

## **BILD am SONNTAG: When will TUI fly the first tourists back to Mallorca or Greece?**

**Friedrich Jousen:** "We have drawn up a health check for all holiday destinations and will only offer holidays where it is safe. Germany must first open the borders. Mallorca will certainly be in first place. The hotels there have made a trial run, can start immediately, and accept guests. Greece, Cyprus, Croatia, and Bulgaria are equally well prepared for summer tourism. And, of course, Austria and Denmark. "

## **The Federal Foreign Office's travel warning applies until June 14: should it be lifted?**

**Jousen:** "I do not consider the general and worldwide travel warning to be correct. Rather, one should give an individual assessment for each country or region and only issue warnings if necessary. Just one example: Mallorca is far less affected by Corona than Madrid. Freedom of movement and travel in Europe is at the core of the EU. "

## **How dangerous is it to get infected with Corona while on vacation? Example Ischgl ...**

**Jousen:** "Border controls cannot stop the virus. It's about hygiene standards that have to be observed and implemented worldwide - especially in party hotspots. For catering, this means: fewer tables per restaurant, adjusted opening times, more service at the table instead of a self-service buffet, primarily outdoor seating. Germans get by with rules - and they stick to them. "

## **But are the Robinson Club parties are over?**

**Jousen:** "Vacations will be different this year. There will be an alternative evening program on spacious outdoor area, but no night clubs. More standalone instead of team sport. Fewer wellness areas, no sauna for now. "

## **Do new infections threaten quarantine measures for entire hotels again?**

**Jousen:** "This is exactly what everyone wants to avoid. In Greece, for example, extra hotels are kept free to look after tourists there should they become infected. "

## **When do TUI hotels open again?**

**Jousen:** Our "Dorfhotel" on Sylt starts on May 18, Fleesensee in Mecklenburg at the end of May, then from June the TUI Blue Hotels and Robinson in Austria.

## **What is the booking situation in Germany?**

**Jousen:** "Individual hotels on the North and Baltic coasts have already had to cancel customer inquiries. The hotel capacities in Germany will initially be much smaller. "

## **So will vacationing in Germany become significantly more expensive?**

**Jousen:** "No. We have not seen any price increase so far. And: We already have a strong booking increase for 2021. Germans are and will remain world travel champions. They'd rather postpone buying a new car than taking their annual vacation."

### **Cruise ships were particularly affected by Corona. Are the TUI ships phased out?**

**Joussen:** "No. We want to sail majority of our ships from German ports. We will be ready from July but, like flights, we need the authorities' approval. The captains are developing new routes in the North and Baltic Seas. There will be more days at sea, many love real recreation on the sea. Probably at the beginning, a maximum of 1000 guests will travel on one ship. Before check-in, guests will be required to complete health questionnaires and, as with air travel, there will be temperature measurements and staggered boarding. Corona test devices are also on board, and the health staff in the on-board hospital will be increased. "

### **Has the mutiny on TUI's Corona ships ended?**

**Joussen:** "There was never a mutiny. All crew members wanted to return home after several weeks at sea. This was delayed by the tests, the necessary quarantine period and the currently complicated flight paths to home country and was understandably not easy for everyone".

### **Do you still believe in long-distance travel this year?**

**Joussen:** "It won't be possible without a vaccine. We want to open our hotels in Mexico to the local market first."

### **Vacationers get particularly close in the planes. Will there be corona controls?**

**Joussen:** "When boarding and in the plane, I think wearing face masks is the right thing to do. The entry is done in small groups. There will be no long queues, but temperature measurements where the airports offer them."

### **With TUIfly, they have around 150 of their own airplanes, most of which are currently on the ground. Will you reduce the number of planes?**

**Joussen:** "After Corona, we will live in another world, including TUI. Although we have currently reduced costs by 70 percent, we still have zero revenue. We now have additional debts, we need to become leaner and more efficient, we have to stop investing. This applies to all areas - for hotels and for our aircraft fleet. "

Source: <https://www.bild.de/bild-plus/news/2020/news/tui-chef-joussen-im-interview-wann-koennen-wir-endlich-wieder-nach-malle-fliegen-70546986,view=conversionToLogin.bild.html>