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Tiger bright for Virgin REVENUE load factors for

Tigerair Australia in Jul climbed 11.3% on the previous month. due to an improvement in market conditions, according to official Virgin Australia stats out late Fri.

Virgin's low-cost offshoot saw a 3.2% jump in passenger numbers compared to Jul 2013, however an increase in capacity saw a slight decline in loads to 91.3%.

Mainline stats between domestic and int'l contrasted, with pax numbers down 2.9% and up 2.7% respectively year-on-year.

VA carried a total of 245,628 pax on overseas flights in Jul, driven by an increase in flights to Bali.

Load factors on int'l flights leapt 3.3% to a strong 83% average.

MEANWHILE, Virgin Australia is offering double Velocity points for all bookings made for a select travel period between today and 13 Sep on a VA operated service.

The offer is valid on all classes for travel from 15 Sep - 26 Mar, with pre-registration required.

THE Independent Expert's report into the proposed Wotif takeover by Expedia by consulting firm Grant Samuel has concluded the \$3.30 per share offer is "fair and reasonable," given the

the Wotif business. Wotif released the "scheme booklet" covering the deal on Fri, with directors unanimously recommending that shareholders vote in favour of the takeover.

considerable uncertainty facing

Grant Samuel said the online travel segment is in a state of flux, with Priceline and Expedia "aggressively building market share at Wotif Group's expense.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has seven pages of news & photos, including a front cover page for Virgin Australia plus a full page of jobs from: (click) • AA Appointments

"The competitive pressures are unlikely to abate in the foreseeable future," it stated.

Wotif faces a need to materially increase its expenditure on both marketing and IT to remain competitive, and the online travel segment is subject to "continued disruption from new participants".

Grant Samuel modelling predicts Wotif will be forced to lift marketing expenses to more than 50% of its cost base by 2024, along with decreases in margins which will reduce the company's overall valuation in the long term.

A meeting to vote on the proposal is scheduled to be held in Brisbane on Thu 09 Oct, and if approved Wotif shares would be transferred to Expedia on 27 Oct.

The takeover may face a hiccup in the form of the ACCC, which says it is concerned that lessening competition could see commission rates charged to hotels increase (TD Fri).

Two Aussies killed in Kenya coach accident

TWO Australians have died in Kenya when the touring coach they were travelling in to the Maasai Mara crashed into a river.

The accident occurred on a steep decent when their vehicle burst a tyre, careered through guard rails and plummeted into a river in Narok County, between Nairobi and Kisi, it is reported.

A number of other Aussies and tourists from the UK, Germany, Kenya, Switzerland and the US were also injured in the incident.

Fairfax confirmed the tour was being operated by Interpid Travel and had begun on 06 Sep.

Intrepid Travel managing director James Thornton said "senior managers from our operations teams in Kenya are assisting passengers and staff involved."

Company co-founder Geoff Manchester would be travelling to Nairobi to assist pax and staff involved in the accident.





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Monday 8th September 2014

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Emirates to buy Stella UK

EMIRATES offshoot Dnata has announced the acquisition of Stella Travel Services UK formerly part of the firm now known as Helloworld Limited when it had global aspirations. Stella Travel Services UK is majority owned by a company called Europe Voyager NV, which is also a substantial shareholder in helloworld.

When Keith Stanley was running the Stella Group the British operation also included 83 Harvey World Travel shops.

The deal will see Dnata take over a number of travel brands including wholesaler Travel2, long-haul specialist Travelbag and the Global Travel Group franchise which currently includes about

DXB-BRU inaugurated

EMIRATES has commenced new daily nonstop services from Dubai to Brussels - the airline's 145th route.

EK183 from DXB and E184 from BRU are operated using Boeing 777-200LR aircraft.

Next month, EK will launch new daily services to Budapest.

Sail along the

magnificent Norwegian coast

and experience the

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500 independent UK agencies. Helloworld director Andrew Cummins is chairman of CVC Australia, which has a majority interest in Europe Voyager.

Stella UK chief Andrew Botterill said "Dnata is a growing, diverse group, able to support our longterm ambitions".

The UAE was Stella's most popular destination last year.

The deal is subject to approval by UK authorities, and until then Stella UK and Dnata will continue to operate independently.

Dnata also owns UK online agent Travel Republic and a 20% stake in corporate specialist HRG.

Amankora price cut

BHUTAN & Beyond is offering discounts of 40% for stays at any of Amankora's luxury lodges in the country, the first time ever prices have been slashed at the retreats.

The promotion is valid for travel from 01-19 Dec and 06 Jan-28 Feb.

Amankora has 5 bespoke lodges in Bhutan, some of which feature in the 7-night Amankora Luxury Journey which is now \$4,621ppts land only - call (07) 5525 2845.

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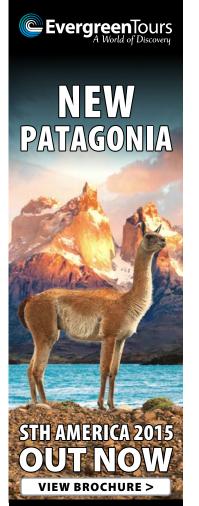


New design for AAT guide

AAT Kings has brought forward the release of its 2015 Australia brochure by six weeks to put its product in the face of consumers as they begin planning for their Christmas holidays.

Speaking with **TD** from Cairns today, managing director Anthony Hayes said the firm had worked very closely with travel agents to design the new look guide.

The brochure is now destination based (state or territory) rather



BROCHURE @ TIFS

than product-based, ensuring all products are easily located in the one section when agents present the guide to clients.

In last year's AAT Kings program the Inspired Journeys product was buried near the back, Hayes said, suggesting the small group luxury product was getting lost.

The new program features nine new guided holidays, four new Inspiring Journeys itineraries and one new short-break.

For more of the latest travel industry brochures, see **page six**.

Leg-spin by italktravel

RETAIL group italktravel has signed a sponsorship agreement with The Shane Warne Foundation (TSWF) tipped to deliver up to \$500,000 in value over five years.

The Independent Travel Group franchise arm will offer air travel and accom assistance for various projects under its partnership with the Foundation.

Italktravel also plans to set up a white label travel website for supporters to book through as TSWF preferred travel partner.

Nanuku free flight

GUESTS booking a seven night package at the upmarket Nanuku Resort & Spa in Fiji can score a free one-way flight to the resort from Nadi, for stays until 31 Mar.

The package is available when staying in a Vunikau Suite with private plunge pool, priced from \$7,013 for two people.

The 20min flight is aboard a sixseater Pacific Island Air service. Blackout dates apply - for more see http://nanukufiji.com.

JAL upgauges Sydney

QANTAS' oneworld partner Japan Airlines will lift capacity on the Tokyo Haneda-Sydney route between 01 Dec and 28 Mar.

Throughout the period, JAL will upgrade its aircraft on the route from Boeing 777-200ER to the higher density 777-300ER.

JAL has also announced plans to fast-track the expansion of its international network outside of Tokyo, with new daily flights between Nagoya Chubu and Bangkok scheduled to launch on 20 Dec & between Osaka Kansai and Los Angeles starting 20 Mar.

MEANWHILE, the airline is also revamping its Boeing 787-8 *Dreamliner* fleet with the JAL Sky Suite, initially on the Tokyo Narita-Frankfurt and Narita-New York route from Dec and Jan.

JAL Sky Suite will also feature on the 777-300ERs flying to Sydney.

Indo AirAsia Extra tick

AIRASIA'S plan to introduce new long-haul services for its new Indonesian subsidiary have taken a step forward after receiving regulatory approval for its Air Operator's Certificate.

Indonesia AirAsia Extra (IAAX) is an affiliate of AirAsia X and has previously flagged new routes into Australia using Airbus A330-300 aircraft featuring 12 Business and 365 Economy class seats.

IAAX's main hub is expected to be Bali's Denpasar Int'l Airport.

"With this air operators certificate, Indonesia AirAsia Extra will now commence application for operating permits and slots to its intended international routes," AirAsia X commented on Fri.

A commencement date of operations is yet to be finalised.

Window Seat

TOURISM Australia has become the latest industry organisation to participate in the 'ice-bucket challenge' for ALS research, having been challenged by the Canadian Tourism Commission. VisitBritain subsequently

carried out theirs in front of the Houses of Parliament.

Not to be outdone, managing director of TA John O'Sullivan lined up with some of his colleagues at Kirribilli, with the Sydney Opera House in the background, for his dousing.

The video can be seen on TA's Twitter feed, or **CLICK HERE**.

EY AUH arrival lounge

ETIHAD Airways has opened the first arrivals lounge anywhere in its network at its Abu Dhabi hub, open for the use of its First and Business class guests.

Located immediately following Customs, the facility offers barber shave service, a 10-minute FOC clothes steaming process while guests shower among more.

The lounge also offers comfy seats, food and beverage service, local and int'l newspapers and magazines and business facilities.

Vale Peter Coghlan

TD HAS been informed of the recent passing of Peter Coghlan, owner and managing director of Orbit Travel, with a funeral service taking place today.

A long-time stalwart of the travel industry, Coghlan also served in the Australian Navy during the Second World War.

SPECIALIST





Monday 8th September 2014

Pre-check coming to Canada

ENTRY to Canada for Australian travellers will require pre-arrival clearance from early next year.

A new initiative to be rolled out by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) will require Aussies to obtain an online authorisation before flying to Canada.

Dubbed 'eTA' (electronic Travel Authorisation), the initiative is compulsory for travellers who do not require a visa to enter the country, and will cost CAD\$7 per individual.

eTA is being implemented to "enhance the safety and security of Canadians and strengthen the integrity of the immigration program", and will replicate the US Electronic System of Travel Authorisation (ESTA).

This means there will be "a common approach to screening travellers outside the North American border," the Government of Canada advises. Successful applicants will also

World's 5-star airline.

benefit from a faster service upon arrival at the border.

Basic info will be collected when applying for the eTA via the CIC website, such as biographic data, passport and background info.

The Canadian Government says passengers planning to visit the nation should apply for an eTA before purchasing a ticket to enter the country, as applicants may be found to be inadmissable and refused entry due to fraud or a criminal history.

Most applications will be processed within minutes and each authorisation will be valid for five years.

Airlines will also be required to provide passenger information to Canadian immigration authorities before flight departure.

The program is slated to be rolled out from Apr, supported by a consumer campaign to heighten awareness of the new scheme from Jan.



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AOT stars of Accor's silver screen



ACCOR hosted its version of the Oscars recently, where it named the winners of a recent incentive hosted among reservations teams from Australian wholesalers.

Serving as major sponsors of the event were Virgin Australia and Pullman Hotels and Resorts.

Over the last nine months, teams visited different parts of Australia, tasked with promoting the region and the selling points of the hotel in which they stayed via a creative travel video piece.

Each submission was edited and screened at the final gala event, with winners of a number of categories named on the night.

Pictured from left are the overall winners from AOT Travel, comprised of Richard Greaves, Lisa Harrison, Debbie Stewart, Brooke Worrall, Matt Sumner, Emma Stephens & Fiona Murphy.

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Walking, cruising Wineglass Bay

JOINT owners of the Tasmanian Walking Company, Brett Godfrey (pictured, right) and Rob Sherrard hosted a function in Sydney last week to promote the new Wineglass Bay Safari Walk.

Packaged as either a four or six day itinerary, the product combines

walks through some of Tasmania's gems, including Maria Island and both the Freycinet and Tasman Peninsulas, accessed by the Lady Eugenie luxury yacht, which also serves as the accommodation for up to 10 guests (TD 06 Aug).

Godfrey said the new experience was a "game changer for travellers interested in putting their boots on and getting out and exploring Australia on foot."

"Our research indicates that there is a strong appeal for such a unique experience which delivers access to some of Tasmania's most spectacular and pristine islands and peninsulas coupled with the opportunity to stay on board a luxury yacht each night sampling the local pinot while the sun sets off the coastline," the



former Virgin Blue ceo said. The product is priced at \$2,990 per person for the four-day walk or \$3,990 for the six-day, with departures between Oct & May.

Tourism Australia md John O'Sullivan and Tourism Tasmania ceo John Fitzgerald lauded The Tasmania Walking Company for the product's development, saying it will add distinctive new tourism experiences for Australia. For more information, go to wineglassbaysailwalk.com.au.

First Curio additions

SLS Las Vegas on The Strip and The Highland Dallas have become the first two members of Hilton Worldwide's new Curio - A Collection by Hilton brand.

Curio has signed letters of intent for five other projects in the US.



Monday 8th Sep 2014

OTAs lead repeat sale

THREE travel agency groups feature with seven online travel websites in the Top Ten sellers to be considered for repeat business, according to new data from Roy Morgan Research.

A survey of over 5,700 people in the 12 months prior to Jun 2014 found 35% had booked a trip via a travel agent or tour operator.

Of these, Flight Centre led the way for repeat business, with 76% of respondents admitting they would use the company again.

STA Travel and Escape Travel also featured in the Top Ten in sixth and eighth place, with 73% and 67% of the vote respectively.

Online travel firms made up the remaining places, led by Agoda and Expedia (both 75%), Wotif and Booking.com (both 74%), while Webjet and Zuji (both 66%) also appeared in the list.

Roy Morgan Research group account director of consumer products Angela Smith said the strong inclination for repeat business for the two Flight Centre brands indicated customers were "signalling their satisfaction".

SAA Amadeus p'ship

SOUTH African Airways has inked a new deal with Amadeus which will see the airline and its franchisees migrate to Amadeus Passenger Revenue Accounting.

The platform is fully integrated with Altea Suite and provides real-time sales and usage data for all types of revenue, and more.

Win tickets to the new Aztecs exhibition

Everyday this week *Travel Daily* is giving away a double pass to the new Aztecs exhibition opening 13th Sept at the Australian Museum.

The exhibition features more than 200 priceless artefacts and

multimedia touchscreens that tell the story of the spectacular and ultimately tragic rise and fall of the Aztec empire. Explore Aztec daily life with gods, demons, warriors, slaves, nobles, and human sacrifice. Discover more HERE.

To win, be the first to answer the question correctly each day. Send your answers to: aztecs@traveldaily.com.au

In which country did the ancient Aztec civilisation live? AZTECS



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Tjapukai ceo resigns

TJAPUKAI Aboriginal Cultural Park ceo Geoff Olsen will resign from the position on 30 Apr after confirming his departure from the Cairns tourist attraction.

Olsen has held the chief exec title at Tjapukai since Aug 2012 and has overseen its \$12 million redevelopment which is due to be completed in Feb.

O'Riordan for Skal

AFTA accreditation general manager Gary O'Riordan will be the guest speaker at this week's **SKAL International Networking** Lunch at Rydges World Square hosted by the Sydney Skal Club on Wed 10 Sep.

In his address, O'Riordan will provide an update on ATAS two months into the new scheme, the government's advertising pitch, plans for future project funding from TCF reserves and more.

Mixed Expedia search

ONLINE travel giant Expedia has launched what it claims to be an "industry first" in a combined hotel and flight search as part of a new app for tablet devices.

Now available for download on the Apple iTunes store & Google Play, the tablet app asks users to enter a destination, for which a dual flight and hotel search starts.

Development of the app came after Expedia conducted a series of ethnographic studies, finding that shopping for flights & hotels separately was time consuming.

The study also noted that users didn't want to use traditional filters to sort through results.

Jul pax growth match

AIR passenger growth for Jul exactly matched that of the year before, according to data released late last week by IATA.

Demand grew by 5.3%, the same level of growth as the year before, while capacity increased at the same rate, resulting in an unchanged load factor of 82.3%.

Loads in the Asia-Pacific region fell 0.9% due to capacity growing faster than pax requirements.



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Applicants must have the right to live and work in Australia. Please apply through Qatar Airways career website via

http://careers.gatarairways.com/gatarairways/VacancyDetail.aspx?VacancyID=78019 for both fixed term and permanent positions.

Applications close on 14 Sep 2014.

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Brochures of the Week

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.



Princess Cruises - Australia & Asia 2014-2016

In what will be the biggest year in Australia from Princess Cruises, a record five ships - nearly a third of the line's global fleet - will be based in local waters. The guide features onboard deck plans, calendars, suggested shore excursions, onboard features and more. Golden Princess will make its debut here and will be the largest ship to ever homeport in Melbourne. Further, Princess' inaugural season operating from

Fremantle will take place, with a strong presence in Sydney and Brisbane.



Albatross Tours - Europe and Britain 2015

Passengers can immerse themselves in a country and explore at their own pace through longer stays of 3-4 nights in some towns, fully detailed in the new guide to the 2015 European summer. Group sizes have been reduced to 28 travellers for a more personable experience. New tours include An Alpine Adventure which takes pax to the French and Swiss Alps and Italy. Tours allow pax to take their time to see the sights,

with a huge variety on offer in many countries and islands across Europe.



-x- Celebrity Cruises - Australia, NZ & Sth Pac Cruises Australia is the market chosen to enjoy the final season of sailings by Celebrity Century, which was sold last week and will leave the fleet. Celebrity Solstice, still the youngest ship serving Australia at only six years old, will return once again, with further cruises to be offered by Celebrity Millennium. The brochure contains details of itineraries on offer around Australia, to New Zealand and to South Pacific islands, covers the range

of onboard cuisine, accom features, cruise planning pages and more.



Carnival Cruise Lines - Australia sailings 2014-16 Later this month, Carnival doubles its Australian fleet with Carnival Legend joining to help satisfy insatiable demand for cruising from the local market alongside Carnival Spirit, now based in Australia for two years. The new brochure covers sailings through until early 2016 on both ships, as well as deck plans and onboard features. The line will operate seven and eight day Melbourne Cup cruises, as well as new adventures to

Tasmania, once-off cruises to Singapore & repositioning Pacific sailings.

FOLK ISLAND Norfolk Select - Norfolk Island 2015



Hot deals including specially priced airfares with Air New Zealand are on the market to entice visitors to the beautiful Norfolk Island and featured in the new Norfolk Select guide. Holiday packages incorporating flights and accommodation start from \$899pp from Sydney in a one-bedroom apartment. A growing range of tourism experiences are available on the island including day tours to explore scenery & local culture.



Azamara Club Cruises - Worldwide Cruises 2015/16 More destinations than ever before will feature in the coming year for Azamara Club Cruises. The line's two ships - Azamara Quest and Azamara Journey will continue to offer its unique upmarket style around the world, with Quest to visit Australia and New Zealand for the first time. The line will continue to develop and roll out new AzAmazing cultural evenings for guests, new immersive itineraries and more. The new guide also features deck plans and onboard features listings for both luxury vessels.

Magellan agents 'hangin loose'

CREATIVE Holidays and Magellan Travel Group recently whisked these agents off to the Islands of Aloha.

Flying aboard Hawaiian Airlines, the group left winter in Australia behind for a short while on the trip.

The group visited a range of the top hotels in Oahu such as The

Trump, Westin & Halekulani. Highlights included trying Mai Tai's, seeing Mokolii and shopping

up a storm at Ala Moana. Pictured above at Kualoa Park in the back row from left is Meredith Salotto, Hawaiian Airlines; Rob Nangle, Travel Design International; Stephen

Start your journey today

Carlson

Wagonlit

Ross, Wall Street Travel and Michelle Hansen of Aurora Travel. Middle row: Natasha Steed, Benalla Travel; Julie-Anne Major, Epping Travel and Glenda

Halliwell of The Travel Centre. Front row: Andrew Sims, Creative Holidays and Anne Rogers from Wings Away Travel.

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Accor flowers bloom

TRAVEL packages starting from \$115pn (min two night stay) have been released by Accor in line with the 2014 Floriade flower festival on in Canberra 13 Sep-12 Oct.



WIN A TRIP TO VANUATU

In September, *TD* is giving readers the chance to win a holiday to Vanuatu, courtesy of Vanuatu Tourism Office.

The prize includes return economy class airfares to Port Vila with Air Vanuatu, airport transfers, five nights accommodation at Grand Hotel and Casino and a Glass Bottom Boat Trip, for two.

Every day this month *TD* will ask a different question about Vanuatu. The subscriber with the most correct entries and the most creative response to the final question will win this holiday.

Email answers to: vanuatucomp@traveldaily.com.au

Q6: When is the dry season in Vanuatu?



Wakatobi ups flights

TWICE weekly air services will operate from Bali to Indonesia's Wakatobi Dive Resort in Sulawesi, starting from Mar next year.

The resort said the increased schedule, with services in both directions on Mon and Fri, will allow visitors to better plan a trip.

Sumos visiting SA

JAPANESE sumo wrestlers will travel to Adelaide next month for a series of demonstration events as part of the three-day Asiafest.

The festival showcasing the best food & culture of Asia will be held at Rymill Park from 04-06 Oct.

DAILY

Atlantic City sinking

TWO more casinos on the iconic Atlantic City boardwalk have closed their doors, with another expected to follow this month, taking the total number of casino closures in 2014 to four.

The Showboat Casino and The Revel are the two latest casualties of falling visitation figures and follow the closure of the Atlantic Club in Jan this year.

Trump Plaza will close on 16 Sep, with job losses from the four closures to exceed 8,000.

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie will today host a tourism summit (TD 19 Aug) to come up with a plan to save city revenues.

Publisher/Managing Editor: Bruce Piper

Travel Daily is Australia's leading travel industry publication. Produced each weekday since 1994, the newsletter is first with the latest industry news and is available by paid subscription to people within the travel industry. Sign up for a free 14 day trial subscription at Business Manager: Jenny Piper www.traveldaily.com.au.

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business events news

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JOB OF THE WEEK CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT YOUR FORTE? NATIONAL BDM ACCOUNT MANAGER **PRODUCT MANAGER MELBOURNE – SALARY PACKAGE TO \$80K** SYDNEY - SALARY PACKAGE \$90K PLUS Having successfully operated for over 30 years, this This fantastic new role has a vacancy open with your name on it. Looking after the Australian market, you will be selfestablished tour company is seeking an experienced product motivated and utilise your strong negotiation and manager to effectively design, implement and operate a contracting skills to qualify opportunities and increase sales, range of special interest tours. You will be responsible for growing sales revenue and build strong ongoing concept development and itinerary creation, negotiations, relationships with key industry personnel. Your friendly brochure production and marketing plans. If you are results personality, presentation skills & creative ability is required driven and are seeking a new challenge, this boutique here. operator could be your best move yet. THE PERFECT BLEND OF I.T. & PEOPLE SKILLS *** NEW ROLE *** **ONLINE IMPLEMENTATION MANAGER** CORPORATE OPERATIONS MANAGER/TEAM LEADER **BRISBANE – 6 MONTH CONTRACT** SYD - EXEC SALARY PACKAGE \$\$ This unique role will see you combine your experience in Feel at home in this corporate office where you will be operations and corporate travel with your skills in I.T & travel overseeing a team of multi skilled consultants. You will need systems. You'll be responsible for working closely with sales proven leadership skills and have exceptional knowledge of teams and external clients in the implementation of new and corporate travel, training & development and client existing clients onto the company's online booking tools. relationship management. This role allows you to take full Your previous experience using Serko & working in a similar management control of your team and manage future role will be the key to success. Be rewarded with a strong growth and development. Current Team Leader/Operations industry salary package & superb career development experience essential along with GDS. YOU CAN'T WORK WITHOUT TECHNOLOGY THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX LEVEL 2 HELPDESK TECHNICIAN SERKO IMPLEMENTATION MANAGER SYDNEY – \$70k package MEL and SYD – SALARY PACKAGE TO \$80K Are you an escalation expert? This award winning GDS Having recently reached Global status, this Corporate Travel company is looking for your analytical and technical skills to Management Company is seeking an experienced Online join this growing department. You will be customer service Implementation Manager to join their technical support driven, have the ability to multi task, resolve issues and have team. With your knowledge of Serko Online, you will be a thorough understanding of back office functionality. This is responsible for the development and delivery of online an exciting step-up from a support role! Don't miss out on solution training needs to clients. Previous experience with this outstanding opportunity. Online Booking Tools at a support level is essential, together with leadership experience. YOUR HUNTING SKILLS WILL WORK HERE HIT THE ROAD WITH A LEADING BRAND CORPORATE BDM – SME **SALES EXECUTIVE - CRUISING** MELBOURNE – SALARY PACKAGE \$80k + Bonuses SYDNEY - SALARY PACKAGE \$60K ++ Do you prefer doing business face to face? Like schmoozing Our client is searching for a Sales Executive who is with company MD's instead of pitching travel procurement passionate about cruising along with the ability to source managers or board of directors? Then it's time to take your and secure new business. You will have a real drive, passion strong sales and client relationship skills to this award and understanding of the cruising market along with the winning TMC where you will be rewarded for your efforts ability to establish relationships and conduct presentations to with a lucrative salary package plus commission. Effective secure wins for the business. Be rewarded with a supportive leads, supporting co-ordinators and a premium brand name team and be proud to walk through the doors with this will set you on the road to success. product under your arm.

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