

Making a difference in today's world



The Alliance Bulletin

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

Issue 333: Mid-December 2021/January 2022

The International Travel Writers Alliance

Making a difference in today's world



We really can make a difference in today's world

The International Travel Writers Alliance, with its journalists, partners and agencies can make a real difference in the year ahead.

We can inspire people to broaden their horizons by highlighting the rewards that knowing a little more about the big wide world out there.

This, in these still fraught times, is a necessary first step in encouraging travel itself, when the time is right, and it is possible to do so.

So many communities around the globe rely on the financial, cultural and social interaction that travel and tourism offers.

As we head into another year of challenge and uncertainty, the International Travel Writers Alliance will work with travel industry partners and agencies to get information and images to our 2,300 professional travel journalists worldwide.

They in turn will get this to their readers, listeners, viewers and followers.

In doing so, the Alliance will continue to

 encourage diversity, cultural difference and national identity

- champion indigenous populations and local communities
- embrace environmental and sustainability initiatives
- support those striving to protect natural habitats and the animals that live there
- commend conservation and heritage projects, and
- foster a mutual and universal understanding among all people.

Have a very safe and successful 2022 - Wherever in the world it finds you.

- Ashley Gibbins
- The International Travel Writers Alliance
- Ashley@itwalliance.com



Meet the agencies

Umlingo







In nature, the greenest shoots arise from the ashes ... bringing hope and fresh beginnings.

So too, Umlingo Travel PR was born from devastation of the pandemic.

Founder Claire Roadley has over 25 years of experience in the tourism industry, promoting hotels, beach resorts and safari lodges.

She has worked with brands such as MalaMala, Sabi Sabi, Machaba Safaris, Serena Hotels and South Africa's iconic Blue Train, as well as small, owner-run lodges off the beaten track.

Umlingo (meaning "magic" in Zulu) specialises in Africa where its roots run deep but also works with properties around the world.

Claire offers freelance PR, traditional marketing, digital marketing, representation, social media and copywriting services, -especially those with a conservation link.

Current Africa-focussed clients include For Rangers Travel + Adventure, The Tuk South crew, Mosetlha Eco-Lodge in Madikwe, The KZN Collection (6 lodges in KwaZulu-Natal) and consulting for the Nianova group.

www.umlingo.co.uk/kzn-collection www.forrangersadventures.com www.thebushcamp.com

Umlingo also represents a farmhouse villa called Belsentiero in Tuscany.

www.belsentiero.com

(See also: Mosetlha Bush Camp & Eco Lodge: Working with the Alliance)

- www.umlingo.co.uk
- Claire Roadley at claire@umlingo.co.uk

Your agency profile

Agencies who would like to be profiled in the Alliance bulletin, which goes to 2,300 professional travel journalists worldwide, should provide:

- 200 words on the agency including clients
- an image of the agency logo

- a web link, and
- the media contact.

Send this to : Ashley Gibbins at Ashley@itwalliance.com



Working with the Alliance











Cortina d'Ampezzo

Italy

Cortina d'Ampezzo, often referred to as Cortina, is located in the middle of the Italian Alps two hours North of Venice.

Situated in the Ampezzo Valley, the small town is surrounded in all directions by some of the most scenic peaks of the Dolomite mountains, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

There has been a settlement here for over 1000 years and this has endowed Cortina with log-standing traditions and its own local language.

Cortina was among the first Alpine destinations to host tourists, firstly explorers and scientists, then European royals and aristocrats.

The wide Ampezzo Valley and the Dolomites surrounding it make Cortina a spot for sports enthusiasts and sporting events.

It staged the 1956 Winter Olympics and the 2021 World Ski Championships and will host the Winter Olympics again in 2026, this time with Milan.

In the winter, Cortina offers its ski slopes, the Olympic ice stadium, along with snowshoeing and cross-country skiing pistes in the Natural Park.

The many mountain huts provide hearty, traditional food, while fine dining restaurants add that extra creativity and innovation with agriturismi and Alpine farms delivering local products and natural food.



In the summer, Cortina offers hundreds of kilometres of hiking trails, over thirty via ferratas, a golf course and the MTB, road biking and climbing routes.

- www.dolomiti.org/en/cortina/discover-cortina/about-cortina
- Maria Alessandra Montuori at mariaalessandra.montuori@cortinamarketing.it



The International Committee of Tourism Film Festivals

The International Committee of Tourism Film Festivals (CIFFT) encourages tourism destinations to promote their offering video.



Lithuania



South Africa

It is endorsed by the World Tourism Organization, European Travel Commission, Caribbean Tourism Organization, and the Centro America Tourism Association.

CIFFT also runs the annual World's Tourism Film Awards, which highlights the Best tourism films of the year in six categories including tourism destinations along with countries, regions and cities.

The 2021 Awards were held in Valencia, Spain, a city at the forefront of innovation and creativity in tourism.

This was the first time, in 33 years, that they took place outside of CIFT's Austrian hometown of Vienna.

- www.cifft.com
- Carolina Fontana at fontana@cifft.com

More than 3.300 tourism videos, from more than 90 countries, competed for the title of World's Best Tourism Film.

Among the 2021 winners:

Tourism Destinations Cities:

- Vilnius: amazing wherever you think it is (Lithuania)
- Kitzbühel 365 NEW Worlds. NEW Cosms, NEW Wonders (Austria), and
- Klagenfurt: Everything possible, but nothing necessary (Austria).



Tourism Destinations Regions

- Seek Different (Australia)
- South Australia: hear it, touch it, see it to believe it (Australia), and
- Chasing Lines (South Africa).

The World's Best Tourism Films:

- Lithuania, Discover Colours You Never Knew Existed (Lithuania)
- Time to #stayhome. Turn to nature and dream (Slovenia), and
- Much more than just Denmark (Denmark).

The Mandali Retreat Centre

The Mandali Retreat Centre, a two hours' drive from Milan, is a 'spiritual sanctuary designed to be low-impact and sustainable.

Located high on a hilltop overlooking Lake Orta with views across to the Swiss Alps, it is a setting in which to rest, reflect and reset.

It offers vegetarian food using locally sourced and mostly organic ingredients, with facilities including a Turkish bath, sauna and swimming pool, and access to therapists offering holistic body treatments using natural products.

Mandali was founded by Wouter Tavecchio and Wildrik Timmerman who had 'high-flying careers' as organisers of international dance festivals.

They believe it is important to' take time in a sacred space that cultivates an inward journey' and the Mandali Experience Retreat is geared to those seeking calm, clarity and connection in 2022 and beyond.

- www.mandali.org
- Nadia Walford at nadia@nadiawalford.com



Mosetlha Bush Camp & Eco Lodge

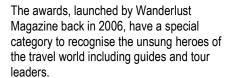
South Africa

Jonny Motsieloa, a guide at Mosetlha Bush Camp & Eco Lodge in South Africa's Madikwe Game Reserve, has been voted one of the world's top specialist guides at the *Wanderlust Travel Awards*.









Every year roughly 3000 guides are nominated by readers, who are then assessed and shortlisted.





The final decision is down to Founding Editor Lyn Hughes and her panel of judges. Jonny, who grew up in the Madikwe area, took the Bronze Award

He is now a Senior Field Guide at Mosetlha, having started work in the Reserve as a security guard in 1997.



Mosetlha is in the Big 5 malaria-free Madikwe Game Reserve and is the park's only genuine eco lodge with an incredibly light footprint.

It is unfenced, rustic with 10 cabins and proudly 'off grid to ensure an authentic bush experience'.

Craig Wickham from Kangaroo Island, South Australia took the Gold Award, with Joseph Tano from Papua New Guinea Tourism taking Silver.

- www.thebushcamp.com
- Claire Roadley at claire@umlingo.co.uk



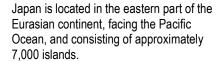
The Japan National Tourism Organization

The Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO) has relaunched its travel trade website.









It has a rich natural environment, with twothirds of its land is covered by forests.

The landscape, which stretches from North to South, varies from season to season and each region has its own unique culture.





Japan has many seasonable activities, such as skiing at some of the best powder snow in the world and scuba diving in Japan's rich biodiverse sea, which has more than 30,000 species of sea-life.

Visitors can experience a wide variety of food, such as UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage *Washoku* (Japanese Food), at Michelin starred restaurants to local izakaya (casual dining).





The new Japan Online Media Centre has access to relevant information on Japan's tourism offerings.

There is a tourism-related statistics database, split by regions and demographics to help understand the specifics of Japan travel.

For the full media kit: www.business.jnto.go.jp/resource/pdf/media_kit.pdf

- www.japan.travel/en/uk/trade
- Sophie Morgan at smorgan@blackdiamond.co.uk



News









www.tudestino.travel/andalusia/province-of-cadiz/sanlucar-de-barrameda-en/quide/the-best-restaurants-in-sanlucar-de-barrameda

Sanlúcar de Barrameda is Spanish Capital of Gastronomy for 2022

The Andalucían city of Sanlúcar de Barrameda, in the Cádiz province at the mouth of the Guadalquivir River, has been designated the Spanish Capital of Gastronomy for 2022.

As part of the celebration, Sanlúcar de Barrameda will showcase the geographical location and climate which make for a sun and beach destination.

The city is rich with natural resources being near to the Guadalquivir River and the natural reserve of the Doñana National Park

Both inspire for the city's food culture.

Two elements of the food culture of Sanlúcar, which will be focused on in the Spanish Capital of Gastronomy celebrations are Sanlúcar king prawns and the region's Manzanilla wine.

Sanlúcar's king prawns are one Andalucía's 'gastronomic treasures' and farmed in the mouth of the Guadalquivir River next to the National Park.

This prawn carries an intense and rich flavour mainly thanks to the characteristics of the waters in which it grows. At present, these delicate prawns have an official quality brand called Langostino de Sanlúcar (King Prawn of Sanlúcar) which recognises the prawns which are caught on the coast of the lower Guadalquivir River.



Sanlúcar de Barrameda (cont)

Manzanilla wine, is a variety of fino sherry made around the port of Sanlúcar de Barrameda and is produced under the Spanish Denominación de Origen Protegida (DOP) of Manzanilla-Sanlúcar de Barrameda DOP since 1964.

In Spanish, chamomile infusion is called "manzanilla", and thus this wine gets the name because of its flavour said to be reminiscent of such an infusion.

The sherry is manufactured using the same methods as a fino and results in a very pale, dry wine.

The city's and culinary scene also embraces :

- Tortillitas de camarones : a tapa that uses small fresh prawns to create fritters that are best served piping hot.
- Acedías and tapaculos: two of the city's fish best served fried and to be eaten by hand
- Arroz con Pato: made from products sourced in the estuaries and areas bordering the river including blue duck that is eaten in sauce or with rice hence the name 'Rice with Duck'
- Guisos Marineros: seafood stews made with cuttlefish, king prawns, monkish and many other delicacies caught just off the coast, and
- Las Papas Aliñás: a potato dish served "warm" and not cold like most potato salads.

Its unique horse races take place on a long stretch of beach in August.







- www.sanlucardebarrameda.es and www.andalucia.org
- Daniel Machado at daniel@wearelotus.co.uk



VisitGuernsey launches walking app

Visit Guernsey is launching The Islands of Guernsey, a free app of comprehensive walking guides and maps.

Guernsey is an island in the English Channel off the coast of Normandy and the second largest of the Channel Islands.

It also embraces three other inhabited islands in Herm, Jethou and Lihou, along with many small islets and rocks.

Launching in early 2022, the app will include a series of walks around different areas of Guernsey, many of which will be themed, so that walkers can delve further into Guernsey's history, culture and folklore.

The routes will include information regarding the distance. estimated time of each itinerary, the gradient and difficulty level as well as suitable bus routes.

Shops, cafes, restaurants and toilets will also be marked along with special offers at participating places

- www.visitguernsev.com
- Matilda Haymes at matilda@wearelotus.co.uk

The Latin America Travel Association

The Latin America Travel Association (LATA), in partnership with Animondial, has declared 2022 its year of biodiversity.

This will see a year-long campaign celebrating Latin America's rich biodiversity and the value of protecting it.

Working with ministers and members alike, the Latin American travel & tourism sector is looking to end unsustainable practices, lessen climate change, and safeguard the region's huge biodiversity and natural assets.

To this end, LATA Community is joining the global movement to:

- protect at least 30% of the world's land and oceans by 2030 (the 30x30 target)
- inform and empower Latin America travel & tourism, and
- help shape it as a key solution (a force for good) to the global crises.

LATA knows that the tourism sector will be key for positive change, counterbalancing its unavoidable impacts with widespread direct and indirect benefits.

- www.lata.travel/
- Matilda Haymes at matilda@wearelotus.co.uk

Ambassador Cruise Line

Ambassador is the first British cruise line to launch in over 10 years.

The new cruise line be welcoming guests on its debut cruise to Hamburg from London Tilbury, aboard Ambience, on 6 April2022.

- www.ambassadorcruiseline.com/
- Matilda Haymes at matilda@wearelotus.co.uk





New hotels in the Maldives

The Maldives is boosting its visitor offering for 2022 with a raft of new resort launches.

Around 12 properties are scheduled to open, with many existing resorts having been renovated.

Most new openings are in the more remote atolls: Raa and Dhaalu, followed by Noonu, Baa and Lhaviyani.

Some new resorts are also being built on artificial islands created by land reclamation, such as the Fari Islands in the North Malé Atoll.

- OBLU SELECT Lobigili : an adult-only haven with an underwater restaurant, where guests can stroll over to neighbouring Ailafushi island to experience a different world of sights, sounds and culture
- OBLU XPErience Ailafushi: a Maldivian resort with a name that means 'family island', designed for families, friends, couples and global nomads, and including a futuristic entertainment centre
- Avani+ Fares Maldives Resort: the first opening in the Maldives by the sister brand of Anantara, with a youthful vibe and a kids' club
- Address Madivaru Maldives Resort & Spa: the Emaar group's first incursion into south Asia, promising a dedicated spa-island plus a floating restaurant
- Gran Meliá Huravee : an opening by the luxury Spanish brand, set to include one private-island villa among its accommodation offerings
- Maniya Faru Resort: a new development by the company behind Reethi Faru Resort, with the same lagoon restaurant and an overwater spa
- OZO Maldives: the second Maldives resort to be opened by the ONYX group, with a family focus and curated destination and activity tips
- Tolarno Maldives Kunaavashi Resort: La Vie Hotels & Resorts' first Maldivian property, a midscale brand inspired by arts and local culture, in one of the best diving destinations in the archipelago
- Madifushi Private Island: a nature-centric island with private-pool villas and suites designed to blend in with their surrounds
- Zazz Escapes Maldives: a 'lively' resort aimed at younger adults, with fresh contemporary décor
- Hilton Maldives Amingir: the fourth resort under Hilton's portfolio of brands in the Maldives, and the first of its flagship Hilton Hotels & Resorts in the destination.
- www.visitmaldives.com/en
- Surinder Manku at smanku@aviareps.com





The Angus Tour

Scotland

The Angus Tour has been launched to encourage people to head off the main roads in Angus.

The tour route runs from Monifieth to Montrose and then inland to Brechin and onto to Forfar and Glamis.

It also takes in locations along the way with sandy beaches and historic castles.

Looking to appeal to people who want to enjoy the best of Scotland in one area, *The Angus Tour, Adventure Designed by You*", takes in the Angus Glens while highlighting local delicacies and green experiences in and around the seven Angus towns.

The tour has a focus on sustainable and responsible tourism and offers a variety of travel options including public transport, cycling and walking, as well as driving.

Autumn and Winter themed itineraries have been created as part of the tour.

The route is supported by information on the Visit Angus app and Insider's Guide, which lists 100 experiences in the area.

Among the highlights on the route are:

 Glamis Castle: four miles south of Kirriemuir, Glamis Castle is the childhood home of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother



- Montrose Beach: stretches for three miles from Montrose to the North Esk River, with views south to Scurdieness Lighthouse
- House of Dun: managed by the National Trust for Scotland, is an 18th-century laird's home.
- www.visitangus.com/theangustour and www.youtube.com/c/VisitAngus/videos
- Elaine Fleming at elaine@ginger-pr.com

The Music Venue Trust's Revive Live Tour

The Music Venue Trust (MVT), which represents hundreds of grassroots music venues in the UK, has announced the performances in The National Lottery's Revive Live Tour.

Scottish rockers Del Amitri will be playing a special show at Sound Archive in Kirkwall, Orkney, the most northerly venue represented by Music Venue Trust, on 15 January 2022.

Carl Barât, who will play an 11-date run starting at Cambridge Junction on 6 January 2022.

Also added is a double-header tour by Grandmas House & Panic Shack, plus tours by The Snuts; The Howl & The Hum; Marino & Mace The Great; Minas; Noah Bouchard; Yazmean and James & The Cold Gun.

Shows will be taking place across the UK , with National Lottery players having a chance to bring a 'plus one' for free.

This extension of The National Lottery's Revive Live Tour follows the success of the inaugural tour summer 2021 which saw The National Lottery contribute £1M to directly underwrite the touring and production costs of hundreds of live performances.

- www.ticketweb.uk/search?q=ReviveLiveTour
- Andy Saunders at andy@velocitypr.co.uk





Doha Winter Wonderland

Qatar

Ground has broken on a project to bring the Winter Wonderland to Qatar for five consecutive years from November 2022.

It will be located on the Al Maha Island near Lusail City just north of Qatar's capital.

Doha Winter Wonderland will be a 200,000 square metre venue that will open in November 2022, just before the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

Unlike its sister Hyde Park installation in London, visitors to Doha Winter Wonderland will find seafront chalets, restaurants, games, and cafes, with temperatures in the mid-20°Cs.



- www.visitqatar.qa
- Grace Verdon at grace.verdon@onegreenbean.com

The Veranda Tamarin Hotel

Mauritius

The Veranda Tamarin Hotel in Mauritius is inviting guests looking for original experiences to explore Mauritius with the launch of its new *Explorer Programme*.



Aimed at 'intrepid travellers looking for adventure and to learn about the local culture', the hotel will give guests staying more than four nights an experience credit as part of their booking.

The credits can be used to undertake any of the unique experiences, especially created by the hotel and guided by local professionals for a discovery of Mauritius.

This programme of activities is part of the hotel's inclusive and sustainable approach, which aims at collaborating with local partners, and is a way for the hotel to participate in the local economy by creating jobs in the western region of Mauritius.

The culture and discovery options include:

- a street food tour to discover the Gajack and small dishes
- a visit to the Martello Tower (a 19th century British-built defensive tower) in La Preneuse
- the salt pans of Yemen, or
- the local coffee torrefaction process.

The hotel on Tamarin Bay in the west of Mauritius is located in the heart of a vibrant and arty community. It has a very distinctive and eclectic music concept that attracts locals and visitors to its Crazy Fish Restaurant on a weekly basis.

- www.veranda-resorts.com/en/mauritius-hotel-tamarin
- Surinder Manku at surinder.manku@p1communications.com



On the London stage



Anything Goes



Human Voice



The Human Voice

Ruth Wilson will star in Ivo van Hove's adaptation of Jean Cocteau's The Human Voice, which he also directs. The production opens at the Harold Pinter Theatre from 17 March and runs for three weeks only until 9 April.

www.thehumanvoiceplay.co.uk Kate Morley at kate@katemorleypr.com

Regent's Park Open Air Theatre

Regent's Park Open Air Theatre have confirmed their 2022 summer season, the venue's 90th anniversary:

- the musical Legally Blonde (13 May to 2 July) will be directed by Lucy Moss, who became the youngest woman ever to direct a musical on Broadway when Six opened last month
- the new musical 101 Dalmatians will premiere in July(12 July to 28 August), and

Antigone (3 to 24 September) is written by Inua Ellams and directed by Max Webster.

www.openairtheatre.com James Lever at james@joallanpr.com

Anything Goes

Anything Goes will return to the Barbican Theatre next summer for an eight week residency from 15 July until 3 September.

From spring 2022, audiences in Bristol, Liverpool, Edinburgh and Canterbury will also get the chance to see the multi-Tony Award winning production on its way to the Barbican.

www.anythinggoesmusical.co.uk Hannah Tollman at hannah@neilreadingpr.com

Grease

Grease will return to the Dominion Theatre in London's West End from 10 May 2022, where it was first performed at the Dominion Theatre in 1993.

www.greasethemusicalontour.com Sarah Wharton at sarah@amandamalpass.com

Broken Wings



The musical adaptation of Kahlil Gibran's Broken Wings by Nadim Naaman opens at Charing Cross Theatre on 26 January 2022 and runs until 5 March 2022.

After many productions of the musical in concert form around the Middle East, this will be the first full staging of this story of 'gender and love equality, immigration and the meaning of home'.

www.brokenwingsmusical.com Kate Morley at kate@katemorleypr.com

Theatre Royal Stratford East

Theatre Royal Stratford East, in association with Ramps on the Moon, has announced the launch of SLAMbition.

This is a new monologue slamstyle competition putting a spotlight on Deaf, disabled and neurodivergent talent in the arts.

Artists will perform two monologues in front of an invited audience of leading industry creatives including directors, casting agents and casting directors, as well as having the chance to win a package of prizes.

Performances will be on 30 March 2022.

The evening will be hosted by Stratford East's Sky Arts Artistic Associate Tabby Lamb and will also feature guest appearances and networking opportunities for participating artists.

www.stratfordeast.com www.rampsonthemoon.co.uk James Lever at james@joallanpr.com

The Society of London Theatre

The Society of London Theatre is an umbrella organisation for West End theatre in London, which provides a collective voice for the theatre owners, producers and managers of all the major commercial and grant-aided theatres across then UK capital.

- www.solt.co.uk and www.OfficialLondonTheatre.com
- Eva Mason at eva@soltukt.co.uk



A reason to write about





Terrazza 241, Hilton Lake Como

Italy

Hilton Lake Como, which is housed in an 18th-century manor with lakefront garden, is offering its guests and locals a new winter culinary offering at flagship restaurant Terrazza 241 restaurant & bar.













Terrazza 241 is located on the hotel's spacious rooftop, which enjoys a lake vista, and has a new menu and winter garden, created by Executive Chef Alessandro Ramella.

- www.hilton.com/en/hotels/mxpcohi-hilton-lake-como
- Charlotte Rous at charlotte@charlotterous.co.uk

It will be available throughout the winter months, with live music in the evenings.



Island hopping around The Marquesas Islands

The Marquesas Islands are a group of volcanic islands in French Polynesia in the southern Pacific Ocean.

They are located 932 miles northeast of Tahiti and spread out over 12 islands, of which only six are inhabited.

The largest island of the south eastern group is Hiva Oa, the burial place of the French artist Paul Gauguin.

The islands are home to archaeological sites, including stone temples, giant tiki statues and ancient petroglyphs.

Nuku Hiva

Nuku Hiva is the largest island and the most populated of The Marquesas.

The vertiginous volcanic peaks and slopes blend with the blue of the Pacific Ocean.

The starting point of the adventure is Taioha'e, the archipelago's regional capital, opening at the end of a large bay holding the same name.

Nuku Hiva is nicknamed *The Land of Men*, because of warrior traditions that persist today.

Local men take pride in wearing the horns of animals they've killed around their necks.

Le Nuku Hiva by Pearl Resorts is the only hotel on the island.

The landscape of Nuku Hiva embraces cliffs, rocky peaks, deep bays and steep valleys.

Every four years, Nuku Hiva hosts the Marquesas Arts Festival, a celebration of the local people's renowned artistic talent and deeply rooted traditions.

Hiva Oa

Hiva Oa is commonly called the *Garden of the Marquesas* due to its fertile and lush land.

The island features rugged landscapes blend sharp ridges, peaks and valleys scattered with archaeological sites and ruins.

They are home to the largest tiki statues of French Polynesia.

Hiva Oa is lined with black sand beaches and sharp cliffs diving into the Pacific Ocean.





The island's main village, Atuona, is located at the end of Taaao Bay and is overlooked by Mount Temetiu and Mount fe'ani.

Ua Pou

Ua Pou is geologically the most recent island in the group and one of the most typical for Polynesia.

There are many archaeological sites on the island along with the colourful village of Hakatehau, where visitors can discover traditional crafts such as pandanus weaving, wood painting or carving and the fabrication of bone, shell or mother of pearl ornaments.

Air Tahiti offers mix-and-match island hopper flight services between 38 French Polynesian islands one or more times a week.





- www.tahititourisme.uk
- Sophie Morgan at smorgan@tahititourisme.uk



The UK Epic Mountain Guide

The UK Epic Mountain Guide, produced by Land Rover, highlights the hardest to easiest mountains to climb across the UK.



The guide is based on an analysis of 40 mountains across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

The comparison metrics looked at the height of the mountain and the average time to the top, along with those that are the most popular with climbers, with the most Tripadvisor reviews and the highest average score

With the view from the top being a highlight of the climb, the research also includes the most picturesque mountains, consisting of those which are most Instagrammed (number of hashtags of the mountain name).

The guide reveals:

 Scotland's Aonach Beag, standing at 1,234 metres high, has been ranked the hardest mountain to climb, taking on average six hours to reach the peak

- Sawel mountain in Northern Island is the quickest, taking people on average just one hour to reach its 678-metre-high peak
- two Welsh mountains, Glyder Fach and Glyder Fawr, are the least challenging to climb and, being next to each other, will take about 1.5 hours to climb each
- Snowdon in Wales comes in as the second most challenging mountain to climb in the UK at 1,085m tall and with the average hiker taking six hours to reach the peak, and is the most reviewed mountain on Tripadvisor with a 2,665 reviews and an average review score of five stars
- Scotland claims a total of nine out of 10 places in the top 10 hardest to climb mountains, due to the height of the Scottish Highland area.



- www.landrover.co.uk/explore-land-rover/one-life/adventure/epic-mountains-in-the-uk.html
- Travis Adshead at travis.adshead@iprospect.com



ToursByLocals and winter sun

ToursByLocals have handpicked range of private and customisable tours from winter sun destinations.



ToursByLocals connects travellers in search of customised, private tours with handpicked tour guides, in 193 countries worldwide.

The guides on the platform offer private city tours, shore excursions, art and history-focused tours, culinary tours and outdoor adventures.

Every tour is private, and itineraries are flexible and customisable to the traveller's needs.

The temples and markets in Bangkok

Having just reopened again to international visitors, Thailand is a popular destination with high temperatures over the winter months.

ToursByLocals offers an eight-hour Bangkok Custom Made Private Tour of Thailand's biggest city that can take in the Grand Palace and the temple of the Emerald Buddha.

Local boat rides and tuk-tuk sightseeing are also available along with Jim Thompson House Museum and its vast art collection.

Island hopping in the Bahamas

TourByLocals offers a four-hour Private Island Hopping Boat Tour from Nassau, which is known for If it's sun, sand and picturesque views.

- www.toursbylocals.com
- Alex Keelan at alex@wearelotus.co.uk

There will be time for snorkelling in the clear waters with turtles and the colourful aquatic life of the reefs. The tour also includes a voyage over to another picturesque island which hosts the worldfamous Atlantis Bahamas as well as spectacular houses owned by various celebrities.

The Mergouza Desert of Morocco

ToursByLocals offers a seven-hour with SUV from Erfoud to the Desert Area.

With average highs of 20 degrees, this is a very pleasant time to experience the desert and its secrets.

Along the way, groups will immerse themselves in local culture by visiting the nearby markets, sampling the classic cuisine and visiting the nearby caves that are home to fossils dating back millions of years.

Puebla Street food in Mexico

ToursByLocals offers a two and a half-hour Street Food Tour of Puebla, known for its cuisine and historic centre that is a UNESCO world heritage site.





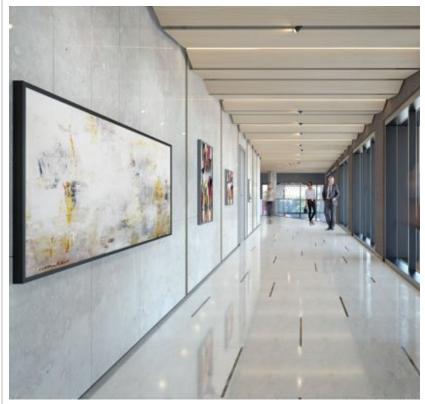
Bahamas





A place to stay











The Pinnacle Tower, Auckland

New Zealand

Cordis Auckland's new Pinnacle Tower, which opened in December 2021, is now New Zealand's largest hotel.

Located in the heart of the city, the new 17-storey tower has 244 premium rooms and signature Cordis Pinnacle Tower suites.

The Pinnacle Tower offers 360° views of Auckland landmarks from the upper floors of the hotel including the Harbour Bridge, One Tree Hill, Rangitoto, Mount Eden and the Sky Tower.

Designed by acclaimed New Zealand architect Jasmax, the interiors are 'sleek and streamlined and luxurious yet minimalist, with contemporary finishes'.

The hotel also houses to the largest curated locally commissioned art collection, with 46 commissions, spanning across multiple mediums by nine contemporary artists.

- www.cordishotels.com/en/auckland
- Emily Falkner at emily.falkner@lemongrassmarketing.com



Fleur Noire Hotel, Palm Springs, California

USA

Flower murals decorate the interior and exterior walls of the new Fleur Noire Hotel.



Greater Palm Springs newest boutique hotel has 21 uniquely designed casitas, bungalows and suites, previously used as apartments.

Fleur Noire Hotel is located in the heart of Palm Springs and its, larger than life floral murals, is attracting guests, photographers and those who appreciate street art.

The hotel will offer guests a bar, fire pits, games, outdoor living spaces and a pool lined with cabanas.

The floral graphics on the exterior of the hotel were designed and hand painted by mural artist Louise Jones.

The colourful native flowers sit well within the neighbourhoods surrounding and have transformed the accommodation's beige and uninviting walls.

Inside, Ellie Cashman designed the room's wallpaper, which takes inspiration from still life painters in the Dutch Golden Age.









- www.fleurnoirehotel.com and www.visitgreaterpalmsprings.com
- Sophia Amos at sophia@blackdiamond.co.uk



Cook's Club to open in Rhodes

The Cook's Club lalysos Rhodes, adults-only hotel, will open in May 2022





Located in the lalysos area of Rhodes, a centre for water sports on the shores of the island's north coast.

Cook's Club lalysos Rhodes will look to 'fuse the best of local culture with cool vibes, poolside-chic and contemporary architecture'.

The sleek, innovative design is underlined by wooden furniture, rustic pergolas and woven reed lamps, blurring the boundaries between indoors and outdoors.

It will be the brand's second hotel in Rhodes joining Cook's Club City Beach Rhodes.

- www.cooksclub.com/en
- Matilda Haymes at matilda@wearelotus.co.uk



Wyndham Hotels & Resorts in India

Wyndham Hotels & Resorts continues to expand its presence across India with the addition of four new hotels in destinations including Jaipur, Varanasi, Mohali and Udaipur.

The new openings will see Wyndham reach 50 hotels in India, with eight more expected to open in 2022, and includes :

Wyndham Chandigarh Mohali

This upscale hotel offers 80 guest rooms, three on-site eateries a full-service spa with heated indoor pool, steam room, sauna and as well as a fitness centre and salon.

Ramada by Wyndham Varanasi Katesar

Located in Varanasi, regarded as a spiritual capital and with temples and palaces, the 68room hotel features a contemporary design.

Ramada by Wyndham Jaipur North

This 107-room hotel is convenient for Jaipur's colourful architecture, impressive City Palace, old bazaars and Hawa.

Howard Johnson by Wyndham Udaipur Roop Nagar

This contemporary, 94-room hotel overlooks Udaipur, known as the 'City of Lakes' and one of India's most popular cities.

- www.wyndhamhotels.com
- Olivia Pascoe at opascoe@grifcopr.com



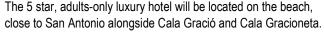
TRS Ibiza Hotel

Palladium Hotel Group is to launch TRS Ibiza Hotel, a new adults-only luxury property, in spring/ summer 2022.











These are two coves known for their clear waters fringed by Mediterranean plant life.

- www.palladiumhotelgroup.com/en/hotels/espana/ibiza/ibiza-sanantonio/trs-ibiza-hotel
- Matilda Haymes at matilda@wearelotus.co.uk

3HB Hotel Opens, Faro

Portugal

The 3HB Faro Hotel is the first 5* 'urban chic' hotel in the city.







Located in the pedestrian area of downtown Faro, and less than 15 minutes from Faro International Airport, the new luxury hotel offers a base from which to explore historic Faro, the Ria Formosa lagoon and its islands, and surrounding beaches and golf courses.

A highlight is the hotel's rooftop infinity pool where guests can take in the stunning views over the city and the Ria Formosa Nature Park.

- www.3hb.com
- Surinder Manku at surinder.manku@p1communications.com



The Trefeddian Hotel, Aberdyfi

Wales

The 59-bedroom Trefeddian Hotel in Aberdyfi, on the Mid Wales coast in Southern Snowdonia, also has three self-catering properties.





Things to do from the hotel include :

- four miles of sandy beaches that stretch out in front of the Trefeddian and a visit to Dolgoch Falls
- Bwlch Nant yr Arian with views of Cardigan Bay and the Cambrian Mountains along the woodland trails with 150 red kites swooping down at feeding time, and
- Woodland walks to the River Dysynni, which goes past tumbled down remains of a once grand estate

The Trefeddian Hotel is a member of MWT Cymru, an independent organisation that represents more than 600 tourism and hospitality businesses across Powys, Ceredigion and Southern Snowdonia.











- www.trefwales.com
- Duncan Foulkes at duncan@duncanfoulkespr.co.uk



Siddhartha Oceanfront Resort & Spa

Ral

The Siddhartha Oceanfront Resort & Spa is highlighting the success of a reef restoration and house reef project, with the launch of two new diving & snorkelling packages for its April 2022 re-opening.







The project has seen the creation of an artificial reef, spanning 100 meters near the shoreline of the property, and the expansion of the existing reef.

The area is now teeming with even more coral growth and marine life, such sea life as turtles, trumpetfish, batfish, schooling snappers, sweetlips and fusiliers, along with leaf fish, lionfish, and even the occasional reef shark or eagle ray.

Also accessible from the property is the Boga Wreck, a 50-meter long ship that was purposely sunk in 2012 and has since been claimed by nature.

Remnants inside the Boga, ranging from Buddha statues to a VW Jeep, can also be discovered by more advanced divers. The famous USAT Liberty Wreck, a US cargo ship that was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine during the Second World War is also nearby.

With a fully equipped SSI (Scuba Schools International) dive centre on site, Siddhartha has rolled out two new packages that cater to a range of underwater enthusiasts.

Its *Discover East Bali*, 10-night stay package includes two guided one-hour house reef dives (by scuba or snorkel) and two 60-minute Balinese style massages at the resort's Six Elements Spa.

Siddhartha has 30 bungalows and two oceanfront villas spread out over 2.4 hectares of land in a more traditional and less frequented area of Bali.

Bali is a province of Indonesia and the westernmost of the Lesser Sunda Islands.

East of Java and west of Lombok, the province includes the island of Bali and a few smaller neighbouring islands, notably Nusa Penida, Nusa Lembongan, and Nusa Ceningan.

- www.siddhartha-bali.com
- Karryn Miller at kmiller@balconymediagroup.com

















Sloane Place

Sloane Place is a new boutique hotel and sister property to traditional The Sloane Club, a private members club that will celebrate its centenary in 2022.

The hotel has 27 bedrooms and a 50-cover restaurant with menus created by Executive Chef, Bernhard Mayer (formerly of The Savoy and Four Seasons, Park Lane) and Head Chef, Maryono Maryono.

These combine European and South-East Asian cuisine with signature dishes such as their Lobster & Prawn burger, Rose County beef tataki and bao buns.

The hotel provides a base for Sloane Square itself and the King's Road, along with the Saachi Gallery and Royal Court Theatre.

It is also convenient for those attending events at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, including the Chelsea Flower Show and the Longines Global Championships (London).

www.royalcourttheatre.com www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/rhschelsea-flower-show www.gcglobalchampions.com

The Sloane Club was founded in 1922 as the Service Women's Club and welcomed the serving and former female officers of the Armed Forces in World War II.

In the early 1960s, it became *The Helena Club*, established by a lady-inwaiting to Princess Marie Louise.

In 1976, *The Sloane Club* opened its doors to gentlemen, to offer women and men 'fine dining and indulgent home comforts'.

The club prides itself on offering its members the same level of service today.

- www.sloaneplace.com and www.sloaneclub.co.uk
- Lallie Fraser at lallie@polkadotelephant.com



Bulletin box: Food, drink and more in East Devon





The county of Devon, in southwest England, offers sandy beaches, fossil cliffs, medieval towns and moorland national parks. (Part 1)



The English Riviera is a series of picturesque, south-coast harbour towns including Torquay, Paignton and Brixham.

The South West Coast Path follows the coastline, taking in the towering cliffs of the northern Exmoor Coast and rock formations on the fossil-rich southern Jurassic Coast.

East Devon

East Devon has two-thirds of its territory within Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a coastline featuring England's the first natural World Heritage Site.

A concentrated food and drink scene can also be found across East Devon.

Fishing and farming has shaped the character of the region, as does its unique microclimate.

The coastline around the South West has the highest annual mean temperature of any sea area near to the UK and with the region's undulating hills and sea breezes, the terroir lends itself to lush green pastures, orchards and healthy crops.

Ebb Tides seaweed

Dulse, kelp, sargassum and laver are just a few of the varieties of seaweed hand-harvested from the shores along the craggy Jurassic Coast.

Good for garnishing soups, scrambled eggs, salads and fish, seaweed gives a unique umami flavour and can be used as a seasoning just like salt and pepper.

Ebb Tides, contributes to preserving the coastline of East Devon with their Natural England license ensuring the seaweed is hand harvested sustainably and ethically.

www.ebbtides.co.uk

LittlePod Vanilla

The village of Farringdon is where LittlePod manufactures high quality vanilla paste, along with coffee and chocolate extracts.

With the majority of vanilla flavourings found being a synthetic copy, the plight of real vanilla is real and *LittlePod* is campaigning to save this tropical spice (and the communities who farm it) before it becomes extinct.

www.littlepod.co.uk





Food, drink and more in East Devon (cont)





Good Game Charcuterie

Topsham based Good Game have produced a vast range of charcuterie using traditional methods, from nduja sausage to pastrami.

Co-directors, Steve Williams and Pete Woodham-Kay believe the secret to fantastic charcuterie is starting with exceptional pigs that have grown slowly with plenty of space to roam.

With slow growth, there's more fat, which produces a more delicious product. Everything is handmade and cured with nothing but salt and air.

www.good-game.co.uk

Two Drifters Distillery

The world's first carbon-negative distillery, Two Drifters is based near Exeter Airport,

Each bottle of their award-winning rum is crafted with a light, British-made bottle and FSC wooden top, compostable labels. www.twodriftersrum.com

Among the options available:

Places to stay

Higher Wiscombe

Higher Winscombe have luxury holiday cottages at Beer, Sidmouth and Branscombe.

They have worked with the Green Tourism Business Scheme for the last 15 years and have won over a dozen eco awards.

www.higherwiscombe.com

The Nest

High up in the boughs of an old English oak tree, this tree-house is the ultimate ecoescape. Complete with fully equipped kitchen, living area with wood burning stove, plus balcony,

you can overlook the ancient wood and family run farm.

The owners have just planted 700 more trees to replace those taken for firewood.

www.treeholidays.co.uk

Holyford Yurt

A staycation in Holyford's Yurt is the epitome of green-living in East Devon's breathtaking Axe Valley. This family-friendly smallholding offers organic fruit and veg, solar showers, an earth oven.

While you're there, you can enjoy home-cooked meals from the owners (for an additional charge), and buy their homemade preserves, pickles and apple juice.

It's located next to ancient woodland and near to the Jurassic Coast.

www.homemadeholidays.co.uk

Mazzard Farm

Muzzard Farm offers a range of cottages, surrounded by 17 acres of private woodland, orchards, gardens and fields.

The farm uses biomass heating boilers and solar panels and have a Gold Sustainable Tourism award.

www.mazzardfarm.com/devon-eco-holidays



Harry Hook at harry@rawfoodanddrinkpr.co.uk







Bulletin box : Greek island hopping



Olympic Holidays offers two and three island hopping trips that take in lesser known islands:

Halki

Offers authenticity, relaxation, architecture, traditional houses and accommodation and secluded beaches.

There is only one hotel on the island, which is part of the GR-eco programme. Kalki aims to be the first Greek island solely reliant on reen energy.

Island hopping options includes Rhodes

www.olympicholidays.com/destinations/greece/halki

Symi

Known for its seafood and the colourful buildings as you enter the port of Symi, Beaches surround the island and it has the Panormitiis monstery.

Island hopping options :Rhodes and Kos

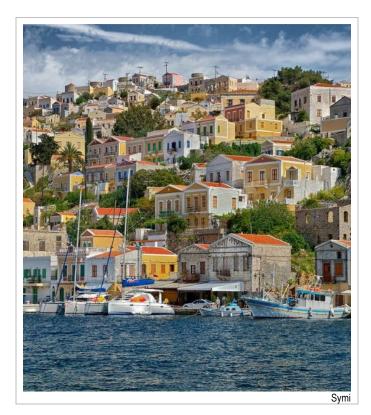
www.olympicholidays.com/destinations/greece/symi

Aegina

Known for its ancient architecture including Temple of Aphaia & Temple of Apollo, Neoclassical buildings.

An island from which to start exploring the Saronic Islands and Athens.

Island Hopping options : Athens, Poros and Spetses www.olympicholidays.com/destinations/greece/aegina



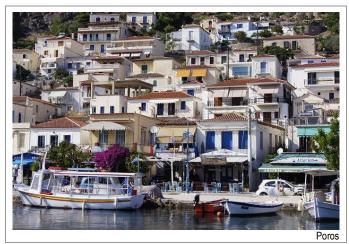


Greek island hopping

(cont)









Poros

Offers pine forests, picturesque villages, the Zoodochos Pighi Monastery and secluded coves and beaches.

Poros is only 300meters from the small port of Galatas on the mainland. The Heart Island of Poros is a little Island shaped like a heart with a small church.

Island hopping options : Athens, Aegina and Spetses

www.olympicholidays.com/destinations/greec e/poros

Naxos

The largest island of the Cyclades islands but also one of the quieter islands.

It has the Marble Gate of Portara, Kouros of Apollonas statue, and Temple of Demeter.

sugar cube houses with painted blue doors and windows, small chapels, arches and narrow paved alleys.

The capital town (Chora) has whitewashed,

Island hopping options: Santorini, Mykonos, Paros and Athens

www.olympicholidays.com/destinations/gre ece/naxos/

Alonissos

Known for its natural beauty with the National Marine Park, beaches, hiking and the Castle of Alonissos.

A range of sandy & rocky scenic beaches around the island with clear blue waters and marine life with four designated diving sites.

There are picturesque villages with traditional houses and architecture and easy access to the other Sporades Islands by regular ferry connection.

Island Hopping options : Skiathos, Skopelos and the Pelion

Peninsulawww.olympicholidays.com/destinations/greece/alonissos

Paxos

Known for its cosmopolitan, beaches and off the beaten track villages. The island can be explored in one day.

Island Hopping options : Corfu, Sivota and Parga

www.olympicholidays.com/destinations/greec e/paxos

- www.olympicholidays.com
- Jonathan Williams at Jonathan@peelwilliams.com



One last thought: Florence Kagiso

Florence Kagiso, who is Desert & Delta's first female tour guide, has been named *The Innovator* at the National Geographic Traveller Reader Awards 2021.

Florence now mentors and leads the first all-female guide team in Africa affectionately known as *Chobe's Angels*.

At Desert & Delta Safaris' Chobe Game Lodge, female empowerment and promoting gender equality is at the core of their CARES philosophy.

Having joined in 2004, Florence Kagiso is an integral member of the management team at Chobe Game Lodge, which now has 50% female representation, and she has been an inspiration for young women and girls across Africa to strive for successful careers

Chobe Game Lodge is the only permanent game lodge located within the Chobe National Park, on the Chobe River in northern Botswana.

Chobe's diverse wildlife is the highlight of the region, including elephants, lions, buffalos, and giraffes, and can be viewed from their fleet of solar-electric powered safari boats and their electric-powered game drive vehicles.











- www.desertdelta.com and www.chobenationalpark.co.za
- Becky Hampson at becky@storringtonpr.com

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