

# Majorca Daily Bulletin

Saturday, March 6 2021

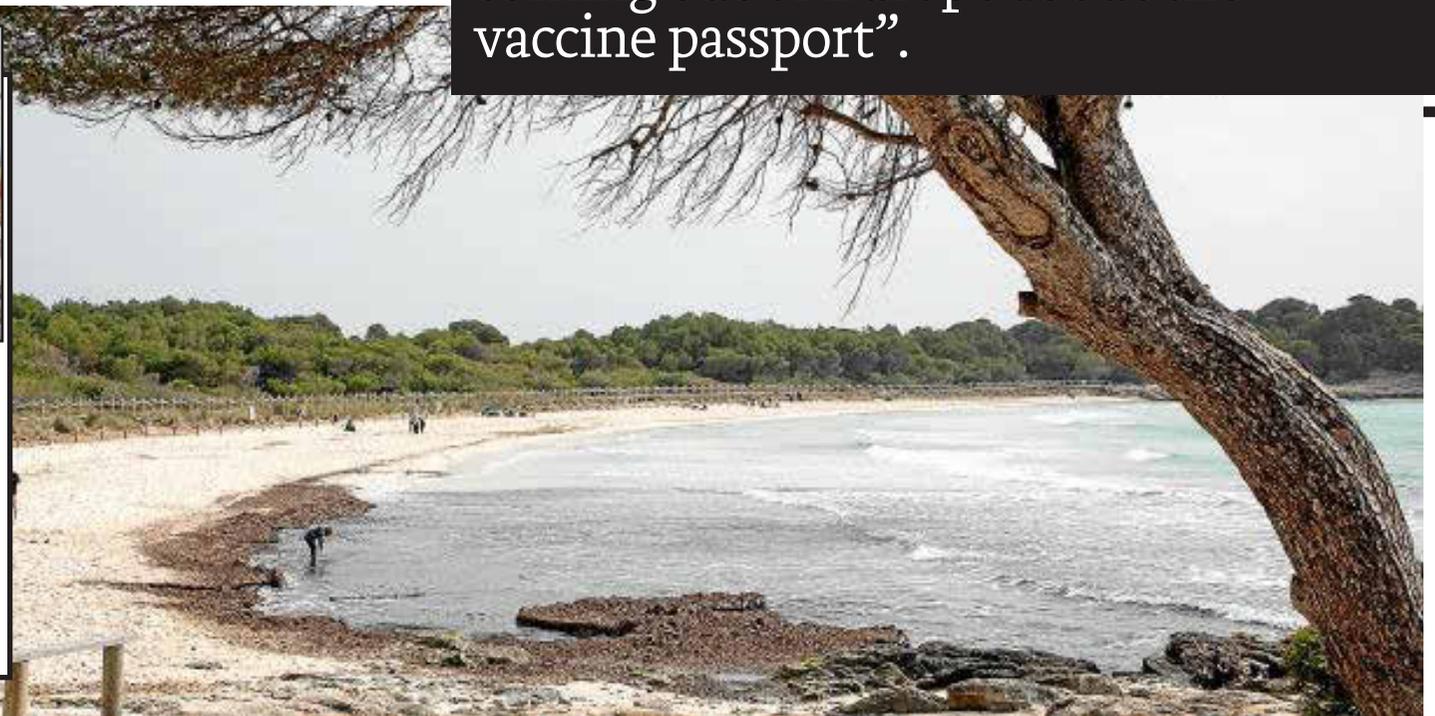
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**OUR SPOTLIGHT ON THE NORTH OF THE ISLAND APPEARS INSIDE TODAY**

● Andy Davies, a 43-year-old British company director who booked a Majorca villa for July after getting vaccinated, said he was reassured by Britain's reopening plans and "noises coming out of Europe about the vaccine passport".



● "We're paying very close attention to the UK, the first country to design and share a roadmap for restoring mobility," said Maria Frontera, President of the Hoteliers Federation.



## Travel industry bets on vaccine passports to draw Britons to Med

**T**he race to roll out vaccination passports is spurring competition among travel companies and tourist destinations for the large number of Britons set to receive COVID-19 shots before the summer.

Thanks to its swift vaccine deployment Britain is the only major European country likely to inoculate a large share of working-age adults by summer. They may be-

come the first big regional test of digital health credentials in development.

Airlines such as easyJet saw outbound bookings from Britain surge last week as the government raised the prospect of a return to quarantine-free summer travel, and the European Union agreed to develop vaccine passports under pressure from tourism-dependent southern countries.

But cooped-up consum-

ers' getaway plans face reality checks – from unpredictable virus variants to lingering EU divisions over vaccine passports, with France leading resistance from several states over political and discrimination concerns.

Britain's tentative move towards restoring travel "puts pressure on other countries to do the same, which is good for us", said Grigoris Tasios of the Greek Hoteliers' Federation. Greece has eased re-

strictions for vaccinated Israelis and is discussing a similar arrangement with the UK.

Tourism from Germany, another big travel market lagging the UK on vaccinations, hinges on Berlin dropping quarantines for tested passengers, Lufthansa Chief Executive Carsten Spohr said this week.

In the aftermath of Britain's departure from the EU, its tourists are at the centre of a battered travel

industry's hopes for the peak season.

Spain, typically Britons' number-one destination by far, has pushed hard for EU vaccination certificates. Majorca's mostly shuttered hotels anxiously await details, their spokeswoman Maria Duran said.

"We're paying very close attention to the UK, the first country to design and share a roadmap for restoring mobility," she said. Spain saw UK

visitor numbers plunge to 3.1 million last year from more than 18 million in 2019.

'Athens is appealing directly to British consumers.

Those with shots will be spared tests, with or without the EU's blessing, tourism minister Harry Theocharis said in UK media interviews.

Tourism sustains a fifth of Greece's workforce and economy. **Continued on Page Two.**