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Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features five pages of news, including our **Corporate Update** page, plus full pages from:

- The Travel Junction
- Abercrombie & Kent

A&K is now hiring

ABERCROMBIE & Kent is currently on the lookout for a range of talented people across sales and product roles.

The list of employment opportunities include a Head of Product position for the Australian and New Zealand markets based in Melbourne, as well as Travel Specialist FIT.

Appointees will also enjoy a range of staff benefits such as hybrid working, wellbeing leave days and more - see **page six**.

Domestic pax on the rise

IN A sign the health of the domestic aviation sector continues to improve, there were 82.1% more passengers taking domestic flights for the 12 months to Jun 2023 when compared to the same period the year before, BITRE figures show.

The report also indicated overall capacity increased by 2.6% in Jun (measured by available seat kilometres) to 6.99 billion, while load factor was slightly down on the same month in 2022, dropping from 79.9% to 78.3%.

Overall, 4.99 million passengers were carried on domestic flights for the month, representing a slight improvement of 1.5% on Jun 2022, while the total number of aircraft trips was 50,318.

In Jun, domestic passenger movements through regional airports grew by 1.6% to 2.05 million, while fixed-wing charter operators carried 331,986 passengers during the same month, an increase of 4.2%

compared with Jun 2022.

Perth Airport represented the lion's share of all charters, spurred on by the mining sector, accounting for 37.6% of the total.

Sydney was Australia's busiest domestic airport again with 1.9 million passenger movements, followed by Melbourne with 1.84 million passenger movements and Brisbane with 1.34 million.

More Ardour details

SALTER Brothers has confirmed its hotel brand Ardour Hotels & Estates due to launch next year will boast special event spaces, day spas and outdoor wellness, as well as multiple restaurant offerings for group tours.

Ahoy there Arnaud!



MSC Cruises has appointed a new Contact Centre and Operations Manager - Australia & New Zealand, with Arnaud Michelin assuming the role this week after a five-month stint with Airline Rep Services.

The cruise line said its new recruit will be charged with enhancing its customer service and agent partnerships.

While Michelin's recent postings have been in the aviation space at carriers such as Finnair, he is no stranger to the cruise sector, having held a senior role with Norwegian Cruise Line from 2016 to 2017.

"Arnaud's appointment comes at an exciting time for MSC Cruises, as we remain dedicated to delivering exceptional cruise experiences and enhancing customer satisfaction," the cruise line's MD Lisa Teiotu said.

TTJ Fiji package

EXPERIENCE Fiji in luxury with a new The Travel Junction (TTJ) and Tourism Fiji package.

Travellers can immerse themselves in a nature-lover's paradise, of dramatic peaks, lush forests, and turquoise waters, under a golden sun.

For more information on the package, head to **page 6**.

Virtual agent recruit

INTREPID Travel has appointed Brianna Pick to be its new Virtual Sales Specialist, a role which will see her support travel sellers via video consultations.

Part of the remit will see Pick provide one-on-one product and destination support to encourage both new and experienced agents to adopt best selling practices.

Agents can book a 30-minute appointment via the Agent Hub **HERE** for either before, during or after client consultations.

INCENTIVE ENDS 31 AUGUST

ONLY 1 WEEK LEFT TO WIN

It's not too late. Any Viking booking you make before 31 August will automatically put you in the draw to win \$10,000 Rewards by Viking points.

HOW TO WIN

PLUS, EARN DOUBLE REWARDS BY VIKING POINTS FOR EVERY BOOKING YOU MAKE OVER THE INCENTIVE PERIOD

ATAS withdrawal

VICTORIA'S Hampton Travel & Cruise has voluntarily withdrawn from the Australian Travel Accreditation Scheme (ATAS), following the agency's merger with fellow Beaumaris outlet Bay Travel & Cruise.

Former Hampton proprietor Gary Seignior now oversees the businesses, both now owned by St Kilda-based Verve Travel Management, which remains part of the ATAS scheme.

QR Philly pullout

QATAR Airways looks set to suspend its daily non-stop flights between Doha and Philadelphia in the USA, with GDS screens currently indicating reservations on the route are no longer available for flights after 28 Oct.

River pricing increase from 1 September 2023

SECURE THE BEST RIVER FARE NOW

Viking river cruise fares are planned to change from 1 September 2023. Book now to secure the best fare for your client.

LEARN MORE

BOOK ONLINE TODAY ON THE TRAVEL AGENT PORTAL AT MYVIKINGJOURNEY.COM/AGENT

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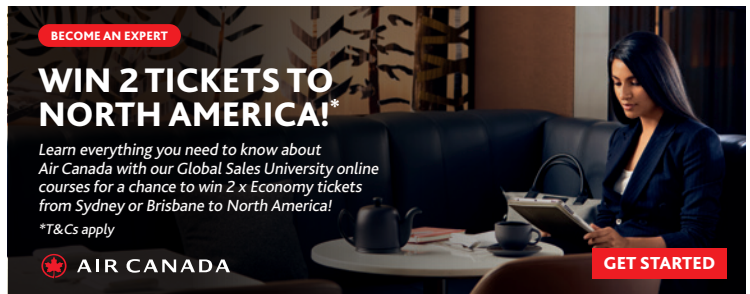
WIN 2 TICKETS TO NORTH AMERICA*

Learn everything you need to know about Air Canada with our Global Sales University online courses for a chance to win 2 x Economy tickets from Sydney or Brisbane to North America!

*T&Cs apply

AIR CANADA

GET STARTED



QF requests Indo

QANTAS is keen not to let the current surging popularity of the Indonesian market go to waste, with the carrier applying to renew capacity with the International Air Services Commission.

The Flying Kangaroo hopes to extend 744 seats per week on its Indonesian routes, as well as renew unlimited seats on all routes outside of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth for a period of 99 years.

AAT Kings 15% off

AAT Kings is offering up to 15% off over 400 tour departures across its AAT Kings and Inspiring Journey brands, for travel between 01 Apr to 31 Dec 2024.

Take advantage of the sale **HERE** before 31 Oct 2023.

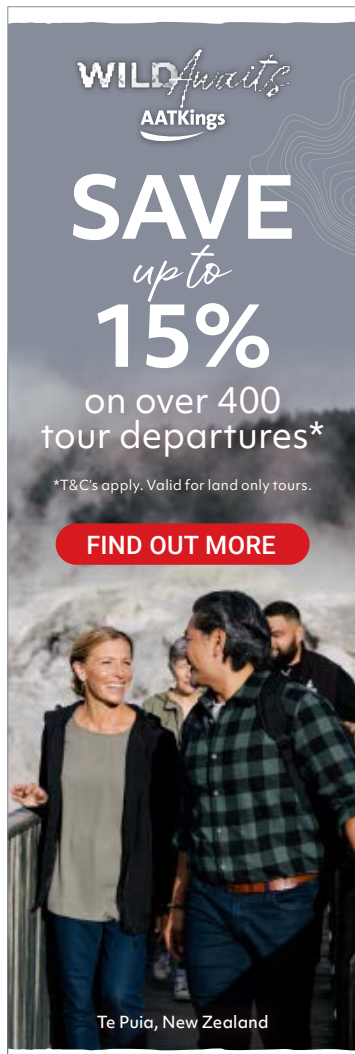
WILD Awaits
AATKings

SAVE up to 15%

on over 400 tour departures*

*T&Cs apply. Valid for land only tours.

FIND OUT MORE



Te Puia, New Zealand

Overseas desire down

CLOSE to two-thirds of Aussies aged 60 and above are electing to travel domestically this summer at the expense of an overseas trip, according to a new YouGov study commissioned by magazine app Ready.

The same report also found that 57% of Aussie travellers aged between 30 and 39 were more keen on a local holiday, while only one in five of all respondents said they will travel abroad at all at the end of the year.

Interestingly, only one in 10 Aussies said their main priority for an upcoming holiday is sustainability, while around 20% flagged an ambition to make their next holiday an "active trip".

Domestic road trips appear to be a popular choice over the summer season, the study suggests, with 66% of those aged

30-39 and 56% of those aged 40-49 stating they will be "hitting the road" at the end of year.

Further insights included two in five Aussies expressing a desire to "explore" their destination properly, and more than half confirming they will bring kids along for their domestic trip.

The results arrive as many prominent voices in the local travel sector suggest the high price of airfares are suppressing demand for long-haul overseas trips, with Flight Centre CEO Graham Turner suggesting this week the average flights to Europe are 50-70% more expensive than they were pre-pandemic.

THL chief on talent

GRANT Webster, Chief Executive Officer of Tourism Holdings Limited (THL), is the latest senior industry executive to appear in Tourism Talent's ongoing video interview series.

Webster speaks about the recent merger with Apollo, as well as opportunities to source and retain staff in the current industry environment.

The candid chat is now online at traveldaily.com.au/videos.

Meriton expands

MERITON Suites has invested more than \$400 million in developing three new hotels in Australia, signalling its debut in Victoria and the ACT.

First in the pipeline was Meriton Suites Canberra, which opened last week offering 280 rooms, while the 378-key Melbourne property will open on 26 Sep.

Meriton is also expanding its portfolio in NSW, with a new 229-room hotel to open in Liverpool on 23 Sep, marking the brand's 16th property in the state.

Abu Dhabi slashes rates for stopovers

THE battle for stopover dollars in the Middle East continues to rage, with Abu Dhabi this week reforming its tourist fee structures to further incentivise travellers to stay longer and spend more in the Emirate.

From 01 Sep, tourism fee issued to guests will be reduced from 6% to 4%, a municipality fee (A\$6.40) per hotel room per night will be axed, and the scrapping of a 6% tourism fee and 4% municipality fee applied to hotel restaurants.

TWU slams Qantas

TRANSPORT Workers' Union of Australia (TWU) has called for an independent Safe and Secure Skies Commission to "rebalance" the aviation industry.

The push comes after Qantas posted a \$2.5b profit, which National Secretary Michael Kaine blasted as "dirty money reaped from illegal outsourcing, overzealous redundancies, price-gouging, hoarding cancellation refunds, and the decimation of service standards".

Kaine also argued for executive pay caps to be implemented.

Collette searches for Aussie leader

COLLETTE is on the hunt for a Managing Director to head up its Australian branch, overseeing the 20-plus strong local team.

The successful applicant will be tasked with implementing a "robust marketing and sales plan", and lifting Collette's media profile.

Collette Executive VP of Global Sales Christian Leibl-Cote said the recruitment comes at a "pivotal time" as the touring specialist looks to capitalise on emerging Aussie opportunities.

MEANWHILE Viking's Nathalie Fagan is the top bidder for the famed England shirt worn by Collette's David Farrar (**TD** 21 Aug), with the charity auction for the prized item closing at 9am on Monday - **CLICK HERE** for details.

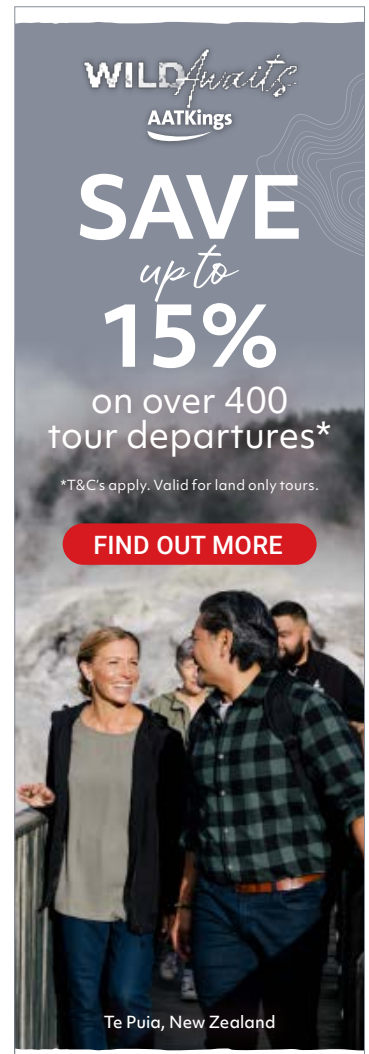
WILD Awaits
AATKings

SAVE up to 15%

on over 400 tour departures*

*T&Cs apply. Valid for land only tours.

FIND OUT MORE



Te Puia, New Zealand



Window Seat

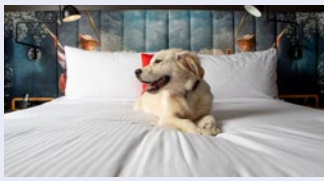
IT'S International Dog Day this Sat, and what better way to celebrate than to treat your four-legged bestie to a luxurious holiday accommodation experience?

You and your pooch are in luck, because Ovolo Hotels has introduced a limited-edition V.I.Pooch package, which includes a Fuzzhous doggy bed, an eating/drinking mat and food bowl, and a doggy bag with specially designed toys and Aussie-made natural treats from Tasty Paws.

Even better, Ovolo will donate \$5 from each V.I.Pooch package booked to Sydney Dogs & Cats Home, which helps rehoming lost and abandoned animals.

The totally pawsome package is available to book from 26 Aug to 20 Oct, with stays available from 01 Sep to 30 Nov - find out more [HERE](#).

Hilton Hotels is also jumping on the tail-wagging bandwagon, serving up free CESAR Canine Cuisine meals on 26 Aug to furry guests staying at select hotels in the United States and Canada.



Sabre on the Nile

TRAVEL agents using Sabre's marketplace will be able to access Nile Air content from this month onwards, after the Egyptian airline signed a multi-year distribution agreement with the travel tech provider.

As part of the deal, Nile Air will draw on Sabre's expertise to offer more choice and convenience when booking flights, helping to further streamline its operations.

TTJ presents Thailand treats



THE Travel Junction (TTJ) yesterday hosted key industry partners for some fabulous Thai cuisine at Long Chim restaurant in the Sydney CBD.

The gathering was held in partnership with the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) celebrating the new TTJ/Thailand co-op campaign (**TD 07 Aug**).

TTJ's Nicholas Hawkesley told attendees about the special packages curated as part of the campaign, which take in hotspots such as Bangkok and Phuket but also nature experiences in Elephant Hills, Thailand's first

luxury tented camps in the Khao Sok National Park.

TAT's Sherly Handjojo said upwards of 385,000 Australians had visited Thailand so far this year, highlighting the strong commission payments under the TTJ packages as well as a "very attractive agent incentive".

Pictured at the event are, from left: Teena Hollwey and Nicholas Hawkesley, TTJ; TAT's Kylie Noenuirai, Sherly Handjojo and Deputy Director Siwaporn Supharattanadilok; and Charlie Ridout from Travel Loop, who helped curate the packages.

Cunard books out!

CUNARD Line has partnered with bookstore chain Dymocks for its inaugural Australian Literature Festival at Sea.

Queen Elizabeth will host award-winning authors in Dec 2024, in a celebration of local literature.

The concept has been successful for a number of years in the northern hemisphere, and its first Australian cruise will be a five-night voyage from Sydney to Tasmania.

The event will inspire and educate guests through a series of thought-provoking talks, interactive workshops, and opportunities to develop writing and illustrating skills.

The full line-up of literary talent will be announced over the coming months - for more information, [CLICK HERE](#).

Seabourn unveils 2025 in N America

LUXURY expedition cruise brand Seabourn has announced 2025 itineraries for Canada, Alaska and New England, taking in vast wilderness, fall foliage and historical port cities.

Highlights of the new collection include *Seabourn Quest* being deployed to Alaska from May to Sep for 18 seven-day itineraries, featuring port stops in the Inian Islands, Rudyard Bay, and Wrangell in the Tongass National Rain Forest.

Meanwhile *Seabourn Sojourn* will undertake a series of 12-day voyages between Montreal and New York City - call 13 24 02.

EK offers discounts

EMIRATES is now offering discounted Economy & Business class tix to London, Manchester and Singapore until 31 Aug.

Economy fares start from \$639 return to Singapore and \$1,799 return to London when travelling between 08 Oct and 18 Nov, as well as 21 Jan and 15 Mar 2024.

See [HERE](#) for full range of Economy and Biz class offers.

AUSSIE SPECIALIST PROGRAM TRAINER LONDON-BASED

Tourism Australia (TA) has an exciting opportunity for an Aussie Specialist Program (ASP) Trainer/Coordinator to join its London team. This is a rare opportunity to join one of Australia's prestigious brands, representing TA and the State & Territory Organisations (STOs).



The Trainer/Coordinator role conducts all face to face and online destination training of qualified ASP agents and works in recruiting new agents to register for the program. The role will be responsible for the training and communication strategy within the Northern European markets (Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Netherlands & Belgium) and will be responsible for the implementation and execution of engaging training programs and events aimed at agents with novice to expert levels of knowledge. Destination knowledge of Australia is therefore a must. As this is a UK based role, the correct candidate must have rights to work. Relocation costs must be covered by the successful candidate.

[Click here to learn more and apply](#)

Applications close 12 September 2023

CORPORATE UPDATE

CTM tracks ESG progress

CORPORATE Travel Management (CTM) has provided an update on its “substantial progress” in key sustainability areas, detailed in its *FY23 Sustainability Report*.

The summary, which comes on the back of the company’s strong financial results for the year ending 30 Jun (**TD** 23 Aug), looks at CTM’s sustainability activities within the pillars of Governance, Planet, People, and Prosperity.

CTM completed its first formal Climate Change Impact Assessment during the reporting period, identifying key threats and opportunities, as well as investing in local carbon offset projects, such as EcoAustralia Biodiversity.

The travel management company also moved forward with several initiatives to address sustainability gaps identified in FY22, such as calculating its Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions to establish a benchmark to measure and manage its carbon footprint.

India links needed

MELBOURNE must open up more air links with India in order to support a growing number of bilateral business opportunities.

The call was made by the Australian India Institute in a newly-published report, which pointed to an increasing number of Indian businesses opening up in Victoria, with more direct links to cities like Bangalore, Chennai, and Hyderabad now needed.

Additionally, CTM partnered with the United Airlines ECOSkies program to pre-purchase a bulk supply of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), which it passes on to its customers to afford the use of SAF Credits to reduce their corporate travel footprint.

Also detailed in the report is CTM formalising its commitment to First Nations people by registering its Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), as well as renewing its three-year partnership with North Queensland Cowboys House, which provides supported accommodation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

Looking ahead to the 2024 financial year, CTM will implement its Climate (net) Positive Program, which aims to reduce climate and energy-related impacts through net zero targets.

Vietjet discounts

UNTIL 31 Aug, Vietjet is offering discounts of up to 50% off Business and SkyBoss bookings on a range of routes.

The promo applies to travel dates between 06 Sep and 30 Nov on services that connect Brisbane, Melbourne or Sydney to Ho Chi Minh City, as well as all of Vietjet’s domestic routes.

Travellers need to use the code ‘BESTFLIGHT’ to access Business class discounts, while those wanting to secure cheaper SkyBoss seats need to enter ‘ENJOYFLYING’ while booking.

The Chat
WITH JENNY

Conversations with Women in Travel

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Travel Daily

Cheers to Kyushu!



REPRESENTATIVES from Flight Centre, Wendy Wu Tours and Scenic Tours recently enjoyed a sumptuous famil trip to Japan courtesy of the Kyushu Tourism Organization and Linkd Tourism. The travel agents were able to enjoy everything the popular Japanese island has to offer, from its cultural allure to its amazing nature experiences.

The itinerary kicked off in the spiritual home of ramen, Fukuoka, where the lucky group were able to stalk the delicious Yatai food stall night markets before heading off to sample a high tea at the city’s new Ritz Carlton property.

Next up in the whistle-stop tour was Yamaga, where advisors were able to visit a whiskey distillery, take a dip in an onsen, visit some ancient temples, as well as the Yamaga Lantern Festival in luxurious VIP seating.

The group then headed to the

Kumamoto Castle, before checking out the Mt Aso crater and taking a sight-seeing Shinkansen bullet train back to Hotel OM05.

“Boasting some of the country’s best onsen and volcanic locations, it also hosts some of its most important historical attractions which have directly influenced the Japanese culture we come to love today,” Scenic Tours’ Adam Bourke reflected after the trip.

Pictured: The group enjoying some well-earned beverages, which included Adam Bourke, Flight Centre’s Tim Holden, and Wendy Wu Tours’ Angelina Briscoe.

The Colony rebrand

FORMERLY known as The Colony, the 32-room winery retreat in WA’s Swan Valley has been changed to Maya Maya to better acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the region.

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Ending on 29 Aug, **Insight Vacations** is reminding travel agents of the final chance to score 10% savings on its iconic itineraries. Some of the seasonal itineraries on sale include the 11-day Best of Italy from \$4,073, the seven-day Magical Switzerland from \$4,063, the 12-day Splendours of Egypt from \$5,360, and more. Explore the offers **HERE**.

To celebrate the Matildas' exceptional effort in the recently concluded Women's World Cup, **Sydney Airport** is offering a whopping saving of 20% on its domestic and international parking when using the promo code "MATILDAS" during the checkout process. Valid until 28 Aug - **CLICK HERE** to lock in your parking spot.

Savings of up to 10% are available for **On Foot Holidays'** 2024 walking holiday through England's Peak District. Book by 31 Oct to score the 2023 price for the week-long itinerary, traversing from Cromford to Edale through lofty hills, enchanting cottages and picturesque hamlets replete with history. Make your booking **HERE**.

Emerald Cruises is celebrating the launch of the 10-day cruise on the Mekong River with massive savings throughout the 2024/25 sailing season. With savings of up to \$2,000pp available, the river cruise is also offering the new 10-day Meandering Mekong River cruise for the price of eight days. Valid for a limited time - call 1300 434 397 for more.

Embark on **APT's** 12-day Enchanting Japan journey in Nov with savings of up to \$3,000 per couple. The offer stands until 05 Oct unless sold out prior, with travellers able to experience the iconic wonders of the country on the luxury holiday, which encompasses Takayama, Kanzawa and more before concluding in the old capital city of Kyoto. **CLICK HERE** or call 1300 278 278 to book and learn more.

Intrepid Travel is offering up to 25% off as part of its Big Australia Sale on a wide range of trips departing between 01 Oct and 20 Dec in 2023. Discounted fares include the four-day Uluru & Kings Canyon Adventure, now priced from \$1,343pp, the six-day Red Centre & Uluru Explorer from \$2,202pp, and more. View all of the offers **HERE**.

Embark on your ultimate holiday with **Cruise Traveller's** 103-night Grand Voyage to 75 destinations across 28 countries aboard the luxury *Seabourn Quest*. Departing 24 Apr 2024, the all-inclusive journey includes a free Business class flight to Barcelona in Spain from Australia, followed by an overnight stay in Barcelona and a grand dinner. Travellers can also score a bonus onboard credit of up to US\$2,000, among other benefits. Book before 30 Sep by calling 1800 507 777.

FCTG Independent SOARS



FLIGHT Centre Travel Group (FCTG) last week held its first conference for its independent brokers and travel advisors in New Zealand.

The theme of the conference, held at The Westin Brisbane, was 'SOAR: Don't just fly...Soar'.

Travel entrepreneurs in attendance were given an insight into the essential elements to thrive in today's dynamic travel landscape, with Chief Executive Leisure James Kavanagh one of the conference's guest speakers.

Attendees were also treated

to a welcome function, a gala dinner, and an awards evening, with sponsors running a supplier showcase throughout the conference.

Pictured at the welcome function are Independent New Zealand General Manager Jason Buckley, Chief Executive Officer Graham Turner, Global Managing Director Independent & Luxury Dani Galloway, Global Director of Operations Astrid Richardson, Travel Managers Group Chief Operating Officer Angela Mills, and Kavanagh.

URBAN AIR MOBILITY IS NO FLY-BY-NIGHT FAD

The once-fanciful aerial transport is now within reach, and aerospace manufacturers are furiously working on getting the concept of Urban Air Mobility off the ground.

CLICK HERE TO READ

travelBulletin



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*Per person based on twin share. Flights based on Economy Class Sydney - Nadi - Sydney - other Australian departure ports are available - refer to HELiO. No entry is required for agent incentive, refer to the website for full T&Cs. Refer to HELiO for availability and commission level. Terms & Conditions apply.

A&K Travel Group Ltd.



We Are Hiring

Join the A&K Travel Group as we continue to grow our team.

A&K – Australian Inbound Team (DMC)

Head of Product - AU & NZ (MEL)

Travel Specialist FIT (MEL)

A&K – Sales Team

Sales Support Coordinator/ Inside Sales (MEL)

Akorn Destination Management

Cruise Specialist – Land Programs & Events (MEL)

Cruise Operations Coordinator (MEL)

Cruise Operations Coordinator (AKL)

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