

Space tourism

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Sir, – I was surprised by your gushing editorial on Richard Branson’s recent trip to the edge of space and the potential market for commercial space tourism (“[Irish Times view on the new space race: breaking the bonds of Earth](#)”, July 14th).

Nowhere in the piece was any consideration given to the fact that such rocket flights, which are of no scientific benefit, consume vast amounts of fuel.

In a world where our energy consumption should be carefully budgeted in the face of the clear and present danger of climate change, the last thing we need is a burgeoning industry in space tourism.

May I suggest to Richard Branson and his fellow billionaires that there are plenty of thrills to be had here on planet Earth, not least a bracing dip in Atlantic Ocean. – Yours, etc,

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