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# WONDERS OF WA *by Train*

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2024 BROCHURE

EXPERIENCE HUB

JOURNEY BEYOND



## Wonders of WA

**JOURNEY** Beyond is today showcasing the opportunity to explore the wonders of Western Australia by train aboard the iconic Indian Pacific.

As well as transcontinental travel from Sydney or Perth aboard the all-inclusive rail trip, Journey Beyond can also complement the trip with holiday packages exploring the Margaret River region or Rottne Island.

2024 departures are on sale now, with more details on the **cover page** of today's *Travel Daily*.

## Ponant on the road

**PONANT** is inviting travel advisors and their clients to help celebrate the boutique luxury cruise line's 35th anniversary at a series of special events across the country next month.

Sessions will take place in Perth, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide, with venue details and times on the **last page**.

## Taiwan moves on Aussies

**EXCLUSIVE**

**HOSPITALITY** specialist Ganessan Suppiah has been appointed as the new Australian representative of the Taiwan Tourism Bureau.

Suppiah has extensive hotel industry experience and is well known to the trade through a 13-year stint with WorldHotels ending as Asia Pacific Regional VP, as well as former roles with Marriott and Hyatt.

Speaking with *Travel Daily* this morning about how his GSA Hospitality business will look to market Taiwan in Australia, Suppiah said the aim will be to launch a four-pronged strategy to improve visitation and spend.

Among the planned initiatives will be to collaborate more with travel agencies, meeting planners and airlines to offer attractive and competitive deals that can encourage more Australians to visit Taiwan.

These will include tailored packages catering to the interests of demographics such as adventure-seekers, foodies and cultural enthusiasts.

Suppiah also noted that Taiwan will seek to improve its presence at local travel expos and events to improve its reputation as a tourism destination, with virtual reality tours and interactive cultural activities flagged as just a few of the ways Taiwan will demonstrate its tourism appeal.

Social media and digital marketing will also be ramped up, with influencers to be enlisted to create engaging content on platforms like Instagram or Facebook to help showcase Taiwan's tourism offerings and "generate buzz".

Finally, themes to be trumpeted to travellers will include cultural and natural attractions, specifically culinary appeal and Taiwan's arts and music scene.

## Burke joins SeaLink

**FORMER** Silversea Cruises National Account Manager, Nathan Burke, has taken a new role as National Sales Manager at SeaLink Marine and Tourism.

Burke confirmed the appointment on LinkedIn, saying he had interviewed for the role in early Feb and was offered the job a couple of days later.

"I am thrilled to be part of this team, offering some of Australia's and the world's best holiday experiences," he said.

Burke's career has also included senior sales roles with Etihad Airways and Cover-More Travel Insurance.

### Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today features six pages of the latest news including a photo page from **Journey Beyond**, plus a cover wrap also from **Journey Beyond** and a full page from cruise line **Ponant**.

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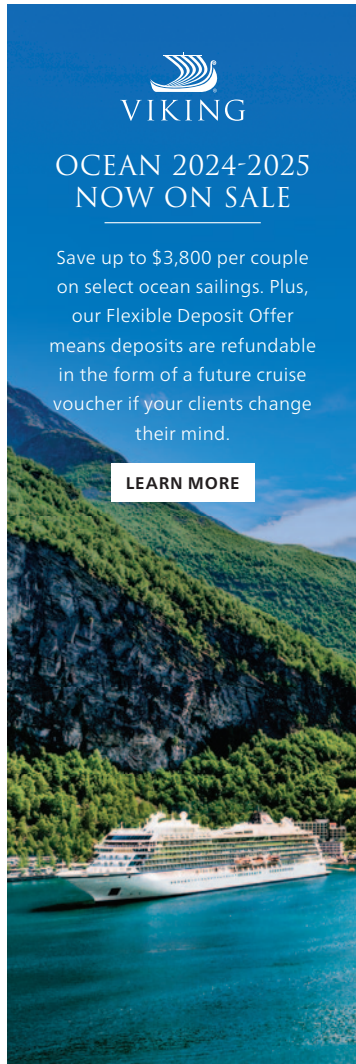


**mwTours**  **KOREA TOURISM ORGANIZATION**

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## Travelmarvel Asia

**TRAVELMARVEL** has unveiled its 2024 Asia program, including 11 itineraries travelling to Japan, South Korea, India, and Sri Lanka. The program boasts a new 15-day Discover Southern India & Kerala journey, with earlybird savings of \$1,400 per couple on offer until 29 Feb 2024.



**VIKING**

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## FCTG buys Luxperience

**FLIGHT** Centre Travel Group is continuing to expand its reach into the luxury market, with the acquisition of the Luxperience trade show (**TD** breaking news).

Luxperience was established by Helen Logas after she sold her TMC Travelcorp into the public listing of Corporate Travel Management (**TD** 01 Aug 2011).

FCTG has purchased the business from US company Diversified Communications, which acquired Luxperience six years later (**TD** 04 Oct 2017).

Diversified Communications also owns a range of other B2B platforms in Australia, including *Mumbrella*, the Australasian Waste & Recycling Expo and the Fine Food Australia show.

Traditionally held as an in-person luxury showcase, Luxperience pivoted in recent years due to COVID-19, with the most recent events being virtual gatherings in 2021 and 2022.

FCTG Global Leisure CEO, James Kavanagh, said the company saw the acquisition as an opportunity to strengthen its luxury leisure offerings to suppliers, travel advisors and their clients.

"Luxperience is very well known in Australia and New Zealand, and it has a strong reputation as a great quality annual hosted buyer event connecting high-end experiential travel advisors with elite suppliers.

"It is the only event of its kind in Australia...as we emerged from the pandemic and luxury travel

began to rebound, we felt the addition of a bespoke luxury B2B event like this would strengthen our portfolio and provide opportunities for business growth and diversification," he said.

Diversified Communications Australia MD David Longman said the business was pleased with the outcome, with FCTG's strong reach making it the "ideal platform to advance the Luxperience brand in the market".

Enquiries are now open for the first edition of Luxperience under FCTG's ownership, which is scheduled for 14-16 Nov this year at ICC Sydney - more information on [luxperience@flightcentre.com](mailto:luxperience@flightcentre.com).

## Lucid's double win

**THE** Italian National Tourist Board (INTB) has appointed The Lucid Agency to lead its marketing communications and media relations, promoting Italy as a travel destination in the Australian and New Zealand markets.

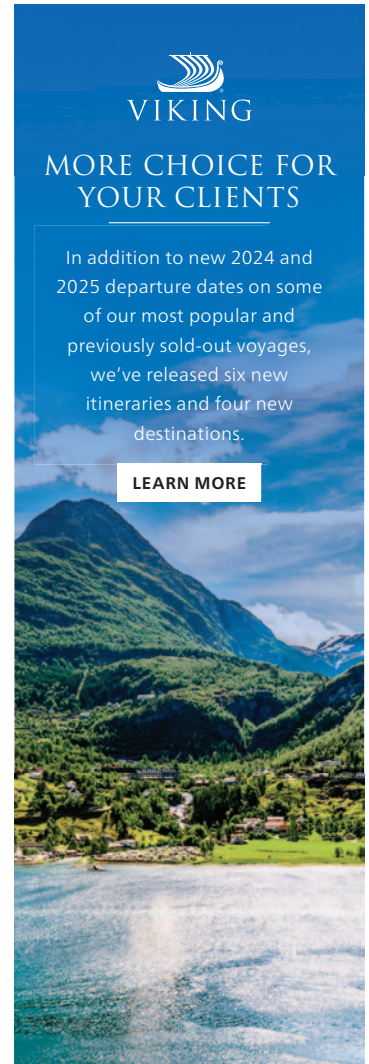
The Sydney-based agency has also retained its Japan National Tourism Organization's (JNTO) PR account for the third consecutive year, as well as winning other project tenders for the DMO, following its annual competitive tender for the account.

Expanding its services for JNTO, Lucid will develop a new brand campaign showcasing how to 'experience Japan your way', which will run across digital and social channels.

## Hello round-trips!

**CATHAY** Pacific is making a limited number of discounted round-trip air tickets to Hong Kong available to Australians, as part of the Hello Hong Kong visitor campaign (**TD** 03 Feb).

The tickets will only be made available to Cathay Pacific loyalty members on 29 May.



**VIKING**

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In addition to new 2024 and 2025 departure dates on some of our most popular and previously sold-out voyages, we've released six new itineraries and four new destinations.

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## CT links with Aeronology

**AERONOLOGY** has forged a new tech partnership with CT Partners which will streamline access to NDC, low-cost carrier and GDS content for the buying network via one portal platform.

The Australian travel tech company was cofounded in Dec 2019 by industry stalwart Russell Carstensen, who expressed his excitement to be working with the large and respected CT Partners brand.

Carstensen described the deal as “putting CT Partners member agencies in a strong position where they can efficiently service clients at a time when these businesses are demanding more access to NDC content”.

Meanwhile CT Partners CEO Matt Masson hailed the partnership as a “game changer” for its members at a time when the industry is “still rebuilding its workforce and teams are working longer hours to deliver

for clients”.

“Aeronology presents a solution that enables our members to spend less time on complicated NDC, LCC, and GDS bookings,” Masson said.

“Aeronology’s proven approach to digitalising travel is a perfect fit for our network given their booking model is tailored to the needs of the SME corporate and premium leisure travel businesses who make up our member base,” Masson added.

Singapore Airlines also praised the new partnership, with General Manager Agency Sales, Greg McJarrow, saying, “we have a longstanding relationship with CT Partners and through Aeronology, as one of our certified Global Technology Partners, we look forward to building further on our ability to seamlessly distribute new content and information through NDC to CT Partners members”.

## TTNQ growth plan

**TOURISM** Tropical North Queensland (TTNQ) is implementing its First Nations Tourism Action Plan to help grow visitor capacity and embrace the full potential of Indigenous tourism in the region.

The plan aims to double both the number of Indigenous experiences and the volume of First Nations people employed in Far North Queensland’s tourism industry by 2032.

[View the full plan HERE.](#)

## EK goes digital

**EMIRATES** has today phased out paper boarding passes for flights departing Dubai.

The carrier will now require pax departing Dubai to use a mobile boarding pass, with travellers checking in to receive a mobile boarding pass via email or SMS.

Passengers can also load their boarding pass into their Apple Wallet or Google Wallets.



## Window Seat

**AIR** New Zealand proved it is still a real mummy’s airline when it surprised over 1,000 customers with flower bouquets for Mother’s Day yesterday.

The airline transformed baggage claim at seven airports around NZ into makeshift ‘Bouquet Claims’, with customers on 18 flights receiving flowers for mothers on board, or to take home to their mums or motherly figures.

“We love to surprise and delight our customers, from Christmas presents handed out on board in Dec, to tasty hot cross buns served for Easter, to welcome back hampers dished out to customers when borders reopened post pandemic - it’s nice to be able to show our appreciation and do something special,” Air NZ said.



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## AFTA members unite in Canberra



**THE** Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA) welcomed some of its ACT and Queanbeyan members to last week's Budget in Reply Dinner, which took place at the National Museum of Australia in Canberra.

The gathering also saw them rub shoulders with some of the country's senior political leaders, as AFTA continued to showcase its leadership on a range of issues including the Passenger Movement Charge, the importance of ATAS-accredited travel agents in supporting Australia's inbound and outbound tourism sectors, ongoing workforce issues, competition matters and more.

**Pictured** during the dinner are: AFTA Chief Executive Officer Dean Long; Andrew Heibl, CEO of the Australian Association of Convention Bureaux; Kevin Hogan, Federal Member for Page;

## VA-700s to Haneda

**VIRGIN** Australia will deploy Boeing 737-700 aircraft on its new non-stop flights from Cairns to Tokyo Haneda Airport when they kick off on 28 Jun, rather than the planned 737 MAX 8s.

Delayed delivery of the new planes means the MAX 8s are now tentatively scheduled to operate on the new Japanese route from 09 Aug this year.

Robert Schroder, South Lands Travel & Cruise; Lisa Calabria, Capital Travel Manuka; Jenny Cooper, Queanbeyan Travel & Cruise; National Party leader David Littleproud; Cathy Schroder, South Lands Travel & Cruise; and Jack Taylor from sporting tour operator Performance Travel, who is also Chairman of the Australian Travel Agents Cooperative (ATAC).

## Virtuoso in Montreal

**MONTREAL**, Canada is the host of this year's Virtuoso Symposium which will welcome an estimated attendance of 350 travel executives from 30 countries between 17 and 21 May.

Virtuoso CEO Matthew Upchurch will welcome delegates later this week, highlighting the event and its significance to the destination as the host city.

## New Princess Star

**PRINCESS** Cruises has announced that its second Sphere-class vessel will be named *Star Princess*, with the newbuild on track to debut in Aug 2025.

*Star* will join sister ship *Sun Princess* as the two largest vessels ever built for Princess Cruises, with capacity for 4,300 guests.

Both will feature new spaces, larger staterooms, the Princess Medallion & LNG fuel technology.

## QF details QDP capability

**QANTAS** has released a new version of its Qantas Distribution Platform (QDP) Capability Listing Glossary, the document which compares and contrasts functionality via the NDC-based system with traditional GDS.

The new version confirms QDP's ability for travel advisors to shop by Australian Business Number, by QF Corporate Identifier and Qantas Frequent Flyer number.

Unlike EDIFACT, QDP provides marketing & promotional info as well as commission levels, Qantas Frequent Flyer status and points/status credits earn rate in shopping responses, as well as

the ability to buy carbon offsets.

Offers via the QDP that are not available through GDS include discounts for QF frequent flyers, discounts on paid seating, one-way and return flights, savings on QF domestic fares, bonus savings for Qantas Business Rewards members, dynamic commissions and companion fares.

In contrast to traditional GDS, the Qantas NDC platform also allows agents to cancel bookings with an automated refund.

All of the QDP functionality is available subject to incorporation of the features by individual agencies' technology providers.

It's almost exactly five years since Qantas launched the QDP (**TD** 22 May 2018) and now most EDIFACT functionality is supported - booking of interline flights within a Qantas Itinerary is still listed as "coming soon" along with the ability to book up to eight segments in an itinerary.

The updated document is online at [qantasagencyconnect.com](https://qantasagencyconnect.com).

## Canada passports

**THE** Canadian Government has revealed a redesigned passport for the country's citizens, incorporating new artwork and state-of-the-art security features.

A polycarbonate data page will see personal information laser-engraved rather than printed with ink, making the document more durable and resistant to counterfeiting.

Other features include temperature-sensitive ink, a see-through window with a secondary image of the passport holder and a variable laser image.

The new passport coincides with the rollout of new technology later this year, which will allow Canadians to renew their passports online.

## Solomons alert

**THE** Department of Foreign Affairs is now advising Aussies to "exercise a high degree of caution" in Honiara due to political unrest.

The Solomon Islands Govt has also suspended an online travel authorisation process for foreigners until further notice, according to DFAT's Smartraveller.

travelBulletin  
OPINION

Why the travel industry should "cancel" influencers

Click here to read





## Journey Beyond hosts 'Cocktails & Cabanas'

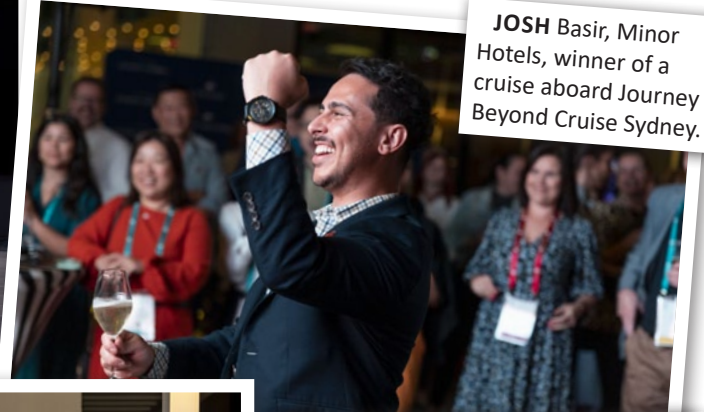
**JOURNEY** Beyond, in partnership with Champagne Bollinger, capped off ATE23 with a 150-person 'Cocktails & Cabanas' event at the QT on the Gold Coast, with international buyers, media and product partners all in attendance for the celebratory occasion.

Similar to the experience train guests enjoy in Platinum service, attendees were treated to a celebratory glass of Champagne Bollinger on arrival, followed by canapes, and Australian-inspired lemon myrtle cocktails.

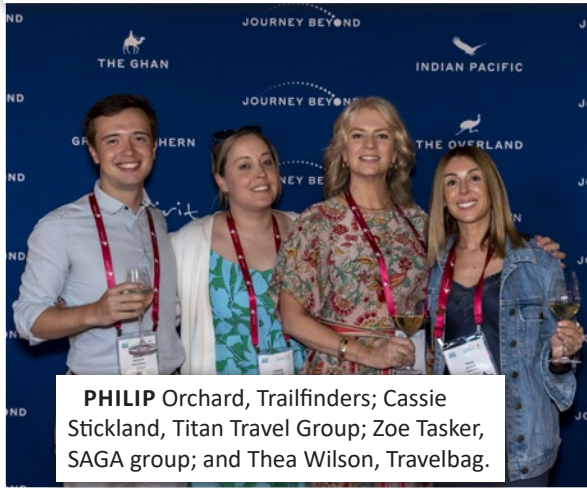
Journey Beyond's Chief Operating Officer and Executive General Managers also shared updates about key experiences, including the release of Outback Spirit's all-inclusive 2024 season and Journey Beyond Rail's carriage refurbishments.



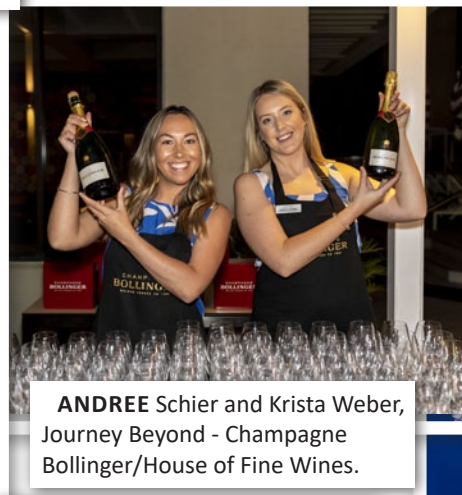
**THE** Journey Beyond team of: Luke Walker, Justine Lally, Alicia Triggs, Fiona Watson, Pam Nielsen, Andree Schier, Renee Cornelissen, Krista Weber and David Donald.



**JOSH** Basir, Minor Hotels, winner of a cruise aboard Journey Beyond Cruise Sydney.



**PHILIP** Orchard, Trailfinders; Cassie Stickland, Titan Travel Group; Zoe Tasker, SAGA group; and Thea Wilson, Travelbag.



**ANDREE** Schier and Krista Weber, Journey Beyond - Champagne Bollinger/House of Fine Wines.



**TOURISM** NT chief Tony Quarmbly with Glen Hingley, Tourism Top End.



**JOE** Barrs, Luxury Escapes; Karsha Stewart, Luxury Escapes; Jodie Collins, Luxury Escapes; Alexis Cunningham, Luxury Escapes; Daniel Savoff, Minor Hotels; Alex Griffiths, Luxury Escapes; Emma Dixon, Luxury Escapes; Ann-Marie Kerry, and Josh Basir, Minor Hotels.



**KRISTIN** Chen, Journey Beyond and Steph Doodson from Klook.



**CLAIRE** Sim, Tourism & Events Queensland, winner of a trip for two on The Ghan.



**CRAIG** Davidson from Journey Beyond.



**SOPHIE** Treasure from Tourism Australia and Danielle Thomas from Tourism NT with Rezdy's Rachel Glendening.



**QT GOLD** Coast.





©Sara Fife, Capital County Tourism

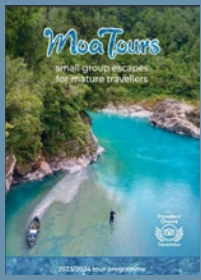
## BROCHURES

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).



### Viking - 2023-2025 Ocean Cruises

Viking has released a 250-page 2023-2025 Ocean Cruises brochure available to order online, complete with inspiring destinations to help your client plan their next journey. In addition to new 2024 and 2025 departure dates on some of the most popular and previously sold-out voyages, the brochure also features six new itineraries, including a new Mediterranean and North Africa journey, and sailing from Nov 2024, the new 16-day Malta Morocco and Mediterranean voyage along Barcelona, Marseille and Rome, as well as new destinations for Viking, including Malta, and more.



### MoaTours - Small Group Escapes 2023/2024

The latest release of MoaTour's e-brochure showcases small group size tours of up to 18 travellers per tour, suited to older travellers wanting to explore NZ. Clients can choose from 27 itineraries with all regions covered from the Northland, Great Barrier Island and East Cape, to Stewart Island and Doubtful Sound. Travellers embarking on select tours can also enjoy special events such as the World of WearableArt Show, Wanala Warbirds and Hawke's Bay Art Deco Festival. All tours are commissionable and between five to seven days in length.

## New Vic master plan

THE Victorian Government has released a new master plan to strengthen the state's tourism industry over the next 10 years.

*Experience Victoria 2033* focuses on five key pillars: First Peoples-led experiences; Wellness; Arts and Culture; Nature; and Food & Drink.

The master plan includes a \$3.5 million investment into the expansion of Helen & Joey Estate in the Yarra Valley, which will see it receive 16 new luxury boutique hotel rooms, a restaurant, an event space, and more.

See the master plan [HERE](#).

## APAC hotel surge

AUSTRALIA and New Zealand had the highest hotel occupancy level in the Asia Pacific region (APAC) for Q1 2023, up from 64.5% in Jan 2023 to 76.5% in Mar 2023.

The new data from Amadeus' Demand360 also revealed that Sydney hotels averaged 85% occupancy from Feb to Mar 2023.

Overall, APAC's hotel occupancy has exceeded pre-pandemic levels by 5% for the first quarter of 2023, compared to Q1 2019, with the recently reopened Greater China leading the recovery.

## SPTO elects new Deputy Chair



**VANUATU** Tourism CEO Adela Issachar-Aru has been elected as the new Deputy Chairperson of The Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO) Board.

The announcement was made by Board Chairman Petero Manufolau at the SPTO Board meeting in Christchurch earlier this week.

"Through this appointment the important perspectives of women in tourism will be more greatly represented at the leadership level of the organisation," Manufolau said.

"As a highly-experienced and well-respected figure in the Pacific tourism industry I have no doubt that Adela will be an invaluable asset in helping to lead SPTO in the coming years."

Issachar-Aru has a strong background in tourism product development and policy research, and played a pivotal role in supporting Vanuatu's post-COVID tourism recovery, having led the development of Vanuatu Tourism's new business plan.

**Pictured:** SPTO Chief Executive Christopher Cook with Issachar-Aru and Manufolau.

## TK eyes 600 planes

**TURKISH** Airlines has revealed plans to order around 600 aircraft, including 200 widebody and 400 narrowbody, with the first part of the deal set to be announced at the IATA AGM in Istanbul in Jun.

The fleet expansion will help the airline achieve its target of carrying 170m pax in 10 years.

## APT Antarctic return

**APT** has announced its return to Antarctica, with the 14-day Antarctic Voyage departing on 03 Feb 2024.

The trip combines three nights in Buenos Aires with a 10-night cruise to Antarctica aboard *Le Boreal*, marking APT's first sailing back to Polar waters since before the pandemic.

Daily Zodiac expeditions will visit penguin rookeries, seal colonies and the chance to look for orca, humpback and minke whales.

Prices start from \$19,995pp twin share, including a private return APT charter flight from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia, with a saving of \$2,800 per couple available - [CLICK HERE](#) for details.

# JUNE 2023 ROADSHOW SERIES

## COMING TO YOUR NEAREST CAPITAL CITY!



You and your clients are invited to join us this June to celebrate PONANT's 35th anniversary in style at our much-anticipated roadshow events. We'll take you and your clients on a journey through time as we reflect on our past achievements, explore the present, and unveil our vision for the future of luxury expeditions.

<p><b>SYDNEY</b> Mon 5 June 11am or 6pm session Four Seasons Sydney</p>	<p><b>MELBOURNE</b> Wed 7 June 11am or 6pm session Metropolis Events</p>	<p><b>ADELAIDE</b> Thurs 8 June 6pm session Eos by SkyCity</p>	<p><b>BRISBANE</b> Tue 13 June 2pm or 6pm session Water's Edge Portside</p>	<p><b>PERTH</b> Thurs 15 June 11am or 6pm session The Ritz-Carlton</p>
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