

# Travel News: May 24, 2017

May 23, 2017 / By Matt Long



## Ireland Teams Up With Game of Thrones

Travel Pulse

The tourism bureau of Ireland has reached a licensing agreement with cable network HBO to capitalize on the popular Game of Thrones series ahead of the show's seventh season.

According to the Belfast Telegraph, Tourism Ireland originally worked with HBO in 2016 for the Doors of Thrones campaign, and the two parties are once again celebrating the series filmed in Northern Ireland.

## **Sweden puts entire country up on Airbnb**

USA Today

Sweden has listed its entire countryside on Airbnb, as a place anyone can hike, camp or even pick mushrooms and berries, for free.

Not that this is a special offer available only to Airbnb users. Sweden, as well as the other Nordic countries of Denmark, Finland and Norway, has since the middle ages had rules allowing the public to freely roam the countryside.

It's called "allemansrätten" or "everyman's right" and allows everyone access to the great outdoors. It applies to both public and private lands, though with a few caveats.

## **New Luxury Hotel Booking Site Makes You Instant VIP With Upgrades And Extras**

Forbes

If you travel regularly for business or pleasure, you should be using a travel agent. It's that simple, there's no way around it, and I've covered the topic here at length for Forbes. Read [Why You Need a Travel Agent](#) for a laundry list of reasons.

But sometimes our travel needs are so simple it doesn't seem to make sense to bother calling your travel advisor (that's the term good agents go by these days). Like when you are buying a straightforward plane ticket or going someplace for a weekend and just need to book a hotel room. You can easily do that yourself, right?

Wrong.

Plane tickets are something you are almost always better off buying through a travel advisor, because where you bought it matters a lot when something goes wrong, and these days things seem to go wrong all the time.

Hotel rooms are another area where travel advisors have traditionally delivered added value – the best ones belong to organizations that pool their clout to negotiate special extras for clients, from early check-in and late check-out to room upgrades, free breakfasts, gifts, airport transfers, even credits towards spa treatments or room service.

## Alaska Air, Finnair form points partnership

Travel Weekly

Alaska Airlines and Finnair have begun a frequent-flyer partnership.

The move comes as Finnair prepares to launch Helsinki-San Francisco service on June 1. The carrier already flies from Helsinki to Chicago and New York.

With the partnership, Alaska Mileage Plan members will be able to accrue points flying to more than 60 destinations in Europe on Finnair.

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[Matt](#) has a true passion for travel. As someone who has a bad case of the travel bug, Matt travels the world in order to share tips on where to go, what to see and how to experience the best the world has to offer. Also follow Matt on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Google Plus](#).