



Neil Kirby  
Travel Masters

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## TIME scholarship

**ANNA** Shannon, founder of Travel Agent Finder (**TD** 03 Sep) has been awarded the full scholarship to take part in the Travel Industry Mentor Experience (TIME) recently offered by Silversea Cruises (**TD** 30 Sep).

Shannon will commence her TIME journey on 27 Oct alongside a fellow cohort of new mentees.

Silversea sales chief Steve Richards said the opportunity to provide formal mentoring through the scholarship aligned with the cruise line's vision to see "all sectors of the industry prosper again".

## Celebrity on sale

**BOOKINGS** are now open for the 2023/24 Celebrity Cruises season, including the landmark deployment of *Celebrity Edge* in Australasian waters (**TD** 23 Sep).

Captain's Club loyalty members (free to join **HERE**) can reserve cabins from today, along with the general public from Fri.

## Malaysia drops its borders

**MALAYSIA** is the latest country to ease border restrictions due to strong vaccination rates, with the country's Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob this week reintroducing all interstate and overseas travel for citizens.

He made the announcement last weekend in a speech celebrating the achievement of a 90% adult vaccination target.

Malaysians can now travel freely within the country as well as abroad without using the previous MyTravelPass scheme, but a mandatory 14-day quarantine period remains in force for any arrivals.

The borders are not yet open for inbound travellers, with Yaakob saying the health ministry was currently assessing suitable markets based on their COVID-19 infection and vaccination profile.

The announcement followed the successful implementation of a safe travel bubble for Langkawi which has welcomed vaccinated

locals since last month, with just a single COVID-19 infection reported among visitors so far.

The Langkawi travel bubble is likely to be extended to foreign arrivals, with a spokesperson for Malaysia Tourism saying the organisation "anticipates the international borders will be open by the middle of Nov".

## HLO AGM notice

**HELLOWORLD** Travel Limited has advised shareholders its Annual General Meeting will be held virtually at 10am AEDT on Wed 10 Nov.

The notice of meeting was dispatched yesterday, with items on the agenda including the consideration of financial statements and reports, the adoption of the Remuneration Report, appointment of Ernst & Young as auditor and the re-election of Mike Ferraro and Andrew Finch as non-executive directors of the company.

Ferraro is CEO of Alumina Limited, while Finch is General Counsel and Group Executive of Qantas Airways Limited.

The pair are retiring by rotation in accordance with the HLO constitution and ASX listing rules.

## Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today has six pages of news including a photo page from **Ponant** plus a full page from **Singapore Travel Specialist**.

## \$3 million for Tassie travel vouchers

**THE** Federal Government this morning announced a \$3 million holiday voucher scheme to attract pre-Christmas visitors to Tasmania.

The vouchers will be available to SA, WA & Qld residents who book Tassie holidays for Nov and Dec.

Tourism Minister Dan Tehan said the move was a "timely boost for the state's vital tourism sector".

"Pent-up demand combined with this innovative voucher program represents a fantastic opportunity for Tasmanian tourism to welcome back visitors and give local businesses and the economy a much-needed boost".

The program offers \$200 for accom and \$100 for attractions or tours, and is being funded through the \$50 million Recovery for Regional Tourism program.

Tourism Tas CEO John Fitzgerald said the recent outbreaks in Vic and NSW had significantly hit Tasmanian tourism, with those states comprising 70% of visitors.

"This program will provide much-needed support for the Tasmanian industry in a crucial period," he said.

## Noosa tourism push

**TOURISM** Noosa has launched a new cooperative marketing campaign targeting regional Queenslanders, anchored by a TVC appearing in markets appearing in Townsville, Wide Bay and the Sunshine Coast as well as catch-up TV channels - see it at [traveldaily.com.au/videos](http://traveldaily.com.au/videos).

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## Intrepid's carbon clarion call

**INTREPID** Travel has written an open letter to Prime Minister Scott Morrison, calling on him and fellow G20 leaders to commit to pathways consistent with halving global emissions by 2030.

The company joined a larger campaign of over 600 firms, all signing an open letter calling on the G20 to limit temperature increases to 1.5°C, and avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

The firms are responding to the "code red" issued to humanity by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for the imminent risk of irreversible global warming.

Intrepid said it is looking for the world's leaders to commit to key policies that will trigger a transition of energy and financial systems in favour of achieving

global net-zero emissions by 2050.

"Intrepid Travel recognises the urgency of climate action," the company's letter read.

"As the world's largest adventure travel company, we have a front-row seat to the climate disaster that threatens the world's destinations...we've adopted a science-led approach and are the first global tour operator with verified carbon emissions targets by the Science Based Targets initiative for a 1.5°C world," the company said.

Intrepid also said it recognises ending coal is needed to make way for renewable energy.

"We are calling for an immediate end to new coal power development and clear timelines from governments to phase out coal-fired power generation by 2030 for advanced economies and by 2040 for other countries."

## Supplier discussion

**HUNDREDS** of people across the travel industry have already registered for tomorrow's "Great Expectations" webinar hosted by the Travel Community Hub.

**TD** publisher Bruce Piper will join CATO MD Brett Jardine, Crooked Compass' Lisa Pagotto and travel agent coach Roslyn Ransie to discuss what supplier-agent relationships may look like in a post-COVID world.

It's on at 1pm AEDT on Thu 14 Oct AEDT - register **FREE** [HERE](#).



## EK VAT pact

**EMIRATES** has partnered with travel tech firm Utu as part of what is being claimed to be the "biggest upheaval in the history of tax-free shopping".

The strategic partnership sees shopping travellers quickly and easily process VAT/GST refunds from their phone, up-size their refund by 25% and receive it in Emirates Skywards Miles.

Singapore-based Utu was founded in 2016, with the company noting that while tax-free shopping is available in 50 countries, the refund system has remained unchanged for decades.

Complex paper-based systems involving long queues at airports means many shoppers don't bother, with the EK/Utu pact said to shift this so the shopper is the main beneficiary of VAT refunds.

**MEANWHILE** Emirates has also announced the addition of HBO Max premium content to its onboard entertainment system.

The expansion will allow passengers to watch the popular *Friends: The Reunion* for the first time on an airline, along with *Mare of Easttown*, a *Black Lady Sketch Show* and more.

The pact initially launches with 31 shows, with further additions planned in the future.

**ADDITIONALLY** EK is also offering members of its Skywards loyalty scheme the opportunity to redeem miles on-ground at global sporting events including cricket, motor racing and football - [exclusives.skywards.com](#).

## Where the bloody hell is he?

**AUSSIE** Hollywood a-lister Chris Hemsworth is being urged to "give his Thor muscles a break" in a new tongue-in-cheek campaign from the Central NSW town of Cowra.

"Get Chris to Cowra" is online at [GetChrisToCowra.com.au](#) where visitors can sign a petition, post messages for the Marvel star and - in time - hopefully post local sightings of the super hunk.

The video also hints at some major tourism developments, including a blueprint for a 40m-tall "The Big Chris" landmark.

While the real guy hasn't arrived yet, other visitors can snap a selfie with a life-sized Chris Hemsworth cutout at the local Visitor Information Centre - see [traveldaily.com.au/videos](#).



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To  
stopover  
or not  
stopover?



The Inspire Collective are looking to understand the awareness and considerations of different stopover options for Australians, as we look forward to travel through to the UK/Europe again.

Inviting all sectors of the industry to participate in this short survey, with four respondents winning a \$50 gift card for their effort.

To enter  
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the  
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## Window Seat

A **FLORIDA** lawman is offering a holiday of a different kind, after seizing 350kg of illegal marijuana from a storage unit.

Sheriff Wayne Ivey from Brevard County - who describes himself as "America's most politically incorrect police officer" - put a tongue-in-cheek post on Facebook with a picture of the cannabis haul.

He said it was all part of an effort to find the weed's rightful owner, saying "it's the very least we can do, since it has a street value of \$2 million dollars!"

Reuniting the miscreant with the booty would see them win an all expenses paid "staycation" (in the local jail) to allow them to "think about exactly how much your lost property means to you".

## Momi bay open

**MARRIOTT** International has confirmed that its Momi Bay Resort in Fiji is now open, in anticipation of the reopening of the country under new COVID-19 protocols from 01 Dec (**TD** 11 Oct).

Other Marriott properties in Fiji including Sheraton Fiji Golf & Beach Resort, Sheraton Resort & Spa, Tokoriki Island and Sheraton Denarau Villas are all currently taking bookings for stays starting from Apr 2022 (**TD** yesterday).

## Unique partners with Monograms

**UNIQUE** Cruises has announced a new partnership with the Globus Family's Monograms brand, to provide a complete solution of pre- and post- cruise options in Europe.

Monograms includes accom and access to a Local Host who acts as a concierge for passengers during their stay - more info **HERE**.

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## SQ adds SFO, YVR, SEA

**SINGAPORE** Airlines has added San Francisco to its global Vaccinated Travel Lane (VTL) network, with daily non-stop services designated as quarantine free effective from 20 Oct.

The carrier has also announced the launch of seasonal services to Vancouver and Seattle, with the triangular route to operate four times weekly over the ski season from 02 Dec-15 Feb 2022.

Two of the weekly Seattle-Vancouver-Singapore flights will operate as VTL services, giving eligible customers quarantine-free entry into Singapore.

The route will utilise SQ's 253-seat Airbus A350-900.

The addition of SFO, SEA and YVR will expand the SIA Group's VTL network to 17 cities, including Berlin which will see sister carrier Scoot begin operating the quarantine-free services effective from 20 Oct.

The rollout of the VTL initiative begins in earnest next week, with the launch of quarantine-free flights to Singapore from Amsterdam, Barcelona, Copenhagen, London, Los Angeles, Milan, New York, Paris and Rome effective 19 Oct.

Seoul will be added to the network from 16 Nov, with the additions on top of existing VTL flights from Bandar Seri Begawan, Frankfurt and Munich.

Customers travelling on the VTL flights can also enjoy "fuss free transfers" via Singapore Changi Airport to 59 destinations across the SIA Group network, the carrier said.

Tickets for the new Singapore-Seattle-Vancouver flights are now available for booking.

SQ spokesperson JoAnn Tan said the carrier would continue to monitor demand for air travel and "adjust its services accordingly".

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Finance Officer - Accounts Payable  
Senior HR/Administration Executive  
Administration Officer - HR

#### Sydney Airport

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E-Commerce Executive  
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**For more information and to apply, visit [singaporeair.com/aucareers](https://singaporeair.com/aucareers)  
Applications close 20 October 2021.**

## Expedia TAAP rewards ATAC



**THE** fledgling partnership between the Australian Travel Agents Cooperative (ATAC) and Expedia TAAP (**TD** 06 Apr) was celebrated with an incentive, which aimed to engage consultants during the current lean times and explore the experiences and activities available to book through the

TAAP platform.

One of the winners was Mr Chocolate's Travel in Hurstbridge, Vic, which received a \$200 voucher for booking the most activities over the incentive period.

**Pictured** celebrating their win from left are Mr Chocolate's Olivia Tymms, Rebecca Mason and Celeste Appleton.

As lockdowns continue around the country, NCL is mobilising the industry with their Walk for Wellness initiative. Read more in the October issue of

**travelBulletin**



## Tourism WA MD

**CAROLYN** Turnbull has been announced as the new Managing Director of Tourism WA, moving up from her current role as the organisation's Executive Director - Industry, Aviation and Markets.

Turnbull will take over from Derryn Belford, who has been acting in the role since late 2020 following the departure of former MD Brodie Carr who resigned a year ago to relocate to France for family reasons (**TD** 08 Sep 2020).

WA Tourism Minister David Templeman said Turnbull had been appointed for a five year term which commences next Mon.

"More than 50 applications were received for the role and a rigorous recruitment and selection process was undertaken," he said.

**MEANWHILE** Tourism WA is also supporting a new global Australian fashion campaign, with a Showroom X shoot under way in Broome and Kununurra.

## Aug traffic report

**THE** Australian Bureau of Statistics has released its Overseas Arrivals and Departures figures for Aug, revealing ongoing downturns due to the inbound passenger caps in place.

Total arrivals numbered 26,980, down 47,800 on the prior month, while departures of 37,180 was a decline of almost 50,000 on Jul.

The numbers included 5,540 returning residents who had been abroad for more than 12 months, as well as 10,310 Aussies who had left the country short term.

Overseas visitor arrivals numbered 8,330 for the month, while Aug also saw 16,660 short term Australian resident departures.

The three leading source countries for arrivals were NZ (1,050 trips), Vanuatu (770) and the UK (540), while the top destinations for Aussie returns were New Zealand (4,270), Japan (1,190) and the USA (600).

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## It's selfie time on board *Le Commandant Charcot*!

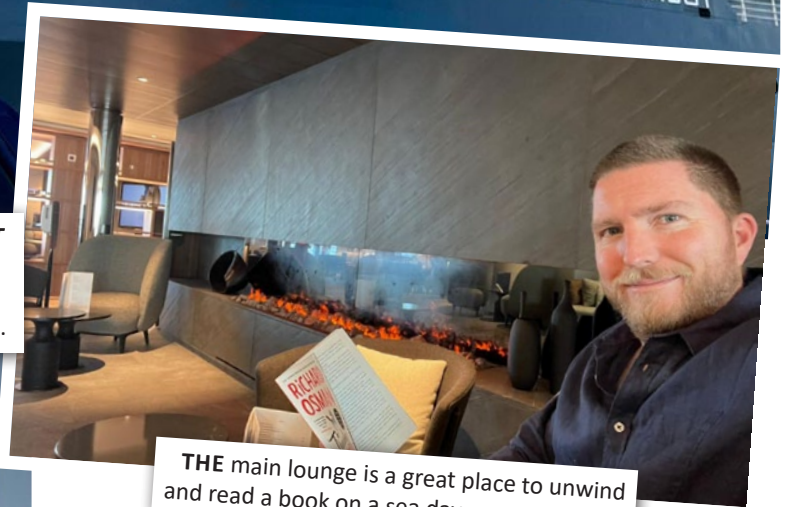
**PONANT'S** National Business Development Manager, Craig Farrell, recently stepped on board *Le Commandant Charcot*, PONANT's newly launched hybrid-electric LNG powered luxury exploration vessel, making everybody in the travel industry rather jealous.

Craig joined the ship in La Rochelle, France for a short sailing - exploring, inspecting and learning everything there is to know about this state-of-the-art PC2 vessel, as she gets ready for her inaugural Antarctic season at the end of the month.

As the industry eagerly awaits the time when we can step onboard again, PONANT is sharing some of Craig's best selfies taken onboard!



**LE COMMANDANT CHARCOT** is three times the size of her sister ships but accommodates the same number of guests, 245.



**THE** main lounge is a great place to unwind and read a book on a sea day.



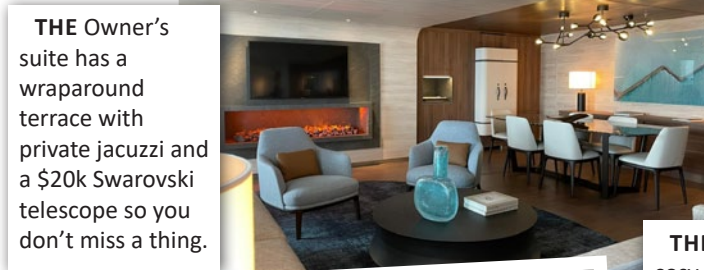
**BREAKFAST** at sea, with an ever-changing view and anticipation building as the ship approaches its next port.



**YOU** never know what you'll find in the hangar - everything from kayaks to hovercraft and even this SHERP which scientists on board will use to research Antarctica & the Arctic.



**HI-TECH** art for a hi-tech ship.



**THE** Owner's suite has a wraparound terrace with private jacuzzi and a \$20k Swarovski telescope so you don't miss a thing.



**THE** public areas on board are beautiful and cosy, but great care has been taken to always expose the beauty outside the ship.



**FEELING** very relaxed here after a meditation class with fitness coach Aurelia.



**THE** open-bridge policy seen across the PONANT fleet continues on *Le Commandant Charcot*.



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## IATA battery ticks

**THE** International Air Transport Association (IATA) has announced a new "Center of Excellence for Independent Validators (CEIV) Lithium Battery" certification program, with the aim of improving the safe handling and transport of lithium batteries right across the supply chain.

Lithium batteries are critical power sources for many consumer goods, IATA said, with the new program giving shippers and airlines assurances that certified logistic companies operate to the highest safety and security standards.

After an extensive pilot period, CEVA Logistics is the first operator to formally receive the CEIV Lithium Battery certification, covering its operations at Hong Kong and Amsterdam airports.

## Canada vax advice

**AUTHORITIES** in Canada have announced that travellers aged 12 or older must be fully vaccinated in order to depart from Canadian airports or travel on Rocky Mountaineer or VIA Rail trains.

A Smartraveller update from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade also notes the vaccination mandate will apply to travellers on cruise ships in Canada when the season commences in 2022.

## Hospitality job ads

**THE** latest monthly figures from recruitment website Seek have shown a strong rebound in demand for job advertising in hospitality and tourism - particularly in NSW where there has been a 130% monthly uplift.

However by contrast Vic showed a 16.3% drop in hospitality jobs.

## VA ADL-MCY flights

**VIRGIN** Australia will resume non-stop services between Adelaide and the Sunshine Coast.

The operation, supported by the Qld Government, will now become year-round after restarting four times a week from 14 Dec, Virgin Australia said.

A 176-seat Boeing 737 will fly the route, delivering more than 73,000 seats annually, with expectations it will be popular with "high-value travellers" who stay longer and spend more.

## Regent webinars

**REGENT** Seven Seas Cruises has announced four new luxury webinars open to consumers and travel partners in Australia and NZ.

Running from this month through to Dec, the series will highlight Regent's latest cruise offerings as well as pre- and post-voyage extensions.

Participants will include Lisa Pile, Regent VP ANZ along with Director of Sales Gillian Seller and BDM Elsa McLean - register for the first one on 14 Oct [HERE](#).

## ACCOMMODATION

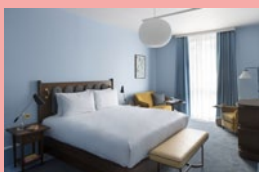
**WELCOME** to Accommodation Updates, *Travel Daily's* Wed feature. If your property has undergone some recent changes you would like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description with an image to [accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au).



Delivering both "international design" and a "neighbourhood culture", **W Nashville** creates a social hub aiming to help locals feel at home, and guests feel like locals. Nestled in the vibrant and diverse Gulch neighborhood, the 14-storey mirrored tower offers voyeuristic views of the hotel's social spaces, creating a destination within a destination where guests will be immersed in a locally charged cultural scene.



St. Regis Hotels & Resorts has unveiled **The St. Regis Downtown, Dubai**. The hotel will feature the celebrated traditions, cherished rituals, and bespoke service born at New York City's finest address of 55th & Fifth, and will seamlessly blend the brand's storied history and heritage with the vibrancy of the destination. Located along the Dubai Canal, The St. Regis Downtown is just minutes from the city's most famed attractions and landmarks.



**Hyatt Centric Cambridge**, the brand's debut in the United Kingdom, offers 150 guestrooms, share-worthy rooftop views, four modern drinking & dining outlets, and easy access to the heart of the city. The opening marks the 10th Hyatt hotel in the United Kingdom, showcasing the company's strength and continued growth in the region. Hyatt Centric Cambridge is located within the new sustainable neighbourhood of Eddington.

## Show us your best New Years Eve Photo!

**Rediscover Australia and Unique Cruises** are partnering with *Travel Daily* this month to offer readers the chance to win a ticket on the **NYE Hits on the Harbour Cruise**, as well as offering \$100 and \$50 gift vouchers for 2nd and 3rd prize by providing your best picture of your past New Years Eve celebrations.

This ticket gives you access to:

- 6 Hours Sydney Harbour Cruise on Journey Beyond Cruise Sydney's *Spirit of Migloo*
- Continuous premium food
- Unlimited beverages including premium sparkling wines and beers - For more information on what is offered [CLICK HERE](#).

To enter send a picture of your best New Years Eve along with, in 25 words or less, what made it so memorable.

Entries to [competitions@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:competitions@traveldaily.com.au)



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