

# Arian Shirakhoon

## LEADER. DESIGNER. FACILITATOR

### Contact



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Phoenix, Arizona



/arianshira

### EDUCATION

*MBA, Global Management*  
Thunderbird School of Global  
Management  
Arizona State University

*Bachelor of Science*  
Health Promotion  
Northern Arizona University

*Semester at Sea*  
International Studies  
University of Virginia

### TEACHING

### KNOWLEDGE

Cruise Operations, Sales,  
Disney Leadership,  
International Travel &  
Tourism Management,  
Entertainment & Event  
Management, Guest Service  
Expectations, Meeting &  
Conference Planning,  
Business Communication

### PROFILE

Innovative and entrepreneurial hospitality facilitator with 17+ years of international cruise, tour, and event management experience. Business developer with a cross-cultural / diversity and inclusion lens. Builds strong, collaborative relationships with internal and external stakeholders and makes data-driven decisions. Dedicated to experiential learning through study-abroad, digital detox retreats, and seminars at sea. A former Disney Cruise Line performer with a Thunderbird MBA who consistently delivers a 5+ star guest and student experience. Eager to introduce Disney Leadership and Cruise Operations courses to an esteemed program.

### TEACHING & HIGHER EDUCATION

**ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY** | Tempe, AZ | March 2023-Present  
**Enrollment Coach, Rated #1 Entrepreneurship & Innovation**

- Coach students through 300+ undergraduate online programs

**NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY** | Cabo San Lucas, MX | Spring 2023  
**Cruise Lecturer, Carnival Cruise Lines**

- Co-taught 1-credit Cruise Operations class with Dr. Fred De Micco

**Instructor, First-Year Experience** | Flagstaff, AZ | 2003-2004

- Taught 2 undergraduate classes on Career and Professional Development

**THUNDERBIRD SCHOOL OF GLOBAL MANAGEMENT** (now under umbrella of ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY) | Phoenix, AZ | 2015-2017  
**Event & Business Facilitator**

- Introduced 2 adventure & business retreats with Professor Aram Chavez

**SEMESTER AT SEA** | International | Winter 2009, 2018 - Present  
**Cruise Lecturer, Event & Field Leader, Alumni Ambassador**

- Facilitated onboard enrichment for Amazon and MTV Road Rules voyages

**CAMP UNPLUGG'D** | Prescott, AZ | 2015- 2017  
**Founder, Event Facilitator**

- Launched Arizona's first digital-detox camp for adults, a 3-day experience

**DISNEY ENGLISH** | Shanghai, China | Summer 2013  
**Foreign Language Instructor**

- Measured progress, educational results through delivery of Disney content

## Certifications

*International Tour Management (ITMI)*

*Maritime Professional Training (STCW)*

*Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL)*

## Computer Skills

Peoplesoft, Fidelio, Jam Board, Canvas, MS Office, Google Docs, Salesforce, Blackboard, Zoom

## Associations

ICHRIE (Summer 2023)

Semester at Sea

Arizona Guide Association

Thunderbird Alumni

Society Incentive Travel (SITE)

## Recognition

Outstanding Leadership, Semester at Sea

Crew Member Most Dedicated to Excellent Nomination, Disney Cruise Line

## INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

### (Cruise, Conference, Event Management)

#### **SUPERBOWL LVII | Glendale, AZ | Spring 2023**

##### ***Entertainment Field Crew***

- Operated set-up and break-down for half-time show with Rihanna Fenty

#### **CAPTAIN SANDY YAWN, BELOW DECK | Phoenix, AZ | 2022- Present**

##### ***Event Facilitator***

- Delegated event strategy for security, lines, and book-signing experience

#### **HORIZON PHARMACEUTICALS | Chicago, IL | Fall 2022**

##### ***Meeting & Conference Planner***

- Directed a 3-day, 50-person workshop: Patients with Autoimmune diseases

#### **GENERAL ELECTRIC HEALTHCARE | Denver, CO | 2018-2020**

##### ***Neurology Sales Specialist***

- Achieved 111% quota, won 6 new imaging centers and 6 SaaS contracts

#### **THE WORLD | Fort Lauderdale, FL | Fall 2017- Spring 2018**

##### ***Concierge Sales – 4-month contract onboard***

- Oversaw administrative support and marketing to promote land excursions

#### **MULTIPLE TOUR OPERATORS | United Kingdom, Europe, USA | 2011-2016**

##### ***Tour Director, Motorcoach & River Cruises***

- Executed 2-3 week domestic and international tours for 500-300 guests

#### **SEA WORLD ORLANDO | Orlando, FL | Spring-Summer 2012**

##### ***Theme Park Animal Educator***

- Conducted 8-10 presentations each day for park guests and school groups

#### **WALT DISNEY COMPANY | Orlando, FL / Cruise / China | 2008 – 2013**

##### ***Character Performer, Emcee, Tour Manager, Foreign English Trainer***

- Performed in high-energy family shows for 2,500 guests each week

#### **HOLLAND AMERICA LINE | Alaska / Caribbean / Bahamas | 2006-2008**

##### ***Assistant Cruise Director***

- Hosted 10-15 events and onboard activities for 2,000 guests each week

## STUDY ABROAD / EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL / TOUR MANAGEMENT

**Cuba, Panama, Colombia, Costa Rica, Barbados** *The World-Residence at Sea (High Net Worth)*

**England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, France** *Collette Vacations (\*55+ over)*

**Hungary, Slovakia, Austria, Germany, Netherlands** *Tauck River Cruises (\*55+ over)*

**Israel** *Birthright Israel (\*College Student & Educational Travel, Ages: 18-26)*

**Asia, Africa, Latin America, Caribbean** *Semester at Sea (\*College Student & Educational Travel)*

**Alaska, Caribbean, Bahamas, Mexico** *Holland America Line, Disney Cruise Line (\*55+, Family Travel)*

**Arizona, California, Utah, Nevada** *BBYO- Passport to the World (\*High School Student Travel)*

**New York City** *Green Light Group Tours (\*High School Student Travel)*

**Orlando, Florida** *Kaleidoscope Adventures, Summit Tour and Travel (\*High School Student Travel)*

# WRITING, VIDEO, & MEDIA EXPOSURE:

## CAMP UNPLUGG'D: A DIGITAL DETOX CAMP FOR ADULTS

**Channel 3 AZ Family Interview:**

<https://tinyurl.com/3v83depm>

**Channel 12 Interview:**

<https://tinyurl.com/2cbmf8fx>

**Camp Promo:**

<https://tinyurl.com/2zpey3c>

**Phoenix Magazine: Unplugg'd and Tuned In:**

<https://tinyurl.com/3jz6fjin>

## SUPERBOWL LVII: GLENDALE, ARIZONA

<https://tinyurl.com/ytfwmdjn>

**Field Team / Stage Crew, Half-time show with Rihanna Fenty**

## NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY: SEMINAR AT SEA

**1-credit cruise operations class: Spring Break 5-day cruise to Cabo San Lucas with Dr. Fred DeMicco**

<https://tinyurl.com/5333nmvc>

## THUNDERBIRD SCHOOL OF GLOBAL MANAGEMENT

**Adventure & Business Retreats with MBA International Students: Prescott, Arizona Fall 2015**

<https://tinyurl.com/4y7bw8mh>

**Regional Business Environment (RBE) with MBA Cohort: Dubai, UAE Fall 2015**

\*Organized by Thunderbird (As a student, I captured and edited video content for our class)

<https://tinyurl.com/3vvx9y64>

## CAPTAIN SANDY YAWN – BELOW DECK, BRAVO TV SHOW

**Book Signing Fan Experience, Arizona Ultimate Women's Expo: Phoenix, Arizona Spring 2023**

LinkedIn Article: "Step, Rinse, Repeat: 5 Lessons from a Disney Line Guru, 2023"

<https://tinyurl.com/3p847rkh>

## DISNEY CRUISE LINE

**Emcee Reel as an Entertainment Host onboard Disney Magic & Wonder: Orlando, FL 2008-2010**

<https://tinyurl.com/24ah738h>