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Head for Hobbiton

TOURISM New Zealand is inviting Australian travel consultants to register to earn a place on next year's massive New Zealand Specialist famil.

One hundred agents will head across the Tasman to join 10 specially curated itineraries courtesy of TNZ and Air NZ - for details see the **cover page**.

Albatross offer

ALBATROSS Tours is offering savings of \$400 per couple on its "earlybird 2" sale of 2019 European touring, with trips carrying a maximum of 28 passengers - see **page nine**.

Come see Japan

THE Japan National Tourist Organization is profiling the Hokkaido and Kansai regions today in a special **Travel Daily** destination feature - for details see the **last page**.

CTM steadies its shares

CORPORATE Travel Management has reiterated that no substantial new issues have been raised by hedge fund VGI in a supplementary report issued earlier this week, with the company's shares surging almost 10% after the ASX opened today.

CTM's response (**TD** breaking news) once again noted the "significant vested interest" by the raider in driving the share price downward, adding that "at the core of VGI's conclusions is a fundamental misunderstanding of the corporate travel sector and

the CTM business model".

The company noted it had engaged accounting firm EY to help respond to matters raised by VGI, adding it had specifically chosen EY because of its travel sector experience - most notably as the auditor of Flight Centre.

CTM's own auditor, PwC, is also the auditor of Helloworld and looked after Hogg Robinson Group prior to its acquisition by American Express Global Business Travel earlier this year.

EY's preliminary observations indicate that VGI's report is "superficial", with a summary addressing key points raised by the hedge fund around goodwill, working capital, cash and interest.

CTM said it "does not intend to have the business distracted by baseless and self-serving claims," with the Board confident its strategy would continue to deliver benefits for customers, staff and shareholders.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has eight pages of news, a front cover page for **Tourism New Zealand**, a photo page for **Travelmarvel** plus full pages from:

- Albatross Tours
- AA Appointments jobs
- JNTO product profile page



Travel Daily
on location in
Orlando, Florida

Today's issue of **TD** is coming to you from the 2018 **Very Merry Toy Story Land Christmas Famil**, hosted by **Disney Destinations**.

AFTER a long journey yesterday, agents on this year's Disney Toy Story Land Christmas Famil have touched down in Orlando, Florida.

Disney Destinations officially welcomed the group last night with a dinner held at Maya Grill, within Coronado Springs Resort.

Today, agents will be exploring Disney's Beach and Yacht Club Resort, Disney's Pop Century Resort and Disney's Art of Animation Resort.

The day will conclude with a Dessert Party and a viewing of the IllumiNations: Reflections of Earth attraction.

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VIEW DETAILS

QF foreign interest

QANTAS has announced it is once again in a position to qualify for inclusion in the MSCI Global Investable Market Indexes.

Potential relevant interests held by foreign persons as at 23 Oct were at 40.8%, which saw Qantas meet the min requirement.

GMTC launches into luxury

SPECIALIST wholesaler Greece and Mediterranean Travel Centre last night formally debuted a new "Luxury Greece Collection" brand, targeting the increasing demand from upmarket Australian travellers for Greek island holidays.

GMTC founder Halina Kubica told **TD** the move was a logical step for the business which has been specialising in the destination for over 16 years.

A new dedicated LGC brochure highlights a sample of the high-end accommodation options on offer, including the Myconian collection of nine properties in Mykonos (see **page five**).

Kubica said clients would benefit from her long-cultivated personal relationships with hoteliers in the region, meaning guests would be able to receive benefits such as complimentary upgrades, special amenities for honeymooners and the ability to secure scarce peak season accommodation which is

not available via online channels.

"We are finding that today's clients are seeking the best product that's suitable for them, and are willing to pay for this service too," she said.

Part of the demand for Mykonos in particular is being driven by new direct Qatar Airways flights from Doha, providing a one-stop connection from Australia directly to the idyllic holiday island.

A launch event last night included a presentation from Katia Gkikiza, Trade Commissioner from the Consulate General of Greece, who noted that visitors from Australia to Greece had almost doubled over the last two years to 324,000.

Australia was the fastest growing market for Greece in 2017, and figures for the current year indicate a continuing strong performance, Gkikiza said.


Greece welcomed 30 million arrivals overall last year.

Celebrity full prog

CELEBRITY Cruises has revealed its full deployment for the 2020-21 cruise season, which features 280 ports in 77 countries.

The program will see *Celebrity Silhouette* sail to South America for the first time, visiting 30 cities on the continent.

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Cruising growth softens

AUSTRALIA'S travel agents continue to enjoy healthy sales in the cruise sector, but have revealed a marked slump in growth in this year's *Travel Daily/Cruise Weekly* cruise survey.

Conducted last month, the survey shows 64% of travel agents believe the ocean cruise market has grown in the past 12 months, down considerably from the 83% reported last year and the 85% shown in 2016.

About 29% said the ocean cruise market had remained the same as last year, while 6% reported that it had contracted.

Confidence in river cruising also slipped, with 33% of agents reporting growth, down from 42% last year and 46% in 2016.

The river cruise market had remained the same according to 52% of respondents, while 14% said it had declined.

The results are in line with the most recent Cruise Source Market

Report issued by Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia, which showed the Australian cruise market grew by 4.4% in 2017, down from the 21% growth experienced in 2016.

Despite a softer market, agents appear less concerned by outside threats than in past years.

Only 45% said they were "extremely" or "very" concerned about losing sales to overseas agents, down from 51% last year.

The number of agents who were "not at all" concerned increased from 9% to 12%.

Those reporting a loss of sales to direct bookings has remained the same for three years at 53%, but the number of agents who said they don't lose sales to direct bookings lifted from 14% to 25%.

See *Cruise Weekly* for more details, or to request the entire cruise survey, conducted by StollzNow Research, email research@traveldaily.com.au.

Westin lands in Bris

THE Westin brand has made its debut in Queensland with the official opening of The Westin Brisbane.

The property features 260 guest rooms and 39 suites with floor to ceiling windows, along with Australia's first Heavenly Spa by Westin, which offers five treatment rooms.

It has 930m² of meeting and event space, three dining venues, a WestinWORKOUT Fitness Studio & RunWESTIN program, complete with the hotel's Run Concierge.

"Westin's powerful wellness proposition resonates with travellers around the world, who are increasingly realigning their priorities to put their health first and foremost," said Sean Hunt, Area VP, Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific, Marriott International.

Westin currently has hotels in Melbourne and Perth, with upcoming debuts set for Darwin, Adelaide and the Sunshine Coast.



Window Seat

HAVE you ever had any professional experience tasting an array of exquisite cocktails?

What about a solid track record of successfully tanning your bikini line?

If you answered yes to both of those questions then you might be the ideal candidate for Luxury Escapes' new Chief Luxury Officer (CLO) position, where you will be charged with making sure luxury hotels are at their finest, canapes are at their tastiest, and spa treatments are at their most tranquil.

Interview tip - try to master your most pampered facial expression and ensure you click your fingers when you want something brought to you.

Interested luxury aficionados can see more details [HERE](#).

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Greece is the word!



LAST night's launch of the new Luxury Greece Collection by Greece and Mediterranean Travel Centre (see p2) featured Vangelis Daktylidis, CEO of the Myconian Collection in Mykonos.

Making his first visit down under, Daktylidis said the nine-strong portfolio of luxury

properties was seeing a surge in interest from Australian travellers, with the family-owned hotels offering what he described as "authentic luxury".

Daktylidis is **pictured** above with GMTC MD Halina Kubica - for more details on the collection see myconiancollection.gr.

China Eastern deal

TOURISM Australia has forged a new marketing partnership with China Eastern Airlines aimed at boosting arrivals of big-spending Chinese visitors.

Federal Tourism Minister Simon Birmingham said a memorandum of understanding between the two organisations would see them work together across a range of marketing initiatives targeting high-value first time and repeat travellers.

"We know how important airline partnerships are for not only delivering new routes and services but also inspiring Chinese travellers to come and experience our country's world-class natural beauty, food and wine and incredible wildlife," Birmingham said.

The three-year partnership will come into effect in Jan.

It follows a similar agreement between China Eastern and the NSW Government (**TD** Tue).

New LCC to launch

AIR Astana has announced plans to launch a new low cost airline in the first half of 2019.

To be called FlyArystan, the new airline will operate an all-Economy class fleet of an initial four Airbus A320s, with 180 seats on board.

Flights will operate domestically from multiple bases in Kazakhstan, with detailed routes to be revealed in coming months.

In addition, international routes are expected to be added midway through the year, with the fleet looking to grow to 15 by 2022.

SA wine tourism

SOUTH Australia will host the inaugural ATEC Wine Tourism Conference from 19-21 Jun.

The event will feature a program of activities to assist wine businesses across the country to engage with the growing international tourist market.

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Boeing assistance

BOEING is assisting the Indonesian Government on an air crash investigation into a Lion Air disaster last month.

The carrier is advising on procedures related to false Angle of Attack sensor readings on its 737 Max aircraft.

GNTB summer '19

THE German National Tourist Board (GNTB) will kick off a new marketing campaign in 2019 called German Summer Cities.

The push will include pop-up events, digital, trade, PR & social media activations in Australia.

"The GNTB operates a storytelling strategy across five core themes," said the marketing body's Chief Executive Officer Petra Hedorfer.

The campaign will throw the spotlight on Germany's museums, exhibitions, industrial heritage, music, and open-air events.

The #GermanSummerStories will be used for social media.

WA targets Syd/Mel

TOURISM WA has launched a new marketing campaign that will serve to highlight the state's "natural attractions and vibrant festival season" to residents in Melbourne and Sydney.

Titled "Summer is the Greatest Show in Perth", the push will showcase WA's beaches, attractions, nightlife and events such as the Fringe World Festival and the Perth Festival.

"This advertising campaign will build on the momentum of the Hotel Perth campaign to continue to promote our city as a desirable, affordable and quality holiday destination to an east coast audience," said WA Tourism Minister Paul Papalia.

The multichannel campaign will run throughout Nov.



A MARKETING event for Choose Chicago was held in Syd last night to talk up Air NZ's recently launched Auckland to Chicago (ORD) route and to promote the many attractions the windy city can offer Aussie travellers.

Choose Chicago's local representative Canuckiwi spearheaded the gathering, providing agents with a briefing on Chicago's best selling points.

"The closest comparison for Chicago is New York, there is a volume amount of traffic that comes here and gets almost as many international visitors with over 50 million," Canuckiwi founder Corey Marshall said.

Marshall congratulated Air NZ on launching the new route, one he said he believed would lead to some good Aussie take up.

"It's always good to be first...Air NZ has come to the table for us in Chicago and we are thrilled, for the Aussie market they have to go to Auckland which is fine because they are still travelling in the east-bound direction," Marshall said.

Pictured frolicking Chicago-style are: Corey Marshall, Canuckiwi; Sharee Burgess, Air NZ; Krystal Nejm, Air NZ and Matt Fletcher, Brand USA.



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Aussie agents hit Vegas



THE Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority (LVCVA), together with 10 partners from Las Vegas hosted 200 agents at roadshow events in Perth, Brisbane and Sydney last night to showcase all that's new in Vegas.

At the events, attendees networked with the destination's resort and attraction providers, including MGM Resorts International, Caesars Entertainment, The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas, Cirque du Soleil, Graceland Wedding Chapel, My Ultimate Vegas, Machine Guns Vegas, Wynn Las Vegas and Encore, Tropicana Las Vegas and Papillon Group.

Guests also enjoyed delicious food and beverages and a game of trivia designed to test the

agents' destination knowledge.

LVCVA AU/NZ representative Anne Lee said the roadshow was a fantastic and fun way to update agents on everything that is new in Las Vegas.

"Las Vegas remains a favourite travel spot for Aussies and the destination is constantly evolving, our roadshows are an important way of ensuring agents are fully aware and up to speed on everything Las Vegas has to offer," she said.

Pictured are Brendan Paul, Graceland Wedding Chapel; Sherwin Mercado, Papillon; Alec Nethery, Flight Centre; Elsa Gomez, Tropicana Las Vegas; Susan Salazar, Wynn Las Vegas and Encore; and Esther Cases-Truzman, Machine Guns Vegas.

Media Sales Executive Macquarie Park, Sydney



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APPOINTMENTS



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.

Former Travelport APAC Vice President and Legal Chief, **Jason McLennan** is now Principal & Managing Director of legal advisory firm, **APAC Advisor**. McLennan's new venture involves consulting for travel businesses across the region.

Lisa Akeroyd has taken on a new Managing Director - Growth role at car rental company **Sixt**. She was previously Regional Managing Director at International Workplace Group (IWG).

Hotel guest acquisition software **SiteMinder** has named **Sankar Narayan** as CEO. Narayan was previously the Chief Operating Officer of cloud accounting software Xero. Effective Jan 2019, the role will see **Narayan** focus on driving the company's vision, strategy & innovation.

Tommy Lai has been appointed as CEO at **GHM Luxury Hotels & Resorts**. Lai will spearhead development opportunities and drive GHM's overall growth ambitions.

Global customer benefits and loyalty company **Collinson** has appointed **Todd Handcock** as President, Asia Pacific. **Handcock** will be responsible for delivering the Collinson's strategy across the Asia Pacific region and for identifying and pursuing opportunities to grow the company's footprint.

Frontliners say Bula

THE 2018 Frontliners Forum is heading to Fiji from today to 11 Nov to reward and recognise achievements by frontline staff.

The event will see over 500 of Helloworld Travel's front-line agents, preferred partners and suppliers gather on the island to learn, develop and network.

Sandy Point at the Sheraton will host today's welcome function, and tomorrow's dinner is set to take place at KORO - Hilton Fiji Beach Resort & Spa.

Over the course of three days guests will take part in conference sessions at Denarau Convention Centre, along with a gala dinner at the centre on Sat evening.

The 2018 Forum welcomes former Bachelor contestant Tim Robards as keynote speaker, along with former rugby player and author Mick Colliss, and TV presenter and actor, Steve Jacobs.

SAA & VA surgery

SOUTH African Airways (SAA) and codeshare partner, Virgin Australia, with Brisbane-based charity Droplets in a Stream (DIAS) have partnered to fly Ugandan children to Australia for life-saving surgery.

South African Airways Sales Manager for Qld Trent Malcom said "SAA are incredibly proud to continue to support Droplets in a Stream to bring them to Aust".

Viking new dep

VIKING has released new departure dates for some of its ocean cruises, starting from Aug 2020 through to Mar 2021.

These include, the 37-day Far East & Alaska cruise, dep 24 Aug 2020, priced from \$20,995pp; along with the 15-day, In the Wake of the Vikings cruise, dep 27 Aug 2020 from Bergen to Montreal, priced from \$10,995pp. For more info, call 138 747.

Amadeus growth

AMADEUS achieved a profit of €886.6m (A\$1.4m) in the first nine months of 2018, an increase of 5.1% compared to the same time in 2017, according to its Q3 2018 financial results.

Revenue rose 4.6% to €3.7b (A\$5.8b), while EBITDA grew 8.6% to €1.6b (A\$2.5b).

Oceania land tours

OCEANIA Cruises has released more than 80 land tour options.

These new offerings include pre-, post-, and mid-cruise options in Australia, Asia, Africa, Egypt, the Holy Land, Europe, South America, Alaska, & Canada.

Highlights featured include the four-night, Himalayan Kingdom of Nepal and Mount Everest expedition, with visits to Mumbai, Kathmandu and a flight over Mount Everest.

For more info, **CLICK HERE**.

Travelmarvel shows off Canada & Europe

TRAVELMARVEL recently whisked travel agents and VIP sellers off on two amazing trips to Western Canada and Europe.

Twenty agents experienced the wonders of Western Canada, travelling from Vancouver to Whistler, Emerald Lake, Banff, Jasper and the picturesque island of Victoria.

They experienced SilverLeaf service on the Rocky Mountaineer; enjoyed a true Canadian Wilderness stay at Emerald Lake Lodge and enjoyed Travelmarvel's unique Insider Experiences such as breakfast at Grouse Mountain Bear Refuge and a farewell dinner at The Butchart Gardens.

Meanwhile, Travelmarvel's 15-day European Gems River Cruise was showcased to 19 lucky agents. Split across two groups, agents cruised Amsterdam to Nuremburg followed by Nuremburg to Budapest.

They enjoyed Travelmarvel exclusive Insider Experiences such as a visit to World Heritage-listed Augustburg Castle in Bruhl and an intimate home visit in Miltenberg.

Travelmarvel has recently announced that its top achieving agents in 2019 will be jetting off to China on a Great Rail Journey.

To learn more about how you could join Travelmarvel on the next big trip, talk to your local ATG Business Development Manager or call 1300 668 298.

For further details on Travelmarvel's Europe 2019 holidays [CLICK HERE](#) and for Canada & Alaska 2019 journeys [CLICK HERE](#).



KIRSTY Byrne, Summerland Travel Merimbula; Bec Stevens, FC Greensborough; Kelly Bell, FC Eastland; Elissa Dutka, Travelmarvel; Jacqueline Belcourt, East Burwood Travel & Cruise; & Julie Drakes, Travel Associates Burleigh Heads.



AGENTS trying famous Rudesheimer Coffee; the cafe was recommended to the agents by tour director Roland.



AGENTS took in the sunset looking over Budapest from Castle Hill.

SOME of the agents enjoying the view over Rudesheim from the top of the gondola.



AGENTS spent some time bike riding, seeing everything Bamberg has to offer.



NICOLA Cooke of RACQ Travel Capalaba; John Karamitlios, Travel Associates; Maria Maggio, Travelmarvel staff; Julie Devereux from TA Williamstown; Richard Holt & Jamie Harris, Travelmarvel staff; Joseph Toleman, Phil Hoffmann Travel; Kerryn Barwick, Travelmarvel staff; and List Widenbar Flight Centre Southlands Willetton jumping for joy in Canada.



KIRSTY Byrne, Julie Drakes, Karen Newbury, Travelmarvel staff, with Kelly Bell, Jacqueline Belcourt and Elissa Dutka bike riding near Passau.

ALL the attendees posed for a photo on the banks of the Bow River.



Jet Airways appreciation



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Sydney | Australia

JET Airways recently treated 10 of its Travel Partners to an exclusive Indian Thali dinner at Shangri La Hotel in Sydney.

The "dinner was a thank you to the travel trade fraternity for their support to the airline" the company said.

The attendees pictured included Tom Bonnafoux, Expedia; Tammy Coyne, Air Tickets; Roheena Gidwani, Airline Rep Services - GSA Jet Airways; Ram Chhabra, CVFR Travel Group; Tony Antoniou, Consolidated Travel; Mohammad Nasiry, Express Tickets; Anoop Karnik, CCS; Nidhi Menroy, CCS; Bianca Sobotta, CWT; and Chirag Shah, Airline Rep Services - GSA Jet Airways.

LAX celebrates

A TOPPING out ceremony was held earlier this week at LAX's Midfield Satellite Concourse, signalling the latest milestone in the construction of the new 12-gate airport addition to the Tom Bradley International Terminal.

The US\$2 billion project, which is scheduled to be completed by 2020, will incorporate "passive daylight lighting" for interior spaces plus water saving features.



Enter for your chance to win a 12 day safari to Botswana – including flights!

Fly on South African Airways, Best Airline to Africa and travel with Australia's Best Speciality Wholesaler, Bench Africa, on the Highlights of Botswana Mobile Safari.

To win, all you need to do is have the most creative photo showing your 'Africa' face – the over the top, super excited or emotional expressions that many people make on seeing the incredible experiences that Africa offers. It can be from a trip you took to Africa or even from here (using your imagination)!



Send your entries to bench@traveldaily.com.au

NSW foodie tours

WILD Food Adventures is putting the spotlight on NSW's Southern Highlands in 2019, offering an extensive range of day tours that cover food, wine and nature experiences.

New for 2019 is the exclusive Hops Harvest Brew trip offered every Sat in Feb, plus Mushroom Foraging in Apr and May.

For more info, [CLICK HERE](#).

Hilton New York

THE Tapestry Collection by Hilton has opened the doors to its newest property, the Distrikt Hotel New York City, Tapestry Collection by Hilton.

Located in the heart of Midtown and Times Square West, the three-storey hotel offers a bar and a gym.

Aranui 2020 prog

TAHITIAN cruise line Aranui has released its 2020 program, including a new 14-day cruise departing Papeete 17 Dec 2020.

Guests who book on the trip will receive a bonus complimentary day when the ship calls in at Makatea in the Tuamotu Atolls for Christmas - [CLICK HERE](#) for info.

ONYX Shanghai

ONYX Hospitality Group has opened its 50th property, the Shama Hongqiao Shanghai.

Located in the Hongqiao Business District, close to Hongqiao International Airport and Railway Station, the 132-apartment accommodation offers guests a variety of layouts including studio, one- and two-bedroom residences.

THE WHO'S WHO OF SUPPLIERS ARE IN THE 2018 AFTA TRAVEL PAGES SUPPLIER DIRECTORY.

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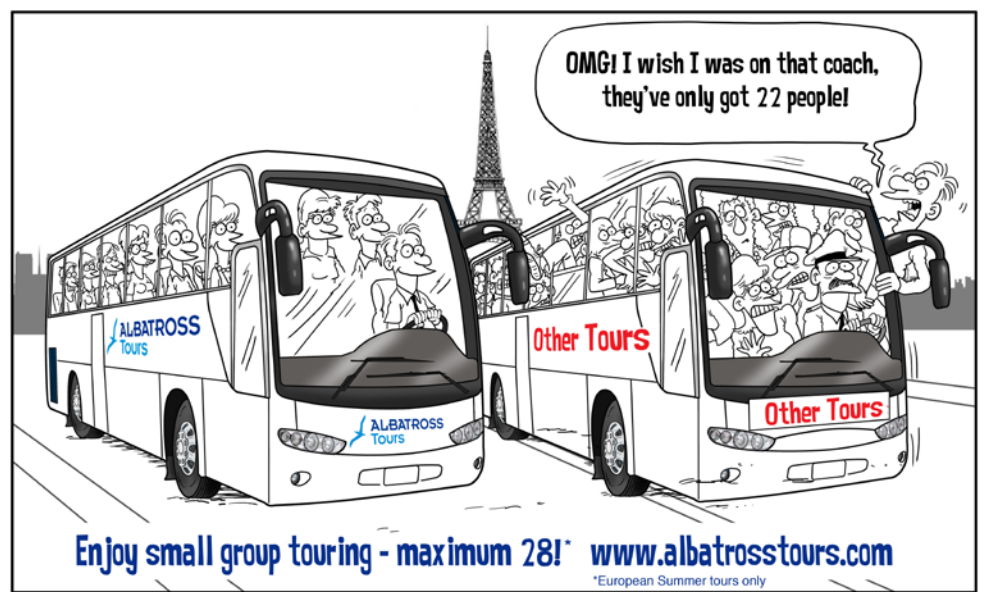


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Message from 'The Mo': Just 10 to 28 travellers

We cap our tours at 28 travellers and give your clients the peace of mind to know that we guarantee to depart with as few as just 10 travellers! Albatross Tours is one of the earliest innovators of small group touring. We saw the enormous benefit your clients would enjoy when combining small, more personal groups with longer stays at each delightful destination. There is a massive difference in the way Albatross do things!



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This award winning TMC are on the hunt for a senior strategic account manager to join their very successful team based in Sydney. You will ideally have previous TMC experience in Account Management or sales. You will be joining an organization that offers a supportive environment with ongoing training and career opportunities. A strong package is on offer, including a high base salary plus bonuses.

RARE AIRLINE ROLE

ACCOUNT MANAGER
MELBOURNE- STRONG \$\$ PACKAGE

Due to growth this well-known airline are on the hunt for a BDM/Account Manager to be based in Melbourne covering VIC, TAS and SA. You will ideally have a background in sales within the travel industry but if you are currently a retail travel consultant looking to get out on the road, you will also be considered. Salary plus car allowance and phone allowance etc is on offer for the successful candidate, interviews commence next week.

FARES AND TICKETING EXPERT

TICKETING MANAGER
SYDNEY- \$85K PKG

Are you a fares and ticketing expert looking for your next role? This award winning global company are looking for a fares and ticketing leader to join their large ticketing team.

You'll be responsible for leading a team of ticketing consultants and act as an expert for all systems, airfare and ticketing queries. This role is based in a central area, close to transport. Salary is up to an \$85k package and future career opportunities are on offer.

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SYDNEY – \$90K PKG

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A NEW CORPORATE CHALLENGE

ACADEMIC CORPORATE TRAVEL MANAGER
BRISBANE – UP TO \$70K PKG

Here's an exciting opportunity for senior corporate consultants wanting a new and exciting role. This leading travel management company is seeking an experienced senior travel consultant to join their dedicated academic division in an implant environment. Working Mon – Fri hours you'll be servicing a large corporate account along with booking leisure arrangements when required. Strong salary package, top career progression and more on offer.

PACKAGE GURU

PRODUCT & MARKETING CONSULTANT
BRISBANE– STRONG PACKAGE ON OFFER

This leading travel company is looking for an experienced travel product coordinator or consultant to join their support team. You'll be responsible for sourcing, compiling, pricing and packaging air, land & cruise specials for sale. The ability to work to tight deadlines and know the industry trends is a must. Previous product or travel consulting experience is required. Earn a strong salary package and have the opportunity to progress up the ladder.

PASSIONATE ABOUT PRODUCT

PRODUCT MANAGER
GOLD COAST – up to \$72K PKG + BONUSES

Looking for a new product role? This leading travel company have a Product Manager role based in their Gold Coast office. Managing amazing destinations you will be responsible for the contracting and design of itineraries to the destination as well as working with Marketing, Distribution, Yield and Revenue Management teams. Recent experience in a similar role is a must. Interviewing now – call to find out more.

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Come see Japan

Japan is a country of contrasts, a place of rolling green hills and fresh powder ski slopes, vibrant neon-lit cities and peaceful temples.

IT ALSO offers travellers a variety of experiences to match, all connected by Japan's world-class transport system. Within easy reach of one another, the Hokkaido and Kansai regions combine to offer visitors a quintessentially Japanese experience.

HOKKAIDO

The wilderness of Japan's most northerly region, Hokkaido, is the perfect backdrop for a host of outdoor pursuits. The mild weather during summer is perfect for exploring national parks dotted with

lakes, rivers, and mountains where travellers can enjoy hiking, mountain biking, canoeing or rafting. In winter, the breath-taking snow-covered slopes are ideal for world-class skiing and other winter sports such as snowshoeing, dog-sledding and snowmobiling.

Nestled amongst the mountains is the region's main city of Sapporo, which boasts a thriving food scene and is the home of the country's oldest beer brewery.

KANSAI

The Kansai region offers travellers a taste of the fun and sometimes kitsch side of Japanese cities, as well as an insight into the more spiritual and cultural aspect of the country's urban lifestyle.

A short bullet train ride away from Tokyo, Osaka is bright, playful, and best known for its food and nightlife.

The region's other main city, Kyoto is the old imperial capital. For centuries travellers have been charmed by the temples, shrines and peaceful corners of this ancient city.

MORE INFO

Subscribe to JNTO's monthly newsletter for top travel tips, news, updates and wholesaler products on www.jnto.org.au

For information on Hokkaido visit: <https://www.japan.travel/en/destinations/hokkaido/>

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