

TRAVEL NEWS



WITH
KEVIN FLANAGAN

Watch the Swiss

Last week, I enjoyed the Meet the Media 2021 event organised by Michael Collins. It was a great gathering, albeit virtually, celebrating what is awaiting us all in travel!

Over the coming weeks, I will be sharing interviews with the leading tourist boards I met online from around the world. This week, we start with Switzerland Tourism, and Alex Herrmann (Director UK & Ireland), who told me about the various summer activities in Switzerland which “overwhelmingly happen outdoors”.

These include hiking, biking, mountaineering or swimming in one of the many lakes or rivers of

this stunning country. I also loved the personal recommendations that Roger Federer, the legendary Swiss ambassador, gives on the myswitzerland.com website. He lists his own favourites, like the Rhine Falls, describing “the natural beauty” that “invites you to linger, take a deep breath and recharge your batteries.”

Having experienced many of these Swiss delights, I agree with Roger wholeheartedly, and will be going back to Switzerland at the earliest opportunity. And the feeling seems mutual. As Alex Hermann told me on our call, “we can’t wait to welcome Irish travellers to Switzerland again!” Visit myswitzerland.com

Dog-friendly Holidays!

The team at the pet-friendly 4-Star Twelve Hotel in Galway have created the ultimate luxury stay, designed towards ensuring your favourite furry friend has the time of their lives.

On check-in, your pet will receive a welcome ‘doggie bag’, which will include a toy, a treat and clean-up bags. In-room, there’s a food and water bowl with fresh mineral water. Pet Concierge and services available nearby include: dog walking, grooming, savoury snacks, dog and cat menus, map of nearby walks, dog-sitting, veterinary services and more.

Rates start from €195 per night, including accommodation in a pet-friendly Luxury Suite. The Twelve also have a Marvellous Suite, suitable for families and their



pooch. Additional charges may apply to Pet Concierge Services. Visit thetwelvehotel.ie/pet-friendly

The Amalfi Coast

The resort of Sorrento is one of the gems along the Amalfi coast and Topflight, Ireland’s Italian Specialist, is offering a stay in the 4-Star Hotel Conca Park, in the heart of Sorrento. Travel on 17th October 2021 (restrictions permitted) for €1,040pps or 3rd April 2022 for €1,124pps.

So plan ahead and have a holiday to look forward to! Price includes return flights for Dublin, accommodation for seven nights on a half-board basis, return transfers, taxes and Topflight’s in resort management service. Deposit of €150 due at time of booking, holiday balance due six weeks before the date of travel. Holidays to Sorrento are also available from Cork.

Call (01) 240 1700, visit topflight.ie or contact your local travel agent



Clodagh Dooley’s Pick of the Week: Balearic Islands

Like my colleague Kevin, last week I virtually attended Meet the Media 2021, a networking event for international travel trade and travel media. I was excited to hear what various destinations have in store for Irish visitors, when we can travel safely again.

One such destination was the Balearic Islands (Mallorca, Menorca, Formentera and Ibiza), which are preparing to welcome back tourists this summer season. Following a successful pilot scheme carried out in the archipelago to restart tourism during the reopening period in summer 2020, the island’s authorities have proposed to Spain’s central Government that the destination becomes one of the first places in Spain where the vaccine passport is

tried. The persistently low incidence figures of Covid-19 in the Balearic Islands has allowed the authorities to reopen restaurants, pubs, museums, beaches – locals and tourists have to respect social distancing and wear masks outdoors, but it’s great to see a ‘return to normal life’.

Ahead of the new tourism season, the islands have launched new content for visitors. Palma Tourist Board has launched its new family travel guide on visitpalma.com, with activity and accommodation recommendations for families planning a post-lockdown escape to Mallorca. The tiny island of Formentera, only accessible by boat from Ibiza, looks forward to attracting foodie lovers and has launched a new slow food map, highlighting its traditional, local cuisine. And Menorca will welcome a new cultural space, ‘Cova de S’Aigu’, a burial cave that dates back to prehistoric times. Guided tours in English will be available this summer.

Visit illesbalears.travel