

# Explore to inspire

## 2022 ROADSHOW SERIES

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### AUGUST, SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2022



## You and your clients are invited!

You and your clients are invited to join us in your nearest capital city in August, September and October as we are back on the road around Australia for our brand new 'Explore to Inspire' Roadshow Series! Come and meet our team of expedition and destination experts, discover our new itineraries and let us plan your clients' next adventure with PONANT, plus enjoy some canapes and a glass of Champagne! PLUS, exclusive offers available on the day to all attendees.

#### ADELAIDE

Mon 29 August  
2pm or 6pm session  
Hilton Adelaide

#### HOBART

Wed 31 August  
6pm session  
Henry Jones Art Hotel

#### MELBOURNE

Mon 12 September  
2pm or 6pm session  
The Langham

#### SYDNEY

Tue 13 September  
2pm or 6pm session  
Sofitel Sydney Wentworth

#### BRISBANE

Thu 15 September  
2pm or 6pm session  
Water's Edge, Portside Wharf

#### PERTH

Tue 11 October  
2pm or 6pm session  
The Ritz-Carlton

Please arrive between 2pm-2:30pm for 2pm event, and between 6pm-6:30pm for 6pm event.

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### More Star Alliance prizes up for grabs!

**AFTER** a strong response to the first five questions in this month's exclusive Star Alliance competition, today there are more opportunities to win.

Five new questions are now live (along with some helpful hints), with the competition overall providing 25 \$200 gift vouchers to the lucky winners - in a prize pool worth a total of \$5,000.

You have to be in it to win it, so for this week's questions go to [traveldaily.com.au/star-alliance](http://traveldaily.com.au/star-alliance).

### Ponant Roadshow

**MEET** the Ponant team and discover new itineraries at the luxury cruise line's 'Explore to Inspire' roadshow series.

Events are scheduled for your nearest capital city in Aug, Sep and Oct - see the **cover page** of today's **TD** for details.

### Geelong hotel chief

**DANIEL** Payne has been appointed as GM of the new Holiday & Inn Suites Geelong, ahead of its early 2023 opening.

It's the first newbuild hotel for the Vic regional city in 20 years, with Payne well connected with the community having worked in roles across the Bellarine Peninsula for some years.

The hotel features 180 rooms along with a pool, a fitness centre, an event centre and meeting and function spaces.

### Oceania incentive

**OCEANIA** Cruises has extended its "Olife Ultimate" package to cover additional 2022 and 2023 sailings, offering guests significant additional benefits.

The updated offer applies to Penthouse Suites and below bookings confirmed by 31 Aug on departures in 2022 and 2023, travel advisors will also receive a \$200 gift voucher for every new booking and the opportunity to win a \$400 case of wine.

## Alliance flags all-jet fleet

**ALLIANCE** Airlines this morning announced plans to dispose of its Fokker turboprop aircraft after a review found an overwhelming preference from customers for jet aircraft on their charter services.

The carrier said the planes had been predominantly used to service the Adelaide to Olympic Dam route on behalf of BHP, but this has now been transitioned to Fokker 100 and Embraer E190 jets following the upgrade of the Olympic Dam runway to accommodate jets.

Alliance will incur a non-cash accounting write-down of \$12.1 million as a result of the decision,

### Vale Paul Brennan



**THE** Australian travel sector is mourning the death of Paul Brennan, owner of Magellan member PBT Travel and "travel industry stalwart of 64 years".

Brennan started his career at Vic Tour in Melbourne in 1958, with his career including a range of roles including as Private Secretary for the Minister of Tourism and Public Relations Manager for Gold Coast City Council where he was involved in the establishment of the iconic Meter Maids and Gold Coast Girls back in the 1970s.

He was also Marketing Director of Kings Travel and then in 1979 established CRT Travel with Combined Rural Traders.

That business became PBT Travel in 1987, with Brennan also a former Director of UTAG which ultimately became Travelscene American Express.

Brennan will be farewelled this week in a service at St Josephs College in Hunters Hill, Sydney.

with a contract agreed today to sell the five turboprops along with associated spare engines, parts, tooling and ground support equipment.

"This disposal will allow for substantial fleet rationalisation, crew and engineering redeployment and the conversion of South Australian operations to all jet services," Alliance said.

After the sale Alliance will be an all-jet operator with 37 Fokker and 20 Embraer E190 aircraft already in service, and a further 13 E190s to be added by Jan 2023.

The move follows Rex Airlines' approval to purchase Alliance Airline's major competitor, National Jet Express (NJE) (**TD** 15 Jul) as part of the divestment of Cobham Aviation Services.

At the time Rex Executive Chairman Lim Kim Hai contrasted the "completely modern" NJE fleet with older aircraft use by "the other major FIFO operators".

Alliance today said the Fokker 50 non-cash writedown would result in an unaudited statutory loss of \$7.1 million for the 12 months to 30 Jun.

The company, which recently saw the sudden departure of its CEO Lee Schofield (**TD** 28 Jul), is subject to a current takeover bid by Qantas (**TD** 05 May), with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission reviewing the deal and expected to hand down its decision next week.

### Today's issue of *TD*

*Travel Daily* today features five pages of news, plus a cover wrap from **Ponant**.

### EK points promo

**EMIRATES** and flydubai are offering exclusive bonus miles this month on the Skywards loyalty program, allowing members to earn up to 15,000 Miles on hotel stays, 6,000 on car rentals and thousands of Miles while shopping with The Bicester Collection and utu.

The offer allows travellers to rack up 15,000 miles per night by staying at any of the over 400,000 Emirates Skywards hotels in more than 900 destinations worldwide.

Additionally, gain 6,000 bonus miles per rental worldwide with Avis, triple miles on car rentals worldwide with Hertz, and up to 3,000 bonus miles with SIXT.

Members can also sign-up for an Emirates NBD Skywards Credit Card and earn up to 100,000 bonus Skywards Miles.

**CLICK HERE** for further information about the promo.

### ANA Japan sale

**ALL** Nippon Airways (ANA) is promoting its 'Inspiration of Japan' sale, offering one-way Economy class tickets from Sydney to Japan from \$1,047 (incl taxes, fees and baggage allowance) until 08 Sep, for travel between now and 30 Jun.

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## Hanging agents out to dry

A PLAN by the United States to mandate travel agencies provide cash refunds out of their own pockets if an airline cancels or delays a flight has been labelled a “worrying development” by Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA) CEO Dean Long.

The US Department of Transport (DOJ) has tabled new regulations making agents equally responsible with airlines for delivering refunds on air tickets, regardless of whether the advisor is in possession of the funds.

The US DOJ said it is proposing to codify its “long-standing interpretation that it is an unfair business practice for a US air carrier or a ticket agent to refuse to provide requested refunds to consumers when a carrier has cancelled or made a significant change to a scheduled flight”.

The proposal will also seek to hold agents responsible for providing non-expiring travel

vouchers or credits to consumers when flights are unable to be taken due to “a serious communicable disease”.

AFTA’s chief said the proposal in the United States, which is yet to be ratified, showed that some international regulators clearly don’t understand how the fundamentals of the international travel sector operates.

“Where the ultimate supplier has been provided with the payment, it is their responsibility to hold these funds, if they do not provide full refunds in accordance to their terms and conditions, they are responsible for returning the funds,” Long said.

Encouragingly, he added that he was not aware of any plans in Australia to follow the USA’s lead on the issue, adding that AFTA’s efforts over the last 30 months in educating state, territory and federal governments about how the supply chain works for agents will need to continue to ensure “these types of ideas do not gain traction in Australia”.

“This type of regulation demonstrates the ever-growing importance of the advocacy work AFTA undertakes to ensure the regulatory remains open and fair for all stakeholders,” Long said.

## Italy visitors on track

ITALY’S train network has been transformed thanks to new initiatives by Trenitalia and the Italian National Tourism Board, enticing tourists, cyclists, and greater family-friendly travel.

Inter-city trains have added more than 75 new stops for this year’s northern summer season, with new features including a dedicated carriage for families, extra charging ports, more than 600 bicycle spaces per day, and a selection of artistic “postcards” showcasing a range of scenic landscapes accessible by train.

Making things even thriftier is the fact children under 15 can travel free with a paying adult.

## Reflections upgrade

REFLECTIONS Holiday Parks’ Urunga Holiday Park has celebrated the completion of a \$2 million investment in new cabins.

The new precinct includes seven two-bedroom premium eco cabins with solar-power, positioned to capture views over the Kalang River.

Catering for families, people with disabilities, and travellers with pets, the new precinct lifts the number of cabins at the Urunga Holiday Park site to 29.

Chief Executive Officer Nick Baker said the expanded accommodation offering encourages more visitors to stay, explore the town, and support local businesses.

“We provide nature-driven escapes and Urunga, in its quiet coastal setting with nearby boardwalks, wetlands and scenic walks, is perfect for families looking to relax and recharge,” Baker said.

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INDEPENDENT HOLIDAY PACKAGE EXPERTS

## Travel the priority

TRAVEL is viewed as the highest-priority discretionary spend category over the coming 12 months, while demand for fintech and instalment loan services will grow as travellers look to spread out the cost of their holiday, a new study by Amadeus has found.

Consumers confirmed their desire to travel despite the economic uncertainty, with “international travel” ranked as the highest priority from a selection of six discretionary spend categories.

Almost half (42%) of respondents said international travel is a high priority spend area for the coming year, easily exceeding the desire to spend money on fashion or dining.

Consumers are set to prioritise travel spend which is supported by fintech services, with three-quarters of respondents saying they are more likely to choose a pay-by-instalment option.



## Window Seat

IF YOU happen to notice the guy with the ear muffs driving the baggage train around the tarmac is wearing an expensive suit, here’s the likely reason.

Qantas COO Colin Hughes has issued a note to staff asking for 100 executives to put their hand up to become ground staff for the next three months to tackle ongoing staff shortages.

“During your time in the contingency program, you’ll be an embedded resource within the ground handling partners,” Hughes said.

“This means you’ll receive a roster, be scheduled to operate and be supervised and managed in the live operations by our grand handling partners.”

Execs will be asked to scan luggage, drive tugs & move bags.

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## Dnata action ticked

**IN A** move that's likely to see more operational disruptions to Australian airports and airlines, Dnata ground crew staff have received approval from the Fair Work Commission to move ahead with protected votes on industrial walkouts (**TD** 26 Jul).

## Snow long to Colorado



**THE** Colorado Tourism Office, alongside Visit Denver and Visit Telluride, held a VIP lunch on Fri at Sydney's Bentley Restaurant, wrapping up its trip to Australia.

Visiting from the US were Colorado Tourism Office's Director of International Tourism Andrea Blankenship and International Market Manager Liz Birdsall.

Also in town was Visit Telluride Director of Communications, the zany "Telluride Tom" Tom Watkinson, who helped welcome Australians back to Colorado.

The trio shared new openings and experiences across the state, including the capital Denver, delivering "urban sophistication-meets outdoor adventure"; and the former silver mining camp-turned ski resort Telluride.

Attendees also had the pleasure of experiencing a "flatliner", a spin off of a traditional espresso martini, which features vanilla, vodka, Kahlua, and Baileys.

The cocktail was invented at Telluride institution Allred's Restaurant, which is located at the top of the town's gondola.

**Pictured** toasting to an open-for-business Colorado are Linkd Tourism's owner/Director Kylee Kay and PR Director Polly Simmons with Telluride Tom, Birdsall and Blankenship.

## BNE jobs bonanza!

**BRISBANE** Airport Corporation is gearing up to host the BNE Careers Expo on 10 Sep, with the aim of encouraging 2,000 new employees to consider a career at the airport precinct.

There are around 24,000 people employed across 425 businesses at Brisbane Airport, with that number expected to grow to 60,000 workers by 2050.

**MEANWHILE**, BNE has cut its net zero emissions deadline from 2050 to 2025, committing to transition to 100% renewable energy, purchase all-electric fleet vehicles and develop an onsite carbon removal project.

## THE PLACE TO BE

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## Carnival horses around with Jules

**FORMER** *Married At First Sight* contestant Jules Robinson will host Carnival Cruise Line's (CCL) Melbourne Cup & Kennedy Oaks Day cruise later this year.

Revealing the latest collection in her newly launched fashion label, MOIRA MUSE, Robinson will lead an "inclusive fashion parade" on board the vessel.

The cruise departs Sydney on 30 Oct and voyages to 05 Nov, visiting Melbourne on race day.

## Intrepid's Citizen Science program

**INTREPID** has launched its debut Citizen Science program in Antarctica, offering five participatory programs on every departure on board the *Ocean Endeavour*, which is making its inaugural sailing in Nov.

The programs include the NASA Globe Observer, which detects cloud movements in concert with NASA satellite flyovers, and the Seabird Survey, which records wildlife viewings to help scientists better understand seabird migrations in the Southern Ocean.

**MEANWHILE**, Intrepid has launched Adventure.com, a digital publication that seeks to highlight "community-friendly and climate-conscious methods of exploring the world".



Amtrak (USA) bookings now available with Rail Online





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## Air NZ Jun update

AIR New Zealand's revenue passenger kilometres totalled 1,356,000 for Jun, which was an almost 80% improvement on the prior corresponding period.

However for the financial year to date, RPKs are still down more than 80% on the pre-pandemic total in 2019, with available seat kilometres also yet to recover, still down by close to 80%.

## Bhutan packages

COMO Hotels & Resorts has celebrated the reopening of its "spiritual Himalayan kingdom" in Bhutan, COMO Uma Paro and COMO Uma Punakha.

Reopening to tourism for the first time since Mar 2020, Bhutan will welcome travellers to the country from 23 Sep, and to celebrate COMO has introduced a new seven-night experience incorporating both properties, and taking in spectacular drives, nature walks, & monastery visits.

## Saudi tourism heats up

SAUDI Arabia has issued more than 3,500 tourism investment licenses since publishing its *Vision 2030* blueprint last year, with the Middle Eastern nation on track to have visitors account for 10% of its national GDP by 2030.

The country's Acting Deputy Minister for Investment Promotion, Saad Al-Shahrani, told *Arab News* that Saudi Arabia would welcome more than 100 million tourists by 2030, with numbers to be driven largely by heavy investments in drawcards such as AIUla, the US\$500 billion Red Sean mega city project NEOM, the mountainous tourist centre of Al Souda and the historical city of Diriyah Gate.

To cater for the sharp anticipated upswing in travellers, Al-Shahrani also indicated the Kingdom's flag carrier SAUDIA will look to add 94 new destinations to its network in order to hit its key 2030 tourism objective.

Saudi Arabia is now the world's largest investor in tourism, pumping US\$810 billion into planned culture, leisure and entertainment projects over the next decade alone.

Another major pillar of its strategy is driving traveller interest through major sporting events, recently courting plenty of controversy in the golf world by forming a breakaway golf league to rival the PGA.

But the negative headlines have not stopped Saudi Arabia from pushing ahead with landing major sports events, with new ambassador Lionel Messi promoting a range of upcoming tournaments, such as the Italian Super Cup, the Spanish Super Cup, and the Formula 1 Grand Prix, with the country over the weekend submitting a bid to host the 2029 Asian Winter Games at NEOM, a city that'll attract 700k tourists annually when complete.

## WA camping boost

TWO new luxury glamping tents and 60 camping and caravan sites have been unveiled at Bullara Station Stay in WA, significantly increasing accommodation volumes in the region in the lead up to the 2023 Ningaloo Eclipse.

The development, made possible via a \$203,000 grant from the WA Government, also includes new hot water systems, a commercial kitchen and cafe.

MEANWHILE WA has upgraded its Explore Parks website to make it easier for visitors to cancel/edit bookings, as well as be more accessible for mobile devices.

There are 65 campgrounds with 1,953 campsites available for booking through the site.

IN FURTHER news, Tourism WA Destination Development is recruiting for five Tourism Experience Development Manager roles so it can better focus on growing more tourism experiences for visitors in the state's national parks.



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\*Offer correct as at 2 August 2022 and subject to change or withdrawal. Offer ends 15 August 2022 unless extended. For full terms and conditions click here.

## BROCHURES

WELCOME to Brochures of the Week, *Travel Daily's* Monday feature. If your firm is releasing a new brochure you'd like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description summarising its features and itineraries, including a PDF of the front cover, and contact details to [brochures@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:brochures@traveldaily.com.au).



### Australian Air Safaris - 2023 Air Tour Guide

Featuring the outback and coastal delights, the AAS 2023 *Air Safari Guide* is 76 pages of air tours by private aircraft, departing from Melbourne, Sydney, and Gold Coast. The four-day Ancient Flinders Ranges itinerary is showcased, giving guests the opportunity to embark on an Ancient Ediacaran fossil site tour, enjoy deep space stargazing at Arkaroola, get adventurous on a 4WD Ridgetop Tour, and more. The 13-day Cape York Air Safari is another featured itinerary, taking travellers to outback Queensland, the Gulf of Carpentaria, Torres Strait Islands and the Great Barrier Reef.



### Wendy Wu Tours - 2023/24 Japan

Wendy Wu Tours' brand new 2023/24 Japan brochure has landed, and it's jam-packed with amazing itineraries and unmissable experiences. With Japan's borders now open to tourists visiting as part of a fully inclusive, escorted tour, Wendy Wu is ready to take bookings as a government-approved operator. Highlights include magnificent Mount Fuji, and the 2023 & 2024 cherry blossom season, which has been unreachable for three years. Next year's dates are almost sold out, and 2024 dates are filling fast, so book soon.

## Anchor drops in Haifa

**ROYAL** Caribbean International's *Rhapsody of the Seas* has begun homeporting at Haifa Port in Israel, marking the first time the cruise line has boasted a full-time vessel in the city.

The ship will offer seven-day itineraries in the Eastern Mediterranean, as well as three- and four-day itineraries to Cyprus and Rhodes later in the season.

Haifa Port recently revealed it expects a "significant investment" in cruise facilities following its privatisation by the Israeli Government (*TD* 18 Jul).

## Seaworld + hotels

**SEAWORLD** Parks & Entertainment has confirmed it will go ahead with its plan to open hotels near a range of its parks around the world, revealing it is currently evaluating suitable sites and concepts.

"We have engaged multiple consultants and industry resources to evaluate a number of site and facility concepts as we further develop our strategies," CEO Marc Swanson revealed during the company's second-quarter earnings call last week, stating more details are to come.

webinars, product launches and updates, executive interviews and more.

For more information contact us at

[events@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:events@traveldaily.com.au)

## Holiday health checks

**HEART** Safe Australia is travelling across Queensland and New South Wales to raise awareness and provide education to grey nomads with its Heart Safe Community and Heart Safe RV lifesaving programs.

In collaboration with brands such as Big4 Holiday Parks, Ingenia Holiday Parks and Family Parks, the Heart Safe Australia team is host morning BBQ/Tea in holiday parks to teach travellers the three steps to help save a life in case of a sudden cardiac arrest in a campsite or while travelling on the road in RVs.

One of the sessions held at the Coolum Beach Holiday Park last month was filmed and aired on the Sunshine Coast Channel 7 evening news - [CLICK HERE](#) to view the segment.

## Marriott eyes Indo

**MARRIOTT** International has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with The Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy of The Republic of Indonesia, as part of a continued effort to develop the tourism sector and the creative economy in the country.

The MoU includes collaborations on tourism marketing, the development of talent in the tourism sector, and creative economic development, all within the next three years.

Ramesh Jackson, Indonesia's Area Vice President for Marriott International, said, "collectively we aim to improve the experience for travellers to get closer to the beauty of Indonesia, its natural wonders, its rich history, and its people".



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