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Travel Daily

First with the news

Tuesday 7th January 2014



New cruise update

TRAVEL Daily has revamped its popular twice weekly **Cruise Weekly** publication for 2014 from today, placing a greater emphasis on industry related news & info.

The new **Travel Daily Cruise Update** format retains a range of popular columns such as the weekly CLIA feature and Cruise Calendar - sign up for free at www.cruiseweekly.com.au.

Magic Flute winners

CONGRATULATIONS to Trish Park from Wiltrans International and Jacinda Gardner from Alpha Travel who were the winners of tickets to see the Magic Flute, courtesy of Opera Australia.

Trish & Jacinda have each won a double pass to view the opera at the Sydney Opera House.

5 HWTs switch to Escape

FLIGHT Centre Travel Group (FLT) has added five Harvey World Travel stores to its Escape Travel franchise network, effective 01 Feb 2014.

The award-winning HWT chain has offices in Newcastle and Lake Macquarie (located in Kotara, Glendale, Toronto, Charleston & Mt Hutton), employs a staff of 35 and turns over about \$40 million annually.

It was founded by Richard Pearson in 1997, with the business currently run by his sons, Geoff and Adam Pearson.

Geoff is well regarded at HWT and has served on the franchise board for the past two years.

The deal follows a relaunch of the Escape Travel franchise model

late last year (**TD** 23 Oct), brought on after being approached by agents who were affiliated to other franchise groups.

Escape Travel franchise general manager Yela Wilson today said the Pearson's decision to jump retail networks was "a coup for Escape Travel and highlights the quality of our new franchise offering."

The Pearson's business has been a major customer for Harveys Choice Holidays/The Cruise Team and Scenic Tours, and has long-standing relationships with The Travel Corporation brands - Insight Vacations, Trafalgar and Contiki Holidays.

"In doing our business due diligence and looking at a number of possible business solutions both in and out of the JTG network, we found the FLT product offering through Escape Travel the best fit," Adam Pearson commented this morning.

Pearson added Escape Travel's "strong willingness to work with us, marketing capabilities, training opportunities, IT systems, leadership, support, unprecedented transparency and 'can do' attitude made the process to change an easy one."

Coddington promoted

ACTING chief executive officer at Tourism & Events Queensland Leanne Coddington has this afternoon been announced as the new ceo of the organisation.

Queensland Minister for Tourism & Major Events Jann Stuckey said Coddington had played an instrumental role "in the reinvigoration of the tourism industry that suffered years of neglect under the Labor Govt."

Coddington said in order to achieve the Government's 2020 targets in terms of visitor expenditure, there was a need "to be agile and responsive" and to make the most of emerging growth opportunities.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has five pages of news & photos plus a full page from:

- AA Appointments jobs

Record year for EY

ETIHAD Airways carried close to 12 million passengers last year, achieving its highest ever pax tally over a 12-month period and up nearly 16% on the 2012 figure.

The Abu Dhabi-based carrier uplifted 73% of the 16.4 million pax travelling through AUH, with another 6% shared among its alliance partners which included Virgin Australia.

Ethad's busiest routes were to Bangkok (up 7% year-on-year to 742,700), Manila, London, Jeddah and Paris.

Sydney was Ethad's seventh most popular route.

Travel Masters is an award winning Independent Travel Agency based on the Gold Coast, and we have the rare opportunity of an opening for 2 experienced Senior Travel Consultants to join us!

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Experience Required:

- At least 2 years experience as a Senior Travel Consultant working in a high yield travel sales environment is essential.
- A high level of communications skills both written and verbal
- Accomplished GDS skills (preferably Galileo) along with working experience with Travelog would be advantageous.
- Solid airfare experience with the ability to book complex round the world itineraries
- Outstanding time management and organisational skills including multi-tasking and prioritising work
- Self motivated with the ability to work autonomously
- Able to deliver exceptional customer service level at all times
- Positive attitude and willingness to learn.

Please send Resume and Cover Letter to: Neil Kirby, Operations Manager Travel Masters PO Box 563 Nerang QLD, 4211 sales@travelmasters.com.au 07 5554 2722



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Japan for Meetings

JAPAN National Tourism Organisation has today unveiled a new website to assist overseas MICE planners with arranging conferences, corporate meetings and incentive trips.

The www.japanmeetings.org portal details what Japan can offer international events, along with testimonials, case studies, information on venues and unique activities available.

Meeting planners can also download toolkits which provide access to images, videos and destination guides.

It also enables planners to submit their own event enquiries and proposals.

CI gets NZ's Skycouch

TAIWANESE carrier China Airlines has been revealed as the airline to have signed a licensing agreement to adopt Air New Zealand's innovative Skycouch product to its new 777-300ERs.

The Skycouch is a row of three Economy class seats that together create a flat flexible surface to stretch out over.

It has been exclusive to Air New Zealand since its 2011 debut.

New MTA agent websites

HOME-BASED travel group MTA - Mobile Travel Agents has commenced the rollout of individual integrated & supported websites for its 350 members.

Each of the agent platforms will be fully supported and come as a result of member feedback gained from the group's recent national conference in Canberra.

Online booking engines and an easy-to-understand e-marketing system will be added to each site, with agents able to customise platforms with tactical offerings and exclusive promotions.

MTA chief executive officer Don Beattie said the sites had a variety of uses including customer retention rather than exclusively to generate new business leads.

"Traditionally a home based consultant's web presence has been more of an online 'business card' than anything else.

"These new fully supported individual websites have taken matters to a whole new level," Beattie added.

The websites form a core part of the newly-introduced monthly fee structure of \$150 per agent which took effect at the beginning of

the year, replacing the former two-tiered fee structure which was based on whether a member wished to have their own website.

Further technology features now available to members include integrated invoice and itinerary generation systems, client profiles & enhanced gift voucher products allowing for direct payments into a pre-created trip file.

"It's a major and very positive step forward with great benefits for everyone – both our MTA Members and their customers," Beattie said.

AVV rail link progress

THE proposed Avalon Airport Rail Link has taken another step forward reaching the formal environmental planning stage.

Announced last weekend by Victoria's Minister for Public Transport Terry Mulder, the project has now been referred to the Minister for Planning.

Mulder said the Avalon Airport Rail Link would improve travel options for commuters between Geelong and Melbourne, "and secure the airport's future as our second international airport."

Construction of the rail line was originally slated in 2011 to have commenced by this year.

Hertz Global Sale

THE Hertz Corporation has released a new global sale for rentals up until 30 Jun providing discounts of up to 33% off regular car rental prices.

Available to book by 26 Jan, deals include up to 20% off in Asia, 15% in Australia, New Zealand and South America and up to 33% on qualifying domestic or outbound rentals in Europe and the Middle East.

Rentals made during the sale will also be eligible for loyalty points and reward days via the Hertz Global Rewards program.

To book, quote 'CDP: 783530'.

NHH launch Asia 2014

NEW tailor-made packages, day tours and a boosted hotel range form the major highlights of New Horizons Holidays' 2014 Asia season, which was launched by the wholesaler yesterday.

The first two destinations in the program - Hong Kong & Thailand - are now available to book, with managing director Chris Evans predicting the new Beach Hopper packages to be strong sellers.

Evans also forecast more steady growth for Hong Kong, which grew "just shy of 30% in 2013".

AI 787s to Shanghai

BOEING 787-8 services will be operated between Delhi and Shanghai Pu Dong by Air India on a four weekly basis effective 11 Jan, replacing 777-200LRs.

Canada Corroboree 2014



5 TRIPS TO CANADA TO BE WON *conditions apply
AIR CANADA

- NEW Theme & format
- Lots of new Canadian Partners
- More agent participation & prizes to be won

PER	04 Feb
ADL	05 Feb
MEL	06 Feb
BNE	11 Feb
SYD	12 Feb

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This role is ideal for a personable sales expert, with travel industry experience who is highly likeable and quick to form business relationships with potential clients. In addition, excellent business acumen is a must, combined with high persuasion and influence skills.

Please apply by email with a covering letter and a full Curriculum Vitae by COB Friday, 10th January 2014 to careers@helloworld.com.au.
Only successful applicants will be contacted.



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TNZ Latin office open

TOURISM New Zealand has earmarked double-digit growth from the Latin America market over the next five years, and in doing so has established a local office in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

The South America office boosts TNZ's global count to 14 locations in 12 countries.

Former Brazilian Luxury Travel Association executive director Karem Basulto heads up the Sao Paulo office as country manager.

She is joined by a team of three, which includes a trade exec and marketing communications mgr.

Ghanniversary sale

GREAT Southern Rail is celebrating The Ghan's 10 year anniversary since making its first journey between Adelaide and Darwin by slashing prices by 20% on 10 rail adventure packages.

Each discounted itinerary travels aboard The Ghan with savings of up to \$436pp for off-peak travel on the five-day Rock & Rail tour.

The 'Ghanniversary' sale is valid for bookings made before 28 Feb, for travel from 01 May-31 Oct.

Meanwhile, pensioner fares on The Overland are priced at \$89 in Red Service for travel to 30 Jun.

Bangkok blockades

DEMONSTRATIONS planned across Bangkok for Mon 13 Jan have been scaled back, according to Destination Asia Thailand.

The firm says demonstrators have now reduced the number of locations they planned to inhibit traffic flows through the city from 20 intersections to six.

While major express ways will remain cleared, there are concerns regarding the amount of traffic congestion that will mount up on arterial roads.

Destination Asia says it has contingency plans in place to aid all clients should any major issues arise with transport in Bangkok during the protests by the People's Democratic Reform Committee.

Intersections to avoid include the Lat Phrao five-way, Victory Monument, Pathumwan, Lumpini Park, Ratchaprasong and Asok, and Chaeng Wattana Road.

The demonstrations are being held in the lead up to national elections on 02 Feb 2014.

MEANWHILE, Singapore Airlines, Cathay Pacific and Hong Kong Airlines have cancelled over 50 round-trip flights to Bangkok between now and late Feb due to reduced demand as a result of the impending election.

Cheap flights to cruise

ROYAL Caribbean International is offering airfares from Brisbane, Melbourne, the Gold Coast and Adelaide to Sydney priced from \$49 to join five South Pacific sailings departing Sydney Harbour.

The offer applies to *Rhapsody of the Seas* voyages on 01 Feb, 11 Feb, 18 Mar & 08 Apr and *Voyager of the Seas* cruise on 27 Feb.



SOMETIMES the most simple form of punishment will do.

A hotel manager in California has paid tribute to teachers everywhere by making a guest who tried to steal one of the property's paintings write lines as his penance.

The man was sprung trying to move a portrait of a naked woman riding a cigar from the men's room at the Citizen Hotel in the state capital, Sacramento.

Blaming too much to drink at a wedding, the man admitted his crime on the spot and expressed deep remorse, leading to the unusual punishment as opposed to pressing police charges.

Sitting him down at a desk with a pen and paper, the manager made the man write "I will not get drunk at a wedding and go steal the naked picture of a woman on a cigar over the urinal in the Citizen Hotel" over and over again.

The lines are now proudly on display in the same men's room, next to the returned painting.

Child travel game app

TOURISM organisations around the world will soon be approached to contribute real-world locations and tasks for a new smartphone game to be launched in Mar.

Dubbed Habitat, the game sees players required to complete tasks based on visiting locations globally, with the aim of keeping a virtual polar bear alive.

Players earn points by finding hidden locations, which utilise smartphone GPS technology.

SINGAPORE AIRLINES

Temporary Customer Services Officer Part-Time

An exciting opportunity exists for a Temporary Customer Services Officer Part-Time at Singapore Airlines at Perth Airport. The position is for 12 months to cover a maternity leave absence.

Hours of Duty:
Part-Time shift worker position, of 30 hours per week. Additional hours worked outside these hours will be remunerated in accordance with SIA's Enterprise Agreement 2013.

Key areas of responsibility include:

- Assist in all Operational areas including check-in, baggage & ramp.
- Staffing SilverKris Lounge.
- In-flight service and general Traffic and in-flight administrative duties.

To be successful in the role you will require:

- Sound knowledge of all traffic and operational functions including criteria such as delay handling, crisis management etc.
- To work various shifts as part of a roster.
- Clear understanding of Amadeus Altea reservations is preferable.
- Clear understanding of ticketing & general product knowledge beneficial.
- Strong time management skills and confidence working in a busy environment.
- Good interpersonal skills with internal and external customers.

Starting salary is \$35,740 pa.

To apply, please forward your resume to Han Ming Tan, Station Manager Perth either by email info_per@singaporeair.com.sg or by mail to Level 1, Terminal 1, Perth Airport WA 6105.

Applications close Monday 13 January 2014.
Only successful applicants will be contacted.

VISIT TRAVELINDOCHINA.COM.AU/AGENTS FOR ONLINE TRAINING AND OTHER RESOURCES.

TRAVEL INDOCHINA
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TravelEdge Titans victorious!



LATE last month, under the scorching sun at the Sydney King George V Sports Centre, the TravelEdge Titans took to the field against the ASX Punters to battle for the coveted title of 2013 Futsal Championship trophy.

Despite extreme heat, coupled with the lingering effects of the TravelEdge Christmas party the night prior, the Titans' blistering

speed and accuracy was enough to topple the competition leaders in a comprehensive 4-2 victory.

Pictured on the court following their victory, from left are the winning team of Corinne Wright, Alan Safranko, Lisa Caldwell, Scott Minhinnett, Tamara Summers, Daniel Andrzejewski, Pamela Rodriguez, Sunil Tikaram, Lauren Strada and Andrea Gaylard.

Qld Rail Travel brox

AUSTRALIA'S first RailBed on the Spirit of Queensland is featured in the new 2014/15 Discover Queensland by Rail brochure that has been rolled out by Queensland Rail Travel.

Earlybird savings are on offer for bookings made by 31 Mar.

Order copies of the brochure through PMA Solutions.

Rayavadee free feed

THAILAND'S Rayavadee resort in Krabi is offering complimentary half board for Australian guests staying at the property for seven nights or more between 01 May and 31 Oct 2014.

The offer is valid for bookings received by 31 Jan and applicable to all room categories for food only at either lunch or dinner.

To take advantage of the deal, use the booking code of 'UK/AUS Half Board Offer' when making a reservation.

See www.rayavadee.com.

QR EDI special fares

QATAR Airways is offering fares on its new route to Edinburgh priced from \$1,655 in Economy class departing from Perth.

Business class fares to EDI start at \$6,765.

Flights to Edinburgh commence on 28 May and operate five times weekly from QR's Doha hub.

QR is also offering discounted fares from Melbourne to Europe, with Economy class prices to Paris leading in at \$1,500, Athens from \$1,510 and Manchester \$1,615.

The New Year sale is available for bookings made by 17 Jan.

SQ A380 into Baku

A SINGAPORE Airlines A380 with 494 passengers onboard was forced to make an emergency landing in the Azerbaijan capital of Baku after the superjumbo suffered a drop in cabin pressure.

Yesterday's flight was operating from London to Singapore when the incident occurred.

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Daily	EK 171	17:10	20:30
Days	Flight No.	Depart Kiev	Arrive Dubai
Daily	EK 172	22:05	04:45 (next day)

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Gogo enters Canada

US IN-FLIGHT wi-fi connectivity provider Gogo has gone live with the first phase of its air-to-ground technology in Canada.

The move will enable carriers using Gogo to provide seamless internet service on flights between the USA and Canada.

Accor summer promo

LE CLUB Accor is offering a 40% discount at 120 select hotels around Australia in a 48-hour sale running until midnight 09 Jan - see www.accorhotels.com.



Money

WELCOME to Money Talk, TD's Tue feature on what the Australian dollar is doing.

\$1AUD = US\$0.89

RESERVE Bank Governor Glenn Stevens has labelled long-term trading of the AUD over US\$0.90 as "not sustainable", citing a need for a significant shift in market sentiment for this to happen.

Despite recent falls against the greenback, the AUD has instead been able to hold its own on the Euro, British Pound and Yen.

As the year kicks into gear, currency markets around the world will be keeping an eye on each other to identify movement prior to major announcements.

Wholesale rates this morning:

US	\$0.893
UK	£0.544
NZ	\$1.081
Euro	€0.655
Japan	¥93.36
Singapore	\$1.134
China	¥5.412
South Africa	R9.507
Canada	\$0.953
Crude oil	US\$93.43

Scot 'morning glory'

LOW-COST carrier Scot has kicked off a new weekly discount airfare promotion known as Morning Glory Tuesdays.

Each week, the airline will offer a range of special fares to cities across its network, departing from Sydney, Gold Coast & Perth and travelling through Singapore.

To celebrate the launch, the initial sale will run to 3pm today.

Debut deals available in the first week of the sale include Perth to Singapore priced from \$169, Sydney to Phuket from \$249 and Gold Coast to Kochi from \$349.

See www.flyscot.com.

B777X built in Seattle

A US aerospace machinists union has formalised an eight-year contract extension with Boeing to see the B777X aircraft & composite wing built in Seattle.

Fuselage construction, final assembly and major components including interiors and wires will take place in the Puget Sound region of the Washington city.

MEANWHILE, the aircraft manufacturer has recorded its highest number of deliveries in a single year, rolling out 648 aircraft to customers across 2013.

Boeing took orders for 1,355 new commercial aircraft, taking the total backlog to 5,080, which is another company record.

A total of 65 B787 Dreamliners were delivered in 2013, along with 440 Next-Generation 737s and 98 B777 aircraft.

Langham to Ningbo

LANGHAM Hospitality Group has announced the opening of the Langham Place, Ningbo Cultural Plaza in the Chinese city.

The property consists of 143 rooms and suites with views of the river and city and is situated as part of the city's entertainment and cultural district.

Each contains free wi-fi and separate bath & shower as part of the Langham Place experience.



AFTA UPDATE

The latest updates from AFTA's Chief Executive, Jayson Westbury

WELCOME to 2014 and strap in as I am confident we are in for a very big year in the travel industry.

For starters, 2014 plays host to three enormous global events. The XXII Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia in February, the FIFA World Cup in Brazil in June and the 20th Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland in July. No doubt all of these global events will attract loads of bookings and attention and on top of these we still have the ever growing desire by Australians to travel overseas.

On top of this, Australia will play host to the G20 economic forum with the leaders Summit to be held in Brisbane in November (I am sure you were expecting the political twist). The fourth big global event. History has shown that when world events are on, Aussies love to travel even more than normal. If not to be a part of the action of the actual event, to at least go to the place in which the action may have happened just to have bragging rights down the track that they have been there. So as I said late in 2013, I am confident that 2014 is set to be a big year for travel.

Furthermore, AFTA will formally launch ATAS to consumers in the second quarter of 2014 with the finer detail and commercial solutions being bedded down over the next couple of months. So as I said, we had all better strap in as this is going to be a big year and I hope that everyone gets a piece of the action and becomes totally immersed in all things accreditation as I know that consumers will be looking for something new and something trustworthy as the regulatory regime that has been in place for decades comes to an end.

All the best for the year ahead and all of us at AFTA and ATAS look forward to working with the travel industry over the year ahead.



Tonga storm warning

A WEATHER alert forecasting a potential cyclone for the Vavau & Haapai islands has been issued by the Tonga Bureau of Meteorology.

The warning says there is potential for the current system to develop into a cyclone over the next 24-48 hours and for any Australians there to keep an eye on local information reports.

Dubai LCC jet order

FLYDUBAI has confirmed an US\$8.8b Boeing aircraft order which will see it take delivery of 75 B737MAX 8's and 11 B737-800 aircraft from the year 2017.

The order was originally placed at last year's Dubai Air Show.

Caravan & camp expo

STALLS and displays showcasing 180 motorhome, camping equipment, accessories & holiday destinations will be on show at the first caravanning and camping expo for 2014 - to be held at the Newcastle Entertainment Centre and Showground from 07-09 Feb.

The event is the first of four put on each year by the Caravan and Camping Industry Association of NSW, with the organisation anticipating a strong attendance.

Entry tickets are priced from \$10.

Wuhan visa-free plan

THE Chinese province of Wuhan has revealed plans to introduce a 144-hour visa-free visitation policy as part of its 2014 Hubei Airport work program.

Foreign tourists are currently able to visit seven Chinese cities for up to 72-hours without a transit visa, with Wuhan officials hoping its expanded scheme will boost arriving tourist numbers.

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

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This is an exciting opportunity to work for one of the global leaders in corporate travel. With some recent growth in the business, the company is looking for some talented consultants to join their friendly team. Booking all the corporate travel needs of the client and delivering excellent service, this will be a highly rewarding role. If you have 2 years experience in either retail or corporate travel, strong GDS skills and want to make the move into a rewarding new career. Apply for this role today.

***NEW* CHAMPAGNE LIFESTYLE FOR ME RETAIL TRAVEL CONSULTANT SYDNEY – SALARY PACKAGE UP TO \$60K +**

This is a great time to move into a high end retail travel role. Move away from price beats and tire kickers. Work in the upper North Shore and be minutes away from your front door. This well established agency that specialises high end travel and are looking for an excellent consultant to join their team. If you are well travelled, passionate about travel and has proven sales skills, this is the role for you. Sabre/Tramada preferred with minimum 2 years retail experience. Make the move today to this exclusive role.

START 2014 WITH A HOT NEW ROLE! CORPORATE CONSULTANTS X 6 MELBOURNE - SALARY PKG UP TO \$55K (DOE)

We have a sensational new opportunity for 2014 that will see you moving into corporate bliss in the heart of the CBD! This well known travel company has just won several NEW accounts and now requires 6 new superstar consultants to join their team and service the accounts. Working Monday – Friday hours only you will be a part of a fun team environment and will be paid a sensational high base salary for doing the job you love. Be quick these roles are set to start this month! Minimum 12 months exp required.

EXCLUSIVE ROLES WITH AA APPOINTMENTS! CUSTOMER SERVICE CONSULTANTS X 5 MELBOURNE – SALARY PACKAGE UP TO \$52K

Have you returned from your Christmas break and already dreaming of your next holiday? Finding work unbearable at the moment? We have the answer! AA Appointments is currently recruiting for 5 customer service focused consultants for a well known travel organisation. This forward thinking company will see you stepping away from face to face consulting and into back office bliss. You will work with a fun team and be paid the highest salary in town. Min 12 months industry exp required and Galileo essential.

CRAVING A BETTER WORK LIFE BALANCE? RETAIL TRAVEL CONSULTANTS X 2 MEL (VARIOUS) – SALARY PACKAGES UP TO \$55K (OTE)

We have 2 new opportunities for experienced senior consultants in Melbourne. These exciting retail positions will see you moving away from the time wasters and into retail roles where you are appreciated and valued. With a variety of hours on offer and some sensational locations, you won't want to miss these roles. If you have a minimum 3 years industry experience and a true passion for travel then we want to hear from you. Call us today and start 2014 with a better work life balance!

***NEW* WHOLESALE BLISS IN MELBOURNE WHOLESALE CONSULTANTS MELBOURNE – SALARY PACKAGES UP TO \$70K (OTE)**

Have you been dreaming of moving into a wholesale role? We have an exciting NEW role in Melbourne that will see you working for a global organisation with global benefits. Selling worldwide destinations to your loyal agents you will create unforgettable experiences via phone and email enquiry only. That's right, no more face to face! This role will see you earning in excess of \$60k with extra bonuses such as famils and internal incentives. Minimum 12 months travel industry experience required. Call us today.

2014 COULD BE YOUR GOLDEN YEAR RETAIL MANAGER GOLD COAST – SALARY PACKAGE \$60K ++

It's not too late to set the wheels of change in motion & make 2014 the year your professional travel career takes off. Set in a lovely suburb of Gold Coast this store is looking for a dynamic travel consultant / manager that has the drive & passion to take this store and its team to new & exciting heights. If you can see yourself being the go-to person who loves to mentor, gets a thrill from sales and a natural ability to feel excitement when consulting to clients about their dream holidays then we would love to hear from you.

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SUNSHINE COAST – SALARY PACKAGE DEP ON EXP
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If you have a strong travel background and a good team player then apply today.