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PREVIEW VIDEO







### AI flags Aus bump

AIR India is set to ramp up flight frequencies from Delhi to both Sydney and Melbourne due to "demand for more services to Australia," an official for the Star Alliance carrier has confirmed.

The jump to five weekly on both routes is slated to begin late-Mar.

### Splendor local homeport

CARNIVAL Cruise Line this morning revealed *Carnival Splendor* will sail year-round from Sydney beginning Dec 2019.

The deployment will represent a 66% capacity increase for the brand in Australia, with Carnival heralding the vessel as the newest & largest ship homeported year-round in Australia.

Carnival Cruise Line vp and gm Australia Jennifer Vandekreeke told **TD** *Carnival Splendor* will primarily sail to the South Pacific offering itineraries eight to 10 days in length, likely along with an annual cruise to New Zealand.

The ship will also pick up Carnival's regular Australian itineraries to destinations such as

Queensland and Tasmania.

Currently a 3,007-passenger ship, *Carnival Splendor* will undergo an "extensive drydock" prior to her arrival and emerge with capacity for 3,900 guests.

*Splendor* will also be fitted with dining experiences tailored to Aussie tastes & a new water park.

Carnival Cruise Line currently has two 2,600 passenger vessels offering local itineraries, with *Carnival Spirit* sailing year-round and *Carnival Legend* cruising seasonally, but from 2020 *Carnival Legend* will remain in the United States.

In recognition of the cruise line's ongoing partnership with The Children's Hospital at Westmead, it named Matilda Jenkins, a patient of the hospital, as the first goddaughter of a Carnival ship.

Bookings for *Carnival Splendor*'s 2019 sailings will open in Mar and reservations for 2020 will be available in May/Jun - see **page 6**.

### Eclipse educational

SCENIC is offering 17 agents the chance to earn a place on a famil along the South American coast aboard its luxury ocean cruise ship *Scenic Eclipse* in Nov, based on all sales from 01 Jul 17-30 Jun 18.

See the **cover wrap** for more and to preview *Eclipse II* (**TD** Mon).

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### Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today has seven pages of news and photos, a front cover wrap for **Scenic** plus a full page from:

- Travel Trade Recruitment

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## Sheppard promoted

**INTERCONTINENTAL** Hotels Groups this week confirmed the promotion of Karin Sheppard as md of the hotelier's European business (**TD** 09 Jan).

Sheppard is well known in the Australian industry, and has been with IHG for more than 15 years.

Prior to her new position, she served as chief operating officer of Australasia and Japan at IHG - responsible for close to 70 hotels.

She was also a board member of both Tourism Accommodation Australia and the Tourism and Transport Forum.

## P&O plastics move

**CARNIVAL** Corporation brands P&O Cruises UK and Cunard have vowed to remove single use plastics from the hotel operation of their ships by the end of 2022.

The cruise company said it hopes to eliminate the use of products such as straws, water bottles and food packaging.

## OTAs 'damaging' hotels

**ONLINE** travel agencies are once again in the firing line of accommodation businesses after more than a quarter of operators who took part in a survey cited OTAs as the main reason for their economic performance decline.

The Accommodation Association of Australia's ceo Richard Munro said the one underlying message emphasised in the annual survey of accommodation providers was the "corrosive impact" online travel agencies were having on the bottom-line of their business.

"The clearest message from this year's survey is the damage that giant global online travel agencies are doing to accommodation businesses, many of which are small businesses which are major employers in local communities," Munro said of the study.

"This distinctively contrasts with the likes of offshore giants Booking.com and Expedia, which

are making millions of dollars each year from our industry, yet employ very few staff in Australia".

Munro fumed that "most - if not all - of the profits" for these OTAs flows overseas, paying "little or no tax in Australia, unlike local accommodation businesses".

He said the organisation would continue to push for "major reforms" to OTAs in 2018.

Other notable results from AAA's annual survey found the second most concerning issue to accom operators was the lack of regulation on "non-compliant accommodation", such as Airbnb.

## No single supps

**BENTOURS** has waived single supplements on almost 20 expedition cruises to Antarctica, Greenland, Iceland and Canada as part of its 40 year anniversary.

The promotion ends on 28 Feb.

## QF adds MEL/DPS

**NEW** daily non-stop Boeing 737-800 services between Melbourne-Bali will be introduced by Qantas commencing 23 Jun.

The route will complement QF's existing year-round daily Sydney-Denpasar city pairing and comes as Qantas Group increases the frequencies of its low-cost sister-carrier Jetstar between MEL/DPS from 10 per week to twice daily.

Collectively, Qantas Group will now offer 84 return services to Bali from Australia.

Qantas International ceo Alison Webster said the QF Group now has the flexibility in its network to "respond to growing demand where we see it."

"Bali is a very popular holiday destination which caters to different budgets and tastes and with more services...we are able to provide customers with greater choice," Webster commented.

In the last year, QF/JQ carried 1.6 million Australians to Bali.



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## Maldives chaos

**THE** Australian Govt is urging travellers to stay clear of protests and large public gathering in the Maldives after the island nation's government declared a 15-day state of emergency this week. More on DFAT's website.



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## Back-Roads enters Asia

**ON THE** back of Back-Roads Touring's best year to date for its European and UK program, the small-group touring company has revealed its expansion to Asia.

The firm today confirmed its move into Asia this year, with an initial eight itineraries focused on exploring less-known side of each destination, showcasing cuisine, ancient temples and "one-of-a-kind experiences that are usually reserved for locals".

Beginning in Sep, tours range from five- to 13-days duration and include Bangkok & The River Kwai, Temples of Thailand & Cambodia, Wonders of Thailand, Hanoi and Halong Highlights,

## Star considers LCCs

**LOW-COST** carriers are being considered as member partners of the Star Alliance, the chief exec of the global airline network has revealed this week.

Jeffrey Goh said the strategy would capitalise on the continual uptick in people travelling on budget carriers, lured by cheap airfares, *Bloomberg* reported.

"Many of our members and many airlines around the world are moving a lot to lower-cost platforms," Goh said.

"We want to find a way of recapturing these markets offering the benefits & privileges that they used to have and enjoy.

"We want to use this connecting partner model," he added.



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## Window Seat

**A CONVENTION** centre in Cleveland Ohio is currently converting a Cold War-era aircraft into a unique restaurant experience in a bid to attract more visitors.

The I-X Center purchased the Boeing KC-97G Stratofreighter with the ambition of creating a 50-seat restaurant by 2020 and with it a price tag of more than \$1.1 million to construct.

"From aviation enthusiasts to parents with young, curious children, the restaurant will attract people from Northeast Ohio and beyond," executive vp of the I-X Center Lisa Vo told curious reporters this week.

We're certainly wishing they serve up better grub at this joint than most airlines do.




## EK QF maintenance

**EMIRATES** Engineering will be tasked with the re-skinning of eight of Qantas' Airbus A380s under a new aircraft maintenance deal with the Australian airline.

Scheduled to begin next month in Dubai, Emirates Engineering will strip and repaint the Qantas superjumbos with the latest QF livery, along with replacing the landing gear of one of the airline's A380s this month.

The maintenance agreement between Emirates and Qantas complements the duos's strategic commercial partnership.




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## Kaleidoscopic extras shop



**KALEIDOSCOPIC** Travel debuted its new website and lifestyle shop last week to over 200 female guests at Mercedes Benz Unley in South Australia.

The website will feature bloggers and travel designers who will share travel tips and offer advice on the best clothes to wear, which clothing is the most versatile whilst travelling and the best packing tips, via the firm's

online and social media channels.

Business and leisure travellers can book their trip with one of Kaleidoscopic's travel designers.

Founders Marie Sulda and Scott Ayars said they wanted the company to be a lifestyle agency that meets customer needs in all aspects of travelling.

**Pictured** are a few of the glammed up ladies with their champagne at Fri's launch event.



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## Air NZ to Chicago?

A **PLANNED** visit by former US President Barack Obama to New Zealand next month, sponsored by Air New Zealand, has fuelled speculation the Star Alliance carrier may be preparing to name Chicago - Obama's home town - as its next US destination.

In Sep, Air New Zealand ceo Christopher Luxon earmarked New York and Chicago as possible future destinations (**TD** 13 Sep), at the time saying ORD was an obvious choice given it was the home of partner, United Airlines.

## VA eJet wound up

**VIRGIN** Australia celebrated its final Embraer E190 service on Sat - operating from Newcastle to Brisbane - with an event held at Brisbane Airport.

A Virgin Australia spokesperson told **Travel Daily** there has been minimal disruption to customers with the exit of the E190 aircraft from their fleet.

## LE flight basket

**CUSTOMERS** using Luxury Escapes' online booking platform will soon be able to search and book flights within the package selection process.

Currently airfares are booked via Luxury Escapes' flight sales team over the phone or online at [flights.luxuryescapes.com](http://flights.luxuryescapes.com).

GM Blake Hutchison told **Travel Daily** last week the new feature, to be rolled out later this year, will enable online users to bring up a list of price options with various airlines that will pair in with pre-selected holiday deals.

"It will mean you can have one check-out for both your flight and hotel or resort package," he said.

## Jetgo offers ZipPay

**REGIONAL** carrier Jetgo is now enabling passenger to book flights using ZipPay.

ZipPay allows customers to pay for their flight in weekly, fortnightly or monthly payments.

# CONGRATULATIONS

**Nickola Hoffmann**

Reho Travel, Melbourne

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## Collette explores

**COLLETTE** has launched its 2018 Explorations small-group touring brochure featuring a range of new itineraries.

The new program offers off-the-beaten-track experiences, boutique accommodation, unique culinary experiences and more choices, the company said.

Collette's new Italy's Bella Vita tour allows guests to take a guided walk of the medieval city of Bologna or pedal the city streets on a bicycle tour of this iconic market town.

For nature lovers and birdwatching enthusiasts, Collette's Costa Rica: A World of Nature is available.

Priced from \$3,469ppts, the tour includes soaring through the rainforest canopy on a zip line.

**CLICK HERE** to view the guide.

## QR adds Hatay

**QATAR** Airways has announced the launch of new direct flights to the Turkish city of Hatay.

The new thrice weekly service will be the **oneworld** carrier's fifth destination into Turkey.

Beginning 04 Apr, QR will utilise Airbus A320s on the route.

## NZ arrivals boom

**THE** latest data released by Statistics NZ revealed that 2017 inbound arrivals were up 6.7% into New Zealand with Australia, China and the USA remaining the country's biggest visitor markets.

This translated into close to two million international visitors over the course of 2017.

Tourism New Zealand chief Stephen England-Hall said the destination continued to punch above its weight internationally, with growth rates that are ahead of global tourism trends.

Australia was up 5.1% y-o-y.

## UK seating probe

**THE** UK civil aviation regulator (CAA) has launched a review of airline allocated seating policies after conducting consumer research that showed widespread confusion among airline pax.

The regulator found that slightly more than 50% of passengers reported the airline told them they would need to pay to ensure the group could sit together.

The CAA found that 35% of passengers who did not pay more to sit together on Ryanair were separated because of this.

## Guests Talk TAUCK



## Managers on the Back-Roads



**SIX** personal travel managers (PTMs) recently enjoyed a TravelManagers' fam of the Bourgogne region in France where they experienced a six day Back-Roads Touring Barge Cruise.

Travelling on the *MS Jeanine* on Le Canal De Bourgogne from Dijon to Besancon, the NSW-based agents experienced what makes river barges an interesting way to explore Europe.

PTM Michelle Michael-Pecora said she discovered a new appreciation for barge cruising after taking the famil.

"Barge cruising provides the

opportunity to see a destination from a different perspective and if your time is limited, is a great way to see so much," she said.

**Pictured** at the Citadel of Besancon a 17th Century fortress and UNESCO world heritage site are: Peter Carmichael, Karen Nelson, Marie Miller, Kristina Acevski, Jason Smith, Michelle Michael-Pecora and Janice Lee.

## Japan campaign

**THE** Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO) has debuted a global-scale, multi-lingual campaign entitled "Enjoy my Japan", which will target key markets including Sydney, London, Paris and New York.

The campaign seeks to entice long-haul travellers to visit Japan and explore the country beyond the well-known destinations.

The multi-faceted promotion involves a variety of initiatives, including a dedicated **WEBSITE**, digital ads and TV commercials.

## CRUISE SALES CONSULTANT NORTH SYDNEY OFFICE COMPETITIVE SALARY + INCENTIVE & BENEFITS



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Viking will be the world's largest small ship cruise company by 2019, and with Viking Sun arriving in ANZ waters for the very first time at the end of this month, there has never been a more exciting time to join the team.

Please send a short cover letter and resume to: jobsau@vikingcruises.com  
Applications close Wednesday 14 February 2018.

## Bali Dreamland

**A SECOND** Wyndham Hotels and Resorts flag has risen in Bali with the opening of Wyndham Dreamland Resort Bali.

The 177-room resort is located near Dreamland Beach.

To celebrate its opening, the resort's debut rate will start from IDR 888,000 (AU\$82.76) per night.

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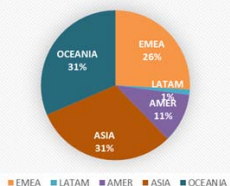


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Expedia TAAP exploded into 2018 with a record month in January. Over 1,000 different destinations were booked through Expedia TAAP as the diversity of regions just keeps growing. The top ten destinations booked were Sydney, Melbourne, Singapore, Brisbane, London, Gold Coast, Bali, Hong Kong, Perth and Cairns. Adelaide, Oahu, Auckland, Rome and Tokyo were just outside the top 10.

Italy, New Zealand, Vietnam and China in particular, showed strong growth on the country list.

Regionally this month, EMEA was up to 26% market share. OCEANIA down to 31%, USA up to 11% while Asia showed huge YOY growth to 31% of the destination mix.

Package Rates through TAAP are again proving very popular as agents look for great deals for those customers looking for deals well in advance.

Some of the out of the way destinations last month included Baikal Lake in Siberia, Fortaleza Brazil, Bagan Myanmar and Akron Ohio and Gifu Japan.

Your great service and our great rates, keep your customers coming back.



## Buffalo kids safe

**BUFFALO** Tours is supporting the launch of the ChildSafe Movement in Bali, an initiative that serves to empower people to protect children.

Together the organisations will promote tourist behaviors that will prevent risk to children via grassroots campaigning, educating tourists, as well as training and certifying businesses.

Buffalo will offer assistance in the form of facilities and logistical support to help ChildSafe implement the Bali campaign.

## EY ditches 5x 777s

**ETIHAD** Airways has begun phasing out its Boeing 777-200LR jets from its fleet starting with five aircraft it recently pulled from service, a move flagged by the Gulf carrier last month.

Those five 777-200LRs were originally operating on routes to the US that have since been cut, expediting the decision.

## Upper Murray dates

**CAPTAIN** Cook Cruises has released the dates for its seven-night Upper Murraylands Cruise.

The trips take to the water on board the *PS Murray Princess* on either 16 Feb, 16 Mar, 20 Apr, 11 May, 08 Jun, 17 Aug, 14 Sep, 12 Oct and 21 Dec.

Explorations of the northern area of the Murray River include visits to Waikerie, Morgan and Swan Reach, where pax are taken on a guided tour of the area checking out museums, wine tastings and sheep shearing.

## Hyatt Grd Cayman

**WYNDHAM** Hotel Group has announced the opening of the TRYP by Wyndham in Miami's Harbor Islands (**TD** 21 Nov).

The new 96-room hotel features a heated rooftop pool and bar along with panoramic views of the surrounding area.

Florida remains a strong growth prospect for the TRYP brand.

## Carnival up commit to Aus



**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line's move to deploy *Carnival Splendor* to Sydney (see **page 1**) "reflects Carnival's serious commitment to the Australian market", Christine Duffy, president Carnival Cruise Line told media on board *Carnival Spirit* this morning.

"When we really look at all the new ships that we have coming into the fleet, you start to think about where you might deploy more capacity, and we think Australia will be able to fill the ship and have the demand that we need to bring *Carnival Splendor* to Sydney," Duffy told **Travel Daily**.

Jennifer Vandekreeke, vp and gm Australia Carnival Cruise Line told **TD** "We really wanted to bring a fresh, new ship down for Australians and we wanted to bring it year-round because we really felt it was a true commitment to the market".

In Dec 2016 Carnival Australia announced *Carnival Splendor* would join the P&O Cruises fleet, but in Sep decided to keep it under the Carnival Cruise Line brand and instead deploy *Golden Princess* to P&O (**TD** 28 Sep).

**Pictured** on *Carnival Spirit* today are Jennifer Vandekreeke (left) and Christine Duffy.

## BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE OPPORTUNITIES

Two opportunities exist for experienced Business Development Executives to join Qantas Holidays, Sunlover Holidays, and our associated brands with roles **based in Sydney and South-east Queensland**.

Qantas Holidays & Viva! Holidays is seeking a motivated and self-driven Business Development Executive with the desire to achieve and reach sales targets. This role is responsible for driving existing and new trade business for Qantas Holidays, Viva! Holidays, Sunlover Holidays, Territory Discoveries, The Cruise Team, Seven Oceans Cruising, Ready Rooms, Rail Tickets, Insider Journeys and Feejee Experience.

Reporting to the State Sales Manager, this role will play an important part in the execution of our future strategy and our wider business plans.

To be successful in this role you will be an experienced travel industry sales expert who is highly personable and quick to form strong and enduring trade business partnerships. In addition you will have excellent business acumen combined with strong communication skills.

Please apply by email with your preferred location along with a covering letter and a full Curriculum Vitae to [careers@helloworld.com.au](mailto:careers@helloworld.com.au)

Applications close 16 FEB 2018

Only successful applicants will be contacted.



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## Rite garden cruise

**TRAVELRITE** International's 14-day gardening cruise taking place aboard *Celebrity Solstice* will be hosted by ABC gardening doyenne Jane Edmanson.

The cruise will set sail from Sydney in Nov before heading off to the Dandenong Ranges near Melbourne and then visiting the native flora in New Zealand.

Edmanson has hosted the green thumb staple *Gardening Australia* on the ABC for 27 years.

## AZ stopover service

**ITALIAN** carrier Alitalia has launched a new stopover service that will allow pax to stop in Rome for a cheap price and take advantage of special accommodation deals.

The new product called "Stopover Roma" was launched in conjunction with Federalberghi Roma, Unindustria and Aeroporti di Roma with the intention of increasing tourist visitation to Italy's capital.



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## Win an escape to Thailand

This month *Travel Daily* and Centara Hotels & Resorts are teaming up to give readers a chance to win an escape to Thailand.

### The prize

Return flights to Bangkok and seven nights accommodation at Centara Grand in Bangkok and Krabi for two.

### How to win

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- Send us your 3 favourite Centara selling points along with a picture or meme of you enjoying your ultimate Centara moment. The most imaginative entry will win. Send your entries to [centara@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:centara@traveldaily.com.au)

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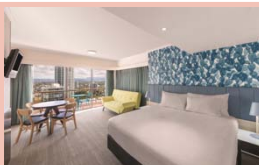
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## Accommodation Updates

**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).



**Vibe Hotel Gold Coast** has unveiled a multimillion dollar refurbishment which has seen all of the hotel's 199 rooms receive a contemporary refresh of its interiors. Renos also saw a new-look lobby introduced with a beach house feel as well as a new open-air dining room area called Driftwood Social. The work was carried out to be ready in time for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.



Feeding the giraffes at breakfast time has never looked so good at the **Giraffe Manor** in Nairobi, Kenya which has recently revamped its two breakfast rooms. The iconic giraffe retreat has been given a whole new colour tone as well as a series of light-reflecting mirrors to brighten the mood at feeding time.



A new luxurious spa has opened at **Halycon House**, the Hamptons-style retreated located near NSW's Cabarita Beach. The new multi-level space is furnished with chic reading material, fringed couches and Oahu wallpaper. In terms of relaxation services on offer, guests can take advantage of facials, massages, hand-and-foot therapy, exfoliation treatments and steam rooms.

## New Rail Plus brox

**RAIL** Plus has launched its new 2018 brochure which it said is more user-friendly than previous incarnations.

To mark the launch Rail Plus will be holding a webinar on 13 Feb at 09:30 AEDT with registration required [HERE](#), as well as running an agent comp called "Count the trains" until 28 Feb.

The Your World on Track brox can be downloaded [HERE](#).

## WBW AUH rides

**WARNER** Bros. World Abu Dhabi has previewed some of the major attractions under development in its Metropolis and Cartoon Junctions worlds.

Both worlds will feature signature rides, entertainment and restaurants all styled in line with characters from DC and Warner Bros. Animation.

The indoor theme park is set to open later this year.

## DXB busiest airport

**DUBAI** International Airport has secured the title of the world's busiest airport for int'l passengers for the fourth year in a row.

The UAE aviation hub recorded 88.2 million visitors for 2017 according to the annual figures released by Dubai Airports.

The numbers were driven by the addition of six new pax airlines in 2017 including SalamAir, Badr Airlines and Air Moldova.

## Aircalin neo engines

**NEW** Caledonian carrier Aircalin has announced it will be using Pratt & Whitney Geared Turbofan engines to power its two Airbus A320neo aircraft arriving in 2020.

"This engine was the clear choice in terms of fuel efficiency... we're looking forward to serving our passengers with this incredibly quiet aircraft," said Aircalin chief executive officer Didier Tappero.





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### **Leisure Travel Superstar**

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An exciting and lucrative position has just opened up for an experienced consultant looking to make a change in 2018 while being rewarded for their performance. Based in the CBD, you can look forward to servicing high end clientele with high levels of foot traffic. An experienced and successful consultant hungry for success will flourish in this environment. Ideally searching for a \$1.5 - \$2 Million consultant that can hit the ground running. For more information contact me today!

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My client is seeking an exceptional Contracting & Operations Director to work for their growing tour operator and lead their team to success. They are looking for someone with excellent negotiation skills and the ability to manage a team. The ideal candidate will have a strong background in contracting as well as operations – 5 years + experience. A crucial part of the role is to negotiate competitive rates with suppliers and manage existing supplier relationships and develop new ones.

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We are currently searching for a Travel Consultant to fill an exciting role which has just opened with one of our Global Wholesalers. Ideally, you will require a proven track record of excellent customer service and a high attention to detail. As this role is based in the corporate sector, this is an amazing opportunity for those looking to move away from the pressure of high sales targets and focus on providing an unparalleled level of customer service. To find out more, contact me today!

For more information please call Antony on  
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### **Holiday Relief Corporate Consultant**

**Sydney, Salary to \$63k + Super, Ref: 3216PE1**

This amazing Boutique corporate travel agency has a rare opening for a skilled sabre trained consultant to join their growing team, there are many rewards to be reaped in return on top of working for this amazing award winning TMC. This is a corporate role that will give you the opportunity to shine & you will be treated like a respected member of a family. Now is the time to make something of your career & go for gold, believe in yourself & join a company that will reward you for your fantastic service.

For more information please call Paul on  
(02) 9119 8744 or click [APPLY](#) now.

### **Corporate Travel Consultant**

**Melbourne, Competitive Package, Ref:1242CGA1**

This Corporate Travel position allows you to work for a leading TMC, my client is looking for someone that has a minimum of 2 years working as a corporate consultant. You will be responsible for all aspects of business travel. The right candidate must be someone who driven, strong and enjoys the challenge of creating complex itineraries. You will have the opportunity to earn uncapped commission. If you have in-depth corporate sales experience this is the role for you.

For more information please call Courtney on  
(03) 9988 0616 or click [APPLY](#) now.

### **Corporate Travel Consultant**

**Brisbane, \$55k base + incentives, Ref: 3233SZ1**

A leading TMC is on the hunt for an exp. consultant to step into the world of corporate! If you have a min of 3 years' experience in the leisure sector as a consultant with solid systems & GDS knowledge and looking for a chance to step into corporate, then this could be for you! My clients have a huge focus on customer care within this particular role & would want someone that has a proven background in going above & beyond whilst working towards KPI targets. Average earning \$75k per year.

For more information please call Serena on  
(07) 3123 6107 or click [APPLY](#) now.



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