



The AllWays traveller bulletin

Providing independent travellers with an equally independent view of the world

Issue No 6 : August 2012

www.allwaystraveller.com

Here is the 6th issue of the *AllWays traveller* bulletin.

I hope you enjoy this, the 6th issue of the *AllWays traveller bulletin* from the **International Travel Writers Alliance**.

The bulletin is produced, each month, to provide independent travellers with an equally independent view of the world from the professional travel journalists in the Alliance.

Tips for trips and travelling

But we also want you, as subscribers of the bulletin, to send us your tips for trips and travelling.

Please email these to me at any time.

Ashley Gibbins

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Chief Executive
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www.itwalliance.com

AllWays traveller to

Palma, Mallorca

So much more than sun, sea and sangria

Palma, Mallorca, Spain www.allwaystraveller.com

Mallorca offers so much more than sun, sea and sangria

The Mediterranean island of Mallorca (in Spanish and Catalan) or Mallorca, as it is also known, is Spain's largest island.

It is an island of lush landscapes, mountain ranges, a stunning coastline and sumptuous beaches.

Its capital, Palma, acts as the capital of the Balearic Islands, which also takes Ibiza, Formentera, and Minorca.

The Balearics have been luring budget conscious, sun worshipping tourist since the first package holiday boom of the 1950s.

But while Mallorca may have begun its tourist life attracting 'sun, sea and sangria' seekers, the island has now developed its offering far beyond that.

In addition to the budget end of the market, which remains popular, there are many top notch hotels and villas and, for those seeking something more active, opportunities to enjoy the island's nature and wildlife on foot or by bike.

Ashley Gibbins
The International Travel Writers Alliance
www.itwalliance.com

Palma
Finally, Palma is a vibrant, cosmopolitan city break destination in its own right and a fine base for touring the island.

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www.majorca-mallorca.co.uk

Download : <http://www.allwaystraveller.com/newsletter/AT%20Palma%20Mallorca.pdf>

Read online : http://www.allwaystraveller.com/AllWaysOnline/ao_eur_spain_Mallorca.html

AllWays online

Our correspondents are passionate about travel and not content to go with the flow. They prefer to delve a little deeper to discover what really makes the destination worth a visit.

Hers is just a small selection. Others can be found at : www.allwaystraveller.com

Scoffing, munching and nibbling in Lille, Northern France



Anna Maria Espsäter writes :

I confess – I had some doubts about Lille. “Why would anyone want to hop on the Eurostar to this northern French city when that same train could also take you to Paris?”, was my initial thought.

Then I paid Lille a visit. And started eating. And quickly changed my tune.

I knew very little about Lille when I arrived, but as it turns out, the city has a long and fascinating history with a predominantly Flemish influence, despite the fact that it’s been ruled by both Austrians and Spaniards among others; Vikings, Romans and Magyars all dropped by as well, all without having much of an impact on the region’s culinary traditions and it was the latter that I had come to investigate further.

Read more : http://www.allwaystraveller.com/AllWaysOnline/ao_eur_fr_Lilie.html

Quito, Ecuador – at the middle of the earth



Roger St Pierre writes :

Back in 1978 the beautiful Ecuadorian capital city of Quito earned the distinction of becoming the first ever UNESCO designated World Heritage Site. It was a fitting accolade.

Set on the steep slopes rising from a natural bowl some 10,000 feet up in the Andean Cordillera, this historic city, founded by 204 Spanish Conquistadores in 1534, has a truly dramatic setting to which man has lent a deft hand with not only some of the finest colonial architecture to be found anywhere but tasteful 21st Century buildings too.

Read more : http://www.allwaystraveller.com/AllWaysOnline/ao_as_Ecuador.html

Madhya Pradesh an India trip



Mark Nicholls writes :

I visited one of India’s tiger resorts and came face to face with the country’s famous big cats before heading back to the hustle and bustle of New Delhi.

As the early morning train pulls into the small halt of Umariya, you find yourself in the heart of India.

Few passengers descend into the semi-darkness after the overnight journey from New Delhi, where the contrast from the capital to this small, remote and rural community in Madhya Pradesh where life has changed little in decades, could not be greater.

Read more : http://www.allwaystraveller.com/AllWaysOnline/ao_asia_Madhya.html

AllWays news

Cost of holidays to Spain to rise

The cost of holidays to Spain will go up from next year following a rise in VAT on hotel accommodation.

Tour operators will absorb the tax increase for bookings already made for this summer, but prices for 2013 will reflect the rise from 8% to 10%, which comes into effect on August 1.

VAT on food and drink has also increased to 10% while the tax on other items such as sunglasses, cigarettes and clothing, has gone up by three percentage points to 21%.

www.spain.info/en

Greece

Greece has always been a top holiday destination for international travellers and despite recent political and financial turbulence, tourism has seen only a slight drop in arrival figures.

Small Luxury Hotels of the World is proud to be offering a series of offers that can see visitors saving up to 45% on a luxury Greek getaway between 1 September – 31 October 2012.

www.slh.com

Seven Dials, London's Covent Garden 'village'



Seven Dials, Covent Garden's 'village', offers independent boutiques, heritage brands, quality British labels and indulgent beauty and grooming salons plus a diverse selection of food and drink establishments.

The area includes Monmouth Street, Earham Street, Neal Street, Shorts Gardens, Mercer Street, Shelton Street, Neal's Yard and the Thomas Neal Centre.

www.sevendials.co.uk

FloridaVacationAuction.com

FloridaVacationAuction.com is the official auction partner of VISIT FLORIDA.



The website offers consumers the opportunity to bid on Florida vacations including hotels, resorts, vacation homes and attractions.

There are savings of as much as 80% off rack rate.

www.FloridaVacationAuction.com

The UK's first Dark Sky Park at Galloway Forest Park in Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland



VisitScotland and the Forestry Commission Scotland have created a free pocket visitor guide to the UK's first Dark Sky Park at Galloway Forest Park in Dumfries & Galloway.

The guide provides an introduction to stargazing with plenty of hints and tips on how to get the most out of the experience as well as the variety of things to see and do in Dumfries & Galloway.

www.visitscotland.com/surprise

AllWays events and celebrations

It is always worth considering visiting a destination during a festival, event or celebration. There is invariably a special atmosphere, entertainment and memorable photo opportunities.

Here is a selection of annual events worth considering.

Key West for Womenfest, Florida

4-9 September 2012

Key West for Womenfest is the United States' southernmost festival for lesbians and their friends.

Events include snorkeling in a living reef, parasailing, dolphin watching at sunset, jet skiing, rock climbing, kayaking and a golf tournament. Entertainment will be provided by live comedians and singers.

www.fla-keys.co.uk

World Creole Music Festival, Dominica

26 to 28 October 2012



The Caribbean island of Dominica will host the 15th World Creole Music Festival from 28 to 30 October. The Festival provides a platform for Creole music and culture and showcases the island's own local talent.

www.discoverdominica.com

Visit Orlando's Magical Dining Month

1 to 30 September 2012

Visit Orlando's Magical Dining Month, sees Central Florida's best restaurants featuring three-course, prix fixe dinner menus for knockdown prices.

www.OrlandoMagicalDining.com

Vancouver International Fringe Festival

6 to 16 September 2012

More than 80 groups from around the world present 600 shows on a variety of indoor and outdoor stages, with most of the venues are on Granville Island.

www.vancouverfringe.com

Fleet Week, San Francisco

4-8 October 2012



One of San Francisco's most popular seasonal events, Fleet Week takes over San Francisco with a series of Navy-inspired events, entertainment and the Blue Angels air show. Red And White Fleet offers special cruises during Fleet Week

www.fleetweek.us

Frankfurt Christmas Market

November/December 2012

Frankfurt Christmas Market is one of Germany's largest and most traditional Christmas celebrations.

Held on the city's Römerberg and at St Paul's Square, it features decorated booths and a massive Christmas tree as well as roasted chestnuts, baked apples, gingerbread, hot apple wine and mulled wine.

www.frankfurt-tourismus.de

Salzburg Christmas market

November /December 2012

The historic Salzburg Christmas market on Cathedral and Residence Square dates back to the 15th century. Groups of stalls are set up in front of Salzburg Cathedral.

www.christkindmarkt.co.at

Several other Christmas markets are held in Salzburg's baroque Old City.

www.weihnachtsmarkt-salzburg.at

A place to stay

Fifty Shades of Grey hotel packages in Portland, Oregon

The Heathman Hotel, Portland has been included in the popular 2011 novel **Fifty Shades of Grey**



The trilogy has topped best seller lists worldwide and has become the fastest selling paperback of all time, even surpassing the Harry Potter series.

Castles & Abbey of Ireland

Dooley Vacations is now offering a "Castles & Abbey of Ireland" vacation package for summer travel. The highlights of this trip include staying in four- and five-star castle accommodations where guests are promised to be treated like royalty!

www.dooleyvacations.com/vacations/castles-abbey-irl

Centra Grand Beach Resort & Villas Hua Hin, Thailand

Centra Grand Beach Resort & Villas Hua Hin, which began life in 1923 as the Railway Hotel and was Thailand's first resort hotel, has become a member of The Leading Hotels of the World.



The hotel is located on 16 hectares of beachfront within reach of Bangkok

The Leading Hotels of the World represents 430 hotels, resorts and spas in more 80 countries.

Centara Hotels & Resorts is Thailand's leading operator of hotels, with 38 deluxe and first-class properties covering all the major tourist destinations in the Kingdom.

A further 17 resorts in the Maldives, Philippines, Vietnam, Bali Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Mauritius Indian Ocean.

www.centarahotelsresorts.com
www.lhw.com

San Diego Marriott Mission

San Diego has much to attract visitors including the San Diego Zoo, San Diego Wild Animal Park and Sea World.

The San Diego Marriott Mission Valley is located near San Diego's most popular attractions including Old Town, Mission Bay the Rio Vista Trolley.

The hotel is participating in the Bring Back the Fun at Marriotts in Southern California and currently offering deluxe accommodations, complimentary self parking and free high-speed Internet access at a rate of \$149 to \$259 per night.

www.SanDiegoMarriottMissionValley.com

Small Luxury Hotels of the world

The Small Luxury Hotels of the World portfolio includes some of the world's finest small independent hotels with 520 properties in 70 countries.



New properties within the portfolio includes :

Royal Mougins Hotel, Golf & Spa, Mougins, France

This hotel is located in the Provencal forest a short distance from Cannes. It is within a mile of the hilltop village of Mougins with its restaurants and art galleries.

www.slh.com/royalmougins

Imaret, Kavala, Greece

This hotel in the port of Kavala and was built by the Egyptian Mohamed Ali Pasha as a gift to the town.

www.slh.com/imaret

CastaDiva Resort & Spa, Lake Como, Italy

This hotel is located within a six-and-a-half-acre estate with views across Lake Como and was once the residence of the 19th-century opera singer, Giuditta Pasta.

www.slh.com/castadiva

Hotel Bernini Bristol, Rome, Italy

Facing Piazza Barberini and the Triton Fountain, Hotel Bernini Bristol occupies a recently renovated 19th-century palace.

www.slh.com/berninibristol

IDW Esperanza Resort, Trakai, Lithuania

A country hotel located by a lake within 27 acres of forest and close to Trakai, Lithuania's ancient capital.

www.slh.com/esperanzaresort

Carmo's Boutique Hotel, Ponte de Lima, Portugal

This hotel, which opened in May 2012, is located close to the centre of the ancient village of Ponte de Lima and 45 minutes from Oporto.

www.slh.com/carmosboutique

Nira Caledonia, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

This hotel, which opened in December 2011, comprises two Georgian townhouses in the heart of Scotland's capital city.

www.slh.com/niracaledonia

The new Olive Boutique Hotel, San Juan, Puerto Rico is in the heart of Condado

www.slh.com/oliveboutique

Hotel Chandler, New York, USA

A turn-of-the-century, limestone building in Manhattan close to Madison Square Park, the Empire State and Times Square.

www.slh.com/chandler

L Hotel Seminyak Bali, Bali, Indonesia

This hotel, which opened in May 2012, is located in Bali's lively upmarket district of Seminyak.

www.slh.com/lhotelsbali

L'Hotel du Lac, Nagahama City, Japan

This is a modern villa on the banks of Japan's largest lake.

www.slh.com/lhoteldulac

Maduzi Hotel Bangkok, Bangkok, Thailand

The Maduzi Hotel Bangkok is at the heart of the vibrant Sukhumvit area.

www.slh.com/maduzihotel

The Club Saujana Resort Kuala Lumpur, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Located in 395 acres of tropical gardens the hotel is 30 minutes from central Kuala Lumpur.

www.slh.com/clubsaujana

AllWays worth considering

The International Travel Writers Alliance works with travel, transport and tourism partners worldwide. Here is just a section

Gad Adventures



G Adventures is Canada's top adventure operator offering small group tours to more than 100 countries on all seven continents.

www.gadventures.com

Swift Momentum Sports

Swift Momentum Sports (SMS) is a sports holiday provider specialized in cycling. SMS is based in the Algarve in southern Portugal, a region which offers excellent conditions for cycling.

www.swiftmomentumsports.com

Adventure Cat Sailing Charters



Experience the best in San Francisco Sailing on the beautiful San Francisco Bay with Adventure Cat Sailing Charters.

Adventure Cat offers sunset sails and relaxing afternoon Bay cruises, which are a great way to see the San Francisco cityscape and San Francisco's top sightseeing attractions.

www.adventurecat.com

India Mart

India Mart offers Indian trips that include wildlife -leisure, desert, wildlife, beach, heritage, culture, and a adventure tours for all ages

www.indiamart.com

Tatton Park (UK)

Tatton Park is a stunning historic estate in Cheshire, with 2000 acres of parkland and four attractions to visit. Deer have been present since the 13th century and the meres attract a variety of birds and wildlife.

The Neo-Classical Mansion features art and antiques from the Egerton family collections, and the 50 acres of Gardens with designs dating from 250 years ago, providing year-round colour.

The Gardens showcase different areas such as the Topiary, Rose Garden, Walled Kitchen Garden and the Japanese Garden which is considered one of the best in Europe.

There is also a working historic Farm and Tudor Old Hall to visit.

www.tattonpark.org.uk

Leisure Island Houseboat Rentals

Leisure Island Houseboat Rentals is a family owned and operated houseboat rental company located on Lake Temagami in Northern Ontario, Canada. Our houseboats provide a unique opportunity for fishing, relaxation and adventure as you explore our beautiful area.

www.leisureislandhouseboatrentals.com

Saga Ruby

Saga Cruises has announced that Saga Ruby, the last cruise ship built in the UK, will be retired from the Saga fleet at the beginning of 2014.

Saga Ruby will celebrate her 40th (ruby anniversary) by conducting one final Round the World Cruise as well as cruising to many of the ports she has visited throughout her service.

Saga Holidays are available exclusively for people aged 50 and over, with a travelling partner of 40 or over.

www.saga.com

The Yorkshire Tour Company, UK

The Yorkshire Tour Company is run by three dedicated professional's who live in North Yorkshire and have unsurpassed local knowledge of Yorkshire's 'hidden places and gems' and a huge network of people who know everything worth knowing about every place that we visit.

www.theyorkshiretourcompany.com

Wasatch Powderbird Guides

Wasatch Powderbird Guides, a heli skiing and snowboard operation based out of the Wasatch Mountain Range in Utah, provides individuals and private groups the powder skiing experience of a lifetime. With two convenient bases of operations (Snowbird Ski Resort & Canyons Resort in Park City).

www.powderbird.com

Elite Tours International

Elite Tours International is a tour operator for the Uzbek tourism market, and is working actively in promoting tourism in Uzbekistan.

www.elitetours.uz

Pan Americana Deviajes (Colombia)

Pan Americana Deviajes is a tour operator providing travel services in Colombia. The company also promotes the country by participating in the major Tourist Fairs and in other global activities related to tourism.

The company has offices in Bogota, Cartagena and San Andres

www.panamericanadeviajes.net

The Quad Cities (USA)

As the largest metropolitan area on the Mississippi River between Minneapolis and St. Louis, the Quad Cities is made up of the riverfront cities of Rock Island and Moline/East Moline in Illinois, and Davenport and Bettendorf in Iowa.

www.visitquadcities.com

China Highlights

China Highlights is a full service travel Chinese agency providing China Tours and Yangtze River cruises and specializes in tailor making or customizing tours for individuals, families and groups to anywhere in China and selected other Asian destinations.

www.chinahighlights.com

Northern Territory, Australia



One of the best hiking tracks in the world, Trek Larapinta have created a new 16 day wilderness walking adventure which includes the entire length of the Larapinta Trail.

Over the 16 day tour, travellers will hike along scenic ridges, gorges and breathtaking mountain peaks, experience rare wildlife and enjoy a balance between relaxing and adventure.

Accompanied by two experienced guides, hikers trek through the beauty of the bush by day and sleep in a swag under the starry sky by night. The trek starts and ends in Alice Springs, for groups of four to eight people.

www.treklarapinta.com.au

Best Of Asia Overland

Adventure in comfort! Enjoy the adventure of overlanding in our all-terrain Mercedes Benz coach style overland vehicles throughout Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India and Nepal... and soon to be included Myanmar and Thailand.

Itineraries to these unique destinations are carried out at a level of comfort that one wouldn't expect from some of these destinations.

www.boa-overland.com

Mammoth Lakes

Mammoth Lakes is a year-round destination resort located in the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California.

By car, Mammoth Lakes is 3 hours south of Reno, and 5 hours from Las Vegas, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.

World Class skiing, hiking, golf, fishing, climbing, as well as a full calendar of events and festivals await all in Mammoth Lakes!

www.visitmammoth.com

Tips when travelling

Five websites to help save when travelling in the States

Terrance Zepke writes :



Everyone likes to save money, but it is especially important in these economic times.

After years of globe-trotting, I have learned many tips, tricks, and strategies for saving money on any type of travel.

Here are five helpful money-saving websites:

Gasbuddy.com

Go to this website or load their free app onto your phone (Android, iPhone, Blackberry).

It will find the nearest gas station with the lowest prices no matter where you are in the United States.

GasBuddy even provides additional information, such as per gallon price averages nationwide and detailed maps leading you to the station with the lowest-priced gas. This tool can save you up to twenty-five cents a gallon, which really adds up after a few fill-ups.

www.Gasbuddy.com

Restaurant.com

Buy discounted gift cards to great restaurants to save big money.

Participants can choose from 18,000 restaurants (and growing) in popular tourist cities, such as Las Vegas and New Orleans.

Here's how it works: pay \$4 and get a \$10 gift card or pay \$10 and get a \$25 card or pay \$50 and get a card valued at \$100. This equals savings up to 60%. Just go to their website, place your order, and the cards are shipped to any address with no shipping fee.

www.Restaurant.com

Bing.com/travel

This is a great tool that most folks do not know about. It allows users to search multiple travel sites, check price predictions, compare rates, and even book travel directly with the supplier of choice.

The best thing is that it will give you an accurate forecast as to whether fares will go up or down, which means you'll know whether you should grab the current fare or wait for a lower rate.

www.Bing.com/travel

Citypass.com

Citypasses are available for many major cities and tourist hot spots, such as Hollywood, New York City, Toronto, Atlanta, San Francisco, and Chicago. The pass bundles admission to popular tourist destinations, including aquariums and zoos, museums, tours, and other attractions. The savings can be as much as 50%.

www.Citypass.com

Traveltribe.com

This is a good resource for anyone needing help planning their trip.

You can connect with other travelers who have "been there and done that" and expert travel agents who will help you, free of charge.

If you want the best rates, beware of these common mistakes:

- don't rely on popular travel sites.
- don't try to book your own cruise.
- don't ignore social media.
- don't let "hidden costs" ruin your budget.
- Don't call the toll-free central reservations number when booking a hotel room.

Terrance Zepke

Terrance Zepke is an award-winning writer/photographer.

He is author of : *The Encyclopedia of Cheap Travel: Save Up To 90% on Lodging, Flights, Tours, Cruises, and More!*, numerous travel references and several other books.

www.terrancezepke.com.

The Golden Hour

Andrea Kirkby writes :

Photographers know the 'golden hour' - the time around sunrise and sunset when the light is golden, everything glows, and strong shadows make for interesting photos.



I use the 'golden hour' before breakfast to wander the streets and get my own feel for the destination.

I've seen London's Smithfield meat market before dawn, found a Roman bar full of policemen getting their morning coffee, wandered the maze of columns in the Cordoba Mezquita quite alone before the tour buses get in, eaten roast chestnuts and drunk black tea waiting for the first ferry in Istanbul.

Even if you just go out for a jog, there's something about the early morning that makes everyone who's up early more friendly, as if you're recognising members of a special club.

And you might even get some good photos.

Tips to prevent 'traveller's tummy'

Traveller's tummy, to give it its less offensive name, is probably one of the most common and most unpleasant conditions you will get while abroad.

Traveling can be stressful on your body even before you reach your destination, but developing getting an upset stomach (diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, stomach cramps) after sampling the local cuisine can really ruin your vacation plans.

Research has shown that between 20 and 50 percent of international travellers suffer some form of stomach bug.

Follow these top tips for preventing, identifying and treating traveller's tummy :

Drink bottled water only

In some foreign countries, tap water can carry bacteria and a host of other unpleasant diseases. Bottled water is generally safe, but always remember to check for a secure seal to increase safety.

Try iodine tablets

If you can't get hold of bottled water easily, use iodine tablets to purify tap water, ridding it of harmful bacteria.

However – you should always use common sense: iodine tablets are safer to use in mountain stream water, but they probably won't have much effect on tap water from an India slum.

Shower with your mouth closed

Sometimes, even a small amount of water from the shower can have disastrous ramifications later.

Avoid ice in drinks

Order drinks without ice, as this can often be a hidden source of bacteria as often comes from unsafe tap water.

Be careful with street food

There is no need to avoid it completely, but be cautious. The safest street food is cooked or heated in front of you.

Choose clean restaurants

Excellent food can be found at grungy restaurants, but it's better to be safe than sorry. Choose restaurants where you can see your food being cooked.

Take a travel probiotic

Probiotics are essential for travellers, as they work to increase the good and prevent the bad bacteria in your gut, meaning less nasty symptoms.

One option is ProVen Travel Probiotic :

www.provenprobiotics.co.uk

From our correspondents

The International Travel Writers Alliance is the world's largest association of professional travel journalists.

Trinidad, Cuba – A storming great town

Iain Mallory writes :

Trinidad is many people's favourite destination in Cuba, it is easy to understand why. There are many more western looking faces here but despite it being popular it still has an authentic vibe.

The streets are lined with coloured houses, blues, yellows and terracottas with equally colourful classic vehicles negotiating the many potholes.

Classic cars on the Caribbean Ancon Peninsula near Trinidad, Cuba on Mallory on Travel adventure photography

Read more : <http://malloryontravel.com/2012/07/cool-places/cuba/trinidad-slavery-adventure-travel-photography/>

Classic cars (cacharros) are everywhere even on Ancon Beach

Horse drawn carriages and the ever present, persistent bicy-taxi seem to be on every corner and the offers for a tour of the city are incessant.

If I'd received a peso for everytime the words "taxi amigo" were directed our way the trip could have paid for itself.

Twelve stunning Rivas of Europe

Miruna Cornenau writes :

Nothing says Riviera better than the charming coastal region between the Alps and the blue clear waters of the Mediterranean that stretches from southeast France to northwest Italy.

The Italian term with medieval roots has spread all over the world, becoming very popular among numerous coastal destinations around the world.

Read more : <http://travelaway.me/stunning-rivieras-of-europe/>

However, the authentic Riviera comprises only two sides – the famous Cote d'Azur and the Italian shoreline between La Spezia and the French frontier, both of them facing the Ligurian arm of the Mediterranean.

Once with the development of tourism throughout Europe's amazing coasts, people have begun to use the word Riviera in order to spot certain areas similar to Cote d'Azur and so Europe has come to boast today at least 12 stunning Rivas.

Balloon Eclipse

Jim O'Donnell writes :

I shot this balloon eclipse from the cliff overhanging the John Dunn Bridge and the Rio Grande, 700 feet below.

It is an iPhone shot and while I love this image I'm not terribly happy with the quality.

I allowed myself to get caught in the middle of a lens change on my Nikon D3000.

Read and see more : <http://www.aroundtheworldineightyyears.com/balloon-eclipse/>

I knew the shot I wanted but I made the mistake of going for the lens change at the last minute.

The Pueblo Balloon Company offers amazing balloon rides over the high desert of Taos County, New Mexico in their three hot air balloons – they go year round.

And get this.....when you land? Champagne.

Carcassonne's The French House Party tantalizes the mind and taste buds

Marc d'Entremont writes :

Domaine St. Raymond, home of The French House Party, sits among gently rolling hills of golden wheat and sunflowers. A 14th century church, within view in Pexiora, overlooks this agrarian scene.

The nearby medieval city of Carcassonne welcomes throngs of visitors inside its fortified walls.

Within this bucolic setting, small groups of intellectually curious travelers gather for all-inclusive four to seven day residential workshops at a house party in southern France's Languedoc.

Read more : <http://www.examiner.com/article/carcassonne-s-the-french-house-party-tantalizes-the-mind-and-taste-buds>

Travel tweets

@FrommersTravel

Best Family Trips from London
<http://frm.rs/IOt8il>

@BBC_Travel

England's South Downs -- the most beautiful countryside in the country?
<http://bit.ly/OI1nSA>

@cntraveller

Avoid heaving Mediterranean beaches this summer and head inland to these lovely French lakes <http://bit.ly/P4PYp1>

@ArizonaTourism

Check out an interactive tool to virtually explore Grand Canyon and other nat'l parks! <http://bit.ly/yJJRbQ>

@SmarterTravel

Extreme packing tips:
<http://bit.ly/ObChas>

@travelchannel

What to see & do in Uruguay
<http://trvl.ch/crp9Q>

@Montreal

3 hot summer happenings in Montréal for summer 2012
<http://bit.ly/ObqFUO>

@TheIndyTravel

Croatia: The coast with the most
<http://ind.pr/QzWx8g>

@travelchannel

VIDEO: The top 10 things to do in Madrid
<http://trvl.ch/crDjv>

@FrommersTravel

Greek Islands: Best Cruises & Sailing Adventures
<http://frm.rs/n2Kh6z>

@nycgo_uk

You can now explore a space shuttle in NYC
<http://bit.ly/MZcwWW>

travel @buzztravel

Confessions of a hotel mystery shopper (CNN)
<http://goo.gl/mQ5y6>

@ABCNewsTravel

Around the World with Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton
<http://abcn.ws/P3aidc>

@lonelyplanet

Sports in unlikely places
<http://ow.ly/cqvij>

@TelegraphTravel

Sara Macefield looks at the best cruise lines for on-board activities
<http://bit.ly/MGenSS>

@BBC_Travel

Planning a trip to Sri Lanka? Head to its mountainous interior to find its heart and soul:
<http://bit.ly/LLbkey>

Frommer's @FrommersTravel

Alaska Cruises: Big Ships v. Small Ships
<http://frm.rs/JdwMmf>

@lonelyplanet

Feast your eyes: how to take food photos
<http://ow.ly/csqq2u>

@cntraveller

Planning a trip to Europe? Take a look at these stylish hotels from less than £100 a night
<http://bit.ly/MmaoYR>

Singapore: New W hotel on Sentosa Island will open in September
<http://lat.ms/LHyHRx>

@MyDTenerife

Check out Tenerife Top 10s.
<http://ow.ly/cqqYk>

Get involved

We will be delighted to receive your tips for trips and travel features. Please email these to us or post them on our Facebook page.



Ashley@allwaystraveller.com



[AllWays traveller Facebook](#)



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The International Travel Writers Alliance



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