

CHECK-IN

ELEVATED ESCAPES

Jo Linehan & Joan Scales

■ **Adler Mountain Lodge, Italy:** The luxurious 30-bedroom hotel is high in the Italian Dolomites (*below*), a Unesco world heritage site. Inside, the suites and spa overlook Alpe di Siusi; outside, nothing but rivers, forestry and mountain air. Room rates on request at adler-lodge.com

■ **Delphi Resort, Connemara:** Ireland's most awesome mountains lie at your doorstep. After climbing, recuperate at the 4-star Chefs Table restaurant. Stay from €54, see delphiadventureresort.com

■ **Inkaterra, Peru:** One for the bucket list, this Peruvian paradise offers trekkers a little piece of ancient history with their breakfast. Locally woven blankets and art, a view of their orchard garden and the sounds of the Vilcanota River at the foot of Machu Picchu come as standard with a stay here. From €484, see inkaterra.com



TRAVEL 'APPY

The Wolfram Sun Exposure app helps you manage your time in the sun safely, with information on how long



before you get burned as well as UV forecasts. Download it at the Apple Store.

TRAVEL GEAR



1. SeatRack interior cargo rack

Positioned as an alternative to roof racks with their wind noise and reduced fuel efficiency, SeatRack brings its own set of compromises, not least of which is taking up two seat places. It works by using the head rest slots to install an interior rack which can carry long items, such as surfboards and skis, and strap them securely in place. The post width is adjustable, with sleeves to assure a snug fit.

\$129 from seat-rack.com

2. Memobottle

Why should a bottle be bottle-shaped? It's not necessarily the ideal form to slip into a business case or messenger bags. Memobottles take their shape from notebooks – rectangular, flat and thin – so they can slot in with your journal, tablet or even laptop. Continuing the theme, they are designed against paper sizes, available from A6 up to A4, or a litre in liquid luggage.

€35 for A4 1 litre from Stock Design, Dublin

3. SealLine urban shoulder bag

SealLine has a robust pedigree of technical bags for outdoors activities like sailing and kayaking. Some of it has rubbed off here on its range of urban shoulder bags with their tough RF-welded waterproof 600D, urethane-coated construction. There's an internal divider, separate compartments and the opportunity to add more external accessory pockets. From \$165 at cascadedesigns.com

Tom Kelly @tomtomkelly

handy as everything else Google has done for us, we're in. Watch this space.

California Dreaming

This month sees Aer Lingus's new direct route to Los Angeles take flight. Get from Dublin to Venice Beach (*above*) from €299, with five flights a week, starting from May 4th. Hollywood has never been so close. See aerlingus.com for flights.

DEALS

FARO: a gem of a manor house near Portimao, Rio Arade in Portugal, three nights in May B&B from €129pps, rioarade.com, info@rioarade.com; 00351-282423202.

PORTUGAL: Madeira is back, deep discounts for May with Topflight.ie, one week, flights, hotel B&B from €529pps, 01-2401700.

IRELAND: Wild Atlantic Way tour from Cork, two nights stay in Hayfield Manor with chauffeur/guide to tour Cobh, Blarney and Midleton, lunch, dinner one evening, and afternoon tea from €431pps, hayfieldmanor.com; 021-4845900.

NEWS

Going Green

Brittany Ferries have announced a €17million eco-investment in its flagship Pont-Aven fleet. The green technology, which cuts fuel emissions on the Cork-Roscoff six-strong car ferries, is the first of many green improvements planned by the company. Another reason to ditch the airport and take to the sea.

Tech Talk

Tech giant Google are set to launch a

new travel app in the coming months. No confirmation on what exactly it'll offer, but we reckon an integrative flight, hotel and destination app could be on the cards. And if it's half as



Saturday morning

Explore the Tudor home town of Charles Darwin through its quirky passages known as “shuts”. First stop, the Old Market Hall (*above*, oldmarkethall.co.uk) for a look around the stalls and a coffee in the Birds Nest Café. Ramble into the many independent shops along Butcher Row, down Grope Lane, High Street and Wyle Cop.

Saturday afternoon

Quick nip into A Taste of Tanners, the newly-opened tasting room. Lunch in the St Pierre Seafood Bar at Barkworth's Fishmongers (barkworths.co.uk) for a Cornish crab platter or half a lobster.

Saturday evening

See a film at the Market Hall cinema, an Elizabethan building with oak beamed ceiling and whitewashed wall. Dinner in Henry Tudor House is a step back in time to the 1400s (henrytudorhouse.com).

Sunday morning

Take in the Shropshire air with a walk in the lovely Quarry, a park in the loop of the

Severn, and admire the flowers in the Dingle. Enjoy a gentle cruise on the Severn from English Bridge to Welsh Bridge and back on the Sabrina (sabinaboat.co.uk). Sunday roast at the Armoury on Victoria Quay is a lovely way to finish the weekend.

Kate Gittins loves Connemara and her adopted home of Shrewsbury.

■ Share your travel tips for your adopted home with *Irish Times* readers by emailing magazine@irishtimes.com with 'Live Like a Local' in the subject line.

