

Greece's Hydra in McEnroe's top spots

By Jae-Ha Kim
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Former U.S. Davis Cup team captain Patrick McEnroe is now the executive director of the John McEnroe Tennis Academy and a tennis analyst. He also hosts the SiriusXM podcast "Holding Court with Patrick McEnroe."

The former professional athlete said he'll always be grateful to tennis for all the opportunities it provided, including touring the world.

"(Travel) is one of the great perks of working in tennis," he said. "You build relationships all over the world and get to experience different cultures in a really meaningful way. The global tennis community is pretty special in that sense. I've made lifelong friends in all different parts of the world, and it's been fascinating to see how places evolve over time. I like to keep it simple — walking, hiking, exploring and finding great local food."

McEnroe resides in Bronxville, New York, with his Tony nominated wife, Melissa Errico, and their three daughters.

This interview with McEnroe has been edited for clarity and length.

Q: Do people challenge you to tennis matches when you're out in the wild?

A: It happens once in a while. When I was younger and living in New York, especially playing in Central Park, I'd get challenged all the time by local players. These days, it's less common, but every now and then someone will joke about it. I usually tell them it might not be the smartest idea.



Tennis analyst Patrick McEnroe hopes to take his family to Ireland this summer. **PATRICK MCENROE**

Q: What is your favorite vacation destination?

A: My wife and I love Hydra in the Greek islands. It's beautiful, relaxed and has a really unique charm that makes it easy to disconnect. I also love Italy for the culture, history and, of course, the food. Paris is another favorite city of mine. There's just something about it that never gets old. And even though I go to Melbourne every year for the Australian Open, it's become one of my favorite places as well. The restaurant scene is fantastic and it's such a vibrant, green city that I always enjoy spending time there, even when it's for work.

Q: What was a trip you took as a child that stands out?

A: Going to Ireland. Both sides of my family have roots there, so it was a meaningful place to visit. What I remember most is falling off a horse while horseback riding. I was probably around 10 or 12, and it scared me enough that I never really got back on a horse after that. I haven't been back since I was a teenager, but it's definitely on my list. I'd love to return with my wife and my kids and experience it again from a completely different perspective.

Q: What's the most important thing you've learned from your travels?

A: The biggest thing I've learned from traveling is the importance of being open to different cultures, perspectives and ways of life. You realize pretty

quickly that there's no one right way to do things. I was fortunate to start traveling at a young age through tennis, taking buses and trains around Europe on my own when I was 14 or 15, and that really shaped how I see the world. It forces you to listen more, observe more and respect the people and places you're experiencing.

Q: Where are your favorite weekend getaways?

A: For a quick getaway, I like places that are easy to get to but feel like a real change of pace. The Caribbean, especially the Bahamas, is great for that. I also love getting up to Upstate New York. The mountains — and the hiking — are a completely different environment.

Q: Do you have any summer vacation trips planned?

A: We're trying to plan a trip to Ireland, which is at the top of the list right now. It's somewhere I haven't been back to in a long time, and I'd really like to return. If that doesn't come together, we've talked about going back to Greece. We've done the islands a few times and always love it there.

Q: Where would you like to go that you have never been to before?

A: I'd really like to go to Buenos Aires. I've spent a lot of time in South America, but somehow I've never made it there.

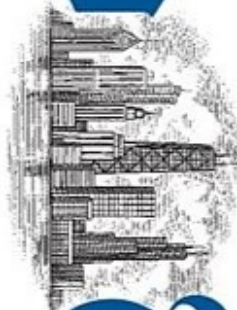
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