

Madeira is back on the green list; therefore at the moment no need to quarantine upon return for those fully vaccinated.

We are still very much planning to travel to Madeira. As we all know international travel is ever-changing in current times and it is hard to plan anything in concrete. Having spoken with a number of our guests, we do know that many of are extremely keen to get away to Madeira after the last eighteen months of lockdowns and restrictions!

### **BALANCE PAYMENT AND COST**

- We have kept the holiday cost the same and it remains at £1895 per person based on two sharing a room or £2295 per person for single occupancy
- Full holiday details view our brochure [here](#)
- The hotel need the balance payment, from ARB Holidays, no later than Tuesday 10th August, therefore we will be requesting the balance from you once we have worked out the final costs of the excursions.
- Regarding the balance, we have been in recent discussions with the hotel who have kindly agreed that if we cannot travel to Madeira because of UK or Portuguese government rules, then they will either roll over balance payments to September 2022 or refund the balance
- However, please note if you cancel yourself and the holiday goes ahead then your balance will not be refunded and you would need to try and claim on your insurance

### **TRAVEL**

- All staff have booked return flights with BA from Heathrow and many guests have too. There is only one BA flight a day. The BA flight has been transferred from Gatwick to Heathrow
- ARBH no longer book group flights so you will need to book your own flights. If the holiday is cancelled because of COVID most airlines will offer you a refund or voucher. ARBH is not responsible nor liable for independent flights
- We will meet the BA flight on Saturday with a coach/bus (minimum numbers apply). Please let us know if you will join our coach transfer from Funchal to the hotel (and back) for a small fee. The transfer to/from the hotel is approximately 20-30 minutes

- Following Brexit you will also need at least 6 months left on your passport expiry date. Failure to do so may result in not being allowed to travel. Full UK government details click [here](#)
- If you are not double jabbed then you will have to quarantine for 14 days upon entry to Madeira. You must have proof of this via the NHS App or a certificate
- Currently all travellers must have a PCR test 72 hours before departure from the UK. You must show this to your airline upon check-in. Full details on entry requirements click [here](#)
- In September you may still need to have PCR tests before you travel and maybe whilst you are in Madeira. We will advise on these nearer the time

## **BRIDGE**

- Bridge will be played with real cards and face masks will not be worn at the Bridge table unless individuals would prefer to or we are required to by Portuguese law in September
- We will not use Ipads/laptops for bridge nor will there be perspex screens on or between tables
- Hand sanitiser to be used by all upon entrance and exit of Bridge room
- A sanitised bidding box will be allocated to you, numbered and with your name on it, at the first Bridge session for the duration of the holiday
- We will aim to have as normal (pre-Covid) an experience as possible at the Bridge table and during the holiday

## **GENERAL**

- We have had a few cancellations because of Covid related concerns but have about 40 guests booked at the moment
- We will book two wonderful full day, optional excursions. For full details click to view our brochure [here](#). Prices to be confirmed shortly
- In Madeira you do not have to wear a mask outside at the moment but you do have to wear one in the public areas of the hotel or in any crowded places (not the Bridge room). Of course, this may not still be the case when we travel in September
- Madeira has generally coped very well with Covid and has had very few infections and deaths over the last year. Click [here](#) to read the Portuguese government's fact sheet from May
- You will appreciate there will be questions that we cannot answer so please kindly keep any correspondence to a minimum as we are very busy at the moment!

Please note that many things could change between now and September so ARB Holidays are not bound by the statements and content of this email. However we will do our best to deliver a fantastic Bridge holiday.

We really look forward to seeing you in Madeira - fingers crossed!

In the meantime if you are interested in any online bridge lessons let me know as I have a very jolly livestreamed Intermediate class at 9.30am every Monday morning - the next lesson is on Weak Twos on Monday. Full details click [here](#)

Best wishes,

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