

Irish Examiner

Weekend

21.12.2024



A festive tale

Patrick Holloway's
Christmas short story

ALAN HURLEY

JILLIAN BOLGER



Departure Lounge
 Inspiration for your next trip...

Dizzy heights

Aer Lingus has taken the festivities to new heights this year with an array of holiday-themed food and films onboard. Transatlantic customers can enjoy a classic Christmas dinner on flights in Economy and Business departing from Ireland and Manchester until Christmas Eve.

The airline has over 50 festive favourite movies and shows to enjoy, like *Elf*, *The Polar Express*, and *Love Actually*, while tucking into the tasting looking menu. Aer Lingus' lounges at Dublin Airport, London Heathrow, and New York JFK are all Christmassy too with eligible customers offered Christmas treats like mince pies, with hot chocolate from artisan Irish chocolatier, Grá Chocolates exclusively available in Dublin.

■ aerlingus.com



Examiner Escapes



Cruise of a lifetime

Feeling spontaneous? How about escaping to the Indian Ocean for the new year on a cruise of a lifetime? Departing December 26 from Dublin, you'll ring in 2025 cruising around Madagascar, Reunion, Mauritius and the Seychelles aboard the luxurious Silversea Spirit. This bucket list all-inclusive fly-stay-cruise costs from €7,700 including flights from Dublin, a free upgrade and \$300 per suite spa credit (and there's no single supplement should you feel like travelling solo). Book by calling John Galligan Travel on (01) 207 6555.

■ jgt.ie

Deal of the Week

Killarney sounds like a wonderful place to wake up on a new year's break. The historic, four-star Cahernane House Hotel, just off the Muckcross Road, is all set up for a restful break with plenty of cosy comforts. Their Festive Nights, Cahernane Delights package invites you to check-in for a short break over the Christmas period and enjoy a little comfort and festive hospitality. From €338 per person sharing the deal includes a one- or two-night stay, with full Irish breakfast each morning, a welcoming glass of Prosecco and dinner with house wine in Herbert's Restaurant. There's late checkout at 1pm on the day of departure, which seems right and proper to us too.

■ Cahernane.com



Winter hideaway



Austria is red hot right now with its winter resorts giving France and Switzerland a run for their money in the style stakes. This year the ultra-chic Wiesergut boutique hotel in Hintertglen has opened two swanky new hideaways with direct access to the ski slopes. The BergLoft sleeps six making it ideal for larger groups, while the BergSuite offers a secluded stay for couples or small families. B&B from €1,890 for two in the BergSuite; €3,990 or four people in the BergLoft.

■ wiesergut.com

Food for thought

Food experiences are intrinsically linked with travelling and often form some of our strongest holiday memories.

If you like the idea of authentic food-based travel, the folks at Traveling Spoon are experts in arranging private food experiences, from home cooked meals to cooking lessons, with locals in their homes around the world.

From Cajun cooking in New Orleans (blackened alligator bites anyone?) to pasta making with an Italian grandmother in her Florentine kitchen, Traveling Spoon offers experiences in over 233 cities in over 70 countries around the globe.

■ travelingspoon.com

