

The Alliance bulletin

Issue 115: May 2012: www.itwalliance.com

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

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



The International Travel Writers Alliance



writersalliance

Registering with the Alliance

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



Opportunities

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

For ongoing opportunities for Alliance members see Alerts (below) or visit :

www.internationaltravelwritersalliance.com

Portillo ski resort, Chile

Alliance members travelling to Chile or Argentina Are invited to spend a couple of nights at the Portillo ski resort for review purposes.

The resort will be opened from 16 June to 6 October 2012.

Visit: www.skiportillo.com. Contact: Martina Diez-Routh at martina@traveltradeuk.com

Enrica Rocca -the Cooking Countess

Enrica Rocca, known as the Cooking Countess, is founder of a cooking school, acclaimed by Gourmet Magazine as one of the top 10 in the world.

Enrica was born into an aristocratic family in Venice and this taught her to appreciate and understand food. Alliance members interested in food are invited to review one of Enrica's cooking lesson, either in London or Rome and at some time in the future in Cape Town.

Contact: Federica Zanda at federicazanda76@gmail.com for more information.

Journeys of Distinction

Journeys of Distinction offers tours across both their Classic and Light range of holidays.

East Coast Splendours

This 12 day tour takes in the sights of the imposing seats of power at Washington DC, the picturesque scenery and almighty force of nature at Niagara Falls, plus the myriad of culture and people in New York City.

There's also the chance to feel the significance of the Gettysburg battlefields where President Lincoln made his famous address during the American civil war.

New England in the Fall

This 13 day tour of New England takes in the splendid locations of Boston, Cape Cod and Vermont.

Highlights of Eastern Canada

This 10 day tour from Journeys of Distinction's new Light range of holidays takes in a selection of iconic experiences from Eastern Canada including Niagara Falls, Toronto and Quebec.

Visit: www.jod.uk.com. Contact: max@brazenpr.com.

Visit: www.jod.com. Alliance members interested in a press trip to the destinations below or any other Journeys of Distinction's tours contact: Max at max@brazenpr.com.



Jonglez Publishing: Secret guides

Jonglez Publishing is expanding its "Secret guides" collection with the publication of Secret New York, Secret London - Unsusual Bars & Restaurants and Secret Milan.

Visit: www.jonglezpublishing.com. Review copies are available from Alexandre Thery at: alexandre@jonglezpublishing.com.

The Skiathos Princess Hotel and the Aegean Suites Hotel, Skiathos, Greece

The Skiathos Princess Hotel and the Aegean Suites Hotel are located on the Greek island of Skiathos, and owned and run by the Santikos family.

Skiathos, a small island in the Aegean Sea has 60 white sandy beaches considered the best in Greece. Neighbouring islands Skopelos and Alonissos making it good for exploring the area by boat.

Skiathos Princess Hotel

The 132 room, 5 star, Skiathos Princess Hotel sits within it's own gardens on a Blue Flag beach in the bay of Aghia Paraskevi. Pierce Brosnan and Colin Firth stayed there when filming Mamma Mia!

Visit: www.skiathosprincessholidays.com.

Aegean Suites Hotel

The Aegean Suites Hotel is located on a hillside in among olive trees on the quiet outskirts of Skiathos town's port. It is an adult only, all-suite hotel overlooking the Aegean Sea.

Sovereign Luxury Travel offers packages to the two hotels. Visit: www.sovereign.com. Alliance members interested in a visit to the Skiathos Princess Hotel or the Aegean Suites Hotel, contact: Kathryn Peel at Kathryn@grifco.co.uk.

Al Fresco parcs

Al Fresco, which offer luxury family friendly parcs in a number of European locations have opened for the season Including :

- Le Brasilia, Languedoc Roussillon, France
- Esterel, Cote d'Azur, France
- Bella Austria, Austria

- Les Alicourts, Loire, France
- Duinrell Parc, Wassenaar, Netherlands
- Douce Quietude, Saint
- Raphaël, France Bella Italia, Lake Garda, Italy, and
- Les Sablons, Languedoc, France

Visit: www.thomsonalfresco.co.uk. For press trips contact : Jess at alfresco@brazenpr.com.

Pierre & Vacances regional discovery days

Self-catering family holiday specialist Pierre & Vacances is looking to encourage visitors to take advantage of the local area with a range of regional discovery excursions for the summer season, with hands-on adventures including learning to make soap in Provence, visiting a dairy to make goats cheese in the Ardeche or helping make honey with a beekeeper in the south of France.

Visit: www.pierreetvacances.co.uk. For press trip requests contact Jenny Groutage at jenny@saltmarshpr.co.uk.



Hilton Maldives Iru Fushi Resort & Spa

The Hilton Maldives Iru Fushi Resort & Spa runs excursions to Edu Faru, the first Marine National Park in the Maldives. The Edu Faru archipelago, comprising of nine uninhabited islands, lagoon and surrounding waters, form a single unified coral reef ecosystem.

The resort donates \$10 to the MNP Foundation Fund for every resort guest to visit the area.

The Hilton Maldives Iru Fushi Resort & Spa is located in 52 acres of white beach and tropical vegetation within the Noonu Atoll in the north of the Maldives. It is reached by a 55-minute seaplane transfer from Male International Airport.

Visit www. MaldivesIruFushi.hilton.com. For press trip requests contact Gail Palmer at gail@ktapr.com.

Cycling alongside Tour de France

Cycling enthusiasts can ride alongside Tour de France participants this summer on holidays with Pierre & Vacances.

The accommodation specialist has teamed up with the professional 1t4i-Shimano cycling team at its Premium Altea Hills Residence on the Costa Blanca to offer a Pro Cycling Experience where guests are able to explore the Sierra de Bernia and Spanish coastline with cycling experts.

There are 30 spaces a week for guests to take part in as many training and technical sessions as they like and join some or all of the daily excursions which range between 70 and 110 kilometres.

The routes vary between the coastline and the mountains and all include uphill sections.

Each cyclist is fitted with their own professional bike for the week and preferences and heights are sent to the team beforehand so the bike is ready to use on arrival. The professionals can also give inside tips on bike mechanics and advise on sports diets.

Pierre & Vacances Premium Residence Altea Hills is a four star property in the Sierra de Bernia, overlooking the sea.

Visit: www.pv-holidays.com and www.pierreetvacances.co.uk. Alliance members interested in a press trip contact Jenny Groutage at jenny@saltmarshpr.co.uk.

DoubleTree by Hilton Golf Resort San Diego

The San Diego area has been a popular destination with European visitors to southern California for many years.

The *DoubleTree by Hilton* Golf Resort San Diego is situated conveniently 25 minutes north of San Diego International Airport.

A prominent feature of the resort is the Carmel Highland 18 hole championship golf course which offers a challenging yet fun experience for golfers of all levels of ability.

Visit: www.SanDiegoGolfResort.DoubleTree.com. To request a press visit to the *DoubleTree By Hilton* Golf Resort contact: Patrick Lennon at mail@patricklennon.com.



Working with the Alliance

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

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

Partners

Visit Southport

Southport 'England's Classic Resort' is a traditional Victorian town by the sea - but with a contemporary twist.

It boasts the UK's oldest iron pier (and the country's second longest) which traverses both the Marine Lake and Southport Beach.

The town is the home of the UK's finest golf course, Royal Birkdale, as well as 5 other championship courses. There is great shopping, a delicious choice of restaurants and accommodation to suit all tastes and budgets from four star boutique hotels to friendly family run guesthouses.

Visit: www.visitsouthport.com. Contact: Steve Christian at steve@visitsouthport.com.

Lübeck, Germany

The Hanseatic City of Lübeck with its Baltic seaside resort of Travemünde is the Northern German gateway from and to Scandinavia and the Baltic countries.

Declared a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage with more than 1,000 listed buildings Lübeck is a traditional and modern place at the same time.

Visit: www.luebeck-tourism.deContact: Barbara Schwartz at barbara.schwartz@luebeck-tourismus.de

Great Yarmouth, UK

Great Yarmouth is one of the UK's top seaside resorts with stunning beaches, a revitalised seafront, exceptional maritime heritage and a superb range of indoor and outdoor attractions like the Pleasure Beach, which features the famous wooden rollercoaster that has thrilled generations of visitors since 1932 and Merrivale Model Village with its atmospheric old penny arcade.

There is a busy programme of free annual events including the Great Yarmouth Maritime Festival and the Out There Festival of International Street Arts and Circus (both in September).

Visit: www.great-yarmouth.co.uk. Contact: Kirsty Burn at kirsty@great-yarmouth.gov.uk.

California's historic Gold Rush Country

California's historic Gold Rush Country and the northern gateway to Yosemite National Park offers areas offers 4-season outdoor recreation, old-west history with it's historic towns and gold mining sites, fine dining, live theatre, incredible mountain scenery and so much more at an affordable price.

Visit: www.yosemitegoldcountry.com. Contact: Nanci Sikes at nanci@mlode.com.



Destination North Wales

Destination North Wales is the entry point for all things tourism related into the stunning destination of North Wales.

Home of Snowdonia National Park, Isle of Anglesey (where Prince William works), beautiful beaches, 5 World Heritage Sites, a unique language and culture and so much more, we are a hidden gem yet to be discovered by many of you!

Visit: www.destinationnorthwales.co.uk. Contact: Carole Startin at carole.startin@tpnw.org.

World Expeditions

World Expeditions is one of the world's original adventure travel companies. Starting as a Himalayan trekking company in 1975, World Expeditions has earned an outstanding reputation as a world leader in small group trekking and adventure holidays.

The all-inclusive value of its trips, its expert leaders, often world-renowned figure and it's highly acclaimed minimal impact style of travel offering responsible and sustainable adventures to the world's most diverse destinations makes World Expeditions' adventures unique.

More than 600 stand-alone itineraries are offered, from small group active adventures and expeditions to cycling and walking tours to cultural journeys.

Visit: www.worldexpeditions.com. Contact: Caroline Mongrain at caroline@worldexpeditions.com.

Shire Hotels (UK)

Shire Hotels has 4 star hotels with exceptional conference facilities and first class spas. Locations in Bristol, Southampton, Manchester, Leeds, Northampton and Lake District.

Visit: www.shirehotels.com. Contact: Jane Waterworth at jane@shirehotels.com.

Volunteer Expeditions

Volunteer Expeditions is a nonprofit travel-planning agency that organizes group volunteer vacations. Current trips include rebuilding New Orleans, tutoring children in Jamaica, and helping the homeless in Chicago and Washington DC. Each trip is customized to the time frame, budget, and interests of the travelling group.

Volunteer opportunities can include building homes, serving meals in soup kitchens, sorting and distributing supplies for food banks and restoring the ecosystem. All meals, tours and stops at local attractions are also included to ensure a meaningful, fun, and well-rounded experience for everyone.

Visit: www.volunteerexpeditions.org. Contact: Allison Bernstein at allison@volunteerexpeditions.org.

Inns of Character (UK)

Inns of Character are traditional coaching inns - cosy accommodation, great home cooked food and Thwaites award winning cask ales.

Visit: www.innsofcharacter.co.uk. Contact: Jane Waterworth at janew@shirehotels.com.



Historic House Hotels, UK

The historic houses of Hartwell House in the Vale of Aylesbury, Bodysgallen Hall in North Wales, and Middlethorpe Hall in York, have restored and converted to luxury hotels.

Each building is over 300 years old, and offers guests a taste of quintessential country house living; to dine in award winning restaurants, to wander the immaculately kept gardens and parkland, to relax and be pampered in the health and beauty spas, and receive the very best in service and hospitality.

Visit: www.historichousehotels.com. Contact: Alison Buxton at sales@historichousehotels.com.

Mersey Ferries, UK

The world famous Mersey Ferries offer something for everyone, and are one of the regions and nation's best-loved tourist attractions.

The River Explorer cruise, departing hourly from Liverpool's Pier Head, offers an unparalleled experience of Liverpool and Merseyside from the deck of the iconic vessels.

An entertaining and informative commentary provides fascinating facts and detail about the rich history of the river and its waterfront. There is also a tourist attraction at each ferry terminal, The Beatles Story – featuring Fab4D, Spaceport and The U-boat Story - a real WW2 German submarine.

Visit: www.merseyferries.co.uk. Contact: Pat Gardner at communications@merseytravel.gov.uk.

Agencies

ING MEDIA

ING MEDIA specialises in Architecture and the Food & Drink industry, and manage public relations and marketing drive for many types of client from Media & Technology through to Retail.

Visit: www.ing-media.com. Contact: David Cummins at david@ing-media.com.

News

Ospreys in North Wales, UK

The first breeding pair of ospreys on the River Dyfi for more than 400 years have returned to their nesting site after flying thousands of mile from their African wintering grounds.

The male osprey, named Monty, arrived back nine days after his mate, Nora, The Dyfi Osprey Project is run by the Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust, with the help of 70 volunteers.

Visit: www.montwt.co.uk. Contact: Emyr Evans at ems11@btinternet.com

Air Europa

Air Europa will increase its frequency to the Peruvian capital Lima to daily from 26 June.

Air Europa is Spain's second largest airline and operates out of Madrid to 36 destinations in 16 countries in Latin America including Buenos Aires, Argentina; Caracas, Venezuela; Havana, Cuba and Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic.

Visit: www.aireuropa.com. Contact: Jasmin Othman at jasmin.othman@rooster.co.uk.



Global cities

New York and London remain the world's most global cities, while major emerging-market cities strengthened their ability to challenge global leaders in the next 10 to 20 years, according to the 2012 A.T. Kearney Global Cities Index.

The Global Cities Index, conducted every two years since 2008, provides a measure of global engagement for 66 cities across:

- Business Activity
- Human Capital
- Information Exchange

- Cultural Experience, and
- Political Engagement.

The 2012 edition of the Global Cities Index includes the Emerging Cities Outlook 2012, a forward looking measurement of emerging cities that have the potential to improve their global standing in future years.

Beijing, Shanghai and Taipei top this newly introduced perspective. Despite the financial turmoil of the past few years, New York and London have consistently led the rankings in all three editions of the Global Cities Index. Paris and Tokyo come in third and fourth.

For a summary of the A.T. Kearney Global Cities Index visit: www.atkearney.com.

British Airways A389

Construction has begun on British Airways' first super jumbo, the Airbus A380, due for delivery next year. The A380 is the largest civil aircraft ever made, with a maximum seating capacity of 853 compared to 660 in a Boeing 747.

British Airways has ordered 12 of the aircraft and 24 Boeing 787s. Routes for the airline's first A380 and B787 will be announced in due course.

Visit: www.ba.com/press. Contact: media.relations@ba.com.

Red Mangrove Galapagos and Ecuador Lodges

Red Mangrove Galapagos and Ecuador Lodges, which specialises in active adventure and dive vacations, is to open the Red Mangrove Dive Academy in the second half of 2012.

With over 15,000 square feet of space under construction it will be the largest dive training center in Ecuador and one of the largest in South America.

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

St. Kitts Sea Turtle Monitoring Network

The St. Kitts Sea Turtle Monitoring Network is to open a Sea Turtle Interpretive Center, as a year-round tourist facility. It will serve as an orientation center for tours and field trips and a research station.

Visit: www.stkittsturtles.org and www.stkittstourism.kn. Contact: Contact: Cathy A. Preece at Cathy@adams-pr.com.



Hong Kong Airlines

Hong Kong Airlines' cabin crew know just the trick. The airline has revealed that all operational flight attendants on Hong Kong Airlines' are now fully Wing Chun martial arts trained.

The Wing Chun training, which is compulsory for all of the airline's cabin crew members. It is the only form of martial arts created by a woman and enhances general well being and reinforces physical health and mental wellness.

Contact: www.hongkongairlines.com. contact: Laura at laura@ktapr.com.

The Wales Coast Path

The Ramblers, Britain's walking charity, will launch the Wales Coast Path on 5 May 2012, making Wales the first in country in the world to have a path along its entire coastline.

Visit: www.ramblers.org.uk/wales. Contact: press@ramblers.org.uk.

Leads

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

Brothers Flavour of Freedom Tour (UK)

Brothers Cider is sponsoring the 'Brothers Flavour of Freedom Tour' in association with Strummerville, which areb a series of warm up gigs from the musical talent due to hit the festival circuit this summer. The events will be and will take place from 3rd to 19th May in towns & cities around the UK.

Strummerville is a registered charity that gives opportunities to aspiring musicians and support to projects that change the world through music. The charity also runs a special projects fund helping homeless and vulnerable people through music, developing music communities in the UK and Africa.

Visit: www.brotherscider.co.uk/FreedomTour and www.strummerville.com. Contact : Ned Boyd at nikolai@thisismission.com.

Alaska bear viewing by kayak

Above and Beyond Alaska has been awarded a 10- year permit by the US Forest Service to operate guided day trips to the Pack Creek area of Admiralty Island.

The island boasts one of the highest concentrations of brown bears in the world. The adventure begins in Juneau and combines flightseeing, sea kayaking and bear viewing in a highly protected area where visitation is limited.

Visit: www.beyondak.com. Contact: Becky Janes at becky@beyondak.com.

Wilderness Safaris Malawi

Wilderness Safaris Malawi is offering the Rhino Tracking Experience for guests of Mvuu Camp and Mvuu Lodge in Liwonde National Park.

The Experience comprises an introduction to the plight of the black rhino, a three-hour guided walk into rhino territory, conducted by armed Rhino Protection Team (RPT) scouts and Wilderness Safaris guides.



In the late 1980s, the last black rhinoceros disappeared from Mwabvi Wildlife Reserve in the Lower Shire Valley of Malawi.

In the early 1990s, Malawi's Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) and South Africa National Parks (SANParks) created the Liwonde Wildlife Project, an initiative aimed at introducing six endangered species, including the black rhino, into a breeding sanctuary in Liwonde National Park.

It has been one of Africa's most successful breeding programmes. Wilderness Safaris is a conservation organisation and ecotourism company

Visit: www.wilderness-safaris.com. Contact: Emma Powell at Emma@grifcopr.com.

Voyages of Discovery cruises

Voyages of Discovery has launched its river cruising programme, European River Cruises including:

- Romantic Rhine Cruise
- Grand Danube Journey
- St Petersburg Moscow

Prices for all Voyages of Discovery river cruises include flights or rail travel and overseas transfers from/to the ship (where applicable), all meals on board and house wine with lunch and dinner.

Visit: www.voyagesofdiscovery.co.uk. Contact: Leanne Gosford at Leanne.Gosford@sirencomms.com.

The Siesta Sand Sculpture Contest, Sarasota, Florida

The Siesta Sand Sculpture Contest takes place at Siesta Key annually in May.

Siesta Key has been voted number one beach in America by Dr Beach 2012 and is a stunning location for this fascinating spectacle. The white sand is perfect for forming sculpture and visitors will love trying to create their own masterpieces. The Siesta Sand Sculpture Contest is for professionals and public participation.

Sarasota and Florida's Gulf Islands are located on the West Coast of Florida, 45 minutes from Tampa and one and half hours drive from Orlando.

Visit: www.sarasotafl.org and www.vacationstoamerica.com. Contact: Antonia Robinson at antonia@goshpr.c.o.uk.

Spring birding in Alaska

Alaska stages a number of birding festivals in spring.

During May, as many as 5 million shorebirds rest and feed in Cordova and this coincides with the Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival. Visit: www.cordovachamber.com

Birders also head to the Kenai Peninsula for the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival and the and Kenai Birding Festival. Visit: www.homeralaska.org and www.kenaibirdfest.com.

In the north, there is the Tanana Migratory Bird Festivalequips while the Yakutat Tern Festival celebrates one of the largest and southernmost breeding colonies of Aleutian Terns. Visit: www.alaskacenters.gov.

Visit: www.adfg.alaska.gov. Contact: Anne Sutto at anne.sutton@alaska.gov.



The Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia

The Gold Coast is Queensland's fastest wine-growing region thanks to rich soils, an annual 300 days of sunshine.

The Hinterland Food and Wine Trail follows a scenic inland route, while the Pacific Food and Wine Trail runs from Yatala in the north of the city to Murwillumbah, across the border into New South Wales.

The trail features 14 wine, beer and food stops including Mt Tamborine Brewery, Witches Chase Cheese Company and O'Reilly's Canungra Valley Vineyards.

While the Pacific Trail includes twelve stops from the Burleigh Brewing Company to the Sirromet Winery to the Madura Tea Estates.

Visit: www.goldcoast.gld.gov.au/foodwinetrails. Contact: Daniela at danielar@hillsbalfour.com.

What's on

The Suffolk Walking Festival, UK

19 May to 10 June 2012

The Suffolk Walking Festival features 30 guided routes including a new Flatford to the Fens, five day, 70 mile challenge.

Covering much of inland Suffolk, the festival will take in areas around Stowmarket, Lavenham, Bury St Edmunds, Newmarket, Mildenhall and Ipswich.

The region, with its softly undulating landscapes, pretty villages and magnificent cultural heritage, is well suited to its countryside on foot.

Visit: www.discoversuffolk.org.uk. Contact: Pat Edgar atbPRMatters@dsl.pipex.com.

Anguilla Literary Festival

24 and 28 May 2012

The Caribbean island Anguilla is to stage its first Anguilla Literary Festival in May.

The Anguilla Lit Fest will be looking to celebrate Anguilla's literary heritage visit and enance the visitor experience during the summer shoulder period.

Visit www.ivisitanguilla.com. Contact: Candis A. Niles at candis.niles@atb.ai

Summer festivals in Maryland

The Antique and Classic Boat Festival

15 to 17 June 2012

The 25th Annual Antique and Classic Boat Festival is the largest of its kind in the Mid Atlantic with more than 100 antique and classic boats mooring in the port.

Visit: www.chesapeakebayacbs.org.



The Western Maryland Blues Festival

31 May to 3 June 2012

The Western Maryland Blues Festival, in Hagerstown, features live blues performances and workshops from artists across Maryland.

Hagerstown is also known for its rich Civil War history, lively arts and entertainment district, mountain views and scenic parks.

Visit: www.blues-fest.orgis contact: Lisa Cooper atLisa.cooper@kbc-pr.com.

Spirit of the Sea, Weymouth & Portland Maritime Festival

30 June to 15 July 2012

The fifth 'Spirit of the Sea', Weymouth & Portland Maritime Festival, celebrating the area's close relationship with the sea, and brings together a range of sporting activities, cultural events and entertainment.

Visit: www.spiritofthesea.org.uk. Contact: Mark McCulloch at Mark.McCulloch@visitengland.org.

The Mary Rose, Portsmouth

Opens end 2012

The Mary Rose is based in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. Built between 1509 and 1511, she was one of the first ships able to fire a broadside, and was a firm favourite of King Henry VIII.

After a long and successful career, she sank during an engagement with the French fleet in 1545. Her rediscovery and rising were seminal events in the history of nautical archaeology.

A new museum to open in late 2012 will have the hull of the Mary Rose at the centre of the new development with galleries running the entire length of the ship.

Visit: www.maryrose.org and www.visitengland.org. Contact: Mark McCulloch at Mark.McCulloch@visitengland.org.

The 7th World Choir Games in Cincinnati, USA

4 to 14 July 2012.

The World Choir Games, formally known as "Choir Olympics", take place every two years on different continents with about 20.000 choristers.

After Shaoxing (China), the 7th World Choir Games 2012 will take place in Cincinnati, USA and are being supported by Procter & Gamble as the Official Presenting Sponsor.

Visit: www.interkultur.com. Contact: Stefanie Vera Müller at press@interkultur.com

The London Festival of Architecture

23 June to 8 July 2012

The London Festival of Architecture is a city-wide celebration of architecture and architectural talent in the UK capital. It brings architects and communities together to examine how we make London a better place. The theme of the 2012 Festival - 'The Playful City' – responds to the presence in London of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Visit: www.lfa2012.org. Tony Mokling at Tony.mokling@fticonsulting.org.



Art of the Olympians on display at 2012 Olympic Games in London

27 July and 12 August 2012

The Art of the Olympians Museum and Gallery (AOTO), which is headquartered in Fort Myers, Florida, is to stage a special exhibition during the 2012 London Olympic Games in July.

Artwork by Olympian artists as well as Olympic memorabilia will be on display at AOTO's Olympic Center, University College London.

The exhibition will offer free public access between 27 July and 12 August 2012. Seeking to inspire individuals through the power of art, sport and the Olympic ideals, AOTO is a non-profit organization has a global reach.

AOTO was the vision of the late Al Oerter of Fort Myers Beach and four-time, consecutive Olympic gold medalist in discus, and has grown into a global initiative of more than 70 Olympian artists.

Visit: www.artoftheolympians.org. Contact: Hamilton, Nancy at NHamilton@leegov.com.

Reasons to write about

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

Fly fishing in West Virginia

Fly fishing in West Virginia offers an outdoor experience for any angler visiting the Mountain State from hiking to mountain streams, tubing or wading in the rivers, camping under the stars in the wilderness or snuggled in lodges deep in the forest.

Fly fishing, whether it be trout or smallmouth bass, means fresh mountain air and breathtaking scenery in a state which is 80% forested with 2,000 miles of streams and rivers.

West Virginia's 36 state parks and seven state forests form more than 200,000 acres.

The Cacapon River, along with the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers offer good smallmouth fishing while the 600 miles of streams in the Monongahela National Forest hold wild brook trout among other species. Fly-fishing, enthusiasts can hike out to Dry Fork, Otter Creek or Glady Fork among other streams.

Visit: www.wvtourism.com. Contact: Jane Wilson at wv@attachecommunications.co.uk.

Culture in Qatar

Qatar is looking to establish itself as the cultural hub of the Middle East, with many of its attractions rooted in the arts, culture and environment of the region.

The Museum of Islamic Art

The most prominent of Qatar's museums is the Museum of Islamic Art, which is home to a fine collection of artefacts from this ancient civilization including pieces dating back over 1400 years.

Recent developments at the museum's waterfront site include the creation of the MIA park, a 68-acre public space and on the first Saturday of every month, the park becomes a traditional Bazaar with 100 street vendors selling jewellery, arts and crafts put a modern twist on Qatar's Souk tradition.

Visit: www.mia.org.qa



The Mathaf Arab Museum of Modern Art

The Mathaf Arab Museum of Modern Art offers an Arab perspective on international art.

The museum is situated on the edge of Doha's Education City, a 14 square kilometre purpose built area that is home to educational facilities for students of all ages and campuses of some of the world's leading universities.

Visit: www.mathaf.org.qa.

Visit: www.qatartourism.gov.qa. Contact: Susie Tempest at Susiet@hillsbalfour.com

The Buccleuch country estates, UK

The Buccleuch country estates of Boughton (Northamptonshire), Queensberry (Dumfries), Bowhill (Scottish Borders) and Dalkeith (Midlothian) offer a range of Great British country heritage.

Incorporating historical and artistic attractions, the estates are visitor options for those visiting Northamptonshire, South of Scotland and the Lothians. The estates and houses are open to the public and offer a range of high profile artistic, musical and sporting events for those visiting Northamptonshire, South of Scotland and the Lothians.

Boughton Estate, Northamptonshire, England

Described as the English Versailles, this 17th century stately home is a blend of the intimate and the grand, where the spirit of a family home goes hand in hand with the formality of the Great Hall or the series of state rooms virtually untouched in 300 years.

Visit: www.boughtonhouse.org.uk

Drumlanrig Castle, Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland

Drumlanrig Castle is a red sandstone mansion with turreted silhouette and sweeping forecourt towering above the Nith Valley. It was rebuilt by Sir William Bruce for the 1st Duke of Queensbury in 1645-88, housing a renowned art collection including Rembrandt's 'An Old Woman Reading'.

Visit: www.drumlanrig.com

Bowhill Estate, Scottish Borders

A Scottish Tourist Board five star attraction, the Borders home of the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch mostly dates from 1812. The pink sandstone castle houses an impressive art collection and exquisite furniture and porcelain. The Monmouth Room contains many relics of the Duke of Monmouth.

Visit: www.bowhill.org

Dalkeith Country Estate, Edinburgh, Scotland

Five miles from Edinburgh city centre, Dalkeith Country Estate is a centre for a family day out with a rich history, fine architecture and well managed woodlands. There is an adventure adventure playground and woodland walks.

Visit: www.dalkeithcountryestate.com

For press visits contact: Christine MacKenzie at christinemack@mediahouse.co.uk.



Golf in Utah

St. George, a city in the south of Utah in south west USA, offers a wide choice of golf courses set against red rock scenery within 40 minutes of downtown.

Conveniently located just 90 minutes northeast of Las Vegas, St. George Tourism and Convention bureau offers the Red Rock Golf Trail experience, a free service through which visitors can book green fees with accommodation and enjoy some of the best golf at the most competitive prices in south west USA.

Courses include:

- Sunbrook, a 27 hole championship course and the jewel in the crown of this region
- Sun River on the Virgin River (Par 72 course)
- Coral Canyon, designed by Keith Foster
- 18 hole championship courses Sand Hollow and Kokopelli, and
- Sky Mountain a 18 hole course near Zion National Park.

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

Loudonville, Ohio

Loudonville, Ohio, which is located off I-71, midway between Cleveland and Columbus has six canoe liveries, and has been designated as the state's official canoe capital.

Much of this takes place on the Mohican River, a slow, lazy Class I river where trips can last from 45 minutes to 2 days or longer.

Visitors can enjoy a scenic river trip on canoes, kayaks, rafts, and tubes. Canoe season starts in April running through October.

Mohican State Park and Forest

The Mohican State Park and Forest has 6,000 acres of rugged woodlands with bikers being able to use 45 miles of trails, with the most popular leading to the scenic Lyon Falls.

There bare also horse and biking trails.

Visit: www.DiscoverMohican.com. Contact: Bob Yun at BobYun@DiscoverMohican.com.

Indonesia beyond Bali...

With more than 17,000 islands spread across 5,000km, there's more to Indonesia than just Bali.

Southeast Asia tour operator Ampersand Travel offers options :

Raja Ampat

The Raja Ampat archipelago has over 1,500 small islands, cays and shoals surrounding the four main islands of Misool, Salawati, Batanta and Waigeo.

The 15,000sq mile area considered to be one of the most bio-diverse regions in the world and is very popular with divers as 75 per cent of all known coral species exist here.



The Misool Eco Resort, a three-year-old resort housed on its own private island.

Nihiwatu Resort, Sumba

This 10-room eco resort is located on Sumba, one of Indonesia's most undiscovered islands.

Tiger Blue

Tiger Blue is a 34-metre-long historic Phinisi yacht that explores the Indonesian Archipelago from Komodo Islands to North West Papua.

Borobudur in Central Java

The Buddhist temple of Borobudur, was built in the second half of the 8th century AD. The UNESCO World Heritage site, is a three-tier structure and the largest Buddhist temple in the world.

The Amanjiwo hotel, which has views of Borobudur, is located in the midst of an aromatic coffee plantation and surrounded by mountains in all directions.

Amanwana, Moyo Island

The remote island of Moyo is a nature and marine reserve 15km off the coast of Sumbawa (east of Bali), and only accessible by chartered Cessna.

Mount Bromo

The volcanic Mount Bromo is located in the heart of Bromo Tengger Semeru National Park in east Java. Stay at the rustic-chic hotel of Tugu Malang in the colonial throwback town of Malang.

Yogyakarta

Known affectionately as 'Jogja' to the locals, the city of Yogyakarta is Java's heritage centre set against a backdrop of mountains including Mount Merapi – the island's most active volcano.

Visir: www.ampersandtravel.com. Contact Julia Perowne at ampersand@verypcc.com

Self-guided cycling in Europe

Self-guided cycling in Europe is a cheaper, less scripted way of cycle touring.

The tours tend to be for people who are comfortable with the basics of mechanics (i.e. flat tires, adjusting small things on the derailleur) and physically prepared for the 30-40 miles-daily rides.

Bike Rentals Plus offer tour itineraries that include 24-27-speed, luggage shuttles, hotels, and all breakfasts. Cyclists also receive a detailed "road book" with information about what to see, where to eat and suggestions for locating bike mechanics along the route. A bike safely sheet provides information on safety and road signs.

Visit: www.bikerentalsplus.com/self-guided. Contact: Sara Widness at sara@widnesspr.com.



The Ayeyarwady River, Burma

The Road To Mandalay sails 682 nautical miles along the Ayeyarwady River, Burma on a series of 12-day 'Gorges of the Far North' cruises in August and September this year.

The cruise departs from the storied city of Mandalay and travels up to Bhamo, near the Chinese border and the foothills of Yunnan, finishing at the plain of temples at Bagan.

The voyage is only possible post rainy season when the river is swollen and water levels are high enough to allow passage through the three gorges, flanked by vertical cliffs, in the north of the river.

The Road To Mandalay, launched over 17 years ago, is the longest running and most established river cruiser operating on the Ayeyarwady.

Visit: www.roadtomandalay.net. Contact: Joanna Kersley at joanna.kersley@orient-express.com.

Diamond Jubilee events in Scotland

Scotland will be hosting a range of events this summer to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 11.

Ballgowns with a Diamond Theme, Balmoral Castle, Ballater, Aberdeenshire To July 2012

Described by Queen Victoria as "my dear paradise in the Highlands", an exhibition of the Queen's very own ballgowns with a diamond theme will be displayed in the Castle Ballroom.

Visit: www.balmoralcastle.com

Treasures from The Queen's Palaces, The Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh To 4 November 2012

An exhibition of treasures from the Royal Collection including paintings, drawings, miniatures, watercolours, manuscripts, furniture, sculpture, ceramics and jewellery. The first time that these items have been brought together, and will only be shown in Scotland.

Visit: www.royalcollection.org.uk

The Royal Yacht Britannia's Jubilee Celebrations, Edinburgh 14 to 18 May 2012

Ninety of The Queen's former Royal Yachtsmen, the "Yotties", will return to Britannia for their annual reunion in a week of Jubilee celebrations. The focal point will be a 'street party' on the quayside.

Visit: www.royalyachtbritannia.co.uk

The King's New Clothes, Stirling Castle, Stirling

2 and 3 June 2012

Over the Diamond Jubilee weekend Stirling Castle will be celebrating just as the Royal Court would have done hundreds of years ago, with a series of presentations on Renassance style in Stirling Castle and recently restored Stirling Palace.

Visit: www.stirlingcastle.gov.uk.



Leonardo drawings by Leonardo da Vinci: A Diamond Jubilee Celebration, The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery & Museum, Dundee

31 August to 4 November 2012

The McManus will be the only venue in Scotland to display ten of Leonardo da Vinci's finest drawings from the Royal Collection during their tour of five venues across the UK.

Visit: www.mcmanus.co.uk

The Queen: 60 Photographs for 60 Years, Palace of Holyrood House, Edinburgh November 2012 onwards

A collection of 60 images of official appearances and relaxed family occasions from the past six decades.

Visit: www.royalcollection.org.uk

Visit: www.visitscotland.com. Contact: Ruth Christie at ruth.christie@visitscotland.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.

Fundo Hotel and Spa, Peru

Access to Peru's 5,000 year old Sacred City of Caral will be made easier when the Empedrada Fundo Hotel and Spa opens at the World Heritage Site on 24 June 2012.

With 22 rooms and a restaurant for up to 100 guests, the Empedrada Fundo provides much needed accommodation for visitors to this complex of monuments, which is the oldest centre of civilization in all the Americas.

The area is located 200km from Lima's Jorge Chávez International Airport.

Visit: www.hotelempedrada.com. Contact: Jose Massa at jose.massa@panorama-peru.co.uk.

Pennsylvania Castle, Dorset UK

Pennsylvania Castle - The Penn as it is known – was built by John Penn, grandson of William Penn who founded the US state and once played host to King George III as he celebrated a wedding anniversary in the castle in 1800.

The Penn has nine bedrooms, lounge, library and orangery all with sea views.

Nearby, there is stunning coastline and historic landmarks and a range of local restaurants serving freshly caught sea food.

The Penn is available for long or short stays including weekends.

Visit: www.thepenn.co.uk. Contact: Katie Murphy at katie@fosburypr.com.



Park Hyatt Maldives Hadahaa

The Park Hyatt Maldives, which opened in the Gaafu Alifu Atoll in April 2011, has launched the Hyatt Thrive project, which enables employees to contribute to their communities despite living away from home.

The nearby Gemanafushi and Dhaandhoo islands are the first communities to take part in kick-off projects.

Currently more than 55% of the resort's employees are Maldivian and despite most coming from the nearby islands, the remote location of Hadahaa means nearly all staff live on the island.

Located in the second largest natural atoll in the world, the resort hotel is located 400 kilometres south of Male, and is good for those wanting to explore the coral reef, which rings the island.

Visit: www.maldives.hadahaa.park.hyatt.com. Contact Lizzie Morrison at parkhyatt@verypcc.com.

Hyatt Hotels of San Francisco

Hyatt Hotels of San Francisco are teaming up with the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) to launched the "Explore San Francisco" package.

This features accommodations at any one of Hyatt's four San Francisco hotels along with two SFMTA passports, which provides unlimited daily use on any one or all of San Francisco's public transportation vehicles, including the cable cars, historic streetcars, busses and trolleys.

Those booking the "Explore San Francisco" package will also receive the Hyatt Passport, which offers 15% discounts on food and beverage purchases at any one of the hotels' restaurant (excludes alcohol) as well as \$5.00 discounts from some of the city's most popular attractions.

Participating hotels include:

- Hyatt Regency San Francisco (at Embarcadero Center): www.sanfranciscoregency.hyatt.com
- Hyatt at Fisherman's Wharf: www.fishermanswharf.hyatt.com
- Grand Hyatt San Francisco (Union Square): www.grandsanfrancisco.hyatt.com
- Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport-Burlingame: www.sanfranciscoairport.hyatt.com.

Contact: Molly Blaisdell at mollyb22@gmail.com.

The Thani Maldives

The new, five-star, Thani Maldives has the largest swimming pool in the Maldives and a bespoke spa up in it's coconut grove. The resort is located in the country's first UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

Visit: www.dusitimagebank.dusit.com. For press visits contact: Amy Scott at amy@axistravelmarketing.com.

Hotel Shine, Tbilisi, Georgia

The Hotel Shine is situated the west part of Tbilisi, near the Embassy of the United States, and 25 minutes by car from the Airport.

There are seven floors and 36 comfortable rooms, restaurant, summery terrace and lounge bar and conference hall for 150 people.

Visit: www.hotelshine.ge. Contact: Nino Danelia at marketing@hotelshine.ge.



The Marti Istanbul, Turkey

The Marti Istanbul will open in the heart of Taksim, Istanbul in Summer 2012.

The contemporary design hotel has been created by the award-winning interior designer Zeynep Fadillioglu, most celebrated for being the first woman in Turkey to design and build a mosque, the Sakirin Mosque.

Taksim is the shopping, cultural and commercial district of Istanbul and the hotel is surrounded by theatres and restaurants.

Visit: www.martiistanbulhotel.com. Contact: Claire Griffin at Claire@grifcopr.com.

Section two: ongoing opportunities

Alerts

Ongoing independent press trip opportunities for Alliance members

- Visit Dublin offers Alliance members visiting on-assignment a Media Pass (the Dublin Pass), which provides free entry to 34 visitor attractions in Dublin. Visit: www.visitdublin.com 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.
- 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 fola@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 Ruiter: 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 Mariott 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.
- the Explorateur reviews of hotels, shops, restaurants and travel-related products around the world. Visit: www.the Explorateur.com. For press trips to review any of the Explorateur 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 Aspinal 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@kpcommunications.co.uk
- The Villa Pambuffetti in Montefalco, Umbria, Italy will be pleased to offer accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: www.villapambuffetti.com. Contact Alessandra Pambuffetti at info@villapambuffetti.com.
- Eustatia Island, British Virgin Islands an extraordinary 26-acre, low impact, private island estate wil 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-champagneardenne.com. Contact: Doug Goodman at doug@douggoodmanpr.com.
- Health retreats on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada. Visit: www.vancouverisland.com. Contact: Pamela Irving at livingcomms@telus.net.
- Red Mangrove Galapagos Lodges offers a land-based alternative to exploring the Galapagos that until now was a cruise-only destination. Visit: www.redmangrove.com. Contact: Dave Wiggins dave@travelnewssource.com
- Midlethorpe Hall & Spa, Yorkshire, UK will be delighted to offer DB&B and use of the Spa to Alliance members. Visit: www.middlethorpe.com. Contact Daisy Parker at daisy@iscott.co.uk.
- Swaziland and Malawi: Geo Group will be delighted to consider press trips to either Swaziland or Malawi for Alliance members with suitable commissions. Visit: www.welcometoswaziland.com and www.malawitourism.com. Contact: Kelly White at tourism@geo-group.co.uk.
- Holidaylettings, which offers a selection of chalets and apartments around the world will consider arranging accommodation at its listed properties. Visit: www.holidaylettings.co.uk. Contact: 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 jimellis@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 botique 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.
- Aspects Holidays specialises in providing self-catering accommodation, from luxury apartments
 to traditional fisherman's cottages in and around St Ives and the West Cornwall area of the UK.
 Aspects will be pleased to consider press visits to Alliance members with a commission. Visit
 www.aspects-holidays.co.uk. Contact: Karen Baker at karen@mercury-pr.co.uk.
- The Inn at Lathones, Scotland's only 4 star inn, is delighted to consider press trips from Alliance members. The 17th-century listed building near St Andrews is one of Scotland's oldest coaching inns and boasts 21 recently refurbished external rooms/suites, an award-winning restaurant, an intimate stone-walled bar and converted stables that host regular music events. For more information visit: www.theinn.co.uk Contact: Lee MacGregor at lee@leemacgregorpr.com
- Cornwall Cottages will be delighted to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: www.cornwallscottages.co.uk. Contact: Sue Bradbury at jess@suebradburypr.com.
- Hartland Peninsula Arts, which runs landscape painting courses on the North Devon coast will be pleased to offer courses to Alliance members. Visit: www.landscapepaintingholidays.co.uk. Contact: Karen Outred at ko@freelancepr.fsnet.co.uk.
- 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 Isles of Scilly will be delighted to consider offering travel and accommodation to Alliance members on assignment, with a commission or who are able to obtain one. Visit: www.simplyscilly.co.uk. Contact: Karen Baker at karen@mercury-pr.co.uk.
- The Park Hyatt Istanbul-Maçka Palas, Turkey will be delighted to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: www.hyatt.com. Kathryn Peel at Kathryn@grifcopr.com.
- Helpful Holidays, UK will be delighted to consider offering accommodation to Alliance members.
 Visit: www.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: Mike Finney at mike@azcomgroup.com.
- The Menzies Welcombe Hotel Spa & Golf Club, Stratford-upon-Avon will be delighted to offer dinner, bed and breakfast at this country house hotel to Alliance members able to review the property. Visit: www.menzieshotels.co.uk. Contact: Tanya Aspinwall at tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk
- The Peace and Plenty, Bahamas will be delighted to provide accommodation to Alliance members. Visit: www.peaceandplenty.com. Contact: Hazel Heyer at hazel_heyer@hotmail.com.
- Ranch Rider stays are steeped in tradition, allowing travellers to sample an authentic western experience.Ranch Rider will be pleased to consider press trip facilities to Alliance members. Visit: www.ranchrider.com. Contact: Siobhan at siobhan@tionlondon.co.uk

Travel products and services

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

Airport lounges in London

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

No.1 Traveller is happy to offer a 50% discount rate for all Travel Writers Alliance members. Those interested should contact No1@3-monkeys.co.uk when wishing to make a booking with:

- Full name (as it appears on your passport)
- Flight date / time

- Flight number
- Which airport / terminal

Visit: www.No1Traveller.com. 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.

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

CitySightseeing Worldwide

CitySightseeing Worldwide is one of the world's leading, hop-on-hop-off, open top bus tour operators offering multi-lingual commentary or live guide. Alliance members producing features an article a specific City Sightseeing tour destination can apply for a complimentary ticket or two.

Alliance members/family/friends can receive a 20% discount from all 100 City Sightseeing tours around the world by booking via its website. Visit www.city-sightseeing.com 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. Contact: Graham Toone at Graham.Toone@city-sightseeing.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.

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

Rerlitz

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 quides

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.comContact: Nick Buteau at nick@turnleftguides.com



Partnership opportunities with the Alliance

The International Travel Writers Alliance works with travel, transport and tourism industry partners worldwide on a range of fee paying opportunities.

These include producing and distributing news releases and press trip alerts; bulletin sponsorship; special supplements to bulletin, and detailed destination dossiers

Working with the International Travel Writers Alliance provides partners with the unique opportunity to reach and influence professional travel journalists through the Alliance itself and independent travellers through *AllWays traveller*.

For more information on working with the Alliance please contact: Ann Mealor at Ann@itwalliance.com or on 07971 596 925.

Among those partners we have worked with are:



























































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

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