

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 156: mid-February 2014

www.itwalliance.com

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Registering with the Alliance

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

- **Member** : travel writers, broadcasters and photographers
- **Editor** : commissioning editors
- **Partner** : travel and tourism industry organisations, or
- **Agency** : agency representatives with travel or tourism clients

The Alliance press card



The International Travel Writers Alliance Press Card now provides Alliance journalists with formal recognition of their status and standing – and a roving ambassador's role - in the profession.

See Appendix one for the directory of opportunities for press card holders.

Join and follow



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



@writersalliance

The Alliance bulletin

Job shop

Here are some of the professional opportunities available on [The International Travel Writers Alliance Job Shop](#).

The **Job Shop** has been created to enable the Alliance's partners to place - and journalists to receive - information on in-house jobs, special assignments or one-off projects.

The Alliance's travel journalists can also :

- set up **Job Alerts** so as to be notified if a job is posted that matches the journalists skills or interests
- create an anonymous job seeker profile or upload a CV for potential employers to search through, and
- access job searching tools and tips

Although in its infancy, we hope the **Job Shop** will become a valuable addition to the range of services offered by the [International Travel Writers Alliance](#).

Managing Editor

The Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC) is an international institute with offices in the United States, Australia, Great Britain and Japan.

Journal Managing Editor

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Editor

Carlsbad, California
San Diego Area Jobs

Editor, BackStory

Charlottesville, Virginia
Virginia Foundation for the Humanities

The site also features UK job opportunities.

Visit : www.jobtarget.com/home/home.cfm?site_id=14773

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

Captain Cook Cruises, Australia

Captain Cook Cruises operates a fleet of 16 vessels and offers a choice of over 150 cruises weekly throughout Australia and Fiji.

These range from the Great Barrier Reef to the islands of Fiji, from the bays and beaches of Sydney Harbour to the outback vastness of the Murray River basin.

Captain Cook Cruises is a family-owned, Australian 'small ship' cruise operator and the recipient of numerous awards including :

- Australian, New South Wales, Tropical North Queensland and South Australian 'Tourism Awards for Excellence'
- Fiji Visitors Bureau 'Best Cruise Line', and
- the Australian Federation of Travel Agents 'Best Cruise Line'.

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

Adventure Cat Sailing Charters, San Francisco

Adventure Cat Sailing Charters has a fleet of spacious catamarans that take guests on a stable, safe ride combining the exhilaration of fresh air and waves on our deck with the protection and outstanding views from our covered cabin.

It's the chance to enjoy some of the Bay's most popular attractions up close with sailings around Alcatraz Island, directly underneath the Golden Gate Bridge and back to gaze at the city's famed skyline.

There's also the chance to see pelicans, sea lions, dolphins, and even the occasional whale.

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

The Pocono Mountains, Pennsylvania, USA

Any time of year is a good time to visit the Pocono Mountains in northeastern Pennsylvania.

This region teeming with history offers year-round cultural tours and art exhibitions, abundant antiques and brand-name shopping and a full calendar of festivals showcasing the heritage, music and food of the Pocono Mountains.

Winters offer guests the opportunity to ski, snowboard, snow tube and even snowshoe their way through snowy wonderlands, while summers also cater to the active traveller allowing exploration of 261 miles of hiking and biking trails, golf courses, whitewater rafting, boating, fishing and open access to nine state and two national parks.

Visit : www.800poconos.com. Elizabeth Richardson at erichardson@poconos.org.

Hilton Head Golf Island, South Carolina

If you are planning a golf getaway to South Carolina, make it a Hilton Head golf vacation.

Golf enthusiasts can find over 30 world-class quality golf courses on the Hilton Head Golf Island, many of which have been sculpted by golf course architects as Robert Trent Jones Sr., Pete Dye and Jack Nicklaus.

Hilton Head Island itself is a Lowcountry resort town located on an island of the same name in Beaufort County, South Carolina, USA.

It is 20 miles north of Savannah, Georgia and 95 miles south of Charleston.

Visit : www.hiltonheadgolfisland.com. Contact : Glenn Gray at ggray@buffalocommunications.com.

The Historic House Hotels, UK

The Historic House Hotels comprise :

- Bodysgallen Hall in North Wales
- Middlethorpe Hall in York.
- Hartwell House in Aylesbury, and

Each building is at least 300 years old, and there are few hotels of such charm and historic interest.

In 2008 the group was gifted to the National Trust, by donation, to ensure their long-term protection and with all profits benefiting the houses and the charity.

Visit : www.historichousehotels.com. Contact : Alison Buxton at alison.buxton@gmail.com.

The Oneida County Convention & Visitors Bureau

Oneida County is a county located in the New York State, named after the Oneida, an Iroquoian tribe that formerly occupied the region.

The Oneida County Convention & Visitors Bureau is the County's official tourism marketing organization dedicated to building Oneida County's economy and positive image through tourism development, events, and the marketing of the county on a global basis.

Contact : www.oneidacountytourism.com. Contact : KellyBlazosky at Oneida@TheCHTGroup.com.

Orient-Express Hotels

Orient-Express Hotels is a luxury hotel company and adventure travel operator which began offering luxury travel experiences since 1976, when it purchased Hotel Cipriani in Venice.

Shortly after the company recreated the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express, linking London, Paris and Venice, along with other European cities.

Today the Orient-Express Hotels brand embraces 46 hotel, cruise and luxury rail businesses in 22 countries, including distinctive properties including :

Hotel Cipriani in Venice
Grand Hotel Europe in St Petersburg
Hotel Ritz Madrid

Mount Nelson Hotel in Cape Town
Copacabana Palace in Rio de Janeiro, and
Maroma Resort and Spa on Mexico's Riviera Maya.

The Company also operates six luxury tourist trains, three river cruise operations and one of New York's most iconic restaurants.

Visit : www.orient-express.com. Contact : Anna Nash at anna.nash@orient-express.com.

News

Sweet Home Alabama

Located alongside the Tennessee River, Muscle Shoals, Alabama is enjoying the limelight following the release of the award winning documentary *Muscle Shoals* which is now available on DVD following the film's launch last October.

The film which tells the true story of 'a small town with a big sound' features many of the stars who recorded there including Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Aretha Franklin and Etta James.

At the heart of the story is Producer Rick Hall who founded FAME Studios. Today visitors to The Shoals can tour FAME Studio, a 'live' studio recently used by Alicia Keys.

The Muscle Shoals Sound Studio is also currently being restored to a fully functioning recording studio.

Visit : www.muscleshoads.co.uk, www.alabama.travel and www.deep-south-usa.com/alabama.

For enquiries regarding press trips please contact Della Tully at della.tully@btinternet.com.

Trusted Luxury Cruises

Trusted Luxury Cruises is looking for writers to provide weekly content for its travel website.

Similarly, posts highlighting onboard experiences or activities that include comparisons among the luxury lines is desired. Most any content related to luxury travelling is welcomed and helpful to our visitors.

Each post will be uploaded to Trusted Luxury Cruises and shared on Facebook and Twitter.

Although the site does not pay a fee, it may well help writers secure press trips on cruise liners and the editor will be happy to contact the luxury cruise lines on behalf of a writer who has contributed their features.

Dedicated to luxury travellers, the *Trusted Luxury Cruises* website focuses on luxury cruises, with content encompassing destination-oriented restaurants, tours, sights, cities, shore excursions, hotels, itineraries, etc.

The purpose of Trusted Luxury is to inspire the four seasons traveller, who would never consider a cruise as a genuine vacation option, to reconsider the luxury cruise line option.

Visit : www.trustedluxurycruises.com. Contact : James Donleyjames at d@trustedluxury.com

Once – the Musical

The release of 400,000 new tickets for the London West End musical *Once*, will take the production at the Phoenix Theatre to 4 July 2015.

The eight time Tony award-winning musical, which opened at the Phoenix Theatre in April last year was originally developed at the American Repertory Theater (Cambridge, Massachusetts) in April 2011.

The Broadway production of *Once* continues at the Bernard B. Jacob's Theatre and the North American tour began last Autumn.

When an Irish busker and a young Czech mother meet through a shared love of music, their songwriting sparks a deep connection and a tender, longing romance that neither of them could have expected.

Visit : www.oncemusical.co.uk. Jonathan Mountford at jonathan@made2010.com.

The Savoy Resort & Spa, the Seychelles

The new five-star Savoy Resort & Spa opens in the Seychelles in mid-February 2014.

The resort, which is located on the beach of Beau Vallon, on the Seychelles' island, Mahé, has 163 rooms, a conference centre, spa and wellness area and two restaurants on site.

Visit : www.savoy.sc. Contact : Emily Yuan at emily@connectedpr.com.

Bombay Sapphire's new Hampshire-based distillery

Bombay Sapphire's new Hampshire-based distillery will open in March 2014 and will feature a glasshouse designed by Thomas Heatherwick and a bar school on site.

Visit : www.laverstokemill.co.uk. Contact : Rishika Sharma at Rishika.Sharma@visitengland.org.

Fatal Attraction, Theatre Royal Haymarket, London

From 8 March 2014

Fatal Attraction is being re-interpreted for the stage by original screen writer James Dearden, in a production directed by Trevor Nunn.

The story of obsession and revenge explores how a chance meeting in a bar and a casual encounter quickly becomes a living nightmare for Dan Gallagher, a successful New York lawyer, and his young family.

Visit : www.theatreroyalhaymarket.co.uk/Fatal-Attraction.html. Contact Jessica McCrorie at jessicamccrorie@akauk.com.

Wilderness Safaris, Namibia

Wilderness Safaris has added the Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp to its suite of camps in Namibia's remote Kaokoveld.

Located in the private Palmwag Concession straddling the Palmwag area and Skeleton Coast National Park, the camp is set in a land of stark mountains, vast plains, and dry riverbeds inhabited by wildlife that has adapted to the arid conditions.

One of the greatest concentrations of desert-adapted elephant can be found within this area – along with gemsbok, giraffe, springbok.

For the first time, forays into the Hoanib floodplains (previously restricted inside the Skeleton Coast National Park) can be undertaken.

The camp comprising eight tents is expected to be ready in August 2014.

Visit : www.wilderness-safaris.com. Contact : Charlotte Rous at Charlotte@grifcopr.com.

Winvian, Connecticut

Winvian, the Connecticut resort in the Litchfield Hills, has been named by Zagat as one of "America's Top Restaurants in 2014."

In January of 2014, Winvian also received five AAA diamonds for its restaurant and five for the accommodation, the only property in Connecticut which has AAA Five Diamonds for both dining and accommodations.

Winvian, which is located two hours from New York City and 2.5 hours from Boston, has 18 designer cottages and one suite within 113 acres of meadows and woodlands.

Visit : www.winvian.com. Contact: Rebecca Widness at rebecca@widness-co-pr.com.

New restaurant at Claridge's

Opening Spring 2014

Widely regarded as one of the UK's most inventive and exciting chefs, Simon Rogan will take the helm at Claridge's new restaurant when it opens in Spring 2014.

Rogan currently holds two Michelin stars, and his modern British cooking style and creative techniques are inspired by indigenous produce, which he sources from his own farm in Cumbria.

Visit : www.claridges.co.uk. Contact Paula Fitzherbert at pfitzherbert@claridges.co.uk

UNWTO International Handbook on Tourism and Peace

The United Nations World Tourism Organisation has published the International Handbook on Tourism and Peace, an inclusive collection of perspectives this subject from leading international experts.

Topics range from sustainable development and conflict resolution to eco-tourism and heritage preservation and includes several case studies.

Published by the Centre for Peace Research and Peace Education of the Klagenfurt University, in collaboration with UNWTO, the publication aims to make a significant academic insight for presenting tourism as a powerful tool within the international peace building agenda.

Visit : www.unwto.org. Contact : Kate Holmes media@unwto.org.

ME London and the BRIT's

ME London has signed a partnership agreement as the official hotel partner for The BRIT Awards 2014 with MasterCard.

The BRIT Awards are the British Phonographic Industry's annual pop music awards, and the British equivalent of the American Grammy Awards.

As part of the partnership, ME London will be hosting a BRITs photography exhibition from the archives of the BRITs, celebrating past winners, in their Marconi bar until 10 March 2014.

Throughout the partnership ME London will stage quarterly gigs in the ME Room, to raise money for The BRIT Trust – the UK's music industry charity.

Visit: www.MELondonUK.com and www.brits.co.uk. Contact : Jo Berry or Sophie Kelk at jo.berry@luchfordapm.com.

India

India is to extend visa-on-arrival facilities to tourists from all nations (precisely 180 countries) except eight, by October 2014. Currently India's visa-on-arrival is confined to 11.

Nations barred from visa-on-arrival will be Sri Lanka, Pakistan, China, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Nigeria and Somalia.

Beautiful China - 2014

The China National Tourism Administration (CNTA) has launched its 2014 global tourism campaign entitled "Beautiful China – 2014 Year of Smart Travel."

The campaign will highlight the efforts China has made to use technology to make visiting China more navigable and enjoyable.

Special events and promotions will take place throughout 2014 to emphasize this theme. A new China tourism website has also been launched.

Visit : www.travelchina.gov.cn. Contact : london@cнта.gov.cn.

Tanzania

The Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA) has set aside 34 areas for local people to invest in the tourism industry.

The idea is that within the identified areas local investors can establish facilities including providing accommodation, for tourists.

Visit : www.tanzaniaparks.com. Contact : info@tanzaniaparks.com.

Leads

Bolongo Bay Beach Resort, US Virgin Island

In 1974 a Long Island, NY, watch salesman Dick Doumeng and his wife Joyce began to manage Bolongo Bay Beach Resort in St. Thomas and began what would become a family legacy and icon in the US Virgin Islands.

The 62-room resort is still owned and managed by the Doumeng family, now in its second generation.

Bolongo Bay Beach Resort has been a trend-setter on St. Thomas bringing many firsts to the destination including hiding free bottles of local Cruzan rum in its bay for guests to snorkel and find, bringing all inclusive to the US Virgin Islands.

Over the 40 years, 41,600 bottles of free rum have been hidden in the bay for the resort's weekly snorkel booze hunt where its "finders, keepers."

Visit : www.bolongobay.com. Contact: Julie Harper, julie@madiganpratt.com

The Mauritshuis in The Hague, the Netherlands

The Mauritshuis in The Hague, home of Vermeer's Girl with a Pearl Earring, will open on 27 June 2014 following a major renovation.

The Mauritshuis is a small museum with a lakeside location in the heart of The Hague, the historic city that is home to the Dutch Parliament and Royal Family.

The reopening provides an opportunity for a major re-presentation of the museum's collection of Dutch art.

The museum also features two of Vermeer's Girl with a Pearl Earring (c.1665) and View of Delft (c.1660 – 1661).

The Mauritshuis, one of the finest examples of Dutch Classicist architecture, was built between 1636 and 1644 for and named after Count Johan Maurits van Nassau-Siegen.

Its historic 17th century building has been renovated and upgraded with many of the building's original features and colour schemes having been restored and renewed.

Visit : www.mauritshuis.nl. Contact : Simone Sagi at ssagi@holland.com.

Heckfield Place, Hampshire UK

Opening in autumn 2014, Heckfield Place manor house hotel with its 330 acre farm, will have 60 individually-designed bedrooms, a historic walled garden, spa cottages offering health and beauty experiences, a delicious restaurant and a working farm with livestock and vegetables.

Visit : www.heckfieldplace.co.uk. Contact : Rishika Sharma at Rishika.Sharma@visitengland.org.

The Lee Valley VeloPark, London

The Lee Valley VeloPark will opening March 2014, becoming one of the lasting legacies of London 2012.

The park will have four cycling disciplines with track cycling, racing the road circuit, tackling mountain bike trails and riding the re-modelled Olympic BMX track. .

Visit : www.visitleevalley.org.uk. Contact : Rishika Sharma at Rishika.Sharma@visitengland.org.

South Park in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, London

South Park in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park will also open in spring 2014, with wetlands and waterways providing a backdrop to new bars, cafes and restaurants and a continually changing programme of events in the energy-charged sporting, cultural and entertainment attractions.

Visit : queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk. Contact : Rishika Sharma at Rishika.Sharma@visitengland.org.

Siesta Beach in Sarasota County, Florida USA

Siesta Beach in Sarasota County on the Gulf Coast of Florida, which was voted America's no.1 beach by Dr Beach in 2011, is highlighting its outdoor yoga activities.

Research has shown that exercising in natural environments is associated with increased energy, decreased tension and greater enjoyment.

Siesta Beach is known for its soft, white sand that stays cool even on the hottest days.

Visit : www.yogaonsiestabeach.com and www.visitsarasota.org. Contact : Antonia at antonia@goshpr.co.uk.

English Lakeland Ramblers

Virginia-based English Lakeland Ramblers has planned two itineraries to Scotland's Western Highlands and the Isle of Skye and "Scotland: Isle of Skye and the Outer Hebrides.

The itineraries will enable guests to walk around Scotland's Highlands and Islands and hiking ancient trails and staying at country inn.

The Ramblers' tour includes 29 to 35 miles of walks in seven days, with an occasional hike to 1,000 feet.

English Lakeland Ramblers also offers guided walking tours of the Lake District, Wales, Cornwall, the Cotswolds and England's Coast-to-Coast (the Lake District and Cumbria).

Visit : www.ramblers.com. contact : Martha Morano at moranopr@aol.com.

Woburn Safari Park, UK

The Woburn Safari Park has introduced pair of Amur tigers into its Kingdom of the Carnivores enclosure.

The hope is these young animals will breed successfully.

A new tiger house was built in 2013, ready for the pair's arrival.

Visit : www.woburn.co.uk. Contact Abigail Crowley at Abigail.Crowley@woburn.co.uk

The Royal Shakespeare Company, UK

The Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) is returning to Newcastle Theatre Royal this autumn with new productions of Henry IV, Part I (25 September – 4 October), Henry IV, Part II (26 September – 4 October) and The Two Gentlemen of Verona (7 - 11 October).

Visit www.theatreroyal.co.uk. Contact : Natalie Joyce at natalie.joyce@theatreroyal.co.uk.

Tropic Journeys in Nature, Ecuador

Tropic Journeys in Nature is an ecotourism company specialising in responsible, community-based tourism in Ecuador.

Programs combine life-changing, active-but-cultural ecotourism experiences focusing on nature, conservation, diversity and sustainability.

The company is also to represent Galapagos' new Pikaia Lodge, which is opening this year on Santa Cruz Island.

The 14 room Pikaia Lodge will be the most eco sustainable, luxury, property to be built in the Galapagos Archipelago, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

It holds a LEED operational certification and will be a member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World.

Visit : www.destinationecuador.com. Contact : Sara Widness at sara@witnesspr.com.

The US Astronaut Hall of Fame

Space shuttle astronauts Shannon Lucid, the only American woman to serve aboard the Russian Space Station Mir, and Jerry Ross, the first human to complete seven space shuttle missions, have been selected for induction in the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame.

Lucid and Ross will be inducted into the Astronaut Hall of Fame on 3 May at the Kennedy Space Center, Florida.

The Kennedy Space Center highlights the story of the U.S. space programme and including :

The Kennedy Space Center Tour featuring the Saturn V Center with an actual Saturn V moon rocket the Angry Birds™ Space Encounter Shuttle Launch Experience 3D IMAX® space films, and Astronaut Encounter

The new \$100 million home for Space Shuttle Atlantis opened in June 2013.

Visit : www.KennedySpaceCenter.com. Contact : Nancy Glasgow at nancy@bitner.com.

AdventureSmith Explorations, Panama

Small ship cruise expert AdventureSmith Explorations has unveiled cruising and land-based tours focused on the 48-mile Panama Canal, which celebrates its centennial in 2014.

On a variety of itineraries guests will learn the history of overcoming hardships endured from 1881 when work on the canal first began, only to be aborted and started again when the United States in 1904 put its resources behind this engineering miracle that began changing the course of commerce – and world history -- in 1914.

Today some 14,000 ships pass annually through the canal.

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

London's West End and New York's Broadway

Miss Saigon, London

Cameron Mackintosh's new production of Miss Saigon will open at the Prince Edward Theatre, London on the 3 May 2014.

Miss Saigon tells the tragic tale of young bar girl Kim, orphaned by war, who falls in love with an American GI called Chris - but their lives are torn apart by the fall of Saigon.

Visit: www.miss-saigon.com

Cameron Mackintosh

Cameron Mackintosh, one of the most successful theatrical producer of all-time, has become the first British producer to be inducted into Broadway's Theatre Hall of Fame.

Visit : www.cameronmackintosh.com

Back to the Future, London

A stage musical version of 1980s time travel film Back to the Future is set to arrive in the West End in 2015.

Contact : Natalie Browne at natalie@made2010.com.

What's on in 2014

St Moritz, Switzerland

White Turf St.Moritz – International Horse Races on Snow

9 to 23 February (annual)

The annual White Turf event, a tradition dating back to 1907, takes place on the frozen Lake St. Moritz. There are flat and trotting races while men and women on skis are pulled along at high speed by horses at the only skijoring race in the world.

Cricket on Ice

13 to 16 February 2014 (annual)

Since 1988, St. Moritz has hosted what is one of the most unusual games of cricket, played at Cricket on Ice on the frozen Lake St. Moritz.

Visit : www.engadin.stmoritz.ch. Contact : Angela Rupp at PR@estm.ch.

Modernism Week, Palm Springs, California

13 to 23 February (annually)

Palm Springs stages an 11-day schedule of films, parties, talks and tours during Modernism Week - a retro celebration with more than 100 events including architectural design tours and cocktail parties in desert modernist homes.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has named Palm Springs, California as one of America's Dozen Distinctive Destinations, an annual list of unique and lovingly preserved communities in the country.

Palm Springs has also been designated a Preserve America City.

Visit : www.visitpalmsprings.com and www.modernismweek.com. Contact : Sarah Habicht at sarah@humewhitehead.co.uk.

Events in Montréal.

Montréal en lumière

20 February to 2 March 2014

Every year since 2000, the Montreal High Lights Festival, or Festival Montréal en Lumière, lights up the city around the dreariest part of February.

The festival includes hundreds of gastronomic and wine tasting activities, live music, dance, theater and circus and a free outdoor illuminated site in the heart of the Quartier des spectacles.

Visit : www.montrealenlumiere.com

The International Festival of Films on ART

March 20 to 30, 2014

The festival showcases the best productions of films on art produced across the globe. It embraces multiple forms of creativity, including painting, sculpture, architecture, contemporary art, digital art, literature, design, fashion, theater, dance, music, and photography.

Visit : www.artfifa.com

Visit : www.tourisme-montreal.org. Contact : Marie-Jose Pinsonnault at pinsonnault.mariejose@tourisme-montreal.org.

Vikings: life and legend at the British Museum, London

6 March to 22 June 2014

The Viking Age (800–1050) was a period of major change across Europe.

The Vikings expanded from their Scandinavian homelands to create an international network connecting cultures over four continents, where artistic, religious and political ideas met.

The Vikings' skill in shipbuilding and seafaring was central to their culture and success, and at the heart of the exhibition will be a 37-metre-long warship, which is the longest Viking ship ever discovered.

Many other new discoveries, including part of a mass grave of Viking warriors, will be on display for the first time as well as personal objects, including jewellery, amulets and idols. For more information contact the

Visit : www.britishmuseum.org. Contact : communications@britishmuseum.org.

Virgin Money London Marathon 2014

13 April 2014

Every year, approximately 30,000 people run the 26.2 mile (42.2km) marathon through the streets of London.

Some run for personal achievement, some to raise money for their favourite charity. Many run in outrageous fancy-dress. Previous years' costumes have included a giant penguin, a London bus, Superman, and a slow-moving snail.

The Virgin Money London Marathon is open to all abilities, from beginners who walk the course to professional athletes.

The route runs along the south of the Thames and then the north side after crossing the river on Tower Bridge.

From Greenwich and Blackheath to Buckingham Palace, runners pass some of the capital's famous landmarks, including the London Eye and the Tower of London.

Visit : www.virginmoneylondonmarathon.com. Contact : Fran Ridler at franr@london-marathon.co.uk.

The Top Gear Festival, Barbados

17 and 18 May 2014

The Top Gear Festival Barbados will host an international round of this year's Red Bull Global Rallycross Championship adding to the line-up of motoring entertainment taking place during the festival.

The Top Gear Festival Barbados will be the only Red Bull Global Rallycross event taking place outside of the US during 2014.

visit : www.topgearfestivalbarbados.com and www.visitbarbados.org. Contact : Johnson JohnRose at jjohnrose@caribtourism.com.

1000 Years of Traditional Craft, Lincoln, UK

31 May 2014

The 1000 Years of Traditional Crafts event returns to Lincoln Castle for its third year.

Over the weekend, the grounds of Lincoln Castle will be filled with craftspeople demonstrating traditional skills from blacksmithing and pole lathe to willow weaving and jewellery making.

As well as having the chance to see age old skills in action, members of the public will have the opportunity to try their hand by having a go at one of the short courses that will be taking place in the recently built Heritage Skills Centre in the grounds of the Castle.

Visit : www.visitlincolnshire.com/1000years.aspx. Contact : Charlotte Goy at Charlotte.Goy@Lincs-Chamber.co.uk.

The 2014 Route 66 International Festival, Kingman, Arizona,

14 to 17 August 2014

Two of the Southwest's major tourist destinations, Hualapai Tourism, operators of Grand Canyon West, home of the Skywalk, and the Route 66 International Festival are to host a multi-day Festival in August 2014.

Events planned include :

- Vintage Car, Motorcycle and Travel Trailer Shows
- a Conference on Transforming Route 66 into America's 1st All Electric Highway with solar charging stations
- golf and bowling tournaments
- a VW Bug Fest, Film Festival, Sock Hop, concerts, and,
- barbecues and Wine & Rum Tastings from the Hualapai Mountains to the Valle Vista Wine Country.

Kingman, Arizona, is located at the intersection of Interstate 40 and US Highway 93, 90 minutes south of Las Vegas.

The average temperature in August is 93 degrees with low humidity.

Visit : www.Kingman66Fest.com. Contact : Joshua Noble at josh@gokingman.com.

Events at Arundel Castle, West Sussex

One of the largest inhabited and complete castles in England, Arundel Castle is situated in 40 acres of grounds overlooking the River Arun in West Sussex.

It was founded at the end of the 11th century by Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Arundel and today is the family home of the 18th Duke of Norfolk.

Pirates & Smugglers Day

Tuesday 5 August
Sunday 21 September

Set on the Lower Lawns at Arundel Castle, these family days will be an opportunity to find out about the Smugglers of Sussex, and the Pirates who menaced the waters around the world.

Life in a Medieval Castle

Saturday 16 & Sunday 17 August

The Raven Tor Living History Group will be portraying the life and times of people living in and next to a Medieval Castle throughout the 14th and 15th Centuries.

Bank Holiday Multi-period Event

Saturday 23, Sunday 24 & Monday 25 August

Set on the Lower Lawns of Arundel Castle the tented encampment of Raven Tor Living History Group will reflect 2,000 years of local and Castle history through crafts, costume and combat displays.

Visitors will have the opportunity to meet characters and experience events from the Roman Empire right up to the Cold War of the late 20th Century.

Normans and Crusaders in The Keep

Wednesday 29 to Thursday 30 October

The Raven Tor Living History Group will be portraying the life and times of the 12th Century Norman period in The Keep at Arundel Castle.

With combat, weaponry, armour and crafts displays, visitors will not only be able to see what life was like for those living in a castle of this time, but also gain an insight into the lives of those preparing to leave on the perilous Crusades.

Visit : www.arundelcastle.org. Contact : Flow Powell at flo@midnight.co.uk.

The 125th Icelandic Festival of Manitoba, Canada

August 2014

The 125th Icelandic Festival of Manitoba is held in the resort town of Gimli on the shores of Lake Winnipeg, and extends Icelandic culture and hospitality through a variety of family-oriented events.

Visit : www.icelandicfestival.com. Contact: Kathi Thorarinson Neal at jkssneal@gmail.com.

Boston Local Food Festival, Illinois USA

6 October 2014

The Boston Local Food Festival is a free outdoor festival that showcases farmers, local restaurants, food trucks, specialty food producers, fisher folks and organisations focusing on healthy food and fitness from New England.

The festival also features lively chef & DIY demos, a seafood throwdown competition and live music and performances.

The festival is a zero-waste event, meaning we divert over 91% of our waste each year and we offset 100% of our energy use!

Visit : www.bostonlocalfoodfestival.org. Contact : Nicola Williams at nicola@thewilliamsagency.net.

Festival of Lights (Fête des Lumières), Lyon, France

5 to 8 December 2014

The city of Lyon hosts its annual Festival of Lights (Fête des Lumières) – one of the world's grandest Christmas light displays.

The event attracts over a million visitors to see the spectacular light installations developed by world-renowned artists.

Nearly 70 light displays will be on show around the city along with stalls and 'bouchons' – traditional Lyonnaise eateries – selling food and wine.

Visit : www.fetedeslumieres.lyon.fr/EN. Contact : Chase Burns at cburns@GolinHarris.com.

Reasons to write about

First World War Galleries, Imperial War Museum, London

July 2014 onwards

In the new First World War Galleries made up of 14 areas, visitors to the Imperial War Museum (IWM) London will discover the story of the First World War.

Drawing on our First World War collections – the most comprehensive in the world – the Galleries will feature objects, many of which have never been seen before, from lucky charms made from shell fragments to iconic recruitment posters and huge ship models.

Displays will include weapons and uniforms through to diaries, letters and souvenirs together with photographs, art and film.

Many Interactive digital displays and immersive spaces will also feature in the Galleries allowing visitors to explore stories and wider themes further.

Highlights include the Life at the Front area, where visitors will be able to explore a recreated trench with a light and soundscape evoking the conditions endured by troops.

Truth and Memory

July 2014 to 8 March 2015

Truth and Memory will be the largest exhibition and first major retrospective of British First World War art for almost 100 years and will include work by some of Britain's most important artists of the twentieth century.

Using artworks drawn mainly from IWM's national collection this exhibition will assess the immediate impact and enduring legacy of British art of the First World War.

Visit : www.iwm.org.uk/visits/iwm-london. Contact : Nina Dellow at ndellow@iwm.org.uk.

Five European cycling cities

Momondo has listed its top five European cities to discover on two wheels.

Amsterdam

Arguably the most recognisable biking capital of the world, Amsterdam claims top spot for its easy access to bicycles through public scheme OV-Fiets, which has 240 hire locations offering bikes by the hour, day or week.

Renting is reasonable and for those who'd like a more relaxing ride, electric bikes can also be leased for just 7.50 Euros a day.

Tip: Rent the 'Beerbike', which at 1.5m wide allows one to legally drink and ride round the city.

Paris

France's capital has long been admired by bike-lovers, and boasts The Salon du Cycle – a national event bringing together both amateurs and professionals.

Perfect for cyclists, the Paris Respire scheme also closes off parts of the city, such as roads by the river Seine, the Marais and Montmatre, every Sunday and over bank holidays between 9am-5pm.

Paris benefits from public scheme Vélib Bike Hire, which has more than 1,200 docking stations and 18,000 bikes around Paris.

Tip: Gain an extra 15 minutes free, if the docking station is fully occupied, in order to return your bike to another station.

Berlin

National scheme Call-A-Bike offers over 100 rental locations, and Berlin's tubes and trains even offer special tickets permitting bikes to be taken inboard.

Only over 18s can buy access to the scheme, although anyone over 14 can ride one of the public bikes.

MITip: Cycle behind public buses 100 or 200 for the best scenic views of the city, as these routes pass most tourist spots.

Nice

Nice's biking scheme Vélo bleu offers 175 docking stations around the city, and rental from just 1 Euro an hour.

Visitors should experience biking down the flat Promenade des Anglais – a five-mile walkway connecting Chateau Hill with Nice Airport.

Tip: Follow bus route 14 for a challenging ride to the top of Mount Boron in the Parc Municipal du Mt. Boron for the best city views.

London

The blue 'Boris Bikes' are now one of London's iconic sights, and Barclays Cycle Hire offers 8,000 bikes and 570 docking stations around the capital.

Never more than 400 metres apart, they form what has become a reliable mode of transport for commuters and tourists alike.

Travel search engine momondo.co.uk finds and compares prices on flights, hotels and travel deals.

Momondo's mobile applications are available for free for iPhone, Android and Blackberry

Visit : www.momondo.co.uk/content/bike. Contact : Leila Stocker at leila@turtle-pr.com.

Ski Verbier

Verbier is a village located in south-western Switzerland in the canton of Valais.

It is a holiday resort and ski area in the Swiss Alps and is recognised as one of the premiere "off-piste" resorts in the world. Some areas are covered with snow all year.

Visit : www.verbier.ch/en.

Verbier chalet specialists Ski Verbier is offering a link up with PrivateFly to offer ski packages by private jet.

Visit : www.skiverbier.com

Cordée des Alpes

Cordée des Alpes is a boutique hotel mixing old school ski with chic Swiss style and is the latest offering from local hotel and restaurant entrepreneur Marcus Bratter.

New for this season are gourmet wine matching breaks, festive horse and carriage resort tours and (for next summer) a new alpine spa experience.

Visit : www.hotelcordee.com

The Nevaï

The Nevaï, Verbier's first contemporary hotel is launching a new sushi bar from sushi chef Carlos Woods.

The property will also be hosting extreme speaker events in January and March by celebrated adventurers.

Visit : www.hotelnevai.com.

The Farm Club

The Farm Club is run by Italian brothers Giuseppe and Serfino Berardi who opened it in 1971 in the centre of Verbier.

Now in its fifth decade, the Farm Club is known for hosting exclusive and stylish nights frequented by royalty and celebrities.

Visit : www.hotelnevai.com/farm-club.

Contact : Jenni at jenni@rivapr.co.uk.

SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment, Florida

SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment is a leading theme park and entertainment company with a portfolio of 11 destination and regional theme parks across the United States, many of which showcase its one-of-a-kind collection of approximately 67,000 marine and terrestrial animals.

The Company's theme parks in Florida include Discovery Cove, a tropical oasis in the heart of Orlando where you can swim with a dolphin; SeaWorld, the world's most popular marine life park; Busch Gardens, full of wild animals and even wilder rides and Aquatica, SeaWorld's waterpark.

Falcon's Fury, Busch Gardens Tampa, Florida

Busch Gardens Tampa will open Falcon's Fury, the first drop tower of its kind in the world, in spring 2014.

Falcon's Fury will stand at 335 feet (102metres) and take riders plunging 60 mph straight down. At the ride's highest point riders will pivot 90 degrees in midair to a face-down dive position.

An instant later they'll plunge 60 mph at 3.5 Gs straight down with speed and power like they've never experienced before.

The surrounding area of Falcon's Fury will be redeveloped as Pantopia with theming, feature thrilling rides and attractions, new food and beverage and an indoor theatre.

Aquatica - Ihu's Breakaway Falls, Sea World Orlando's

Aquatica - Ihu's Breakaway Falls, which is Sea World Orlando's new free-falling water slide opens in 2014.

The drop slide will be the tallest, steepest and only multi-slide ride of its kind in Orlando and is named after Ihu, Aquatica Orlando's colorful gecko.

Visit : www.seaworldparks.co.uk/media-centre. Contact : Lucy Dalton at lucy@cubo.com.

Komodo dragons, Indonesia

Several Komodo dragons (*Varanus Komodoensis*) have been found living in Mbeliling Forest on Flores Island, Indonesia.

It had been believed that this ancient, endangered species could only be found in Komodo National Park in East Nusa Tenggara.

A team of conservationists confirmed the presence of the Komodo dragon, the world's largest lizard, in the extreme west of Flores, after camera traps recorded a community of 12 surviving near the coastal villages of Golo Mori and Tanjung Kerita Mese.

The discovery proves that Komodos can survive outside of Komodo National Park, and adds to Indonesia's reputation for boasting one of the world's most bio-diverse natural landscapes with abundant wildlife.

Named after the island on which it was discovered, the Komodo dragon has inhabited the natural landscapes of Indonesia for millions of years although its existence was unknown to humans until around 100 years ago.

These prehistoric lizards can grow up to 10 feet long and are typically found wandering freely around Komodo National Park, which covers the islands of Komodo, Rinca and Padar.

Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1986, this is the only place on earth where visitors have the unique opportunity to see them up close in their native habitat.

Indonesia is comprised of more than 17,000 tropical islands with wildlife that includes great apes, rhinos, tigers and some of the rarest species of birds on the planet.

Visit : www.tourism-indonesia.co.uk. Contact : Sarah Habicht at sarah@humewhitehead.co.uk.

Cycling in Calvia, Majorca

Calvia, a municipality located on the south west corner of Majorca known for being home to popular party place Magaluf, is also a cyclist's destination with a warm, reliable climate averaging 15°C in the winter months.

Calvia offers routes for cyclists of all levels, who can choose from seven different designated routes which vary in intensity.

The Enjoy Peguera, or the coastal Palmanova-Magaluf routes offer views of secluded costal bays and lush pine forests, while routes such as Calvia's Landscapes offer shorter distances, allowing cyclists to take in the picturesque residential and tourist areas of Calvia.

The Capdella-Galatzó route will allow enthusiasts to take it up a gear, beginning at the region's main mountain bike ride starting point, Es Capdella and travelling through mountains to the public estate of Galatzó.

Alternatively, cyclists can ride along the river bed on the Torrent de Santa Ponça route or take the Almond Blossoms and Wineries route.

Visit : www.visitcalvia.com. Contact : Jo Thomas at jo.thomas@kbc-pr.com.

A place to stay

Adriatic Luxury Hotels, Dubrovnik

The Hotel Excelsior, Dubrovnik

The iconic Hotel Excelsior, celebrating its 100th anniversary, is landmark among the five-star hotels in Dubrovnik.

Open all year round to serve guests throughout the seasons, the hotel continues to delight guests with its charming attention to detail.

An eclectic mix of old architecture and new design, impeccable service and luxuriously appointed 158 rooms and suites makes Hotel Excelsior a firm favourite of visiting celebrities and dignitaries and affords it the legendary status it so rightly deserves.

Hotel Bellevue and Villa Orsula, Dubrovnik

Hotel Bellevue and Villa Orsula, re-open at the beginning of March.

Hotel Bellevue, a 91-room luxury retreat carved into a secluded cliff-side, offers guests an elegant and private sanctuary, which can be an all-compassing luxury experience; with private beach, fabulous food and romantic dining settings and an invigorating Energy Clinic Spa.

Owing to the location around the bay from the Old Town, guests can choose Hotel Bellevue as a stylish base from which to explore the historic environs.

Villa Orsula is ALH's newest and most intimate hotel and is an historic building dating back to 1939, but which was completely restored and refurbished and opened in Spring 2012.

Hotel Dubrovnik Palace

Hotel Dubrovnik Palace opens from April 2014, on completion of an extensive renovation.

One of Dubrovnik's finest five-star resorts has 308 rooms and suites, each of which have private balconies and spectacular sea views.

Visit : www.adriaticluxuryhotels.com. Contact : Katie O'Lone at katie@masonrose.com.

W Verbier, Switzerland

Starwood Hotels & Resorts has opened the W Verbier, the W brand alpine and ski retreat in Switzerland.

The W Verbier and The Residences at W Verbier are part of a multi-component luxury development project situated next to the main Médran gondola at the foot of the Verbier ski slopes.

Visit : www.wverbier.com. Contact : Angeline Vincent at angeline.vincent@whotels.com.

The Domain de la Jarrige, Limousin, France

The Domain de la Jarrigemis located in a 17 Century country farm in the Guéret area.

The property combines antique furniture with contemporary touches making a very stylish base to explore the surrounding countryside.

Visit : www.domainedelajarrige.fr and www.tourismelimousin.com. Contact : Edith Meyer at edith@firstpr.co.uk.

Charles Jules' Dacla's cabins, Limousin, France

Charles Jules' Dacla's cabins are located in the heart of the Millevaches Plateau Natural Park in the French region of Limousin.

Limousin is an essentially rural region of France known for some of the best beef farming with herds of Limousin cattle, a distinctive chestnut red, a common sight.

Activities including hiking, yoga and bushcraft (the skills required to survive in the wild) and guests who wish to can also get involved in the building of cabins.

Visit : www.ecosourcearboricole.com and www.tourismelimousin.com. Contact : Edith Meyer at edith@firstpr.co.uk.

The Pullman Shanghai South, China

The Accor has opened its Pullman Shanghai South, the second Pullman hotel in Shanghai and the 15th in China.

Located in the heart of Shanghai South, the hotel is connected to a shopping mall, a supermarket and an office building in the Star Plaza commercial complex.

The 23-storey hotel has 338 rooms & suites and convenient access to Hongqiao International Airport, Shanghai South Railway Station, Shanghai Stadium and Caohejing High-tech Park.

Xujiahui, one of the city's most visited commercial precincts is also within easy reach for dining, shopping and entertainment.

Visit : www.pullmanhotels.com. Contact : Sarah Wilson at sarah.wilson@mason-williams.com.

The Iconic Santorini, Greece

The Iconic Santorini, on the Greek island of Santorini, will reopen in April 2014.

A boutique cave hotel located on the rim of a volcanic caldera, the 22-room hotel offers guests one of the most dramatic settings in the Mediterranean.

The hotel is recreated from actual homes and shops in the whitewashed village of Imervogli, the highest settlement on the caldera.

Visit : www.iconicsantorini.com. Contact : Martha Morano: martha@moranopr.com.

Hotel Arts Barcelona, Spain

The Hotel Arts Barcelona is located on the beachfront in the heart of Barcelona's former Olympic village.

Designed by the architect Bruce Graham, the hotel is framed by the iconic Frank Gehry 'Fish' sculpture giving the hotel its status as one of the leading design icons in the city.

The hotel exterior design of blue glass and exposed steel is complemented inside by a collection of work by contemporary Catalan and Spanish artists.

Hotel Arts Barcelona is part of the Ritz-Carlton group, which currently operates 85 hotels in the Americas, Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and the Caribbean.

Visit : www.hotelartsbarcelona.com and www.ritzcarlton.com. Contact Paul Charles at HotelArts@verypcc.com.

The Mayflower Grace, Washington, Connecticut

Grace Hotels has opened the Mayflower Grace, its second property in the United States.

Located in Washington, Connecticut, the Mayflower Grace is a country retreat, located in 58 acres of landscaped gardens and woodland and is two hours drive from New York.

Visit : www.gracehotels.com/mayflower. Contact : Clare Durnford at claredurnford@gracehotels.com.

The Conrad Pune, Conrad Pune, India

Hilton Worldwide is to open Conrad Pune, the first Conrad Hotels & Resorts branded hotel in India, during 2015.

Conrad Hotels & Resorts has a global portfolio of 23 properties in key gateway cities and resort destinations.

Conrad Pune will be located on Mangaldas Road within the central business district of Pune and close to the commercial and entertainment hubs in Kalyani Nagar, prime government institutions in Yerwada and premier residential neighbourhoods of Koregaon Park and Bund Garden.

The Pune International Airport is six kilometres away.

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

Great Hotels of the World Luxury Collection

The Great Hotels of the World Luxury Collection has admitted the following hotels to its ranks:

Vidago Palace Hotel, Portugal

A belle époque hotel dating from 1910, the Vidago Palace Hotel's was built as a spa hotel for European aristocrats to take the Vidago waters.

The hotel was recently renovated and modernised, yet still keeps an element of old-fashioned glamour and elegance alongside the modern updates.

Visit : www.ghotw.com/vidago-palace-hotel.

Hotel Auditorium, Madrid, Spain

The Hotel Auditorium is located a short drive from Madrid Barajas Airport, and close to Madrid's attractions, including the Prado Museum, Bernabeu Stadium and Museum Reina Sofia.

Visit : www.ghotw.com/hotel-auditorium.

Dubai Marine Beach Resort & Spa, United Arab Emirates

The Dubai Marine Beach Resort & Spa is set within landscaped gardens and offers luxury accommodation and twelve dining and drinking options.

Visit : www.ghotw.com/dubai-marine.

Rixos Libertas Dubrovnik, Croatia

The Rixos Libertas Dubrovnik, is a fully equipped resort and conference centre overlooking the Adriatic Sea.

Located 26km from Dubrovnik International Airport, the Rixos Libertas sits at the sea's edge, giving views over the water to the islands beyond.

Visit : www.ghotw.com/rixos-libertas.

Hotel Suite Villa Maria, Tenerife, Spain

Tenerife's Hotel Suite Villa Maria offers stand alone villas surrounded by landscaped gardens.

The hotel has a golf course, as well as green fee reservation and transfers to all courses on the island, and there are tennis, squash and padel courts.

Visit : www.ghotw.com/suite-villa-maria.

Vidamar Resort Algarve, Portugal

The Vidamar Resort Algarve is located on Salgados Beach and is a modern resort offering contemporary rooms and facilities, including a spa, sauna, steam bath, jacuzzi and gym.

Visit www.ghotw.com/vidamar-algarve or call +44 (0) 20 7380 3658.

Vidamar Resort Madeira, Portugal

Overlooking the Bay of Funchal on the island of Madeira, the Vidamar Resort offers guests a MAR Spa yhat uses thalassotherapy and other disciplines in its menu, while the Vida Health Club has a gym, classes, fitness trainers, tennis and squash courts and a pool.

Visit www.ghotw.com/vidamar-madeira.

Contact : Alejandra Moreno de Tejada at amoreno@ghotw.com.

Centara Hotels & Resorts, Maldives

Centara Hotels & Resorts will open Centara Hudhufushi Resort & Spa, its third resort in the Maldives during the latter half of 2014.

The hotel will be located on the east side of Lhaviyani Atoll, 25 minutes by seaplane from Male International Airport.

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

The Norman Tel Aviv, Israel

The Norman Tel Aviv will open in summer 2014 close to Rothschild Boulevard, Tel Aviv's first boulevard.

By day, Rothschild is a commercial hub with key financial institutions lining the street, and at night it buzzes with diners and party-goers.

A member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World, and converted from two historic buildings in the heart of the 'White City', Tel Aviv's UNESCO heritage site, the Norman will comprise of 30 bedrooms and 20 suites, including two penthouse suites.

Visit : www.thenorman.com. Contact Yael Roth at yael@purplepr.com.

Palais Amani, Morocco

Palais Amani is located in the walled medieval city - the Medina in Fez, Morocco.

The Medina is Africa's largest and Palais Amani is the biggest authentic Riad in Fez offering 14 luxury suites and bedrooms.

Palais Amani is built in the traditional riad style where the focus is turned inwards. A large garden at the centre of the palace makes way to bedrooms and suites over two floors, to a restaurant and a salon & library. At the top of Palais Amani the roof terrace offers a 360° view of the ancient city and surrounding mountains beyond.

Visit : www.palaisamani.com. Contact : Peter da Silva at peter@boutiquedasilva.com.

Dolina 960, Sochi, Russia

The Dolina 960 has opened in Sochi, Russia for the XXII Olympic Winter Games

The four-star boutique hotel takes its inspiration from the world of Pop Art.

The city of Sochi, situated in Southern Russia, is the longest city in Europe stretching 145 kilometres along the shores of the Black Sea.

The Sochi coastal area is a popular seaside resort, while the less well-known Sochi mountain cluster is located an hour's drive from the Black Sea.

In recent years, US\$12 billion has been invested in the development of Sochi mountain area and that of the surrounding infrastructure in preparation for the 2014 Olympic Winter Games.

In summer, the area offers alpine-style meadows, the primordial forests of the Sochi National Park, mountain rivers and waterfalls for hiking, biking, horse riding and adventure tourism.

Dolina 960 is accessible via Sochi International Airport, which is a two-hour flight from Moscow and a three hour flight from major European cities.

A high speed train will connect the resort and the airport in 30 minutes; the driving time is approximately 45 minutes.

Visit : www.solishotels.com/sochi-en. Contact : Sue Heady at sue@headycommunications.com.

Ravenstone Manor, Keswick, Cumbria UK

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

Overlooking Bassenthwaite Lake, and set against the backdrop of Skiddaw, Ravenstone Manor provides guests with a vantage point to fully appreciate the beauty of the Lake District.

The grounds of the Hotel are a great start for many walks for any ability; a short amble through Dodd Wood looking for Ospreys nesting or the odd deer to a hike to the summit of Skiddaw.

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

Tongabezi, Zambia

Tongabezi Lodge is the first Zambezi River lodge on the Zambian side of Victoria Falls.

Privately owned and run it was voted among the world's finest places to stay in Condé Nast Traveler's 2008 Gold List.

Visit : www.tongabezi.com. Contact : Sanja Cloete-Jones at sanja@tongabezi.com.

The Taskonaklar Boutique Hotel, Turkey

The Taskonaklar Boutique Hotel is located in Uçhisar, the highest town in the Turkish region of Cappadocia.

A member of Great Hotels of the World, it has rooms and suites carved into volcanic formations with the accommodations combines subterranean spaces, rough-hewn walls and stone archways with fresh air in the form of terraces and balconies, with stunning views.

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

Travel guides

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

AA Travel Guides

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

Anova Books

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

Berlitz

www.berlitzpublishing.com.

Bradt Travel

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

Brit's Guide

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

Cicerone

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

Eland Publishing

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

Fisher's Travel SOS

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

Global Travel Publishers

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

Globetrotters LogBook

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

Inn House Publishing

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

Insight

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

In your pocket guides

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

Jane's Smart Art Guides

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

Jonglez Publishing

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

Kuperard Publishers

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

Morris Communications

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

Odyssey Books & Guides

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

Oxygen Books city-lit

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

Rough Guides

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

Summersdale travel publications

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

Take two Books

www.taketwobooks.com Sarah Duvall at Sarah@taketwobooks.com.

Turnleft

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

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www.itwalliance.com

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www.allwaystraveller.com

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

