

Ireland Tour & European Cruise Update

As of 3/23/2020

AMERICAN AIRLINES change fee waived.

American Airlines has modified their cancellation policy that would benefit us in the case of a group cancellation. All flights booked through May 31st can be cancelled and rebooked without a change fee. The change fee for our international flight was \$750, so this is significant. If the trip is cancelled, you will receive a credit for your flight to be used up to a year. I will assist everyone in that process if it comes to that. They are still not giving refunds, only credits, unless the flight itself is cancelled. As with everything else, time will give us a better picture on what will happen to May Tours and Flights.

POSTPONMENT OF YOUR FINAL PAYMENT

Travelers scheduled on the Ireland Tour are Not required to send in your final payment by the original April 1st deadline. If you have sent it in already, rest assured that I will not be putting any more tour funds out to hotels, transportation, or other vendors until we have a clearer picture of what we plan to do. If there is a clear path to go to Ireland, I will notify everyone at that time about their final invoice.

CRUISE NEWS

On Friday, I took part in a Webinar with the CEO of Princess Cruises. It was very interesting. I think Princess Cruises is doing a great job, under the circumstances. My wife, Annalisa works for Norwegian Cruise Lines, and believe me they are not doing as much as Princess in helping their existing customers. For instance, all cruise lines are offering refunds or Future Cruise Credits for all cancelled cruises. BUT... none of them are offering refunds on the travel insurance you bought through them. They all state it is a 3rd party situation and to take it up with the Travel Insurance company. Well...good luck with that. But Princess just announced that they will be adding Future Cruise Insurance credit for your Princess Care as well as your cruise fare. That is more than they were ever required or obligated to do.

Also, as I stated in my first update, for all cruises that Princess cancels, they are offering 225% in Future Cruise Credit. That could really add up.

Our cruise on May 23rd is still on the books. That said, it could change and be canceled if Princess decides to extend their 60 day no-cruise policy. Also, it could be canceled if Princess decides that Spain is not safe. The good news is that under their new policy we can cancel up to 2 days before the cruise and get a FCC for 100% of our fare. We would never wait until 2 days before, but it does give us some flexibility. And we may wind up with 150% to 225% FCC if the cruise is cancelled before we do.

BOTTOM LINE

As I said in my original update, that you can read below, we are still in a waiting situation. This has proved true with the change in American Airlines policy. If the situation resolves itself by mid-April, then great! If not, we will be in a better position to get the maximum refunds for everyone as we let things, that are out of our control, play out.

Just for your information, I have been in communication with various hotels and activities in Ireland, just to see where they stand. The general manager of the Hilton Dublin emailed me Friday and said “I assume you are still coming in May?”. I responded, “LoL.” I explained what was happening in America now with the virus and that we were in a holding pattern. He replied that he was a little shocked. He had not heard that we were essentially in a shutdown. He assured me that he would work with us in whatever we decided. He also said that even though there were a few cases in Dublin, that all attractions and hotels were still operational throughout the country. That is good to hear, but we know things can change and we will keep monitoring them. And of course, no matter what Ireland's situation is, we will make a decision based also on our own conditions and travel restrictions.

If you have any questions, or would like to give me your opinion, feel free to email me or call at any time.

Thanks

Dave Hagan

Falcon Tour