

## NEWS TRAVELS

We speak to Reed & Mackay Consultant, Kelly Bracci and frequent traveller, Emma Murphy, ITV News Correspondent, on why her R&M travel team feel more like colleagues and on travelling against the tide into the danger zone.

### EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

They say that news never sleeps, and that is certainly the experience of the Reed & Mackay team who look after ITN.

Before we checked in with Emma, Kelly Bracci, one of our Senior Business Travel Consultants that works closely with the ITV News team, let us in on the intricacies of booking for the news industry.

**Kelly, what makes booking for news teams so different?**

“It means that every day is different. Instead of staying away from high risk areas, news correspondents are often travelling against the tide. From back in the summer when we were moving people all over Europe to avoid them having to come back to the UK, through to more recent events such as the US Election and now the Inauguration which have both entailed lots of last minute amendments due to the ever changing situation.

News also comes with unexpected baggage situations, such as arranging excess baggage of 255kg for a trip or excess baggage for someone taking bullet proof vests out to Washington.”

Emma in Beirut after the ammonium nitrate explosion on 04 August 2020.

As part of this trip the team had to investigate hotels in Beirut that had a large balcony with a view for the news crew to report live from.



### BOOKER INTERVIEW:

Emma Murphy, ITV News Correspondent at ITN.

**Q: How has R&M supported you during the pandemic?**

A: R&M have been crucial to our ability to broadcast during the pandemic. Travelling around the world, especially at very short notice, became much more difficult with changes to flight schedules and border restrictions. The team were always one step ahead finding flights, flagging potential issues, solving them and making it possible for us to deliver the news.

**Q: What do you appreciate most about the relationship you have with R&M?**

A: I appreciate the individuals who help us every single day. In a very short space of time our dedicated R&M travel team have become like colleagues who are just as invested in making the job succeed as those in our own company. We are really very grateful to them.

**Q: What have been the main differences, if any, to your travel requirements during COVID-19?**

A: We've had to be more inventive in finding routes, more aware of border restrictions and more aware of the different demands each country places upon visitors during the pandemic.

Huge thanks to Emma Murphy and Kelly Bracci for sharing their travel insights with us this month.