



The International  
Travel Writers  

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Alliance

# The Alliance Bulletin



Dartmoor : [www.malcomsnelgrove.photoshelter.com](http://www.malcomsnelgrove.photoshelter.com)

Providing key information in a no-frills format for professionals who travel to write, edit, broadcast or create images.

Issue 204 : mid-May 2016

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## The Alliance press card



**The International Travel Writers Alliance Press Card** provides Alliance journalists with formal recognition of their status and standing in the profession and offers a range of opportunities from Alliance travel partners.

Contact Ashley Gibbins at [Ashley@itwalliance.com](mailto:Ashley@itwalliance.com).

## The Alliance launches its new website

### The International Travel Writers Alliance launches its new website

The Alliance has launched its new website with a range of interactive services for travel journalists and travel and tourism industry partners and their agencies.

Those registering as a journalist, partner or agency will be able to :

#### Upload a profile and image

Journalists will be able to upload a profile and image and partners and agencies will be able to upload their organisations profile and its logo.

#### Access the Alliance Bulletin

The Alliance's twice-monthly Bulletin can be searched online or downloaded in its PDF format.

#### The Alliance Syndication Network

Registered journalists who have an online travel 'presence' will be able to join or update their membership of the Alliance Syndication Network

The Syndication Network enables members to syndicate their online features, or links to them, through other Syndication Network members.

#### The Alliance Opinion Forum

Journalists, partners and agencies will be able to post or contribute to discussions in the Alliance Opinion Forum.

#### The Alliance Press Card

Finally, journalists will be able to apply for the Alliance press card via the new website.

- [www.itwalliance.com](http://www.itwalliance.com)
- [Ashley@itwalliance.com](mailto:Ashley@itwalliance.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](http://www.itwalliance.com).

### Partners



#### **Richmond** Canada

Richmond is the fourth largest city in BC, just 25 minutes south of downtown Vancouver and 25 minutes north of the United States border - a city of stunning mountain vistas, beautiful waterfront sunsets and vibrant urban living.

- [www.visitrichmondbc.com](http://www.visitrichmondbc.com)
- Lesley Chang at [lchang@tourismrichmond.com](mailto:lchang@tourismrichmond.com)

#### **Hidden in Spain** Spain

Hidden in Spain is a small travel agency, based in Spain, fully bonded and licensed, specialized in customized tours through Spain and Camino de Santiago.

Focused on high quality service Hidden in Spain offers expertise in the area and matches all its clients request to make of a simple tour some of the best experiences of their client's life.

- [www.hiddeninspain.com](http://www.hiddeninspain.com)
- Fernandez de vega at [luis@hiddeninspain.com](mailto:luis@hiddeninspain.com)

#### **Taksim Hoteliers Community** Turkey



**The Taksim Hoteliers Community, founded in 2015, is works to meet the needs and requirements of its members within the accommodation and tourism industries.**

Taksim, situated in the European part of Istanbul, Turkey, is a major tourist and leisure district known for its restaurants, shops, and hotels.

It is considered the heart of modern Istanbul, with the central station of the Istanbul Metro network.

Taksim Square is also the location of the Monument of the Republic, which was crafted by Pietro Canonica and inaugurated in 1928. The monument commemorates the 5th anniversary of the foundation of the Republic of Turkey in 1923, following the Turkish War of Independence.

Taksim is a main transportation hub and a popular destination for both tourists and the native population of Istanbul

- **Suleyman Bozdemir at [suleymanbozdemir00@gmail.com](mailto:suleymanbozdemir00@gmail.com)**
- **[www.taksimotelcilerplatformu.com](http://www.taksimotelcilerplatformu.com)**

## **The Bright Consortia**

Bright is a group of 14 specialist tour operators, cruise companies and tourist boards that provide networking and training opportunities through a series of workshop dinners across the UK.

The *Bright Consortium* also provides gateway access to its partners.

***Bright Consortia* partners include :**

**Attraction World** : the UK's No. 1 travel trade specialists for the best holiday attractions, shows, tours & experiences.

- [www.attractionworld.com](http://www.attractionworld.com).

**1st Class Holidays** : an award winning, independent operator offering the widest selection of holidays to Canada, New Zealand, Australia and the USA.

- [www.1stclassholidays.com](http://www.1stclassholidays.com).

**Cox & Kings** : the longest established travel company in the world, offering tailor-made private travel, escorted small-group tours, short breaks and relaxing holidays to a wide range of destinations.

- [www.coxandkings.co.uk](http://www.coxandkings.co.uk).

**Kirker Holidays** : the specialist tour operator, with over 25 years experience, in creating tailor-made itineraries across Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, Southern Africa and India.

- [www.kirkerholidays.com](http://www.kirkerholidays.com).

**Veloso Tours** : a specialist tour operator dedicated to providing high quality holidays to Latin America.

- [www.veloso.com](http://www.veloso.com).

**Viking Cruises** : the worlds leading river cruise line plying the main rivers of Europe, Russia and Asia.

- [www.vikingrivercruises.com](http://www.vikingrivercruises.com).

**Islas Canarias** : the Canary Islands offer a year round spring like climate, idyllic beaches, spectacular volcanoes and a remarkable cultural heritage.

- [www.turismodecanarias.com](http://www.turismodecanarias.com).



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**Hurtigruten** : the original Norwegian coastal voyage company offering cruises from the magnificent Norwegian fjords to the ice-filled bays of Antarctica.

- [www.hurtigruten.com/uk](http://www.hurtigruten.com/uk).

**Mosaic Holidays** : a high quality, specialist tour operator to the Middle East, including Jordan, Arabia, North Africa including Egypt, North Cyprus and the Indian Ocean.

- [www.mosaicholidays.co.uk](http://www.mosaicholidays.co.uk).

**Jersey** : the island with its unspoiled landscape, and blend of British and French influences.

- [www.jersey.com](http://www.jersey.com).

**Sunvil** : holidays, short breaks and multi-centre itineraries to Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, the Azores, Portugal & Madeira, Italy & Sicily, Scandinavia and Latin America.

- [www.sunvil.co.uk](http://www.sunvil.co.uk).

**Silversea Cruises** : eight luxury small ships covering more than 800 destination, including some of the most remote places in the world.

- [www.silversea.com](http://www.silversea.com).

**Prom Peru** : Travel & tourism portal for Peru Tourism.

- [www.peru.travel](http://www.peru.travel)
- [www.brightconsortia.com](http://www.brightconsortia.com)
- Doug Goodman [doug@douggoodmanpr.com](mailto:doug@douggoodmanpr.com).

### **The International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association (USA)**

**The International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association is the leading member-based global organization dedicated to LGBT tourism.**

The association represents LGBT and LGBT-friendly accommodations, destinations, service providers, travel agents, tour operators, and events, as well as the LGBT travel consumers they wish to serve.

- [www.iglta.org](http://www.iglta.org)
- LoAnn Halden loan at [halden@iglta.org](mailto:halden@iglta.org)

### **Space Florida**

Florida's aerospace and spaceport development authority, Space Florida, looks to strengthen Florida's position as the global leader in aerospace research, investment, exploration and commerce.

- [www.spaceflorida.gov](http://www.spaceflorida.gov)
- Mary Jane Kolassa at [mjkolassa@paradiseadv.com](mailto:mjkolassa@paradiseadv.com)

## News



### The Canary Islands Dive Challenge

**Promotur Turismo de Canarias has launched its first *Canary Islands Dive Photo Challenge*.**

Known for being a diver's destination, *The Canary Islands* hide a seabed, with a spectacular fauna and flora for anyone who likes to explore underwater.

The quality of the Canarian waters is known for its transparency, allowing visibility of up to 30 meters.



Having a consistent temperature of 20 degrees, allows a rich seabed full of biodiversity characterised by a volcanic relief full of caves, nooks and reefs.

Having a consistent temperature of 20 degrees, allows a rich seabed full of biodiversity characterised by a volcanic relief full of caves, nooks and reefs.

Professional divers and underwater photography amateurs can participate in the contest.

The Dive Photo Challenge is offering participating underwater photographers the chance to win prizes worth more than 25.000 euros.

All photographs entered in the contest have to be taken in the sea beds of the Canary Islands, regardless of the date on which they were taken.

Participants indicate on each photograph the archipelago island where it was shot.

The images should come as a RAW file with resolution 800x1200 or 1200x800, 72 ppp (preferably with sRGB colour space).

- [www.hellocanaryislands.com](http://www.hellocanaryislands.com)
- Sandra Boutonnet at [sandra.boutonnet@porternovelli.co.uk](mailto:sandra.boutonnet@porternovelli.co.uk)





Malcolm Snelgrove



## Visit Dartmoor appoints Malcolm Snelgrove as photographic ambassador UK

**Visit Dartmoor has appointed professional photographer Malcolm Snelgrove as a dedicated ambassador to help promote the National Park as a visitor destination.**

Malcolm is an internationally published active lifestyle photographer with a passion and enthusiasm for Dartmoor having moved there 18 years ago with his wife Juliette.

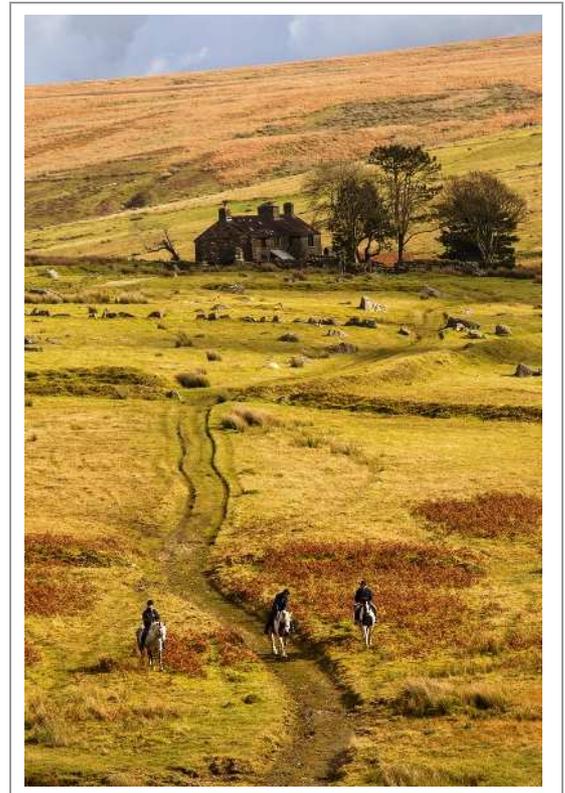
He will work alongside the team from Visit Dartmoor promoting what the National Park has to offer.

He will also offer business support with branding and how Dartmoor images can be used to best effect.

Situated in the south west of England, right in the very heart of Devon, Dartmoor is a landscape of stunning views, awe inspiring granite tors, deep wooded valleys with fast flowing rivers, and rugged, wide open spaces.

Dartmoor has the largest number of archaeological remains in Europe and has stone circles, menhirs, stone crosses and ancient villages.

Dartmoor is home to all manner of wildlife, from Dartmoor ponies wandering the moor, the rare marsh fritillery butterfly and a range of birds. A common sight on the moor are the Dartmoor Ponies



- [www.visitdartmoor.co.uk](http://www.visitdartmoor.co.uk) : Lucy Johnson at [lucyjohansonpr@gmail.com](mailto:lucyjohansonpr@gmail.com)
- [www.malcomsnelgrove.photoshelter.com](http://www.malcomsnelgrove.photoshelter.com) : Malcolm Snelgrove at [malcolm@malcomsnelgrove.com](mailto:malcolm@malcomsnelgrove.com)

## The new Spirit of Scotland Travelpass Scotland

**The new Spirit of Scotland Travelpass, launched by VisitScotland in partnership with ScotRail and CalMac will allow people to travel throughout the country by rail, ferry or coach for one fixed price.**

As well as ensuring passengers do not have to book individual tickets for every journey they want to make, the pass is also designed to save money with a round-trip of Scotland costing as much as 27% less than booking the tickets separately.

VisitScotland hopes the Spirit of Scotland Travelpass will encourage both visitors and residents alike to take the opportunity to discover new regions, towns, villages, landscapes, communities and islands across the country.

Two types of passes are available – four days unlimited travel over eight consecutive days or eight days unlimited travel over 15 consecutive days.

The launch of the Travelpass is part of the VisitScotland's new Spirit of Scotland campaign.

- [www.scotrail.co.uk/spirit](http://www.scotrail.co.uk/spirit)
- Kate Turnbull at [kate.turnbull@visitscotland.com](mailto:kate.turnbull@visitscotland.com)

## Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines

**Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines has launched 'Discover the Fjords with Fred.', which showcases 18 Norwegian sailings on offer in its 2016/17 cruise programme.**

In 2017/18, its fleet of four smaller, more intimate ships – Balmoral, Braemar, Boudicca and Black Watch – will also be visiting 220 destinations in 70 countries around the globe, plus 118 areas of scenic cruising.

Fred. Olsen sails from ten regional UK departure ports : Southampton, Dover, Harwich, Tilbury, Falmouth, Liverpool, Newcastle, Rosyth (for Edinburgh), Greenock (for Glasgow) and Belfast.

- [www.fredolsencruises.com](http://www.fredolsencruises.com)
- Rachael Jackson at Ruth Ryland at [ruth.ryland@fredolsen.co.uk](mailto:ruth.ryland@fredolsen.co.uk).

## Helsinki Finland

**Helsinki expects to welcome 460,000 international cruise visitors to the city during Summer 2016.**

Helsinki is promoting itself as a turnaround port and introducing new forms of marketing to attract cruise visitors to spend a longer time in Helsinki and to return again in the future.

The biggest incoming market for international cruise visitors to Helsinki is Germany, which accounted for approximately 117,000 visitors last year (+6.5%).

The next biggest incoming markets are the USA, Great Britain, Spain, Italy and Canada. The most popular cruise destinations in the Baltic Sea are St. Petersburg, Copenhagen, Tallinn, Stockholm and Helsinki.

- [www.visithelsinki.fi](http://www.visithelsinki.fi)
- Laura Saksala at [laura.saksala@hel.fi](mailto:laura.saksala@hel.fi)



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## Leads

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[www.wildplanetadventures.com](http://www.wildplanetadventures.com)

### Wild Planet Adventures

#### Borneo

**Wild Planet Adventures has been granted special access to lead wildlife eco-tours in the remote Maliau Basin Conservation Area, known as *The Lost World of Borneo*.**

Located on the strait of Sabah, the region encompasses Malaysia's easternmost state on the island of Borneo.

The Lost World of Borneo is one of three areas left in Borneo that encompass the last stands of the oldest rainforest on earth.

Its geography, a basin surrounded by steep cliffs, has never been fully explored.

The Maliau Basin Conservation Area offers perhaps the only remotely viable chance to see some of the world's rarest animals including the clouded leopard, sun bear, pygmy elephant, Malaysian badger and the reclusive Bornean rhino.

#### Wild Planet Adventures

Wild Planet Adventures offers exploration in remote wildlife habitat and study wildlife patterns in destinations not often accessible to the general public.

Tours are conducted in Africa, Baja, Belize, Borneo, Brazil, Costa Rica, Galapagos, India, Laos, Nepal, Panama, Peru, Thailand and Zambia.

- [www.wildplanetadventures.com](http://www.wildplanetadventures.com)
- Dave Wiggins at [dave@travelnewssource.com](mailto:dave@travelnewssource.com).

## Tangier Island, Virginia USA

**Tangier Island, Virginia is located 12 miles of the coast of Virginia.**

It is a fascinating island where locals speak with a unique Elizabethan accent, has virtually no cars and is a haven for wildlife. Visitors arrive by ferry and get around the island by golf buggy.

There's the chance to explore the island with a kayak water tour, enjoy a sunset cruise or go on crab shanty tour at one of the island's crabbing hotspots to get a real taste for island life.

Tangier Island has many water trails which lead paddlers to secluded beaches, marches full of waterfowl and quirky fishing villages along the coast.

- [www.tangierisland-va.com](http://www.tangierisland-va.com) and [CapitalRegionUSA.co.uk](http://CapitalRegionUSA.co.uk)
- **Lisa Cooper at [Lisa.cooper@kbc-pr.com](mailto:Lisa.cooper@kbc-pr.com).**

## American Attractions Collection USA

**The American Attractions Collection is a collection of attractions and tours aimed at promoting some of the best tourist “must dos” in North America.**

The Collection also offers money saving cards that provide travellers with meal deals.

The American Attractions Collection currently includes :

### Orlando

- Artegon Marketplace
- Boggy Creek Airboat Rides
- Florida Dolphin Tours
- Fun Spot Attractions – Orlando & Kissimmee
- Orlando Balloon Rides
- Boggy Creek Airboat Rides
- Revolution Off Road Experience
- Mucky Ducks
- Wonderworks / Outta Control Dinner Show
- Kids Eat Free Card Orlando
- Dine 4Less Card Orlando

### New York

- The Ride
- Inside Out Tours
- New York Water Taxi
- VIP Dine 4Less Card New York

### Las Vegas

- Vegas Balloon Rides
- VIP Dine 4Less Card Las Vegas
- Shop & Dine Las Vegas

The attractions, tours and savings cards are available through :

- Do Something Different : [www.dosomethingdifferent.com](http://www.dosomethingdifferent.com)
- Attraction World : [www.attractionworld.com](http://www.attractionworld.com), and
- Viator : [www.Viator.com](http://www.Viator.com).
- **Margaret Henriksson at [margaret@hatmarketing.com](mailto:margaret@hatmarketing.com)**



## Arkansas River Tours USA

**Colorado's Rocky Mountains have more major rivers than any other mountain range in the U.S.**

Colorado's Arkansas River provides a variety of whitewater rafting experiences ranging from ½ day trips to multi-day trips with camping, easy whitewater for family vacation adventures to challenging extreme adventures in Class IV+ whitewater.

Three unique canyons, Bighorn Canyon, Brown's Canyon and the Royal Gorge provide whitewater rafting trips for the timid beginner to the seasoned veteran.

- [www.arkansasrivertours.com](http://www.arkansasrivertours.com)
- **Bob Hamel at bob@arkansasrivertours.com.**

## Southern Cross Blue Cruising Turkey, Greece

**Southern Cross Blue Cruising runs cruises on luxury, hand-crafted wooden gulets sailing through the Aegean and Mediterranean coasts of Turkey and Greece.**

Sailings take in ancient coastlines with Roman, Byzantine and Crusader ruins, including sunken cities all of which are only accessible from the sea.

- [www.southerncrossbluecruising.com](http://www.southerncrossbluecruising.com)
- **Dina Street at info@southerncrossbluecruising.com**

## Dauphin Island, Alabama USA

**Dauphin Island is a town in Mobile County, Alabama on a barrier island also named Dauphin Island in the Gulf of Mexico.**

The Estuarium at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab is an aquarium next to Mobile Bay on historic Dauphin Island, which focusses solely on the four native ecosystems of the Mobile Bay Estuary system.

The jewel of the facility includes a Living Marsh Boardwalk, where visitors can gaze at the landmarks of Mobile Bay and spot the native birds flying lazily by, and the Miss May May, an interactive boat with a shrimp trawl trailing behind.

Its newest exhibit is an outdoor Ray Touch Tank, which is populated with cownose and Southern stingrays.

The Gulf of Mexico is "America's Sea" and produces most of the USA's domestic oil and natural gas, and also yields almost half of all the seafood in the nation.

- [www.estuarium.disl.org](http://www.estuarium.disl.org)
- **Lisa Young at lyoung@disl.org**

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## Guadeloupe

### Guadeloupe

**Guadeloupe is a Caribbean island and overseas region of France located in the Leeward Islands.**

Besides Guadeloupe island, the smaller islands of Marie-Galante, La Désirade, and the Îles des Saintes are included in Guadeloupe.

This French influenced Caribbean archipelago offers rain forests, waterfalls, clear waters and white sandy beaches, small villages and cuisine French culture.

The efficient inter-island connection network makes the Guadeloupe Archipelago an island-hopping destination, with all the islands are located within a mere 20-45 minute boat ride.

There is the chance to explore lush scenery, hike up the summit of La Soufriere volcano and canoe on the hidden rivers in the National Park or go kayaking down the Cousteau Reserve.

- [www.guadeloupe-islands.com](http://www.guadeloupe-islands.com)
- [press@guadeloupe-islands.com](mailto:press@guadeloupe-islands.com)

## Rothenburg ob der Tauber

### USA

**Rothenburg ob der Taube, is situated near Nuremberg and Würzburg in North-West Bavaria.**

The town can trace its history back to the 1000 and attracts people from all over the world due to its medieval Old Town with its town wall, cobble stoned alleyways, half-timbered houses, churches, parks and museums.

From 1274 – 1802, Rothenburg was granted the right to be a Free Imperial City, which meant that Rothenburg could govern itself, make its own currency, and develop its own system of measurement.

As the city grew and developed with its economic and political power, it became one of the largest, most thriving cities in the Old Empire with over 6000 inhabitants.

In 1974 the citizens of Rothenburg decided to create a festival for the 700th anniversary of the imperialization, in order to remember this important time period.

### The Imperial City Festival

The Imperial City Festival, which takes place annually in early September, sees Rothenburg's residents organising into different historical groups.

The festival opens with a torchlight procession of these groups, followed by a firework display with music on the Rothenburg Market Square.

- [www.tourismus.rothenburg.de](http://www.tourismus.rothenburg.de)
- [presse@rothenburg.de](mailto:presse@rothenburg.de)

## New motorhome driving USA

**Early each year, the major motorhome rental companies in North America take delivery of their new vehicles ready for spring and summer customers.**

Though the nearest point to the factories will be Chicago, some of their most popular rental locations are out in America's west.

Small, medium and large motorhomes will be ready to leave Chicago between February and March and need to arrive in Los Angeles, San Francisco or Las Vegas no later than 1 April.

The initiative allows travellers to take in Route 66 from Chicago to LA; the Rockies; Las Vegas, the Grand Canyon and the Pacific Ocean.

The Motorhome Experts can also offer advice and assistance with motorhome touring in the USA and Canada at any time of the year,

- [www.TheMotorhomeXperts.com](http://www.TheMotorhomeXperts.com)
- [Linda@TheMotorhomeXperts.com](mailto:Linda@TheMotorhomeXperts.com)

## Scenic European rail journeys

### Swiss lakes and mountains

**This journey, from Montreux to Interlaken on the Golden Pass Line, takes in Lake Geneva and passes through resorts like Gstaad and Châteaux d'Oex.**

It includes Europe's highest railway station at the summit of Jungfrauoch.

### Norway in a Nutshell

Norway in a nutshell combines the Bergen Railway, the Flam railway, the Aurlandsfjord, the Nærøyfjord and the Stalheimskleiva road.

Starting from Oslo the trip uses the Flam railway, descending deep into the fjord along the world's steepest regular-track railway line.

There is a drop of 861 metres in an hour as the panorama shifts from grand mountains to sparkling waterfalls.

### Germany's Rhineland

Starting at Cologne this trip goes down the Rhine Valley to Koblenz, with palaces, churches, fountains and a real 'old world' charm.

There is also the chance to cruise down the river or take a daytrip to historic Rudesheim, before heading up the Moselle.

The trip passes through the heart of the Rhineland-Palatinate and along the Moselle from Koblenz to Trier – Germany's oldest city – which boasts a UNESCO-listed Cathedral and a picture perfect market square.

### Railbookers

Railbookers is an independent travel company, specialising in tailor made rail holidays across Europe and the world.

- [www.railbookers.com](http://www.railbookers.com)
- [John Hale at PR@railbookers.com](mailto:John.Hale@railbookers.com)



## Moab, Utah

**Moab in southeastern Utah, which was once a Uranium mining town, is now promoting itself as a location for 'iconic beauty and big adventure'.**

Moab offers easy access to the Arches and Canyonlands National Parks, Dead Horse Point State Park, the Colorado River, three scenic byways, and thousands of square miles of red rock landscapes.

Some 20 miles south of Moab are the La Sal Mountains, which are part of Manti-La Sal National Forest. Attaining heights of nearly 13,000 feet, these alpine mountains are the second highest mountain range in Utah.

There is the chance to explore the back roads of Moab, many etched into canyon country as past mining roads

### Pedal Paddle Pedal

Pedal Paddle Pedal with Desert Highlights is a combination of mountain bike and pack raft.

The pack raft deflated is the size of a football. Inflated it is used for passage on a water course to connect land sections, which means covering more backcountry territory and getting a whole lot of sightseeing and exercise.

- [www.deserthighlights.com/trips/packraft/packraft.htm](http://www.deserthighlights.com/trips/packraft/packraft.htm).
- **[www.DiscoverMoab.com](http://www.DiscoverMoab.com)**
- **Marian DeLay at [director@discovermoab.com](mailto:director@discovermoab.com)**

## Hilton Head Golf Island, South Carolina USA

**Hilton Head Golf Island (HHGI), which is a collection of premier resorts and courses, has been named a "Top 10 Most Dreamed About U.S. Golf Destination" in GOLF.com's inaugural "Golfers' Choice Awards."**

Hilton Head Golf Island features more than 30 member courses on Hilton Head and Fripp Islands, as well as Bluffton, Beaufort and Jasper counties. Golf enthusiasts can enjoy Hilton Head's Southern hospitality and world-class public and private designs sculpted by architects Pete Dye, Jack Nicklaus and Robert Trent Jones.

Hilton Head Golf Island is accessible from numerous Southeast, Midwest and East Coast cities.

- **[www.hiltonheadgolfisland.com](http://www.hiltonheadgolfisland.com)**
- **Robert Rodriguez at [rrodriguez@buffalobig.com](mailto:rrodriguez@buffalobig.com)**

## Go Washington DC Explorer Pass USA

**The Go Washington DC Explorer Pass is a multi-attraction pass that enables travellers to save up to 35% on admission on attractions including :**

- City Sights Hop-On Hop-Off Tour
- The Crime Museum
- National Geographic Museum
- Bike and Roll DC
- George Washington's Mount Vernon
- International Spy Museum
- Boating in DC
- Madame Tussauds DC
- Newseum
- Washington Monuments Cruise by Potomac Riverboat Company
- **[www.GoWashingtonDCCard.com](http://www.GoWashingtonDCCard.com)**
- **Jane Coloccia at [Jane@JCCommunicationsllc.com](mailto:Jane@JCCommunicationsllc.com).**



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## The Teide Observatory

### Tenerife

**Tenerife has boosted its position as one of the best locations for stargazing, with the introduction of eight new telescopes at the Teide Observatory.**

The new telescopes will appeal to “astro-tourists” and scientists looking to unravel the mysteries of the universe.

The new, advanced solar telescopes mark the 30th anniversary of the foundation of the Institute of Astrophysics of the Canary Islands (IAC).

Of the eight introduced, six are robotic telescopes from countries including the USA, Russia, Qatar and Slovakia; and two belong to the QUIJOTE (Q-U-I-Joint Tenerife), a scientific experiment involving multiple partners from Spain and the UK.

The recently-launched Volcano Life Experience operates guided tours several days a week to the Teide Observatory, which is also home to GREGOR, the largest solar telescope in Europe.

Located at 2,390 metres above sea level and next to Mount Teide – Spain’s highest peak at 3,718 metres – Teide Observatory is perfect for studying stars at night due to its geographical location, low-light pollution and extremely clear night skies.

The Observatory rests above the clouds in the volcanic Teide National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and recognised as a ‘Starlight Tourist Destination’ by the Starlight Foundation.

### Tenerife

Tenerife is the largest of the Canary Islands and one of the most popular and easily European island holiday destinations.

- [www.webtenerife.co.uk](http://www.webtenerife.co.uk)
- Sarah Habicht at [sarah@humewhitehead.co.uk](mailto:sarah@humewhitehead.co.uk)

## Hornblower Cruises, San Diego, California

### USA

**Hornblower Cruises is running its seasonal Blue Whale Watching Adventures cruises to 6 September 2015.**

This specialty cruise is designed to spot whales, dolphins, sea lions and sea birds.

During the four-hour tour, passengers will be treated to a live narration by an experienced captain and an on-board naturalist (from the San Diego Natural History Museum).

- [www.sandiegowhalewatching.com](http://www.sandiegowhalewatching.com).
- Molly Blaisdell at [molly@hooklineandthinker.com](mailto:molly@hooklineandthinker.com)

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## Green turtles on Velassaru

### Maldives

**Velassaru by Universal Resorts is a 21 acre coral island is situated in the quiet South Malé Atoll.**

With its beaches a turquoise lagoon and coconut groves the five star resort has 129 villas and bungalows along with dining, leisure and spa facilities.

Velassaru has also announced that the 124 green sea turtle eggs laid on its beach in late-May hatched in July after 58 days of incubation.

One of seven species of the marine reptile, green sea turtles are mainly found in tropical and sub-tropical zones, but will often migrate hundreds of miles to forage or nest.

Upon reaching maturity, females habitually return to the beach of their own birth in order to nest. However only one in 1000 hatchlings survive to adulthood.

In an effort to combat this statistic, Velassaru has introduced new protectionist activities to its ongoing CSR commitments, including securing those environments suitable for nesting and monitoring for future eggs and hatchlings.

The resort hopes that this will make the island even safer for these amazing marine creatures and assist in the worldwide conservation effort.

- [www.velassaru.com](http://www.velassaru.com)
- **Maya Mahir at [mayam@goodresults.co.uk](mailto:mayam@goodresults.co.uk)**

## Tuolumne, California

### USA

**Tuolumne County, located 133 miles east of San Francisco, is a pristine, scenic expanse reaching into the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains.**

The main highways leading to the picturesque drive from the San Francisco and East Bay Area are Highways 108 and 120 from the west and Highway 49 from the north.

The State Highway 120 entrance to Yosemite National Park is considered the “front door” of the park for the San Francisco Greater Bay Area.

The Stanislaus National Forest, Yosemite National Park, and other surrounding areas provide natural vistas and settings for hiking, water skiing, horseback riding, rafting, camping, snowmobiling, boating, snow skiing, fishing and other outdoor activities.

The county has seven restored historic hotels, four golf courses, a range of dining options, historic saloons, wineries and a hard cider distillery, train rides, casino, seven museums, two state historic parks, five live theaters and many bed-and-breakfast inns.

- [www.YosemiteGoldCountry.com](http://www.YosemiteGoldCountry.com)
- **Susan Wilson at [susanwilson12@gmail.com](mailto:susanwilson12@gmail.com)**

## European Waterways

### France

**European Waterways is the largest hotel barging company in Europe, offering luxury, all-inclusive cruises on fully-crewed hotel barges on the inland waterways of Europe, particularly France.**

Every 6-night cruise includes gourmet cuisine, fine regional wines, open bar, daily escorted excursions, local transfers and the use of barge facilities such as bicycles to explore the towpaths, a sundeck to laze on, or a spa pool to relax in.

The fully-crewed luxury vessels accommodate between 6 and 20 passengers, who may choose to charter a whole boat with family and friends, or join a small group on an individual basis.

The average crew ratio is one crew member for every two passengers and includes Captain, Chef, Tour Guide and Hostess, thus ensuring a very high level of service.

- [www.gobarging.com](http://www.gobarging.com)
- Chris Gant at [chris@gobarging.com](mailto:chris@gobarging.com)

## South Dakota

### USA

**South Dakota has five national parks, monuments and memorials as well as 54 state parks and recreation areas that allow visitors to experience the natural beauty of the state.**

In the southeast, Lewis and Clark State Recreation Area features three campgrounds, biking trails, sandy beaches and the largest marina in South Dakota.

Palisades State Park features 50-foot cliffs composed of 1.2 billion-year-old Sioux quartzite, walking trails, campgrounds and historical sites.

Travellers to the northeast region of the state can visit Fort Sisseton Historical State Park, an area where history enthusiasts can take a guided tour and walk among 14 original buildings while adventurers explore the waters by canoe or kayak.

The state capitol of Pierre is located just below the Oahe Dam, Farm Island State Recreation Area and Oahe Downstream State Recreation Area allowing visitors to take in the Missouri River. Nearby Lake Oahe offers world-class walleye fishing and outdoor recreation.

The western region of the state takes in the Badlands National Park, the Black Hills National Forest, Mount Rushmore National Memorial and the Custer State Park, Crazy Horse Memorial, Wind Cave National Park and Jewel Cave National Monument.

- [www.travelsd.com](http://www.travelsd.com)
- Vicky Engelhaupt at [vicky.engelhaupt@travelsouthdakota.com](mailto:vicky.engelhaupt@travelsouthdakota.com)

## The Hampshire South Downs, UK

**The Hampshire South Downs is located between the cathedral cities of Winchester, Hampshire and Chichester, on the Sussex coast.**

It offers opportunities for walking, hiking and cycling and also has a great deal to offer those interested in sampling its history and heritage.

Part of the South Downs National Park, it was where Jane Austen lived and her former home is now a museum in the village of Chawton.

Nearby is the former home of the naturalist and ecologist Gilbert White – also now a museum and gardens.



## National Trust properties

National Trust historic houses Hinton Ampner and Uppark are both nearby and the area has a series of six literary walks following in the footsteps of Jane Austen, Gilbert White, Flora Thompson, William Cobbett, Edward Thomas and WH Hudson.

Confirmed as a National Park in 2009, the landscape of the South Downs stretches from Winchester and Petersfield in Hampshire to Eastbourne in East Sussex.

The western tip of the South Downs can be found in the heart of Winchester with its 11th century cathedral.

The market towns of Petersfield and Alton are also starting points to explore the South Downs.

- [www.visit-hampshire.co.uk](http://www.visit-hampshire.co.uk)
- Rachel Shimell at [rachelshimell@gmail.com](mailto:rachelshimell@gmail.com).

## Isle Royale National Park, Michigan

USA

**With its rugged beauty and unique isolation, rising out of the waters of Lake Superior and north of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Isle Royale National Park is on the bucket list of many outdoor enthusiasts. Now it is top of the US National Park list too!**

Isle Royale saw 18,648 visitors last year, a more than 4,000-person rise from its 2014 numbers. That 28% increase promoted it to for first place when looking at year-on-year attendance numbers at the national parks across the US.

The 45-mile-long island secured first place, when ranking the percentage increase in national park visitors in 2015, according to statistics released in February by The National Park Service.

Although attendance is on the rise, part of Isle Royale's appeal is that it remains one of America's least visited national parks, and the secluded wilderness of the islands make for a great escape from the hustle and bustle of the modern world.

Located in northwest Lake Superior, more than 70 miles from the mainland, Isle Royale National Park is only accessible by boat or float plane. The park is made up of the main island, where visitors can stay at Rock Harbor Lodge, as well as hundreds of smaller islands.

Most visitors to Isle Royale choose to visit for more than just a day. The park draws more than just hikers to its 165 miles of trails. Scuba divers, canoers and kayakers all exploring the waters surrounding Isle Royale.

- [www.vacationstoamerica.com/other-regions/rest-of-great-lakes](http://www.vacationstoamerica.com/other-regions/rest-of-great-lakes)
- Georgina Evans-Phillips at [georgina@cellet.co.uk](mailto:georgina@cellet.co.uk)

## What's on



[www.glyndebourne.com](http://www.glyndebourne.com)



[www.rsc.org.uk](http://www.rsc.org.uk)

### Outdoor cultural event in England

**VisitEngland** has highlighted some of the cultural events and exhibitions taking place in the great outdoors this season.

#### Curran Commission at Kielder Water, Northumberland

Spring 2016

At over 250 square miles, Kielder Water and Forest Park is the largest working forest in England.

The park has become the largest open air space in the UK to experience art and architecture through the Kielder Art & Architecture programme.

More than 20 striking pieces of art are accessible to visitors along the Lakeside Way trail and at sites within the forest.

This spring, a new temporary commission by London-based sculptor Fiona Curran will be installed in the grounds of the historic Kielder Castle.

The piece will take the form of a series of sculptural 'fences' that enclose an area of the forest and refer to the historic enclosure of the English countryside.

- [www.kielderartandarchitecture.com](http://www.kielderartandarchitecture.com)

#### Shakespeare Anniversary Operas, Glyndebourne Festival

21 May to 28 August 2016

To mark the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, two operas based on his plays will be performed at the Glyndebourne Festival.

These are *Béatrice et Bénédict* by Berlioz, adapted from *Much Ado About Nothing*, and Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

- [www.glyndebourne.com](http://www.glyndebourne.com)



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### **Magic at Midsummer, Stratford upon Avon**

19 to 25 June 2016

Magic at Midsummer is organised by the Royal Shakespeare Company at the Avonbank Gardens.

These free activities mark Midsummer and the return to Stratford of A Midsummer Night's Dream in the 400th anniversary year of William Shakespeare's death.

- [www.rsc.org.uk](http://www.rsc.org.uk)

### **Grosvenor Park Open Air Theatre, Chester**

1 July to 21 August 2016

The Grosvenor Park Open Air Theatre will stage productions of Shakespeare's As You Like It and The Two Gentlemen of Verona, and a new adaptation of the children's classic Stig of the Dump.

More than 25,000 visitors attended the performances in 2015.

- [www.grosvenorparkopenairtheatre.co.uk](http://www.grosvenorparkopenairtheatre.co.uk)

### **1920s Murder Mystery on the Isle of Wight**

2 and 30 July 2016

Managed by the National Trust, Mottistone Gardens is one of the most peaceful gardens on the Isle of Wight, with colourful borders, shrub-filled banks and grassy terraces surrounding an Elizabethan manor house.

The garden has been selected by the Trust to test which plants will adapt to our changing climate and following the planting of 25 olive trees in 2005, the head gardener has been experimenting with plants from the Mediterranean and southern hemisphere.

Love (and murder) in the 1920s will be the theme this year as Mottistone Gardens hosts its third season of garden murder mystery evenings.

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/mottistone-gardens](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/mottistone-gardens)

### **Summer Nights: Film at RHS Garden Wisley, Surrey**

July to September 2016

QUAD's Summer Nights Outdoor Film Festival returns from July - September, with a season of classic and contemporary films to a selection of heritage locations.

- [www.summernightsfilm.co.uk](http://www.summernightsfilm.co.uk)

### **Picnic Cinema, Cumbria**

22 and 23 July 2016

Sleddale Hall near Shap in Cumbria becomes an open-air cinema again and is showing Withnail & I, at the remote location where it was filmed.

This is a camping-only screening with tickets including evening meal and camping on the Friday or Saturday night.

- [www.picniccinema.co.uk](http://www.picniccinema.co.uk)
- [www.visitengland.com](http://www.visitengland.com)
- **Sophie Lemagnen at [Sophie.Lemagnen@visitengland.org](mailto:Sophie.Lemagnen@visitengland.org)**

## Summer events in Italy

### Italy

#### Shakespeare in Veneto

Verona, Venice, Padua and Lake Garda  
April to December 2016

On the occasion of the 400-year anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare, this event will show Shakespeare's works in the cities of the Veneto Region where they were set.

Romeo and Juliet, Verona  
Othello and The Merchant of Venice, Venice  
Legnaro: The Taming of the Shrew, Padua  
Torri del Benaco (Verona): The two Gentlemen of Verona, Lake Garda

- [www.shakespeareinveneto.it/eng](http://www.shakespeareinveneto.it/eng)

#### Maggio Musicale Fiorentino Festival

Teatro Comunale – Florence  
24 April to 30 June 2016

This is one of the oldest traditional cultural events in Florence.

The Stabile Orchestrale Fiorentina was born in 1928 and in 1933 it organized the first edition of the Festival, which, over the years grew to international fame.

The Festival has its own Ballet Company called Maggio Dance.

- [www.operadifirenze.it](http://www.operadifirenze.it)

#### Arena di Verona, Verona

24 June to 28 August 2016

The International Opera Festival, now in its 94th edition, has a programme including Aida, Carmen, La Traviata, Turandot, Il Trovatore.

- [www.arena.it](http://www.arena.it)
- **Stefania Gatta at [stefania.gatta@enit.it](mailto:stefania.gatta@enit.it)**
- [www.paliodifaenza.it](http://www.paliodifaenza.it)

#### Ravello Concerts

Ravello, Amalfi Coast  
To 31 Oct 2016

Ravello becomes a destination for those music lovers meet every year to listen to the concerts held in the gardens and the rooms of Villa Rufolo, famous for having inspired Wagner for the setting of his Parsifal.

- [www.ravelloarts.org](http://www.ravelloarts.org)

#### Classical Greek Theatre Festival

Siracusa, Sicily  
13 May to 26 June 2016

Classical Greek theatrical in the Greek Theatre in Siracusa.

- [www.indafondazione.org](http://www.indafondazione.org)

[www.italia.it/en](http://www.italia.it/en)

Stefania Gatta at [stefania.gatta@enit.it](mailto:stefania.gatta@enit.it)

#### Bike Festival Gardo Trentino

Riva del Garda, Trentino, Italy  
29 Apr to 1 May 2016

The Bike Festival Garda Trentino is a season opening for bikers, who will find themselves next to stars of the mountain bike international scene.

The program includes exhibitions, shows, competitions, performances and stunts.

- [www.gardatrentino.it](http://www.gardatrentino.it)



## A reason to write about



www.wvtourism.com

### The West Virginia State Park System USA

**West Virginia is located in the Appalachian and South-eastern regions of the United States, east of the Mississippi River.**

It is known for its outdoor recreational offerings, diverse topography, and its political history.

West Virginia is home to 2,000 miles of rivers and streams. In addition, both the Appalachian Mountains and the Allegheny Mountains extend into West Virginia.

The West Virginia State Park System which comprises 36 state parks, seven state forests, five wildlife management areas, the Greenbrier River Trail in the east and the North Bend Rail Trail in the north-central and western regions.

The state is around 80% forested and has become well known for various outdoor recreational activities including hiking, fishing, mountain biking, boating and white water rafting.

Conservation efforts among animals have also become important in West Virginia. The state animal, the American Black Bear is a symbol for West Virginia, but is still a threatened species.

Due to conservation efforts, new knowledge, and a better understanding of the animal, the bear population has been increasing, and the species now lives in all of West Virginia's 55 counties.

- [www.wvtourism.com](http://www.wvtourism.com)
- Jane Wilson at [wv@attachecommunications.co.uk](mailto:wv@attachecommunications.co.uk)

## Mecklenburg-Vorpommern USA

**Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is one of the young federal states in the eastern part of Germany.**

With its access to the Baltic Sea, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern has always been one of the most popular tourist destinations and has surged following the reunification of Germany in 1990.

The European Tourism Institute declared Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Germany's most popular summer destination in 2010.

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is a popular destination for cultural travel in Germany and has the country's clearest water, cleanest air and the most sunshine.

It is also one of Germany's top spots for active vacations with almost three million visitors cycling during their stay.

There are also 17 golf courses and water sports enthusiasts can take advantage of a network of nearly 350 marinas, sports boat harbours, and moorings with 14,000 moorings on the coast and 11,000 moorings inland.

- [www.auf-nach-mv.de](http://www.auf-nach-mv.de)
- Tobias Voitendorf at [t.voitendorf@auf-nach-mv.de](mailto:t.voitendorf@auf-nach-mv.de)

## The San Antonio Missions, Texas USA

**The largest collection of Spanish colonial architecture dating back to the 1700's, has UNESCO World Heritage status.**

Hosting millions of visitors annually, the five Missions, spanning seven miles, include the Alamo and Queen of the Missions San José.

Critical to Texas' iconic heritage and the San Antonio landscape, these sites were built to convert Native Americans to Christianity and help settle the region under the flag of Spain, shaping San Antonio as the hybrid of Latino, Native American and Western cultures it is today.

The third U.S. designation in the past two decades, the San Antonio Missions now take their place beside the Statue of Liberty and the Grand Canyon.

Visitors can explore the new World Heritage site by bike, hike or kayak along the newly expanded River Walk, following a recent £228million renovation, or take a tour of the historic grounds exploring living quarters of churches and hearing centuries-old stories from park rangers.

- [www.VisitSanAntonio.com](http://www.VisitSanAntonio.com) and [www.DiscoverAmerica.com](http://www.DiscoverAmerica.com)
- Sarah Barnett at [sbarnett@thebrandusa.co.uk](mailto:sbarnett@thebrandusa.co.uk)

## Cape Cod, Massachusetts

**Cape Cod is situated in Southern New England, at the southeast corner of Massachusetts, stretching 77 miles from the Cape Cod Canal to Provincetown's Race Point.**

The Cape is 20 miles at its widest point and completely surrounded by water with Cape Cod Bay on the north, Buzzards Bay on the west, Vineyard and Nantucket Sounds on the south and the Atlantic Ocean on the east.

The area contains many historic sites and landmarks that begin with the indigenous Wampanoag people and the landfall of the Mayflower in Provincetown in 1620, to the Camelot Days of JFK, with the John F. Kennedy Hyannis Museum.

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## The Old King's Highway

The homes of long-ago sea captains dot the Old King's Highway, the largest contiguous historic district in the United States. Lighthouses have lined Cape shorelines for centuries, guiding ships to safety through dangerous sandbars and treacherous shoals.

At the tip of the Cape, Provincetown is a celebrated artist's colony and fishing village.

As a community surrounded by the sea, Cape Cod's attractions include:

- natural beauty with pristine beaches, wooded bicycle paths and walking trails, water activities and ocean vistas.
- cultural appeal with vibrant arts communities, year-round festivals and celebration
- diverse lodging experiences including camp grounds, luxury and moderate resorts, inns and bed & breakfasts.
  - [www.capecodchamber.org](http://www.capecodchamber.org)
  - **Kristen Mitchell Hughes at [kristen@capecodchamber.org](mailto:kristen@capecodchamber.org)**

## Operation Redsand Forts, the Thames Estuary UK

**The Redsand Forts were built in 1942 for anti-aircraft defence off the Essex coast in the Thames Estuary,**

There are seven forts, originally with interconnected steel platforms, of which six forts had mounted guns arranged in a semicircle around the control centre with one being used as a searchlight tower.

During WW2 the forts guns shot down many aircraft and flying bombs. In the late 1950s the MoD decommissioned the site.

In the 1960s various forts were re-occupied and used as pirate radio stations. Since then the Forts have been unused and lying idle.

At the end of 2014 David Marriot Cooper was asked by Project Redsand Trust to try to help do something to make use of the Forts, instead of letting them slowly deteriorate and Operation Redsand Forts was set up.

The resulting proposal is for the forts to be restored and preserved as a hotel, leisure and museum complex with catamaran and helicopter access.

While this is coming to fruition, an X-Pilot tug boat leaves from Queenborough Isle of Sheppey every weekend at 10.30am and takes visitors on a four hour trip to the Forts sailing in and out of the Forts for 30 minutes before returning.

Alliance members able to feature the Redstone Forts are invited to request a tour of the complex.

- [www.operationredsandforts.com](http://www.operationredsandforts.com) and [www.project-redsand.com](http://www.project-redsand.com)
- **David Marriot Cooper at [davidmarriot@gmail.com](mailto:davidmarriot@gmail.com)**

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## Robinson Crusoe Island

### Chile

**Robinson Crusoe Island is the main island of the Juan Fernández Archipelago, which also consists of Santa Clara and Alejandro Selkirk (also called Isla Más Afuera).**

The three main islands are designated a National Park and a Biosphere Reserve by the Unesco.

When first discovered by Spanish navigator Juan Fernández in 1574, it became a place of refuge for corsairs and pirates, who would use the island to stock up on supplies.

It was also the place where Scotch navigator Alexander Selkirk was stranded for four years and four months beginning in October 1704. His story inspired the Daniel Defoe novel Robinson Crusoe.

The island's single town, San Juan Bautista, has 500 inhabitants and is on the road to recovery after the devastating tsunami that hit in 2010.

The island is a place for trekking, land and submarine photography, snorkeling, and diving in one of the waters with best visibility in Chile (over 20 meters), with abundant marine life.

There are no trails for vehicles, so everything must be done on foot or horseback riding.

- [www.experiencerobinson.com](http://www.experiencerobinson.com)
- [comunicaciones@turismochile.travel](mailto:comunicaciones@turismochile.travel)

## Sharpham Vineyard, Devon

### UK

**Sharpham Vineyard is located among the green fields of the South Hams, overlooking the River Dart and two miles downstream from the ancient market town of Totnes.**

This thousand year old farm consists of five hundred acres owned by the Sharpham Trust with its house, designed in 1770 by Sir Robert Taylor, overlooking the Dart.

The Trusts aim is to farm successfully in the modern context and to produce world class wine and cheese in harmony with the environment and the natural beauty of the Estate.

By producing their own Red Tractor assured Jersey cow's milk on the farm and growing a range of carefully selected cool climate grape varieties in the vineyard, the team at Sharpham is in control of production from start to finish.

The results are individual, handmade wines and cheeses which have a special character and flavour that relates to the unique position in the South Hams area of Devon.

- [www.sharphamtrust.org](http://www.sharphamtrust.org)
- **Hayley Reynolds at [hayley@rawprandmarketing.co.uk](mailto:hayley@rawprandmarketing.co.uk)**

## The Murcia Region

### Spain

**The Murcia region in south-east Spain enjoys a rich heritage with the cities of Cartagena and Murcia itself providing culture and a mixture of Roman, Phoenician and Moorish history.**

Cartagena's ancient Roman theatre makes an impressive sight alongside the numerous other archaeological delights in the historic port.

For those holidaymakers who enjoy a walk and sweeping panoramic views, the city also boasts the impressive 11th century Castillo de la Concepción, which sits 70m above sea level.

Cartagena is located in the Costa Cálida, which also contains the Mar Menor – Europe's largest saltwater lagoon with miles of beaches on offer. The Cartagonova Hotel in Cartagena offers a base to explore the region with the four-star venue situated close to the city's Roman theatre and within a short walk of the impressive Santa Maria de Gracia Church.

The city of Murcia, the region's provincial capital has attractions including the Catedral de Santa María, built in 1394, which has a blend of Gothic and Baroque-style architecture.

Another interesting visit is the Museo Salzillo, which is devoted to Murcian sculptor Francisco Salzillo and houses his "pasos" – figures carried in Easter processions.

The area offers year-round sunshine with an average temperature of 19.4°C and 315 days sun a year. Located in the south-east of Spain, the Region of Murcia is within the Mediterranean basin and includes 252km of coastline, known as the 'Costa Cálida' or warm coast.

Visitors can take their pick sandy beaches; a variety of water sports and diving locations; 17 top-quality golf courses; picturesque countryside and regional parks. The Mar Menor is a saltwater lagoon with warm shallow waters, gentle wind, sheltered coastline and many hotel facilities.

The region with a host of big events and festivals taking place throughout the year including the international music festival 'SOS 4.8' in Murcia at the beginning of May, or the varied summer festivals including 'La Mar de Músicas' in Cartagena or the International Jazz Festival in San Javier, both in July.

- [www.murciaturistica.es](http://www.murciaturistica.es)
- [Luke Frary at luke.Frary@theazaleagroup.com](mailto:Luke.Frary@theazaleagroup.com)

## RideLondon-Surrey 46

### UK

30 and 31 July 2016

**New cyclists and those considering entering their first event can consider the new Ride London-Surrey 46, announced by Sir Bradley Wiggins.**

This new event will be held for the first time in 2016 as part of the Prudential RideLondon festival of cycling.

The sportive (not a race!) and comprises a 46-mile route on traffic-free roads, beginning at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in east London and following the same route as the Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 100 for the first 27 miles before taking a new two-mile route, which then links up with the last 17 miles through London to the finish in The Mall.

The Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 46 has been created specifically for newer cyclists and also younger cyclists, who might find a 100-mile challenge intimidating or, in the case of 16-18 year olds, they are not eligible to enter.

- [www.prudentialridelondon.co.uk/events/46](http://www.prudentialridelondon.co.uk/events/46)



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## Other cycling tours

Cycling holiday specialists, BSpoke Tours and Cycling for Softies have a number of European itineraries.

### France, Venise Verte

Geared to entry-level cyclists, this tour follows the flat cycle paths that run alongside the ancient network of canals that criss cross through the region.

Equipped with a map and instructions, cyclists can travel at their own pace between hotels, stopping en route to enjoy historic sites and lively towns such as Coulon, one of the prettiest villages in France.

- [www.cyclingforsofties.com](http://www.cyclingforsofties.com)

### Germany, Bavaria

There's the chance to notch the training up a gear while taking in the dramatic scenery of Germany's Bavaria region.

Cyclists have small hill climbs through mountain vistas, lush valleys, lakes and castles.

- [www.bspoketours.com](http://www.bspoketours.com)

### Italy, South Tyrol

This cycle tour takes in the mountain and lake views from South Tyrol's Reschenpass summit.

Apart from one of two other short climbs, the rest of the terrain is fairly easy, enabling cyclists to enjoy the scenery as they meander through deep valleys, vineyards and apple orchards en route to the Mediterraneanesque shores of Lake Garda.

- [www.bspoketours.com](http://www.bspoketours.com)
- **Rob Bates at [rob.bates@whitetigerpr.com](mailto:rob.bates@whitetigerpr.com)**

## The Costa del Azahar

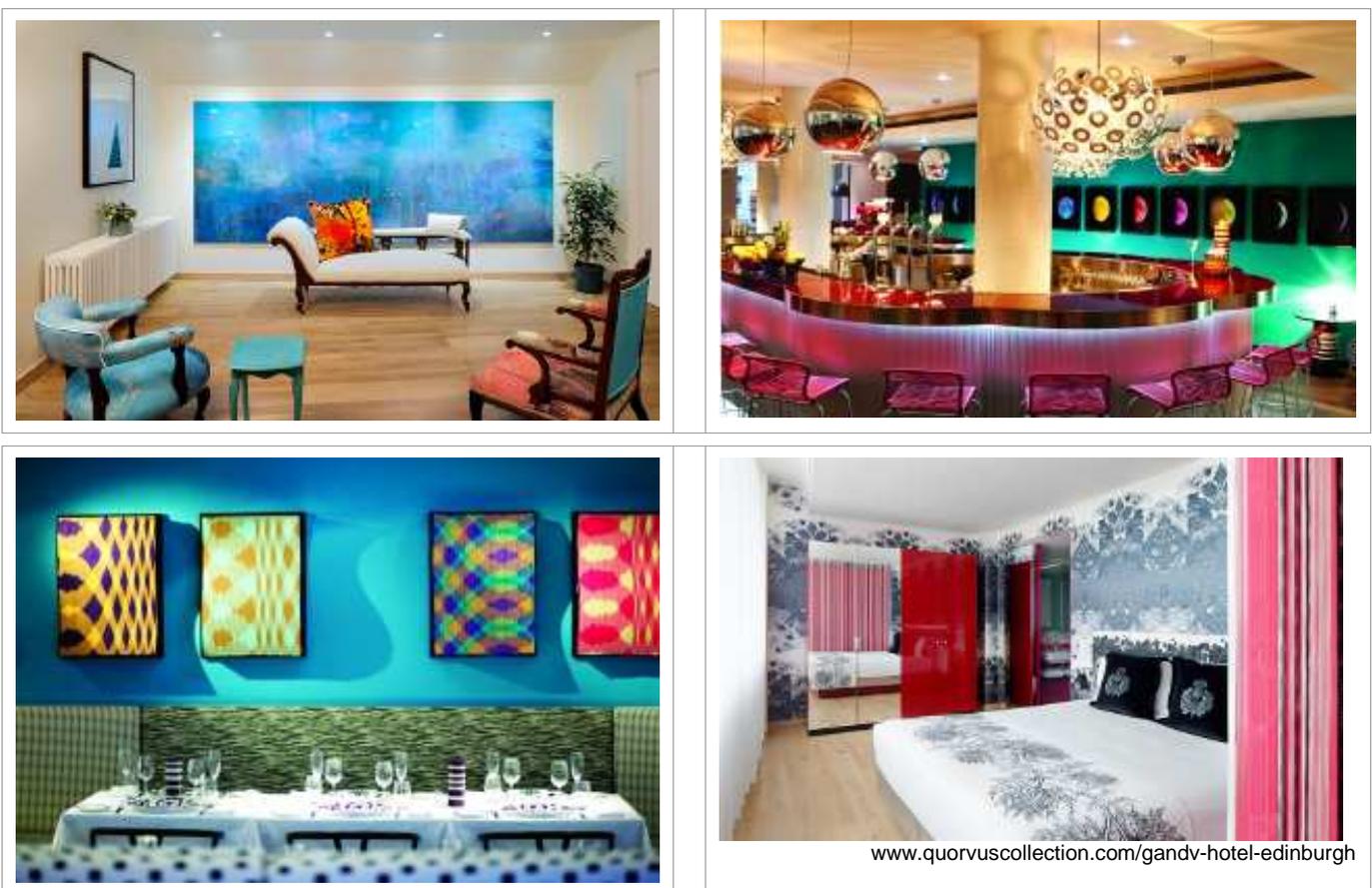
**The Costa del Azahar or Orange Blossom Coast offers golden sand beaches along Spain's Mediterranean coast.**

Located here are resorts including Benicassim, known for its annual FIB music festival and Peñíscola, which is home to Pope Luna's Castle.

There are picturesque villages like Vilafamés and historic medieval towns like Morella in the Maestrazgo mountains, an area which is good for outdoor activities and known for its prehistoric cave paintings.

- [www.turismodecastellon.com](http://www.turismodecastellon.com).
- **Cristina Cunchillos at [cristina@latinamarketing.com](mailto:cristina@latinamarketing.com)**

## A place to stay



[www.quorvuscollection.com/gandv-hotel-edinburgh](http://www.quorvuscollection.com/gandv-hotel-edinburgh)

### **G&V Royal Mile Hotel Edinburgh** Scotland

**The G&V Royal Mile Hotel Edinburgh, which is part of the Quorvus Collection, is a five-star lifestyle hotel located in the heart of the Edinburgh's Old Town.**

G&V's name is derived from its prime location on the corner of George IV Bridge and Victoria Street.

The hotel is close to Edinburgh Castle, Grass Market, The Royal Mile, The Museum of Scotland and The Scottish National Gallery as well as Princes Street and upmarket George Street.

Edinburgh Waverly train station is an eight minute walk and Edinburgh International Airport is located eight miles away.

Edinburgh is rich with history and culture making it an excellent short break destination while seasonal events including the Edinburgh Festival, Military Tattoo, the Christmas Market and Hogmanay street party.

- [www.quorvuscollection.com/gandv-hotel-edinburgh](http://www.quorvuscollection.com/gandv-hotel-edinburgh)
- Flora Beaumont at [flora@grifcopr.com](mailto:flora@grifcopr.com)

## Jade Mountain and Anse Chastanet St Lucia

The Jade Mountain and Anse Chastanet resorts on the Caribbean islands of St Lucia will stage a Month of Mango in June.

This will see weekly organic mango tastings, cookery and mixology classes, six-course mango-inspired dinners, mango spa treatments, plantations tours. It culminates in a four-day Mango Madness Festival from 24 to 28 June 2016.

Jade Mountain and Anse Chastanet are two of the Caribbean's most celebrated hotels.

Guests staying at the iconic Jade Mountain will enjoy one of 24 open-air sanctuaries complete with their own private infinity pool or Jacuzzi.

Anse Chastanet offers 49 individually designed rooms, many of which are tucked into the island's lush hillside, or nestled in a tropical garden at beach level.

- [www.jademountain.com](http://www.jademountain.com) and [www.ansechastanet.com](http://www.ansechastanet.com)
- Laura Critoph at [Laura@grifcopr.com](mailto:Laura@grifcopr.com)

## Palazzo Cinquecento, Rome Italy

The new 5 star NH Collection is NH Hotel Group's 53rd hotel in Italy after openings in Venice, Amalfi, Taormina, Florence, Milan, Genoa and Turin.

The Palazzo Cinquecento is housed in a building that was once the railway and postal service headquarters, and is an example of twentieth century architecture where Art Nouveau details have been revived.

The Palazzo Cinquecento is located in Piazza dei Cinquecento. Dedicated to the five hundred Italian soldiers killed in the battle of Dogali in 1887, the square has undergone various architectural and urban works that have unveiled its outstanding historic and artistic heritage.

In particular, entire stretches of the Servian Walls dating back to the Roman Republic period, were discovered.

They are examples of the first urban boundary of the city.

Built in the 6th century BC at the behest of the sixth king of Rome, Servio Tullio, they were rebuilt after the sack of Rome by the Gauls in 390 BC. Today, they are preserved in the hotel garden.

## NHL Hotels

NHL Hotels operates close to 400 hotels with almost 60,000 rooms in 30 markets across Europe, the Americas, Africa and Asia, including top city destinations including :

Amsterdam	Düsseldorf	Munich
Barcelona	Frankfurt	New York
Berlin	London	Rome and
Bogota	Madrid	Vienna.
Brussels	Mexico City	
Buenos Aires	Milan	

- [www.nh-hotels.com](http://www.nh-hotels.com)
- Sarah Wilkinson at [sarah.wilkinson@humewhitehead.co.uk](mailto:sarah.wilkinson@humewhitehead.co.uk)





The International  
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Marketing  
Cheshire



## Cheshire, UK

**Cheshire is a predominantly rural English county, in the north-west of the country. Chester, its county town, is one Britain's great heritage cities with a history spanning 2000 years.**

Cheshire offers visitors a mix of rolling countryside, historic towns and villages, stately homes and a rich industrial heritage.

Cheshire's major attractions include Chester itself and its zoo, Beeston Castle, Tatton Hall, the truly unique Anderton Boat Lift and the National Waterways Museum.

During the spring and summer season visitors can enjoy traditional country gatherings including the Cheshire and Nantwich agricultural shows and the Bolesworth International equestrian event.

The county 'town' of Chester has the most complete City Walls and largest Roman Amphitheatre in Britain, the two-tier Rows shopping galleries dating from the Middle Ages and the oldest racecourse in the country.

The city also features a 1,000 year old Cathedral with some of the finest mediaeval carvings in Europe.

A host of festivals and events including *Plays in the Park* and traditional parades give Chester an extra special atmosphere.

The oldest rowing regatta in the world take place on the River Dee. Just outside the city is Chester Zoo, the biggest animal attraction in Britain.



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## Cheshire

Cheshire offers visitors a mix of rolling countryside, historic towns and villages, stately homes and a rich industrial heritage.

The Cheshire Peak District and the medieval woodlands of Delamere Forest fall within the county.

The county 'town' is the bustling Roman city of Chester and there are a number of interesting market towns including Nantwich, Knutsford and Wilmslow.

Cheshire's major attractions include Chester itself and its zoo, Beeston Castle, Tatton Hall, the truly unique Anderton Boat Lift and the National Waterways Museum.

During the spring and summer season visitors can enjoy traditional country gatherings including the Cheshire and Nantwich agricultural shows and the Bolesworth International equestrian event.

### The Cheshire Show

The two-day Cheshire County Show, in June, is one of the most popular gatherings in the Cheshire country calendar, and a prime example of the chain of agricultural shows held throughout the UK during the late spring and summer months

A highlight of 'the Cheshire' is always the livestock and other animals with local and regional farmers striving to have their prize stock awarded the 'Supreme Champion' in its class.

Many breeds of cattle can be seen on show days along with sheep, goats, pigs and rare breed livestock. The show's poultry section has pigeons, rabbits and covies and its dog show attracts over 2000 entries and all sorts of breeds.

There are marquees ablaze with flower displays, arts and crafts and others offering local produce.

The tractors and other farming equipment is always of interest - even to city dwellers like us.

Finally all of these activities and attractions are clustered around the main arena which offers a programme of show jumping, displays and parades of farm animals, heavy horses animals and vintage vehicles.

- [www.cheshirecountyshow.org.uk](http://www.cheshirecountyshow.org.uk)

### The Nantwich Show

For those who miss the Cheshire Show, or who want a second celebration of country life, there is the Nantwich Show at Dorfold Park.

One of the top one day agricultural shows in the UK, it incorporates the International Cheese Awards - the largest cheese show in the world.

The Cheese Marquee displays over four thousand cheeses from some 26 countries, with most of these available for tasting and purchase (at very reasonable prices).

Celebrity chefs stage cooking demonstrations of cheese based dishes.

Other attractions at the show include some 500 cattle and any number of horses, sheep and poultry.

Countryside pursuits include demonstrations of rural crafts and skills, gun dog and falconry displays and 400 trade stands.

- [www.nantwichshow.co.uk](http://www.nantwichshow.co.uk)
- [www.internationalcheeseawards.co.uk](http://www.internationalcheeseawards.co.uk)





### **Chester Zoo**

Chester Zoo is undoubtedly one of the world's finest. Its 110 acres of zoological gardens is home to 11,000 animals from 400 different species - half of which are endangered.

There are daily animal talks, children's play areas, themed gardens and the Zoofari monorail.

Through its charitable work, the zoo supports some 150 field projects for conservation and education in more than 50 countries worldwide.

- [www.chesterzoo.org](http://www.chesterzoo.org) & [www.actforwildlife.org.uk](http://www.actforwildlife.org.uk)

### **Chester Races**

Chester Racecourse, the oldest racecourse in Britain, with the first recorded race held in February 1539, in the reign of Henry the Eighth.

Racing begins with the three-day May Festival followed by daytime and evening 'meets' throughout the summer.

- [www.chester-races.co.uk](http://www.chester-races.co.uk)

### **The Bolesworth GSI International**

The Bolesworth International held each June in the Castle grounds, offers up four days of world-class show jumping and equestrian competitions.

This is supported by a vintage fairground, birds of prey displays, dog shows and all the trappings of an outdoor summer show.

(See Alliance alert : *The Bolesworth GSI International*)

- [www.bolesworthinternational.com](http://www.bolesworthinternational.com)
- [www.marketingcheshire.co.uk](http://www.marketingcheshire.co.uk)
- Sarah Harvey at [s.harvey@marketingcheshire.co.uk](mailto:s.harvey@marketingcheshire.co.uk)

### **Tatton Park**

Tatton Park is regarded as one of Britain's most complete historic estates.

In 1598 Tatton was acquired by Sir Thomas Egerton, later Lord Chancellor of England, and owned by the Egertons until 1958, when the estate was left to the National Trust and now attracts over 800,000 annually.

Tatton's 19th century Mansion with grand staterooms and fascinating servants quarters, is open to the public, as are its grand parkland and gardens design.

Tatton Park hosts over 100 events annually, from outdoor theatre and food festivals to childrens' family fun at its Home Farm.

[www.tattonpark.org.uk](http://www.tattonpark.org.uk)

### **The Anderton Boat Lift, Northwich, Cheshire UK**

The three-storey-high iron Anderton Boat Lift was built by Edwin Clark in 1875 to lift cargo boats the 50 feet from the River Weaver to the Trent & Mersey Canal.

The concept is simple: two huge water tanks, each with watertight sealable doors carry boats up and down. The original counter-balanced system was replaced in 1908 by electric operation, but the lift now works hydraulically again.

The lift worked until 1983 when serious deterioration of the structure was discovered. Some £7m was raised to fund the restoration, which was completed in 2002.

From April to October there are boat trips through the lift and along the River Weaver Navigation.

- [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/Anderton-boat-lift](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/Anderton-boat-lift)





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**BOLESWORTH**  
SHOWJUMPING CLASSIC



## The Bolesworth International. Cheshire

**16 to 18 June 2016**

**The Bolesworth International is one of the high spots – and one of the most picturesque event – in the Equestrian Calendar.**

It returns to the beautiful Cheshire countryside in June 2016, with world-class equestrianism in the stunning grounds of Bolesworth Castle.

There will be a mix of top-class showjumping, dressage to music, para showjumping, an invitational jockey challenge and a raft of other family entertainment.

A prize fund of £60,000 is to be won in the final day's headline, the Bolesworth International Grand Prix.

The four day event kicks off with a fun class on Thursday 16 June with top National Hunt jockeys competing against showjumpers.

There is also dressage to music and a top-level showjumping class with five figure prize money.



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Friday's highlight is the puissance, which is always thrilling to watch and boy band 5ive, will be performing in the evening.

On Saturday, para showjumping makes its Bolesworth debut in the Castle Arena, while the International Arena hosts the two-star grand prix final.

Celebrity camel racing is also on the cards and chart-topping Atomic Kitten will be performing in the evening.

Sunday's action features the International Grand Prix that will see many of the world's top riders battling it out for first prize, won last year by young British prospect Yazmin Pinchen.

There will also be a fancy dress mini-major challenge and another appearance from the racing camels.

Numerous other family attractions will be on offer over the four days, including a new equine learning zone featuring rider guest appearances, a funfair, action-packed displays, a fashion and lifestyle zone, a choice of dining options, plus plenty of shopping provided by around 130 retail outlets.

- [www.bolesworthinternational.com](http://www.bolesworthinternational.com)
- Laura Young at [laura@showponyevents.co.uk](mailto:laura@showponyevents.co.uk)

And for those wanting to stay overnights during the show, Bolesworth offers its very own glamping Festihut Village, providing two and four-bed wooden chalets, complete with lighting and power, while a campsite for tents, caravans and motorhomes will also be available.

General admission tickets are on offer at a pre-sale price of just £12 for the opening two days, and £18 for Saturday and Sunday, up to 40% off gate prices. Under-14s go free, while a four-day pre-sale season ticket is £40. A wide range of hospitality packages are also available with great views of the stunning Bolesworth main arena.

Prices start at £80 per person, with guests enjoying fine dining, a VIP bar and top-class entertainment.

The Bolesworth Bistro and a champagne bar will also be in full swing.





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## Wildlife in Brazil

**Visit Brazil is highlighting its natural regions and exotic wildlife.**

Brazil is home to some of the world's finest natural parks and unspoilt wilderness. With a land mass larger than the whole of Europe, the country's landscape is expansive, diverse and greatly differs between the seasons.

Europe's summer holiday months makes it the best time to appreciate Brazil's natural beauty and wildlife.

For those that are looking for more than a beach holiday the Brazilian Tourist Board recommends three of the best places to spot wildlife:

### The Pantanal

The Pantanal is the largest tropical wetland in the world, covering over 200,000 square metres.

Home to over 3,500 different species of trees and plants and more than 650 species of birds, mammals, fish and reptiles, the biodiversity in Pantanal is even greater than the Amazon, making it a trip for those seeking to discover wildlife in the wilderness!

Taking a safari in the Brazilian Pantanal one can spot South America's 'Big Five': the jaguar, Giant River Otter, Brazilian Tapir, Giant Anteater and Maned Wolf, along with wildlife such as monkeys, alligators, toucans, capybaras, anacondas and howlers.

One way to explore the Pantanal is on horseback, riding with the Pantaneiros (local cowboys), to discover places difficult to reach by foot.

Exploring Pantanal by horseback and thus blending into the environment also gives you an even better chance of spotting the most unusual wildlife.

In the dry season, there are many ranches in the Pantanal, which offer guided and solo tours for the adventurous.

During the rainy seasons, the grasslands and forests of Pantanal are submerged into a swamp and the heart of Pantanal is left, only accessible by a small plane or boat.

Between October and February, around 80% of Pantanal is completely underwater.



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## The Amazon

The Amazon rainforest is globally renowned for its staggering size and eco diversity.

The dry season is again the best time to visit, as the water level in the Amazon River is highest and the weather is mild and clear.

Visitors can visit the depths of the Amazon by travelling by riverboat and or hiking between jungle lodges.

## Jau National Park

The swampy area of Jau National Park forms the largest forest reserve in South America, located within the Rio Negro watershed on the Amazon basin.

Reach the nature reserve by boat and sail through mangroves and lianas, with guides ensuring your safety.

## Mamiraua

Situated in the heart of the rainforest on the River Solimões, the Mamirauá Sustainable Development Reserve is recognised as a wetland of global importance.

For six months a year, the river overflows its banks which has enabled a unique and complex ecosystem to develop.

The Reserve is the only place in the world where you can encounter the rare Uakari monkey and spot the river dolphins.

The local government and population of Mamirauá work hard to protect the beautiful flora and fauna.

- [www.visitbrasil.com](http://www.visitbrasil.com)
- [Mim Pippard at mim.pippard@ogilvy.com](mailto:Mim.Pippard@ogilvy.com)

## Minas Gerais

### Parque Nacional da Serra do Cipó

The Serra do Cipo national park, situated north of Brazil's seventh largest city, Belo Horizonte, is one of the largest and impressive parks in Minas Gerais.

Horticulture enthusiasts travel from all around the world to see some of Brazil's finest flower and fauna, including a rare and unique variety of orchid, tamarin monkeys, wolves, jaguars, bats and pyjama frog.

There is the opportunity to hike around the park to spot the wildlife and visit some of Serra do Cipo's finest landmarks, including the 70 metre waterfall, Cachoeira da Farofa.

### Serra da Canastra National Park

Serra da Canastra is one of Brazil's most special parks, home to endangered species such as the Canastra armadillo, guará wolf and anteater.

The park is also the natural habitat for over 200 species of birds and aquatic plants, which is why so many people travel to Serra da Canastra for specialist bird watching.



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**The International Travel Writers Alliance** is the world's largest association of professional travel writers, editors, broadcasters and photographers.

[www.itwalliance.com](http://www.itwalliance.com)

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