





Cowley to chair Lido

INDUSTRY leader Martin Cowley has been voted the new chairman of hotel booking and payments firm, The Lido Group.

Cowley is well known to the industry, having held senior management roles with Sabre Travel Network and Cathay Pacific Airways over a 30-year career.

For the past two years, he has served as a strategic advisor to The Lido Group, helping to drive new partnerships with TMCs.

In the chairmanship, Cowley succeeds Lido Group founder Brian Bridgewood, with Cowley saying he was looking forward to working closely with management to continue the firm's success.

More appointments on page 7.

Seven pages of news!

Travel Daily today has seven pages of new and photos, plus full pages from: (click)

- AA Appointments jobs
- Travel Trade Recruitment

DOH-SYD barrier cleared

A NEW arrangement has been struck between the Australian and Oatari Governments. allowing up to 50% more flights to fly on the Australia-Qatar route, with immediate effect.

Qatar Airways is almost certain to take advantage, with longmooted direct flights to Sydney tipped to be high on the agenda.

In his first joint announcement since taking office as Australia's new Tourism Minister this week, Richard Colbeck delivered the news this morning with Minister for Infrastructure & Regional Development, Warren Truss.

"It will allow for up to 21 flights each week, each way, for airlines of both countries to the major gateways [of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane & Perth], catering for growth in the Australia-Qatar & Australia-Europe routes," Truss commented.

The new arrangement also provides unlimited services from Qatar to regional locations such as Darwin, Adelaide, the Gold Coast and Cairns.

Truss said: "Qatar Airways is likely to commence a daily service between Sydney and Doha, which will allow businesses to quickly and efficiently move produce to global markets."

Minister Colbeck said the new daily entitlement "will strengthen aviation links with the region, and support the Govt's Tourism 2020 strategy by facilitating greater visitor numbers from the Gulf, the subcontinent and our mature European markets like the UK, France and Germany".

Qatar Airways ceo Akbar Al Baker revealed to Travel Daily two years ago, the Doha-based airline was keen to commence flights to Sydney Airport, giving in to his long-standing gripe with its restrictive curfew (TD 30 Oct 13).

Currently, QR operates daily flights to Melbourne and Perth.

CX boosts Adelaide

A FIFTH weekly service between Hong Kong and Adelaide will be added by Cathay Pacific Airways from 02 Dec to satisfy strong demand, the carrier announced.

Departing HKG on Wed night, the overnight flight will arrive in Adelaide on Thu morning, taking ADL departures to Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri and Sun each week.

The capacity increase takes the total number of weekly seats for the South Australian market on CX flights to HKG to 2,500.

"Since we introduced our new schedule in early April last year which provides better connections, particularly to the UK and Chinese destinations, we have seen demand surge," Cathay Pacific Airways Southwest Pacific general manager Nelson Chin said.

The additional service was welcomed warmly by SA Tourism Minister Leon Bignell, saying Cathay was already working to promote visitation to South Australia in Hong Kong & China.



9/0

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Thursday 24th Sep 2015

Reynolds joining APT

BACK-ROADS Touring managing director Steve Revnolds has joined APT in the role of executive general manager.

Revnolds returns to Australia from the UK, from where he led the Flight Centre backed touring brand for the past three years.

His new role will levy global responsibility for the financial performance and overall strategic direction of the APT brand.

Reynolds will take the reins of the APT brand from David Cox, who will take on the global focus of sister brand Travelmarvel.

Both Reynolds and Cox will work alongside executive gm sales and marketing Debra Fox.

VA Christmas charter

VIRGIN Australia will tomorrow operate an additional charter service from Christmas Island to Jakarta, GDS displays indicate.

The Airbus A320 flight will originate in Perth, departing at 1030, arriving at 1320 before setting off for the Indonesian capital city at 1405.

The return sector will depart Christmas Island at 1815, arriving back in Perth at 2250.

Live Amtrak link launched

INTERCITY rail services across the Amtrak network can now be booked by travel agents in realtime, with Rail Plus opening an exclusive live connection to the North American rail system.

Agents can now search, book and ticket services on the Amtrak network 24/7, all listed in Australian dollars, through the Rail Plus site, which removes the need to speak to a consultant.

Amtrak operates a fleet of more than 300 trains including 20 Acela Express high-speed sets, connecting more than 500 destinations in 46 US states and three Canadian provinces.

Using the live link, agents can secure tickets up to 11 months before a scheduled departure.

Rail Plus chief executive James Dunne said booking and payment retains the same familiar process as European point-to-point fares through the company's website.

"Agents simply choose the desired departure and arrival cities and accurate fares are displayed in Australian dollars.

"Additional information is available on the selected service, the facilities in each class and the fare conditions. Once a booking is completed, all documents are issued as e-Tickets," he said.

Rail Plus consultants remain available to assist agents with booking their Amtrak sectors if required, Dunne added.

See www.railplus.com.au.

P&O beverage trial

P&O Cruises has this week commenced trials of a new onboard beverage package, with the offering debuting on a Pacific Pearl voyage ex Sydney.

Priced at \$69 per adult per day, the Premium Beverage package includes unlimited beer, wine and some spirits as well as soft drinks, coffee and tea.

Only one drink can be ordered at a time and the package must be purchased for the entire voyage, on the day of embarkation or the next day.

If successful, it is expected the packages will be rolled out across P&O's soon-to-be five-ship fleet - lots more cruise news in today's issue of Cruise Weekly. (click)









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to win a bonus \$250 gift card? Simply answer our 4 weekly questions during the month of September and you'll go into the draw. Send your answers to competitions@railplus.com.au Q.3 Are seat reservation fees for Swiss Scenic trains covered on a Swiss Pass?









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Albatross discount

ALBATROSS Tours is offering a \$600 discount per couple on the 16-day Italian Lakes & Tuscany tour when booked and deposited by 15 Jan.

For more info or to book, visit www.albatrosstours.com.au.



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UberX safe & cheaper: CHOICE

CONSUMER advocacy group CHOICE has found Uber X to be safe, reliable and on average 40% cheaper than taking a taxi in an investigation which pitted the two rivals against each other.

The group conducted 56 trips across Sydney – 28 UberX rides and 28 taxi rides - and compared safety features such as regulatory checks, how the trip is recorded, GPS tracking and insurance.

"Our results show that ride sharing services not only provide a reliable and cost effective alternative to taxis, but also deliver much needed competition in the point-to-point passenger service market," says CHOICE director of campaigns and communications Matt Levey.

"It wasn't all bad news for taxis, which showed up quicker on average, as a result of the convenience of hailing one off

CONSTRUCTION on Starwood's W Brisbane has begun, with the hotel scheduled to open in 2017 in time for the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in 2018.

The hotel forms part of a \$1b mixed-use development and marks the re-entry of the W brand to Australia (*TD* 03 Sep).

the street. However, when taxis were booked they tended to take longer to show up than UberX."

During the investigation, taxis failed to turn up twice when booked, which Levey suggested may be attributed to taxis being told the passengers destination, making short trips less attractive.

CHOICE launched the investigation to test the NSW Taxi Council's claim that ride sharing services are "no safer than hitch hiking" (*TD* 14 Sep), for which they found no evidence.

"Both services provided safe transport options," Levey added.

CHOICE has called for an easing of restrictions on taxi licenses and called for regulation to encourage competition in the market.

Meanwhile, the NSW Taxi Council has acknowledged the NSW Government's statement that ride sharing is illegal and urged the government to uphold the law.



Window Seat

THREE Norwegian extreme travellers have broken a world record, after visiting 22 states in the US over a 24 hour period.

Gunnar Garfors, Tay-young Pak and Øystein Djupvik completed most of the whirlwind tour by car (and staying at the speed limit), but were nearly foiled by a delay on one of their three short commercial plane trips.

The 'RecordrunUSA' team was well equipped, with Tay-young Pak as the back seat cook and photographer, juggling lobster dishes and camcorders in the back seat.

"Good food has been important to keep morale up along the way," Pak said.

After breaking the record, the trio headed back to NYC to celebrate, "At least until we fall asleep," Gunnar Garfors added.

CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS



The 305-room hotel will include 25 suites and an Extreme Wow Suite, with the smallest room 40m² - currently the largest room size in Brisbane.



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Amadeus shows off in Sydney



AMADEUS welcomed 80 agents to its Sydney office last night for its fourth annual Discover Amadeus roadshow.

Agents were given insight on how to leverage technology to improve the customer experience, save time and money and visited the "Traveller Tribes

Village", which showcased ways Amadeus can be used to suit the needs of different travellers.

Amadeus has just returned from Fiji, where it held its first of 11 roadshows.

Pictured above are Bill Lawler, House of Travel with Tony Carter, Amadeus managing director.





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Harry joins Ascend

SYDNEY'S iconic Hotel Harry is now a member of Choice Hotels' Ascend Hotel Collection following a multi-million dollar renovation.

Now boasting a Latin feel, the Heritage-Listed property in Surry Hills has seen all 20 rooms refitted with new amenities

Hotel Harry is the eighth member of the boutique Ascend Hotel Collection in Asia-Pacific.

Aquis IRD resumes

QUEENSLAND Treasurer Curtis Pitt has welcomed the resumption of Integrated Resort Development processes for the Aquis Great Barrier Reef project in Cairns.

After withdrawing from the process back in Feb, the team behind the Tony Fung-backed project has signed a Process Deed to kick-start the evaluation stage.

A new Request for Detailed Proposal will soon be issued by the Qld Govt, which it says it hopes to receive back next year.

Portland USA badge

BRAND USA has kicked off an incentive to encourage agents to complete the new specialist module on Portland as part of its USA Discovery Program.

The module touches on the array of craft breweries, pioneer origins & native history, museums, monuments, dining and more.

Until 22 Oct, agents who complete the Portland specialist badge after first completing the Regional Expert Badge will qualify to go into the draw to win a Portland Tax-Free Shopping Spree at "Made Here in PDX", valued at USD\$500 - to participate, visit usadiscoveryprogram.com.au.

AS/FI kiss & make up

ALASKA Airlines and Icelandair have reformed a codeshare and frequent flyer partnership which broke up two years ago.

The renewed agreement offers pax reciprocal earn-&-burn points rights, through-ticketing & more.



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Expedia Hotelier app

EXPEDIA has released its Expedia PartnerCentral app for iPhone and Android, which aims to help hoteliers manage their business on Expedia.

Features include a new Activity Feed, the ability to view and reply to guests using Real-Time Feedback, benchmark performance against competitors using MarketWatch and promote last minute inventory via the 'Sell Tonight' functionality.

Shangri-La India

SHANGRI-LA Hotel Bengaluru opens today, offering 397 rooms across 19 storeys, situated on nearly two acres of land.

The property's 30 suites range from 98-274m² and include three Governor Suites and the palatial Shangri-La Suite, all with marble bathrooms.

All-day dining restaurant, b Cafe has opened, with three more restaurants and a bar set to open.

The hotel has a spa, swimming pools, 24-hour gym, sauna and two levels of function rooms.

VA adds seats for AFL

VIRGIN Australia has added more than 3,000 seats for fans travelling from Perth to Melbourne for the 2015 AFL Grand Final next weekend.

As the official airline of the AFL, Virgin has added over 11,000 seats across the network to accommodate expected pax loads, 6,500 of which are on the Perth-Melbourne route.

Macau earlybirds

MACAU'S Grand Emperor hotel is offering discounts and upgrades on bookings made a minimum of 60 days before arrival for stays 01 Oct 2015 to 31 Mar, 2017.

A 15% discount is available on the first night, 20% on two nights and 25% on three nights, along with a free upgrade to a deluxe room, buffet breakfasts, free shuttle buses and mini-bar.

Venture brochure

VENTURE Holidays has unveiled its Africa and Madagascar 2016/17 program and is offering a 15% discount on select tours when booked before 31 Oct and paid in full before 25 Dec.

New tours include the sixday Garden Route Safari and Winelands tour and eight-day In Mandela's Footsteps itinerary.

Agents wrapped in Abu Dhabi



AGENTS on the Etihad Airways Mega Famil to Abu Dhabi spent seven days exploring hotels and visiting attractions.

Activities include a visit to the Sheik Zayed Grand Mosque, Manarat Al Saaduyat, Capital Gate Building, a Falcon Hospital and the Etihad Innovation Centre.

Falcon Agents stayed at the stunning Qasr Al Sarab Desert Resort, located two hours from Abu Dhabi before heading to the St Regis Abu Dhabi.

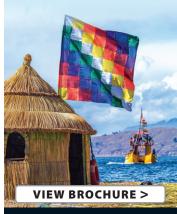
The Gala night event was held in the Presidential Suite, which on level 52 is the world's highest suspended Suite.

Pictured are: Nikki Russell, Reho Travel; Ryan Pedrotti, Travel Action Bendigo; Erin Dunn, helloworld Penrith; Maryam Hosseini, Persia Travel; Edwin Butler, Andrew Johns Travel; Abbe Burrows, Concierge Business Travel; Fabricio Leiva, Air Tickets; Susan Durrington, Sylvanian Travel; Ronnie Binder, STA; Cheryl Chiswell, Bayview Travel; Kris Taute, Abu Dhabi Tourism, Lachlan Conn, Etihad Airways; Chien Wei Lan, WB Travel; Mele Foliaki, Adventure World; Lexi Hartmann, Creative Holidays and Jilda Jack, Verve Travel Management.



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CA bulks for ChAFTA

AIR China will increase its four-times weekly service on the Beijing-Melbourne route to a daily service in a move tipped to boost tourism and exports.

Vic Premier Daniel Andrews visited the Air China HQ for the announcement of the increase, which will begin from 25 Oct.

Andrews said the increased flights will create opportunities for the tourism sector and Victorian producers, particularly on the back of the signing of the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA) in Nov.

Air China will increase its capacity from Melbourne by 60% in 2015 and will establish a new office at Melbourne Airport to handle additional flights & cargo.

Nai Harn into LHW

LEADING Hotels of the World has added The Nai Harn Resort in Phuket to its member portfolio.

The property is the only LHW member in the Thai holiday spot and is due to open in Jan 2016.

It will offer 130 luxury guest rooms with Andaman Sea views.

Excite right behind Santa Monica



SANTA Monica is so popular with the Oceania market, nearly one in five inbound visitors to the Los Angeles beachfront precinct - 17.8% to be precise - originate from Australia or New Zealand.

It is an impressive statistic considering the region covers no more than 22 square kilometres, but offers plenty in that space.

During its annual sales mission to Australia this week, Excite Holidays and the Santa Monica Travel & Tourism last night held one of two industry events in Sydney to introduce a new incentive as part of a joint campaign with Excite Holidays, supported by Air New Zealand.

Until 16 Oct, agents will receive 1,000 bonus Excite Rewards

points on top of the normal earn for every room night booked at any of Santa Monica's 35 hotels.

In addition, for each of the next four weeks, Excite is giving away a \$200 voucher to spend at Witchery clothing stores to the top-selling agent of room nights in Santa Monica.

Known as the "Beachfront of LA", Santa Monica will take on a new look from mid-next year when a US\$1.5 billion light rail line opens.

Santa Monica Travel & Tourism executive vice-president Richard Peterson told Travel Daily the line will be a "game-changer".

"For the people who have been coming to LA or have been looking at it, the freeways can be kind-of intimidating or if they're worried about parking, this is really going to be a huge change."

Pictured above in the back row from left is Nicholas Stavropolous, Excite Holidays; Dan Sparacino, Le Meridien Delfina; Joana Bonto, Andy Loving, Brooke Brindle, Meagan Maynard and Sam Davies, all from Excite Holidays.

Front: Jon Velasquez, The Shore; Annabelle Hender and Richard Peterson from the Santa Monica Travel and Tourism.



This week, Travel Daily and Sonoma County are giving travel agents the chance to win a bottle of wine each day.

With more than 400 friendly wineries, 40-plus spas, 88km of stunning Pacific Coast, farm-totable restaurants, rivers to kayak or float down, redwood forests to explore, shops and galleries that entice, and hiking and biking trails that meander over oak-covered hills, Sonoma Wine Country beckons the adventurous, the curious, and the lovers of the laidback Northern California lifestyle. Visit www.sonomacounty.com.

To win, be the first agent to send the correct answer to the following question to sonoma@traveldaily.com.au

What do these Sonoma County businesses have in common: Russian River, Lagunitas and St Florians? Need a hint? CLICK HERE.

Eurowings new route

LUFTHANSA low cost long-haul offshoot Eurowings has scheduled new routes for Summer 2016 to Boston, Fort Lauderdale and Las Vegas, as well as Mauritius, all served direct from Cologne.

Flights on the group's leisure brand will operate from Cologne to Boston twice weekly, while Mauritius will be served weekly, with both due to begin 05 May. Cologne to Fort Lauderdale is

tipped to be three-times weekly, with Las Vegas twice weekly. Other routes available to book after 01 May include from

Cologne to Bangkok, Cancun, Dubai, Phuket and Varadero.

air tickets

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WELCOME to Industry Appointments, *Travel Daily'*s Thursday feature which has the latest job appointments from across the industry. If you have just appointed someone to a new position and would like to update the industry email appointments@traveldaily.com.au.

Virgin Australia Holdings has announced Joshua Bayliss will step down from his role as Non-Executive Director and be replaced by John Patrick Moorhead. Moorhead has served as Bayliss' Alternate Director since 25 Aug 2014. He is CFO of the Virgin Group and has served as Director of Virgin Atlantic and Virgin Rail.

Rob Smith has been promoted to Divisional Director for Australia and New Zealand (ANZ) at **Merlin Entertainments Group**. Smith was previously Head of NSW Attractions.

Helloworld has appointed **Rob Marcolina** as a Non-Executive Director. Marcolina is Group Executive Strategy, Transformation and IT, Qantas Airways Limited and is also a member of Qantas' Group Management Committee

Nicholas Sciancalepore will take the helm of **Captain Cook Cruises**' *PS Murray Princess*, operating three, four and seven night cruises along the Murray River. At 25 years old, Sciancalepore is the second youngest Master currently working on the Murray River.

SiteMinder has named **Kevin O'Rourke** as its new Executive Vice President of global sales. O'Rourke was most recently oversaw Lanyon's sales strategy and operations as well as the training and deployment of its global sales force.

The **Belmond** Board of Directors has appointed Board member **Roeland Vos** as President and Chief Executive Officer, effective immediately. Vos was President of the Europe, Africa and Middle East division of Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide from 2001 to 2013. He replaces John Scott, who resigned by mutual agreement with the board.

The next CEO of **Avis Budget Group**, **Larry D. De Shon** has been selected. De Shon, currently the Company's president, International, will become president and chief operating officer effective o1 Oct and will assume the role of CEO on o1 Jan.

Captain Suren Ratwatte, a 31-year veteran of the aviation industry, has been named as the new Chief Executive Officer of SriLankan Airlines. Ratwatte will take the reigns from Rakitha Jayawardena at the start of next month and adds senior experience with Emirates among his airline career history.

CZ updates CAN-CHC

CHINA Southern Airlines will boost its new Guanzhou to Christchurch route to year-round from 27 Mar, when it will operate three-times weekly, the carrier's 2016 northern summer plan said.

AS nonstop service

ALASKA Airlines has begun operating its nonstop service between Nashville and Seattle, increasing the number of destinations served weekly from its Seattle hub to 84.

New Starwoods open

STARWOOD Hotels and Resorts has expanded its footprint in the US state of Montana, opening the state's first Element property.

The Element Bozeman offers 104 rooms with a fully-equipped kitchen, rain shower and desk.

Guests can also make use of the fitness centre and pool.

MEANWHILE, Starwood has also opened a new Aloft property in Santa Clara, Silicon Valley.

Aloft Santa offers 175 rooms, an outdoor pool, gym and a graband-go food and beverage area.

Crown employment

CROWN Resorts will employ an additional 400 First Australians over the next four years, building on its ongoing commitment to Indigenous employment as part of its Employment Parity Initiative, announced yesterday at Crown Perth.

300 aircraft to China

BOEING has confirmed it will sell 300 airplanes to China in a package valued at \$38 billion.

The order includes 240 planes for Chinese airlines, including 190 737s and 50 widebody aircraft & 60 737s for leasing companies.

China and Boeing will partner to open a facility in China for the interior's completion, painting & delivery of Boeing 737 aircraft to Chinese customers, significantly expanding Boeing's collaboration with the Chinese aviation market.



Thursday 24th Sep 2015

Domestic flights up

THE number of domestic passengers reached 5.38 million in Jul, up 1.8% on last year, figures from the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics (BITRE) reveal.

The MEL-SYD route remained Australia's busiest with 752,993 passengers, a 7.5% increase, followed by BNE-SYD with 406,136 passengers and BNE-MEL with 307,903 passengers.

Figures also showed more people travelled on the Sunshine Coast to Sydney route, with an 11.7% increase, while traffic is down 30.6% on Hamilton Island to Melbourne services.



WIN WITH INSIDER JOURNEYS

This month Travel Daily and Insider Journeys are giving away a trip including return economy class airfares, 3 nights in Saigon, Cu Chi Tunnels tour & city tour, Mekong delta tour, 2 nights in Siem Reap, tour of temples of Angkor by Tuk tuk and return airport transfers. Insider Journeys (formally Travel Indochina) has been operating Small Group Journeys and tailor-made holidays to Asia for 22 years. Insider Journeys' idea is simple- to explore and share the essence of Asia's culture, natural beauty, cuisine and, most importantly, its people.

Answer each daily question correctly and have the most creative answer to the final question to win. Send your answers to insiderjourneys@traveldaily.com.au

Q18. Are Insider Journeys confirmed prices available from now to December 2016 or December 2017 for all booked Small Group Journeys?

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PROGRAM MANAGER
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Leisure Travel Manager

Melbourne, \$55 - 60k + Bonus, Ref: 1938TS1

Exciting new role for an experienced travel consultant in a busy boutique store in an excellent location in the Bayside suburbs of Melbourne. You will need to have the ability to motivate, lead and inspire a team to exceed sales targets by implementing new, exciting and innovative ideas of achieving new business. The successful candidate must have at least two years in a retail travel management role. In return you will be remunerated with a generous salary package with bonuses!

For more information please call Tammy on (02) 9113 7272 or click APPLY now.

Corporate Consultant

Perth, \$55k, Ref: 8198DV3

Are you are an International Corporate Consultant? Are you in need of a fresh challenge in an expanding and thriving role? My client requires a corporate consultant to join their team in Perth. This is a corporate giant and you be will looked after with further progression! Corporate Consultants that have international experience will thrive in this environment! An exciting challenge, with a competitive base salary plus working hours that will allow you to enjoy your social life still.

For more information please call Dave on (02) 9113 7272 or click APPLY now.

Travel Cruise Consultant

Brisbane, \$40 - 48k + Commission, Ref: 2896SZ1

Are you passionate about the cruise travel industry? Do you want to be part of an established Travel Company that can offer great salary and benefits? You will be in a supportive working environment offering great training and career progression opportunities! This role is for a focused team player that has excellent communication skills, strong cruise product knowledge and is confident in hitting their targets. If this sounds like you we would love to hear from you! GDS knowledge required.

For more information please call Serena on (07) 3023 5023 or click APPLY now.

Wholesale Reservations TEMP - Calypso Expert

Sydney, Fantastic Hourly Rate, Ref: 1900PE2

This well known company is in need of a Calypso and Amadeus expert to come on board and assist booking Air, Hotels, Tours and Car Hire. Located in the suburbs this role will give you a comfortable work/life balance allowing you to escape the daily commute into the city, if you love working in retail travel but would prefer a more behind the scenes role, no more face to face, then this is your dream role! Temp to Perm potential for the right person. If this sounds like you please apply!

For more information please call Paul on (02) 9113 7272 or click APPLY now.

South America Travel Specialist

Melbourne, Attractive Package, Ref: 0015KF1

Seeking a Latin loving travel consultant to join a growing team of likeminded individuals! Sell all the magnificent things that this amazing destination has to offer from adventure style trips to high end luxury. This expanding company needs a savvy travel consultant who is keen to grow and get stuck into this varied role, serving clients to the highest level on a telephone, email and face to face basis and utilising your travel consulting experience and first hand destination knowledge!

For more information please call Kate on (02) 9113 7272 or click APPLY now.

Cruise Consultant

Adelaide, \$Competitive Salary, Ref: 1881DV5

My client is looking for a high-achieving Cruise Consultant to become part of their successful team! This is an outstanding opportunity to work in a supportive team environment, work on sought-after lucrative products and be surrounded by fellow experienced consultants! The lucky Travel Consultant will need to have excellent experience within the travel industry and have experience working on cruise bookings! You will be able to work in a fab environment and be rewarded for your endeavours!

For more information please call Dave on (02) 9113 7272 or click APPLY now.



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