



Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has seven pages of news including **Business Events News**, a photo page from this week's **Travel Industry Day of Action**, plus a full page from **Entire Travel**.

Westbury to MC crisis summit

FORMER AFTA CEO Jayson Westbury has been announced as the guest MC of the upcoming Tourism Training Australia Workforce Crisis Summit (**TD** 11 Jan) which aims to address the huge shortages facing the sector.

Westbury is a past Director of Tourism Training Australia, with the event scheduled for Tue 15 Feb at Sydney's Grace Hotel.

Registrations are open now for the "collective effort required to address and rebuild our shattered hospitality and tourism sector" - for more information and to book see tourismtraining.com.au.

AFTA poll reflects reality

EXCLUSIVE

AUSTRALIA'S travel agency sector is "still waiting for the economic recovery that was promised at the end of JobKeeper, and is in desperate need of continued Government support," according to the results of an industry survey conducted by AFTA late last year.

However the results of the poll, obtained by **Travel Daily**, also confirm high levels of enquiries, particularly during the brief interlude of pre-Omicron border openings, as well as a "growing customer base amongst those that traditionally did not utilise travel professionals."

The grim figures, based on about 650 responses, indicated that the industry workforce has approximately halved, while more than 50% of current booking activity was from customers reusing existing travel credits.

Key concerns among clients about international travel included uncertainty about COVID-19 vaccinations and associated documentation, quarantine, passport renewals and travel insurance.

In terms of business outlook, almost 60% of respondents said they did not expect to return to profit until Jun 2023, while about half of the businesses surveyed said they were not confident or would be struggling to trade in six months time if there is no further government support.

Challenges to recovery cited included the continuation of state border restrictions and low consumer confidence in travel.

The survey, which took place before the latest downturn amid the rise of Omicron across the globe, found the most popular prospective destinations were the UK, New Zealand, the USA, Fiji, Singapore and Japan.

Travel Daily

on location in the
Antarctic Peninsula

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of **Aurora Expeditions** aboard the **Greg Mortimer** as she voyages through Antarctica.

AURORA Expeditions' *Greg Mortimer* spent her second day in Antarctica on Australia Day, with a visit to Lemaire Channel.

In the morning, guests landed on Petermann Island, a haven for a panoply of different penguins, including the Gentoo, Chinstrap and Adelie species.

Later in the day, passengers were treated to a Zodiac cruise around Pleneau Island, while there may have been some significant shrinkage as braver guests were given the opportunity to take a "polar plunge" into the icy waters of the Southern Ocean.

EMERALD
CRUISES

We are the Small Ship and Super Yacht Cruising Experts

Emerald Cruises ships have only up to 180 guests on-board!
Book now for 2022 & 2023 departures.



Douro River, Emerald Radiance
Maximum 112 Guests



Mediterranean Sea, Emerald Azzurra
Maximum 100 Guests

To learn more visit emeraldcruses.com.au



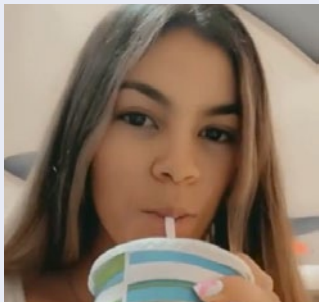
Window Seat

IT APPEARS TikTok users have added to their list of social crimes, with one British influencer explaining how to smuggle booze onto a flight.

User Makena Simpson has taken to the social media platform to inform her followers about the alcohol loophole, which involves filling a rucksack full of 100ml bottles of vodka, the allowable liquid amount per bottle under Transportation Security Administration rules.

Once through security, Simpson said it was time to hatch the next part of the inebriated caper.

"Buy a fountain drink. Pour your shot in, decide that one shot isn't enough. Happy flying," the dissident TikTok queen posted this month.



We've got something new

COMING SOON

Travel Daily

Read about taking travel back to the future, the industry celebrating 'Still Standing', and more in the December/January issue of *travelBulletin*.

travelBulletin

CLICK to read



Intrepid plots US growth

INTREPID Travel says its acquisition of Arizona-based Wildland Trekking (**TD** breaking news) will build on its operational capability in the USA, "providing more diverse and robust outdoor adventure-based options" for both domestic and international travellers.

The company said the deal was part of its response to a huge spike in interest in unique domestic travel options in the USA, with spending reaching almost US\$1 trillion last year in the domestic market.

Intrepid CEO James Thornton said he was confident that figure would grow in the coming years "and presents a significant market opportunity," which the company was also targeting with the establishment of a North

American DMC operation.

Currently Intrepid offers a total of 57 US-based trips, with the addition of Wildland increasing the portfolio by over 400%.

"Wildland Trekking has such an incredible history of operating exceptional and innovative trips, and we've been really impressed with their commitment to running tours that are also good for the planet," Thornton said.

"This acquisition will play an integral part in Intrepid's journey to becoming a billion-dollar adventure travel company."

Wildland Trekking has about 200 staff and since its inception in 2005 has accommodated more than 75,000 travellers.

The business has also raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for conservation initiatives through partnerships with various National Park associations and environmental groups.

Future plans for the combined operations include new trips in Alaska and the Canadian Rockies, as well as more winter itineraries.

Kakadu trade deals

KAKADU Tourism is offering workers in the travel industry special deals leading in from \$99 to visit Kakadu during the tropical summer season.

The trade promotion includes a snappy \$99 Bed & Breakfast deal per night at Mercure Kakadu Crocodile Hotel, with children to travel for free on a spectacular Yellow Water Cruise when accompanying an adult.

Stays at the Cooinda Lodge Kakadu are also on offer from \$129 per room, situated next to the Yellow Water Billabong.

The property provides the option of an air-conditioned outback glamping tent.

The offers are valid for stays until 15 Mar - email **HERE** for reservations at Cooinda Lodge Kakadu and **HERE** for stays at the Mercure Kakadu Crocodile Hotel.

Air NZ appointments

AIR New Zealand has added two senior executives to its ranks, with Alexandria Marren appointed Chief Operating Officer and Mike Williams taking on the newly created Chief Transformation & Alliances Officer position.

Marren will assume her role in late Mar and arrives with close to 40 years of experience in the travel sector, notably with United Airlines and Hertz.

She has previously managed ground operations with UA at 46 airports with oversight of 3,500 flights per day to 260 cities.

Meanwhile Williams will commence in his new role from 01 Feb, and be charged with delivering the airline's strategy regarding partner relationships.

More travel industry appointments on **P7**.

 **Expedia** **TAAP**

We're here.

When your world wakes up.

We're ready.

Expedia
TAAP,
we've got
your back.

ENJOY TODAY
www.expedia.com.au/taap

telephone
1800 726 618

email
expedia-au@discovertheworld.com.au

Thursday 27th January 2022

More Aussie cruise cancellations

AUSTRALIAN cruisers will have to wait even longer to get back on the water, after P&O Australia and Carnival Cruise Line both announced extensions of their current cruise pauses.

Both lines are now not planning to sail locally until Jun this year at the earliest, with P&O this morning forced to cancel an additional 15 voyages which had been scheduled to depart Sydney or Brisbane before 28 May.

Carnival Cruise Line's *Carnival Splendor* and *Carnival Spirit* will also now not operate until Jun, pending further updates on when the current ban may be lifted.

The companies said the pause period reflects that it will take several months for a ship to return to operation, with Australia "one of the last remaining major cruise markets in the world without a return to service pathway".

New Accor chief

ACCOR this morning announced the appointment of Sarah Derry as Chief Executive Officer Accor Pacific, in the lead-up to the departure of long-time CEO Simon McGrath which was announced last year (**TD** 09 Nov).

McGrath, who has been the face of Accor in the region for over 15 years, is joining Crown Limited as Group Head of Hospitality and CEO of Crown Sydney.

Derry is currently Accor Pacific's Senior VP of Talent and Culture, having joined the company in 2017 after having operated her own business for over a decade.

She takes on the role from 01 Feb, with Accor Chairman & CEO Sebastien Bazin also welcoming Derry to the executive committee.

Bazin thanked McGrath for his "absolute professionalism, dedication and engagement" as he steered Accor to become the largest hotel operator in the Pacific, with a portfolio of more than 400 properties.

TD's inhouse influencer!



SWEET SLICE OF LIFE IN LAND OF OPPORTUNITY

KARLIE RUTHERFORD

IRANIAN-born Hoda Alzubaidi was in high school the first time she tried an Anzac biscuit, making it in her home economics class.

"I'd never tasted something so unique," she said. "In Middle Eastern cooking we don't use oats, or golden syrup. Those ingredients - so simple, yet so delicious. I was so happy I could make something like that."

The experience fostered a love of baking in Alzubaidi, 28, culminating in the Georges Hall resident starring

in Foxtel's new season of *The Great Australian Bake Off*.

Alzubaidi's family fled Iran for Syria when she was two. Then her university-educated father migrated to Australia by boat and worked as a labourer for six years to gain citizenship for himself and subsequently his family.

"Australia Day is special to me, coming from a different background, because it symbolises opportunity," she said. "Of course we will celebrate with food, a mix between traditional Middle Eastern and some western."

You can follow Hoda's baking journey on Instagram @hoda_alzubaidi.



"Anzac biscuits are the first thing I ever baked in Australia as a child so they hold quite a soft spot in my heart. I've given it a nice little twist and combined it with my favourite Aussie dessert, the humble caramel slice!"

HODA ALZUBAIDI
Baker on *The Great Australian Bake Off*

TRAVEL Daily is well known within the travel and cruise sectors, but now one of our team is making a much bigger splash on a wider stage, with National Sales Manager Hoda Alzubaidi making her TV debut as one of the chefs on the new season of Foxtel's *The Great Australian Bake-Off*.

Hoda's appearance was hugely showcased in Tue's edition of the *Sydney Daily Telegraph*, where she appeared on not one, not two but three pages (**pictured**) including the paper's front page.

The cookery competition kicks off tonight on Foxtel's LifeStyle Channel, with episodes aired 8.30pm each Thu or on-demand.

How did she go in the competition? She's sworn to secrecy, but we can't wait to watch and find out (and to taste some of the goodies at our office morning teas!!)

JOURNEY BEYOND
CRUISE
WHITSUNDAYS

2023 ADVENTURES ON SALE

Here at Cruise Whitsundays, we know how lucky we are to call the region home. We've cruised the Whitsundays for longer than any other operator, with the largest fleet, and offer the most experiences in the region.

Sharing the best of the Whitsundays with you and your clients, we know the tides better, the weather better, and most importantly, all the best spots.

FIND OUT MORE

Lowest in 12 years

THE outlook for South Australia's tourism sector has sunk to its lowest point in 12 years, the latest data from Tourism Industry Council South Australia (TiCSA) suggests.

The quarterly report canvassed the sentiment of 370 tourism businesses across the state for the period Oct to Dec 2021, finding more than 60% of respondents are "worried" or "extremely worried" about their prospects for the next 12 months.

The prime movers of dissatisfaction during the period were low consumer confidence, low business confidence, and the new Omicron strain of COVID-19.

Adding to the dented optimism was a miserable Dec, which saw significant decreases in holiday and leisure tourism, as well as festival and event attendance.

TiCSA CEO Shaun de Bruyn said the results proved the case for further government support.

Norway open 4 biz

FOR the first time since the start of the pandemic, Norway has opened its border to all visitors from around the world.

Until today, travellers without an EU COVID certificate were required to undertake a 10-day self-quarantine period.

Arrivals will still need to test and register upon arrival, and those who enter without a corona certificate, full vaccination or proof of having had COVID, will need to document a negative test-result taken before arriving.

View the full guidelines **HERE**.

Jubilee now ready

BOOKINGS for *Carnival Jubilee's* inaugural 2023/24 season departing the Port of Galveston in Texas are now open for sale.

The third Excel class ship will sail seven-day western Caribbean voyages from 18 Nov 2023.

Europe leans into jab & go

WHILE some countries in Europe have made recent moves to relax entry requirements for travellers (**TD** 25 Jan), there are several popular markets that have flagged booster shots will be necessary for future visits.

All travellers to France who have been fully vaccinated for more than seven months will be required to show proof of a booster shot to enter, while from 01 Feb, visitors to Spain will only be permitted if they have had a booster jab in cases where a second dose was administered more than nine months ago.

Spain will also require the booster to be taken no less than 14 days before travelling.

In Greece, the government confirmed earlier this month that vaccine certificates would only remain valid for seven months after the last dose of the vaccine, meaning those who do not receive a booster shot within that time frame will be considered unvaccinated and be subject to tougher restrictions.

Meanwhile the Netherlands announced that from the start of next month, it will only accept vaccine certificates from travellers who can prove their last dose was given within the

last nine months, and similarly in Switzerland, the government has mandated unrestricted travel will require a booster jab within 270 days of receiving their second vaccine shot.

In Austria, from 01 Feb vaccine passports will only be valid for 180 days after the second dose has been administered, with a booster jab needed to extend their validity, while in Belgium the window of time is smaller, with the country mandating a booster shot will be needed within 150 days of a second dose to extend vaccine certificates from 01 Mar.

It's quarantine 3.0

OVOL Hotels is hoping to take the edge off harsh quarantine periods by launching its Quarantine MasterClass program.

The initiative will see travellers offered the chance to participate in one-on-one classes, such as meditative yoga sessions from Mindful Studio, Bollywood dance workouts from Ek 2 Three, and relaxing singing bowl sessions from iLiving.

The hotelier has also made more large rooms available, reconfigured for families wishing to quarantine together.



DOOR-TO-DOOR ALL-INCLUSIVE FARES WITH **15% REDUCED DEPOSIT**

AND

NEW PORT-TO-PORT ALL-INCLUSIVE FARES

On bookings made between 6 December 2021 through 28 February 2022. Door-to-Door All-Inclusive fares increase 1 March 2022. Port-to-Port all-inclusive fares expire 28 February 2022.

Both fare options include Silversea's Covid-19 protection, providing your clients with added peace of mind.

[CLICK HERE TO DISCOVER MORE](#)

CONTACT YOUR SILVERSEA SALES MANAGER OR RESERVATIONS ON 1300 727 155 OR +61 2 9255 0600 | [SILVERSEA.COM](https://www.silversea.com)



BECA PITCHES FOR MORE VALUE

AUSTRALIA'S re-imagined visitor economy strategy must be positioned as the centrepiece of Australia's economic diplomacy and regional prosperity agenda, The Business Events Council of Australia (BECA) believes.

The comments come in response to the Federal Government's draft long-term tourism strategy to 2030 (THRIVE 2030), with BECA cautioning the government that for a full tourism recovery to take place, it must take into consideration more than just visitor spend and jobs.

"This is a critical once-in-a-decade opportunity to get the foundations and strategic direction right," BECA Secretary, Andrew Hiebl said.

"Given the major disruption that the visitor economy and business events industry has endured over the last two years due to Australia's response to the global coronavirus pandemic, the next long-term strategy holds great responsibility - THRIVE 2030 must bring together an industry that has been hardest hit and inspire with a strategic vision that will



drive our success through the decade ahead," he added.

Among the list of suggestions submitted to Australia's Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Dan Tehan, was the need for a whole-of-government approach to tourism which would include performance measures put in place for government departments regarding policy and programs, not just Austrade.

BECA also highlighted the strong case for the business events industry, which it said holds the key for delivering any planned tourism recovery strategy the

government wants to implement.

These include securing high-yield spend, attracting global talent & knowledge transfers, stimulating trade, encouraging foreign investment, nurturing research collaboration, fostering innovation, and boosting productivity & diplomacy.

"THRIVE 2030 must bring together an industry that has been hardest hit and inspire with a strategic vision that will drive success through the decade ahead - it must provide a future focus the industry can rally behind," Hiebl added.

#REEVENTING MICE in Monaco

MONACO is positioning itself as a "Smart Principality" for events, with a so-called #ReEvent strategy focusing on key values including innovation, safety, connectivity and sustainability.

The Government has created the Monaco Safe certification for any events involving more than 10 people, while environmental focuses include sustainable activities such as the prestigious Monaco ePrix and the E-Rally Monte-Carlo.

More information on the strategy at letsreevent.com.

Geelong Convention Centre progress

THE Vic Government has confirmed the commencement of early works on the highly anticipated Geelong Convention & Exhibition Centre as part of site preparations for the major construction project.

As well as geotechnical investigations, the next steps include an industry briefing for architects, designers and builders in the lead-up to a formal Expression of Interest process for the development.

Plans for the precinct include a 1,000-seat plenary venue along with extensive flexible multipurpose space to allow large and small events to be operated concurrently.

There will also be a 200-room

luxury hotel, with the project expected to support about 600 jobs during construction and 270 ongoing roles.

The state government is contributing \$261 million to the project, along with \$30 million from the Commonwealth and \$3 million from the City of Greater Geelong.

The development is being funded through the Geelong City Deal, a decade-long plan to revitalise the Vic city through critical infrastructure.

Vic Minister for Regional Development, Mary-Anne Thomas, said the Centre would play "a key role in attracting new visitors to the region for decades to come".

Getting very ratty

GET Local has ordered 2,000 Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) to be used for all exhibitors, visitors and staff on arrival of its event taking place at the ICC Sydney on 15 and 16 Feb this year.

The move helps to cement the alternative of postponing the anticipated gathering, with Get Local co-founder Gary Bender stating it was important to show that events can soldier on even during some of the toughest health conditions.

"As the first business events tradeshow of 2022, it's crucial to demonstrate how business events can continue successfully and in a COVID safe way," he said.

"For the stability of the industry and the economy it is crucial that businesses continue to operate and grow despite COVID-19 and even more so for the industry itself to lead this return."

ICC Sydney CEO Geoff Donaghy added that business events are a catalyst for the economic prosperity of Australia's cities and our regions, and that he was looking forward to seeing the industry getting back to what it does best during Get Local.

Landscapers dig in to Qld capital

BRISBANE will soon play host to the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects' 2022 Festival of Landscape Architecture, a gathering which is anticipated to attract around 400 delegates.

The four-day event is scheduled to take place in Oct, and will heavily investigate the theme of the upcoming Brisbane Olympics in 2032 and what opportunities it will bring to increase the number and quality of outdoor public spaces in Brisbane.

Industry banner raised in Day of Action

THERE'S no doubt that the plight of Australia's travel industry is now well and truly front and centre in the minds of politicians and the community, after a strong turnout for the Day of Action across the country on Tue. The gatherings at offices of Members of Parliament received wide coverage on evening news bulletins across all networks, and have sparked conversations and further engagement which is continuing over the

coming days. Organisers continue to coordinate meetings via the Aussie Travel Action Group Facebook page ([CLICK HERE](#) to join), while key messaging aims to reinforce high-level lobbying efforts being undertaken by AFTA, CLIA and CATO in Canberra and various State and Territory capitals.

Spokesman Dan Russell from Brisbane-based Clean Cruising said "after two hard years of devastation, travel agents, tour operators and travel-related businesses can no longer remain silent...they need to inform parliamentarians of the cold hard facts of the dire straits they now find themselves in."



SOME of the large contingent that was interviewed outside the offices of NSW Premier Dominic Perrottet, attracting significant coverage.



THE industry's voice was heard loud and clear outside the Qld office of Minister for Home Affairs, Karen Andrews.

RIGHT: Trevor Evans MP for Brisbane received industry collateral about the impact of the cruise ban.



QLD MP Angie Bell posted this photo of her meeting with industry representatives on social media, saying it had "assisted in my efforts to gain a greater understanding of their concerns and what I can do to provide advocacy on their behalf and the wider cruising industry".



TERRY Smit from Go West Tours was able to clearly articulate the impact of border closures outside the office of Federal Treasurer Josh Frydenberg, saying his business had gone from 130 staff in early 2020 to just two now.



THE erudite and elegant Susan Haberle from Inspire Collective helping lead the charge in Melbourne.



THIS group gained an audience with Qld Tourism Minister Stirling Hinchcliffe, who is "very keen for Queensland to lead the cruise restart".

The time has come: ATIC

THE Australian Tourism Industry Council (ATIC) has declared that all ongoing border restrictions in Australia must end if the tourism sector is to make a meaningful recovery anytime soon.

Deputy Chair of ATIC Daniel Gschwind singled out Western Australia for criticism, stating that tourism operators in the state had been "dealt another heavy blow" to their ability to conduct business as normal.

"Australians have been doing the hard work to get through this pandemic and it would be a tragedy to see their hard work come to nothing.

"If we cannot ease our own borders and come back together now, with all the tools we have available, then when?" Gschwind questioned, with new figures released by the National Tourism

Business Activity and COVID-19 Survey for Oct-Dec confirming operators are down by 52% in business activity when compared to the same quarter in 2019.

"Every regional community and all capital cities in Australia have been impacted by the loss of tourism activity, they need to be supported for a speedy recovery," Gschwind added.

MEANWHILE The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has called on governments to accelerate the relaxation of travel restrictions as COVID-19 continues to evolve from the pandemic to endemic stage.

IATA wants to see quarantine/testing removed for vaccinated travellers, and likewise for the unvaccinated, so long as they can provide a negative COVID test result prior to departure.

APPOINTMENTS

WELCOME to Industry Appointments, *Travel Daily's* Thursday feature which has the latest job appointments from across the industry. If you have just appointed someone to a new position and would like to update the industry email appointments@traveldaily.com.au.

Crystalbrook Collection has appointed **Nigel Greenway** to the role of Chief Financial Officer. He joins from Colliers International where he was the National Director Hotels Asia Pacific.

Hahn Air has promoted **Kirsten Rehmann** to the role of CEO, completing an 18-year rise through the ranks of the airline. She joined in 2003 as a Sales and Marketing Executive, before advancing and playing a key part in the company's ticket sales growth.

Travel technology platform **TRAVLR** has appointed **Alice Griffin** to be its new Content and Editorial Director. She was formerly the Editor-in-Chief of MTV Australia before it shut down operations. She will be charged with steering the content strategy at the travel start-up.

Arnaldo Zanonato has returned to **The Walt Disney Company** in the role of Senior Manager, Integration and Innovation at Adventures by Disney & National Geographic Expeditions. He joins the brand after completing a two-year stint at Silversea Cruises in May 2021.

Pick the nation

PUZZLE

COUNTRIES have unique geography, ethnicities and cultures which come together to often form very distinctive symbols.

Based off the four different symbols and famous faces, see if you can figure out which country they represent.

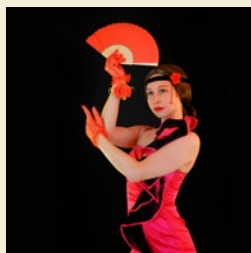
1



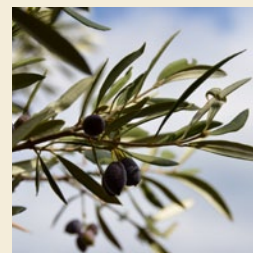
2



3



4



Answer: Spain

Sensing a big 2022

THE Six Senses resort brand has flagged several new openings later this year, with Six Senses Rome the next to open its doors around Sep.

Highlights of the Italian property will be a large rooftop terrace with 360° panoramic views of the capital, complete with an organic fruit and vegetable garden.

Guests will also have access to Six Senses Spa and Roman baths on the ground floor.

Meanwhile, in Dec Six Senses Kanuhura in the Maldives will launch, offering visitors 80 private overwater, beach, or spacious family villas to choose from, in addition to a high-tech Six Senses Spa and nearby Lhaviyani Atoll with more than 40 dive sites for exploring marine life.

Six Senses Crans-Montana will also open this year in Switzerland, featuring 47 hotel suites and 17 residences at the popular recreational ski location.

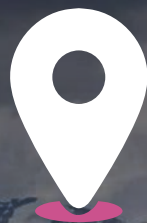
'I do' at Cora Cora

CORA Cora Maldives is gearing up to make some romantic dreams come true, with the resort situated in the Raa Atoll introducing seven wedding packages starting from \$380.

Products include unusual ways to mark the proposal, with an underwater pop of the question on offer for thalassophiles, while adrenaline junkies can take advantage of the parasailing proposal option.

The cheapest beach wedding category offers couples a bridal bouquet from the Cora Cora Garden, a bottle of sparkling wine, a wedding cake and instrumental background music during the ceremony.

The more high-end Endless Love Anniversary package throws in a Cora Cora event planner, a 60-minute couples massage, a romantic candlelit four-course dinner and framed printed photo for \$620 - more info **HERE**.



**ENTIRE
TRAVEL GROUP**

YOUR ROCKY MOUNTAINEER EXPERTS



PROMOTION: FREE UPGRADE FROM SILVERLEAF TO GOLDLEAF SERVICE

Book by the 31st January 2022 and receive a complimentary upgrade from SilverLeaf to GoldLeaf on the Rocky Mountaineer.

Valid on First Passage to the West and Journey Through the Cloud routes, for the 2022 travel season (excluding September dates).

GoldLeaf Service takes your Rocky Mountaineer experience to the next level. Enjoy panoramic views from glass-dome windows via your bi-level coach, gourmet a la carte meals served in an exclusive lower-level dining room and an outdoor viewing platform ideal for capturing wildlife and spectacular scenery on camera.

ENTIRE TRAVEL GROUP

when experience matters

www.entiretravel.com.au | info@entiretravel.com.au | (02) 9094 3322

