suffolk's only cathedral.

To visit

- St Edmundsbury Cathedral : www.stedscathedral.co.uk
- Abbey Gardens : www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/sebc/play/abbeygardens
- St Mary's Church : www.buryparishchurch.com
- Bury Theatre Royal : www.theatreroyal.org
- Ickworth House : www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ickworth
- Greene King Brewery Tours and Museum : www.greeneking.co.uk
- The Nutshell : www.thenutshellpub.co.uk
- The arc : www.arc-burystedmunds.com

To stay :

- The Angel Hotel : www.theangel.co.uk
- The Fox Inn : www.thefoxinnbury.co.uk
- The Ickworth Hotel : www.theickworthhotel.co.uk
- The Old Cannon Brewery : www.oldcannonbrewery.co.uk

Visit : www.visitsuffolk.com. Contact : Danielle Howard at danielle@junglepr.com.

The coastal Algarve, Portugal

The Algarve's 200km coastline offers warm waters, history, culture, gastronomy and nature.

The Western Algarve, known locally as the Barlavento region, is characterised by cliffs with a honeycomb network of caves and rocks carved by the sea.

The Eastern Algarve, also known as the Sotavento region, is made up of vast expanses of sandy beach, interrupted only by the Formosa Estuary.

From water sports to wildlife to seafood festivals, locals and visitors alike can find a number of ways to experience and appreciate the region's coast.

The region has 74 beaches awarded with Blue Flag status and there is, on average, 300 days of sunshine a year.

More than 70% of the coast is protected nature reserves and the waters of the region's Natural Parks provide a haven for a variety of wildlife.

The Ria Formosa Natural Park is Portugal's largest protected coastal zone covering over 18,000 hectares and is comprised of sand dunes, marsh lands, lagoons and fresh water lakes.

The barrier islands of the Formosa Estuary have white sand divided by natural inlets.

The historical significance of the Algarve's coast is prominent in the town of Sagres, where Infante D. Henrique (Henry the Navigator) founded a school of navigation during the 15th century instigating an international wave of maritime exploration.

Visit: www.visitalgarve.pt and www.algarvepromotion.pt. Contact : Daniela at danielar@hillsbalfour.com.

Mount Nelson's Planet Restaurant, Cape Town

Planet Restaurant at the Orient-Express' Mount Nelson Hotel in Cape Town has set up an extensive vegetable farm intended to provide the kitchen with over 40% of its vegetable ingredients.

The farm, located nearby in South Africa's wine region of Stellenbosch, will produce organic and sustainable vegetables.

Planet Restaurant will reflect what is grown in the garden, combining beetroot, carrots, cauliflower, peas, chard, leeks and broccoli in the winter and pumpkins, tomatoes, peppers, baby marrow, strawberry's, butternut squash and button squash in the summer.

Mount Nelson will use vermiculture from the hotel's own worm farm as compost for the organic farm at Stellenbosch.

The Mount Nelson is also in the process of setting up its own free range guinea fowl supply that will be located near the vegetable farm at Stellenbosch, joining the pasture reared chickens and eggs and grass fed lamb that is already served in the restaurant.

Visit : www.mountnelson.co.za. Contact : Sara Mirza at sara.mirza@orient-express.com.

A place to stay

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

Glandyfi Castle, Wales

Restored Welsh Castle, a Grade 2 listed Regency gothic revival castle with views of the Dyfi estuary and the mountains of Snowdonia is now open as a luxury boutique guesthouse.

Sited high above the road between the market town of Machynlleth and the university seaside resort of Aberystwyth, the castle, which was built in 1810, stands within 45 acres of meadowland, ancient woodland and formal gardens.

The castle is located close to the RSPB reserve at Ynys Hir.

Contact : Duncan Foulkes at duncan.foulkes@btinternet.com.

Centara Hotels & Resorts, Sri Lanka

Centara Hotels & Resorts is to open its first two properties in Sri Lanka during the second half of 2012.

The Centara Passikudah Resort & Spa Sri Lanka and the Centara Ceysands Resort & Spa will both be four star properties.

Visit : www.avenuesales.co.uk. Contact : Gill Warren at gillyw@avenuesales.co.uk.

The Seaside Los Jameos Playa, Lanzarote

The Seaside Los Jameos Playa hotel has some of the best tennis facilities on the island.

The hotel has four professional standard tennis courts with tennis facilities operated by Peter Burwash International Tennis School, which also offers tennis camp weeks.

Visit www.seaside-hotels.com. Contact : contact Kylie Jenkins at kylie@goshpr.co.uk.

Hotels in Utah

The Amangiri

The Amangiri, located in Canyon Point, was designed to blend into its desert surroundings and overlooks the Grand Staircase. The Zion National Park and Bryce Canyon are easily accessible from the hotel.

Visit : www.amanresorts.com/amangiri/home.aspx

Sorrell River Ranch Hotel and Spa

Visitors to Moab can stay in Sorrell River Ranch Hotel and Spa Resort, on the banks of the Colorado River. The resort offers accommodation in rustic Western cabins.

Visit : www.sorrelriver.com.

The Inn at Entrada

The Inn at Entrada, which is set against the red rocky cliffs of St. George, is an hour and a half from Las Vegas and offers golfing packages and has an 18-hole course available exclusively for guests.

Visit : www.innatentrada.com/index.php.

The Red Mountain Resort

The Red Mountain Resort, also in St. George, offers black lava hikes in Snow Canyon.

Visit : www.redmountainresort.com.

The Sundance Resort, in Sundance, famously owned by Robert Redford, is an alpine eco-resort offering summer actors, authors, film and arts workshops and live music performances.

Visit : www.sundanceresort.com.

The Grand America Hotel

Visitors to Salt Lake City can stay in opulence at The Grand America Hotel, the only AAA Five Diamond hotel in Salt Lake City. It was built for the 2002 Winter Olympics.

Visit : www.grandamerica.com.

The Montage Deer Valley

The Montage Deer Valley is a relaxing mountain getaway located 40 minutes from Salt Lake City International Airport.

www.montagedeervalley.com

Stein Eriksen Lodge, Deer Valley Resort

Located mid-mountain at Deer Valley Resort, Stein Eriksen Lodge is Utah's only Forbes Five Star, AAA Five Diamond hotel.

Visit : www.steinlodge.com/lodge.

The Waldorf Astoria Park City

The Waldorf Astoria Park City, located on the mountains of The Canyons is situated in one of North America's largest ski resorts and offers a variety of winter and summer activities.

Visit : www.parkcitywaldorfastoria.com.

Visit www.goutah.co.uk. Contact : Caroline Corfield-Rose at Caroline@corecommunications.co.uk.

The Rosewood Beijing

The Rosewood Beijing will open Summer 2013, as the first China property for Rosewood Hotels & Resorts, in the central business Chaoyang District, opposite the iconic CCTV Tower.

The hotel will offer more landscaped outdoor space than any other Beijing luxury hotel, with terraces, gardens and balconies integrated into the design of many of the restaurants, spa, recreational facilities, meeting and function areas.

Visit www.rosewoodhotels.com. Contact : Maggie Leung at maggie.leung@newworldhospitality.com.

The Savute Elephant Camp and Khwai River Lodge, Botswana

The Savute Elephant Camp and Khwai River Lodge in Northern Botswana has introduced sliding glass doors to its thatched tented residences, making it even easier to spot the abundant wildlife that roams nearby.

The Savute Elephant Camp in the heart of Chobe National Park and Khwai River Lodge in the Moremi Reserve, feature 12 and 15 tented residences respectively. The Savute Elephant Camp offers viewing of elephants, prides of lions, leopards and exotic birds. Khwai River Lodge attracts cheetah, lions, leopards and raptors.

Visit www.orient-express.com. Contact Sara Mirza at sara.mirza@orient-express.com.

The Rome Cavalieri

The Rome Cavalieri is inviting guests to see a side of the city off the tourist trail through a series of private tours including :

Vroom Vroom on a Vintage Vespa

Just like Princess Anne, played by Audrey Hepburn in Roman Holiday, guests can take a tour of the metropolis on a vintage Vespa.

This fully guided, three hour tour leaves at dusk and takes guests to some of Rome's most famous sights providing magical views along the way as the sky falls dark.

The Tour of Trastevere

Would-be art critics and historians can opt for the Tour of Trastevere, hosted by an art historian who will lead guests to the undergrounds of San Crisogono church.

Here, they will discover the medieval frescoes in the Convent of Santa Cecilia and take a unique visit to the 17th century Farmacia di Santa Maria della Scala and the beautiful cloister of San Giovanni.

Baroque Fantasy

The Eternal City's architectural delights are highlighted on this three hour city tour that takes in the Bernini-inspired Trevi Fountain, the Spanish Steps, the Piazza Colonna and Palazzo Chigi to name a few, finally ending up at the most beautiful square in the city, Bernini's Fountain of Four Rivers.

For guests travelling with children, the Rome Cavalieri also offers educational tours.

Visit www.romecavalieri.com. Contact : Lucia Roberts at lucia@grifcopr.com.

The Palacio Nazarenas, Cuzco, Peru

Orient-Express has opened the Palacio Nazarenas as the latest addition to its portfolio of hotels and trains in Peru.

It is an all-suite boutique hotel located in a former 16th century convent in Cuzco, capital to the ancient Inca empire.

During the restoration process, architects and archaeologists uncovered a host of Inca treasures, (including an original Inca sandal) which are being showcased throughout the hotel.

The Library will serve as a museum for all the artefacts discovered over the course of the four year project, and each day a 'Chit Chat' session will be held where an expert shaman, sommelier, or historian will speak to guests about the history, art, and culture of Cuzco.

Original Inca walls that were discovered have been carefully preserved beneath the glass floors of treatment rooms at the Hypnôze spa, and the murals and friezes on the walls of Palacio Nazarenas are rare survivors among the artworks from Cuzco's Spanish colonial heyday.

Taking six months to restore, the largest mural is that of Senor de Huanca, which was painted on the wall of a cell following a vision of Christ experienced by a nun during the days when Palacio Nazarenas was a Carmelite convent.

Visit www.palacionazarenas.com. Contact : Sara Mirza at sara.mirza@orient-express.com.

Kulm Hotel St. Moritz

Kulm Hotel St. Moritz, the first hotel to be built in St Moritz, opened in 1856 and became popular for summer spa and painting holidays.

The owner of the Kulm Hotel, Johannes Badrutt, initiated winter holidays to St Moritz from 1864. The hotel, which is located at the heart of St Moritz with views over the Lake, is a member of The Leading Hotels of the World.

The Festival da Jazz, which is one of the recognised highlights of the jazz circuit, runs in St Moritz from 13 July to 13 August, with performances held in the Dracula Club, which sits in the grounds of the Kulm Hotel.

Visit : www.kulmhotel-stmoritz.ch and www.festivaldajazz.ch. Contact : Sue Heady at sue@headycommunications.com.

Tune Hotel Asoke, Bangkok

Following the openings of properties in Hat Yai and Pattaya, Thailand, Tune Hotels is to open Tune Hotel Asoke, Bangkok in October 2012.

It will be located on Sukhumvit Road, one of Bangkok's most important business and tourism arteries.

Visit www.tunehotels.com. Contact : Amanda Chong at amanda.chong@tunehotels.com.

The Park Grand London Heathrow

The Park Grand London Heathrow is the latest hotel to open in the vicinity of Heathrow Airport.

The hotel is suited for business and leisure travellers stopping over for connecting flights, early or late departure and conveniently located for meetings and conferences.

It is Situated between the airport terminals and easy rail links into central London.

The Park Grand London Heathrow is sister hotel to the Park Grand London Paddington.

Visit : www.parkgrandheathrow.co.uk. Contact : Lysbeth at lysbeth@foxpr.co.uk.

B Hotels & Resorts, Miami

After unveiling its brand concept in September 2010 and opening its first property in January 2011, B Hotels & Resorts will be adding two more hotels to its portfolio.

The Continental Oceanfront South Beach Hotel, Miami

The 250-room Continental Oceanfront South Beach Hotel is located at 18th Street and Collins Avenue, directly on the beach in the Historic Art Deco District.

Within walking distance to many of the city's points of interest, the property will go through a renovation and repositioning phase but will remain open and will be launched as a family resort.

The other b2 hotel property will open in downtown Miami in 2013 at the site of the former Continental Bayside hotel on Biscayne Blvd.

The property will be steps away from PortMiami, shops and restaurants.

Visit www.BHotelsandresorts.com. Contact : Edith Meyer at edith@firstpr.co.uk.

Section two : ongoing opportunities

Alerts

Ongoing independent press trip opportunities for Alliance members

- **Visit Dublin** offers Alliance members visiting on-assignment a Media Pass (the Dublin Pass), which provides free entry to 34 visitor attractions in Dublin. Visit : www.visitdublin.com and www.dublinpass.com. Contact : Catherine McCluskey at Catherine.mccluskey@failteireland.ie.
- **DoubleTree by Hilton Golf Resort San Diego** will consider press review visits by Alliance members. Visit : www.SanDiegoGolfResort.DoubleTree.com. Contact : Patrick Lennon at mail@patricklennon.com.
- **Aspects Holidays**, one of Cornwall's leading self catering holiday specialists will be delighted to consider providing accommodation to Alliance members. Visit : www.aspects-holidays.co.uk. Contact : Karen Baker at Karen@mercury-pr.co.uk.
- **The Isles of Scilly, UK** will be pleased to consider press trips for Alliance members. Visit : www.simplyscilly.co.uk. Contact Karen Baker at Karen@mercury-pr.co.uk.
- **Hidden Pousadas Brazil**, which offers independent travellers with a one-stop collection of uniquely places to stay, will offer accommodation to Alliance members out of high season. Visit : www.hiddenpousadasbrazil.com. Contact : Fola Odumosu at folat@hiddenpousadasbrazil.com.
- **Adventure Cat Sailing, San Francisco Bay**, will be delighted to 'comp' Alliance travel writers. Visit : www.adventurecat.com. Contact : Sharon Schrum at sharon@adventurecat.com.
- **BusyBus, Liverpool & Chester – UK** a sightseeing tour operator will be delighted to host Alliance members and journalists (with a guest) on a review basis. Visit: www.busybus.co.uk . Contact : Vera de Ruiten: vera@busybus.co.uk.
- **Visit Orlando** offers Alliance members visiting on-assignment a complimentary Journalist VIP Passport. Visit : www.VisitOrlando.com/media. Contact : Amy Rodenbrock at amy.rodenbrock@visitorlando.com.
- **La Residencia, Mallorca** will be delighted to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members on assignment. Visit : www.laresidencia.com. Contact : Louise Davis at louise.davis@laresidencia.com.
- **The Broadway Collection New York**, a group of 17 new and classic Broadway musicals, will be delighted to host Alliance members with a commission. Visit www.broadwaycollection.com Contact: Della Tully at Della.Tully@btinternet.com
- **Luxe PR**, a specialist agency representing 2,000 hotel guestrooms in London and across England will be delighted to host Alliance members for a review stay in one of its central London hotels, or its country house hotels based in Derbyshire, Yorkshire and the Cotswolds. Visit : www.luxepr.com. Contact : Tamsin Cocks at tamsin@luxepr.com.
- **The Marriott Paris Champs-Elysees**, which is the only five-star hotel on the Champs-Elysees, will be happy to offer accommodation to Alliance members who are in the city on an assignment. Visit : www.parismarriott.com. Contact Bernice Saltzer at bernice@sortedpr.com.
- **Bath Tourism Plus** will host press visits to the Georgian and UNESCO World Heritage city of Bath. Visit : www.visitbath.co.uk. Contact : Lucy Ryder at lucy_ryder@bathtourism.co.uk.

- **City Running Tours-Chicago** will be delighted to give free 5k running or walking tours to Alliance members. Visit : www.cityrunningtours.com/chicago. Contact : Marlin Keesler at marlin@cityrunningtours.com.
- **The Cyprus Tourism Organisation** will host group and individual trips for Alliance members with a commission. Visit : www.visitcyprus.com. Contact : June Field at june.field@kallaway.com.
- **theExplorateur** reviews of hotels, shops, restaurants and travel-related products around the world. Visit : www.theExplorateur.com. For press trips to review any of theExplorateur properties contact Gabriella Ribeiro Truman at gabriella@trumarketing.com.
- **Three Nelson Hotels in Cheshire**: The Grosvenor Pulford Hotel & Spa (www.grosvenorpulfordhotel.co.uk), The Pheasant Inn (www.thepheasantinn.co.uk) and The Bear's Paw (www.thebearspaw.co.uk) will be happy to accommodate Alliance members with a commission. Contact : Karen Floyd at karen.floyd@symmetrypr.com.
- **Great Hotels of the World**, representing over 200 of the world's finest hotels and resorts would be pleased to consider offering press trip accommodation to alliance members. Visit www.ghotw.com. Contact: Brooke Jester at bjester@ghotw.com.
- **The Cranley and The Royal Park** two London luxury, boutique townhouse hotels will be pleased to consider providing accommodation to Alliance members on commission. Visit www.thecranley.com or www.theroyalpark.com. Contact : Li Boatwright at li@storringtoncommunications.com.
- **Mead Brown**, a vacation rental company in Costa Rica, is happy to host writers on assignment. Visit : www.meadbrown.com. Contact : Michael Brown at michael@meadbrown.com.
- **LocalGuiding.com** – Personal tours by local guides, will be pleased to offer tours around the world to Alliance members. Visit: www.LocalGuiding.com. Contact: Robert Blessing at rb@localguiding.com.
- **Shakespeare Country**, UK will host Alliance members and their family for one or two nights with passes to visit the attractions and tickets to the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, subject to availability. Visit : www.Shakespeare-Country.co.uk. Contact : Tanya Aspinall at tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk.
- **Mallorca Hotels: Hotel Bon Sol Resort & Spa, Hotel Tres and Hotel Dalt Murada, and Hotel Mar i Vent, Mallorca** will be pleased to offer accommodation to Alliance members with a commission. Visit : www.hotelbonsol.es, www.hoteltres.com, www.daltmurada.com and www.hotelmarivent.com. Contact Cathryn Hicks at cathryn@douggoodmanpr.com
- **Atholl Estates, Perthshire, Scotland** will be delighted to host Alliance members. The country estate has historic lodges, modern woodland lodges and a 5-star holiday park. Onsite activities include a pony trekking centre, land rover safaris, stunning gardens/wildlife and the historic Blair Castle. Visit: www.atholl-estates.co.uk. Contact: Lee MacGregor at lee@leemacgregorpr.com.
- **The five-star Arlberg Hospiz Hotel and its sister four-star Goldener Berg in St. Christoph am Arlberg, Austria** has the 600 year old wine cellar of the Brotherhood of St. Christoph. Visit : www.hospiz.com. Contact Karen Luard at kp@kpccommunications.co.uk
- **The Villa Pambuffetti in Montefalco, Umbria, Italy** will be pleased to offer accommodation to Alliance members. Visit : www.villapambuffetti.com. Contact Alessandra Pambuffetti at info@villapambuffetti.com.
- **Eustatia Island, British Virgin Islands** an extraordinary 26-acre, low impact, private island estate will be happy to host press visits for Alliance members with an appropriate commission. Visit : www.eustatia.com. Contact: Alastair Abrehart, alastair@broadswordpr.com.

- **Africa Safari Holidays** will be happy to offer any press trip services to professional travel journalist to East Africa. Visit : www.africasafariholidays.net. Contact : Agnes Njagi at info@africasafariholidays.net.
- **Reykjavik Bike Tours** provide press tours of Iceland's capital for Alliance members. Visit : www.icelandbike.com. Contact : Stefan Helgi Valsson at valsson@centrum.is.
- **Champagne-Ardenne Tourisme**, four French departments boasting historic sites and chateaux, walking and cycling routes, a variety of sports, superb natural scenery and Champagne will be pleased to consider press visits for Alliance members. Visit : www.tourisme-champagne-ardenne.com. Contact: Doug Goodman at doug@douggoodmanpr.com.
- **Red Mangrove Galapagos Lodges** offers a land-based alternative to exploring the Galapagos that until now was a cruise-only destination. Visit : www.redmangrove.com. Contact : Dave Wiggins dave@travelnewssource.com
- **Midlethorpe Hall & Spa**, Yorkshire, UK will be delighted to offer DB&B and use of the Spa to Alliance members. Visit : www.middlethorpe.com. Contact Daisy Parker at daisy@iscott.co.uk.
- **Swaziland and Malawi** : Geo Group will be delighted to consider press trips to either Swaziland or Malawi for Alliance members with suitable commissions. Visit : www.welcometoswaziland.com and www.malawitourism.com. Contact: Kelly White at tourism@geo-group.co.uk.
- **Holidaylettings**, which offers a selection of chalets and apartments around the world will consider arranging accommodation at its listed properties. Visit : www.holidaylettings.co.uk. Contact : Kate Stinchcombe-Gillies at kate@holidaylettings.co.uk.
- **Malta** will be happy to consider for press trips for Alliance members. Visit : www.visitmalta.com. Contact : Anne Kapranos at Anne@essence-communications.com.
- **Peckforton Castle, Cheshire UK** a grade I listed building, built in the 1840s in the style of a medieval castle will be delighted to host Alliance members on a review basis. Visit : www.peckfortoncastle.co.uk. Contact : Karen Floyd at karen.floyd@symmetrypr.com.
- **Tongabezi Lodge**, which is upstream from Victoria Falls, and the new eco-friendly Sindabezi Island are located on the Zambezi River in Zambia. Tongabezi would be delighted to consider press visits to their properties to Alliance members with a commission. Visit : www.tongabezi.com. Contact Honour Schram de Jong at honour@honourway.com.
- **Ker & Downey Botswana**, located in the heart of the Okavango Delta and Moremi Game Reserve, will be pleased to consider press visits to Alliance members with a commission. Visit : www.kerdowneybotswana.com. Contact : Honour Schram de Jong at honour@honourway.com.
- **Adventure Life**, which provides small group tours to Central and South America that have a positive impact on the local culture and environment, will consider press trip requests. Visit : www.adventure-life.com. Contact : Adam York at adam@sublimepub.com.
- **Migis Lodge on the shores of Maine's Sebago Lake** invites travel journalists to experience Maine Lakeside Luxury. Visit : www.migis.com. Contact : Susan Soltero at ssoltero@cmcommunications.com.
- **The George Hotel, Edinburgh, Scotland** will be delighted to host Alliance members with a commission. Visit : www.principal-hayley.com/venues-and-hotels/the-george-hotel. Contact : Megan Davidson at megan@crimsonedge.co.uk.
- **The Peace and Plenty, Bahamas** will be delighted to provide accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: www.peaceandplenty.com. Contact: Hazel Heyer at hazel_heyer@hotmail.com.

- **The Grand Hyatt San Antonio, Texas** is a 1003-room, 37-storey luxury hotel, which has just opened in the bustling heart of the Alamo City. The Grand Hyatt San Antonio, Texas will be happy to consider providing accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: www.hyatt.com. Contact: Alison Wood at Alison@grifcopr.com.
- **Ranch Rider** stays are steeped in tradition, allowing travellers to sample an authentic western experience. Ranch Rider will be pleased to consider press trip facilities to Alliance members. Visit: www.ranchrider.com. Contact: Siobhan at siobhan@tionlondon.co.uk.
- **Lower Zambezi, Zambia** : Sausage Tree Camp located within the heart of the Lower Zambezi National Park in Zambia will be pleased to consider press visits to Alliance members with a commission. Visit : www.honourway.com. Contact : Honour Schram de Jong at honour@honourway.com.
- **Wiltshire**, located in the heart of the south-west of England has a number of high quality luxury hotels and a whole host of unique attractions. Visit : www.visitwiltshire.co.uk. Contact : Samantha Marsh: samantha@infinitypublicrelations.co.uk.
- **Knockomie Hotel, Forres, Scotland**, will be delighted to consider press trips from Alliance members for a 2-night stay in one of their 15 individually-themed rooms and dinner on one of the nights in their recently refurbished restaurant, The Grill. Visit: www.knockomie.co.uk. Contact: Lee MacGregor at lee@leemacgregorpr.com.
- **South Lakeland Parks** is the north-west UK's leading holiday park operator featuring nine sites within Morecambe Bay, Ribble Valley and Lake District. Visit : www.southlakelandparks.co.uk. Contact : Samantha Marsh: samantha@infinitypublicrelations.co.uk
- **Cumbria Tourism**, the tourism body for Cumbria, UK incorporating the Lake District will be delighted to let Alliance members sample its delights from the great outdoors and exciting attractions to stylish hotels and high quality restaurants. Visit : www.golakes.co.uk.
- **South Luangwa, Zambia** : The Luangwa Valley has long been regarded as one of Africa's finest wildlife destinations. Their portfolio includes Kapani Lodge and Kakuli, Luwi, Nsolo and Mchenja Camps. Norman Carr Safaris would be delighted to consider press visits to their properties to Alliance members with a commission. Visit : www.honourway.com. Contact : Honour Schram de Jong at honour@honourway.com.
- **New York Circle Line Sightseeing Cruises** will be delighted to host Alliance members with a commission. Visit: www.circleline42.com Contact: Lisa Chamberlain at lisa.chamberlain@btinternet.com
- **The Haweswater Hotel**, a new art-deco hotel located next to the secluded Haweswater Reservoir, Cumbria, UK, will be happy to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members. Visit : www.haweswaterhotel.com. Contact : Samantha Marsh: samantha@infinitypublicrelations.co.uk
- **Premier Cottages** has a range of stunning four and five star self-catering holiday cottages throughout the UK, Channel Islands and Ireland. Visit : www.premiercottages.co.uk. Contact : Liz Blakeborough at liz@blakeborough.com.
- **St Mary's Hall Hotel**, the Isles of Scilly is happy to provide press trip opportunities to Alliance members. Visit : www.stmaryshallhotel.co.uk. Contact : Karen Baker at karen@mercury-pr.co.uk
- **Woodovis Park**, the independently run holiday park on the edge of Dartmoor, Devon UK invites Alliance members to review. Visit : www.woodovis.com. Contact : Samantha Kirton at samantha@independentpr.co.uk

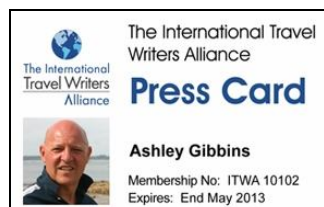
- **1066 Country** which comprises the area of Battle, Bexhill, Hastings, Herstmonceux, Pevensey and Rye in East Sussex, UK. Visit : www.visit1066ocountry.com. Contact : Jane Ellis at jjmellis@hastings.gov.uk.
- **The Wineport Lodge, Glasson County Westmeath, Ireland** is happy to arrange press Alliance Members and can provide a range of story ideas related to food, wine, romance, weddings/honeymoons and spa escapes. Visit : www.wineport.ie. Contact: Nina Zapala at zapala@fzkllc.com.
- **The Inn on Fifth**, a luxurious, 87-room boutique hotel located in the heart of downtown Naples in Southwest Florida will be delighted to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members. Visit www.innonfifth.com. Contact : Kelly Grass Prieto at kelly@hayworthcreative.com.
- **base2stay Liverpool** will be delighted to offer accommodation for Alliance members able to review the hotel. Visit : www.base2stay.com/press_page/Liverpool.html. Contact : Jon Brown at brown@paversmith.co.uk.
- **Visit Chester and Cheshire and Visit Lincoln and Lincolnshire** will be delighted to host Alliance members with a commission. Visit : www.visitchester.com and www.lincoln.gov.uk. Contact : Oliver Bennett at oliverbennett@blueyonder.co.uk.
- **Swiss-Belhotel International**, manages hotels, resorts and residences throughout the Asia Pacific, Southeast Asia, China and The Middle East regions. Visit : www.swiss-belhotel.com. Contact : Ayla Hass at aylahaas@swiss-belhotel.com.
- **Pembrokeshire, South West Wales** will be delighted to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members with a commission. Visit: www.pembrokeshire.com. Contact: Pat Edgar PRMatters@dsl.pipex.com
- **The Rutland Hotel, Edinburgh**, will be delighted to invite Alliance members to review this boutique hotel. Visit www.therutlandhotel.com. Contact Yvonne or Fiona at info@nicheworks.co.uk.
- **The Galapagos Islands** : Quasar Expeditions would like to invite Alliance members to cover trips aboard the M/Y Grace, its vintage yacht in the Galapagos Islands. Visit : www.galapagosexpeditions.com/gracepresskit.php. Contact : Paul Schicke at paul@quasarex.com.
- **Focus Hotels** invite Alliance members to review their three and four-star properties located in key destinations across the UK. Visit : www.focushotels.co.uk. Contact : Nat Frogley at nat@bacall.net.
- **The 5* Blythswood Square Hotel**, Glasgow, formerly headquarters to the Royal Scottish Automobile Club, has been redeveloped by the Town House Collection Visit www.blythswoodsquare.com or www.thetownhousecollection.com. Contact: Jo Murphy at Jo@thespaprcompany.com.
- **The Inn at Lathones**, Scotland's only 4 star inn, is delighted to consider press trips from Alliance members. The 17th-century listed building near St Andrews is one of Scotland's oldest coaching inns and boasts 21 recently refurbished external rooms/suites, an award-winning restaurant, an intimate stone-walled bar and converted stables that host regular music events. For more information visit: www.theinn.co.uk Contact: Lee MacGregor at lee@leemacgregorpr.com
- **Cornwall Cottages** will be delighted to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: www.cornwallscottages.co.uk. Contact: Sue Bradbury at jess@suebradburypr.com.
- **Hartland Peninsula Arts**, which runs landscape painting courses on the North Devon coast will be pleased to offer courses to Alliance members. Visit : www.landscapepaintingholidays.co.uk. Contact: Karen Outred at ko@freelancepr.fsnet.co.uk.

- **Frontier Travel** organise tailor-made holidays to Canada in both the Summer (www.frontier-canada.co.uk) and the Winter (www.frontier-ski.co.uk). The company will consider offering individuals press trips for Alliance members. Contact: Dave Ashmore at dave@frontier-travel.co.uk.
- **Sail Lofts St Ives**, a group of 12 luxury holiday apartments just metres from Porthmeor Beach, will be pleased to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members with a commission. Visit: www.thesaillofts.co.uk. Contact: Peter Hutchinson at peter@thesaillofts.co.uk.
- **The Alfajiri Villas and Galdessa Camp** would like to invite Alliance members to stay at Alfajiri Villas (www.alfajirivillas.com) or Galdessa Camp (www.galdessa.com). Visit : www.FazendinPortfolio.com. Contact Sarah Fazendin at sarah@fazendinportfolio.com.
- **The Peat Inn and 5-star restaurant** in St.Andrews, Scotland will provide Alliance members able to review the Inn will receive complimentary dinner, bed and breakfast including guest. Visit : <http://www.thepeatinn.co.uk>. Contact : Megan Davidson at megan@crimsonedge.co.uk.
- **The Park Hyatt Istanbul-Maçka Palas, Turkey** will be delighted to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: www.hyatt.com. Kathryn Peel at Kathryn@grifcopr.com.
- **Helpful Holidays, UK** will be delighted to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: www.helpfulholidays.com. Contact: Pat Edgar at PRMatters@dsl.pipex.com.
- **Jet2.com and Jet2holidays.com** will be happy to consider offering flights and holiday opportunities. Contact: www.pressoffice@jet2.com.
- **Wilderness Journeys** will be delighted to consider offering press trip facilities to Alliance members. Visit : www.wildernessjourneys.com. Contact: Stevie Christie at stevie@wildernessjourneys.com.
- **Divi Resorts, the Caribbean** will be happy to consider accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: www.diviresorts.com. Contact: Jacqueline Burton at jburton@fwv-us.com.
- **Charming Hotels Madeira** will be pleased to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: www.charminghotelsmadeira.com. Contact: Antonio Silva at asilva@charminghotelsmadeira.com.
- **Sea Kayak Adventures** explore Baja and Canada's newest marine parks and prolific whale watching destinations by sea kayak with Sea Kayak Adventures. Sea Kayak Adventures will be happy to provide press trip facilities to Alliance members. Visit: www.seakayakadventures.com. Contact: Nancy Mertz at info@seakayakadventures.com.
- **The View Hotel, Monument Valley, Arizona, USA**, which opened in September 2008, is situated on the Navajo Tribal Park, on the border of Arizona and Utah. The View Hotel will be delighted to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: www.MonumentValleyView.com. Contact: jon@monumentvalleyview.com.
- **The Menzies Welcombe Hotel Spa & Golf Club, Stratford-upon-Avon** will be delighted to offer dinner, bed and breakfast at this country house hotel to Alliance members able to review the property. Visit : www.menzieshotels.co.uk. Contact : Tanya Aspinwall at tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk
- **The Peace and Plenty, Bahamas** will be delighted to provide accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: www.peaceandplenty.com. Contact: Hazel Heyer at hazel_heyer@hotmail.com.
- **Ranch Rider** stays are steeped in tradition, allowing travellers to sample an authentic western experience. Ranch Rider will be pleased to consider press trip facilities to Alliance members. Visit: www.ranchrider.com. Contact: Siobhan at siobhan@tionlondon.co.uk

Travel products and services

The International Travel Writers Alliance Press Card

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



Press Card holders will receive :

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

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

Other products and services

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

Airport lounges in London

No.1 Traveller is a London-based company specialising in airport lounges and transfers. It operates lounges at Heathrow Terminal 3, Gatwick North and South Terminals and Stansted.

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

Visit : www.No1Traveller.com. Contact : Charlotte Spencer at Charlotte.Spencer@3-monkeys.co.uk.

Dollar rent a car

Dollar rent a car will be delighted to offer a discount to Alliance members on car rental in the USA in return for a credit. Discounts will be agreed on a case-by-case basis. UK, European and Australian licence holders should contact : Cheryl Richardson at Cheryl.Richardson@DTAG.com.

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

The Dublin pass

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

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

ELITE's luxury car hire

ELITE's luxury car hire is the largest Pan-European operation of its kind with almost 400 exclusive models including Aston Martin, Audi, Bentley, Ferrari, Lamborghini, Maserati, BMW, Mercedes Benz, Porsche and Land Rover.

For travellers who prefer not to drive, ELITE is affiliated to a network of limousines with drivers serving over 600 cities.

Elite is offering Alliance members a 20% discount on car rental throughout its fleet with a complimentary car upgrade.

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

Visit : www.eliterent.com. Contact : Jan Klima at jan.klima@eliterent.com.

Æther mobile

Alliance members can get a 10% discount on aether mobile – the global roaming mobile service, which offers savings on using a mobile phone when abroad.

The service is aimed at leisure and business travellers travelling outside of their home country. Discount is offered on initial SIM+credit orders, plus 10% on all subsequent top ups. All æther mobile SIMs have a UK telephone number; +44 7.

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

The Leisure Pass

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

Alliance members can get review passes for the cities covered.

Visit : www.leisurepassgroup.com. Contact : Katie.wright@sirencomms.com.

CitySightseeing Worldwide

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

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

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

Visit www.city-sightseeing.com and click on the relevant tour page for details and using dedicated code ITWA20.

Free tickets have to be issued by our local operators whose telephone number is on the CitySightseeing website.

Visit : www.city-sightseeing.com.

Travel guides

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

AA Travel Guides

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

Anova Books

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

Berlitz

www.berlitzpublishing.com.

Bradt Travel

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

Brit's Guide

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

Cicerone

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

Eland Publishing

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

Fisher's Travel SOS

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

Global Travel Publishers

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

Globetrotters LogBook

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

Inn House Publishing

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

Insight

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

In your pocket guides

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

Jane's Smart Art Guides

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

Kuperard Publishers

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

Morris Communications

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

Odyssey Books & Guides

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

Oxygen Books city-lit

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

Rough Guides

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

Summersdale travel publications

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

Take two Books

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

Turnleft

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

The International Travel Writers Alliance



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

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