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FREQUENT FLYER LUKA BLOOM

The Irish singer-songwriter
is a reluctant traveller.

Q What was your first international trip?

A About 1969, I was about 14, and I flew to Manchester with my brother Christy (Moore). I was a nervous wreck and he took the mickey out of me. We met the legendary Luke Kelly of the Dubliners at Dublin Airport. It was 10am and he was having a drink in the bar.

Q How important is travel to you?

A Travel is important but it is not my favourite thing. I prefer sitting on my deck, listening to Willie Nelson, closing my eyes and dreaming.

Q What do you do when you land in a city?

A In New York, I head for sushi; in Amsterdam I rent a bike; in Sydney I pile on the factor 30; in Paris I buy a book of poetry and try to look romantic.

Q Describe your recent travels.

A Late last year I travelled in Holland, Belgium, Germany and Switzerland. Had a few days off in Lucerne in Switzerland, which is my new favourite European city – nestled among the alps, great art, lovely people ... happy days.

Q Do you tire of travel?

A Yes, sometimes it is a bit of a drag – especially in the US with everyone looking for Osama in guitar cases.

Q Can you distinguish between leisure and business travel?

A My business is my pleasure. I never travel just for pleasure. Yet all my travel ends in pleasure, because of music and friends.

Q Favourite destination?

A New York's not bad. Berlin is great. Amsterdam is home. Anywhere in Ireland. Glasgow is wild.

Q Where would you like to be right now?

A It's beating down wind and snow and rain in Dublin, so right now I'd even accept Canberra! Don't get me wrong, Canberra has one of my favourite clubs – Tilleys Divine Cafe – but the city doesn't make me go "Yippeel!".

Q Is there anywhere you'd never return?

A I'll probably never get back to New Zealand. I went once but after huge hype, I couldn't wait to get back to Australia.

Interview by Robert Upe

Luka Bloom plays at Melbourne's National Theatre on March 31; the Enmore Theatre in Sydney on April 3; Tilleys Devine Cafe in Canberra on April 4, 5, 6. See lukabloom.com.

