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INTERCONTINENTAL
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Don't miss the show

THE Travel Industry Exhibition taking place next week is the ideal way for travel agents to meet with suppliers, get the latest product updates and check out all that's new, so make sure you're there - see the **cover page**.



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New 'host agency' model

US AGENCY group Travel Leaders is set to significantly expand its presence in Australia, with the local launch of "Your Travel Centre" as an extension of its partnership with Queensland-based Cruise Holidays (TD 01 Apr).

Your Travel Centre will operate a so-called 'host agency' model, which provides the same level of support and service as a regular home-based or mobile agency, but focuses on "promoting each individual agent's own brand," according to Cruise Holidays md Les Farrar.

The host agency's brand doesn't feature in any consumer

communications, with Farrar saying "the advantage of this approach is that the agent is truly building their own business."

Your Travel Centre provides back end support, administration and marketing, and the new business will be targeted at home-based agents selling general travel, rather than focusing primarily on cruise, Farrar said.

Participating agents operate with their own unique trading name, logo and website.

Travel Leaders claims to be America's largest travel agency company, with over 6,000 company owned, franchised and affiliated outlets across the US, Canada, the UK, Ireland and now Australia.

Farrar said the "outstanding" technology and systems offered via Cruise Holidays will also be available to Your Travel Centre members.

He said that since its launch last year (TD 17 Jan 13), Cruise Holidays has now grown to 31 home based and store locations.

Farrar said he expected to announce further collaborations with Travel Leaders soon.

SOO game 3 tonight

DON'T forget to send your answers to our final set of State of Origin questions before kick-off in Game 3 of the series between NSW and Qld tonight.

Keith Prowse Travel is providing a fabulous prize of an Immortals dining package for two at the NRL Grand Final later this year for the TD reader who gives the closest answers to the questions which we have run during the series.

The questions for Game 3 are:

- 1) What do you predict the final score will be for Game 3?
- 2) In which minute of Game 3 will the first try be scored?
- 3) Which player will be awarded Man of the Match for Game 3?

Send your answers by 7pm to soo@traveldaily.com.au.

Eight pages of news

Travel Daily today has eight pages of news and photos, a front cover page for the Travel Industry Exhibition plus a full page from: (click):

- AA Appointments jobs

KQ 787 to Far East

KENYA Airways has announced plans to operate its new 787 Dreamliner from Nairobi to Bangkok, Guangzhou and Hong Kong, debuting on NBO/BKK/CAN and NBO/BKK/HKG effective from 18 Aug this year.



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Crown Sydney licence tick

JAMES Packer's "six-star" Crown Sydney Hotel Resort took another step forward yesterday, after Crown Resorts Limited was issued with a gaming licence.

The Restricted Gaming Licence comes with a number of strict conditions, including an outright ban on poker machines & minimum bet limits for gaming in the Restricted Gaming Facility (RGF).

Only members and guests will be permitted to gamble at the RGF and gaming at Crown Sydney cannot commence until around the time of its flagged opening date of mid-Nov 2019.

The 99-year Licence Fee has a \$100 million price-tag alone.

Other conditions will see Crown guarantee to provide at least \$1 billion in gaming taxes to the NSW Government during the first 15 years of operation.

Crown Resorts ceo Rowen Craigie said the RGF green light was an "important milestone" for the Barangaroo South project, near Darling Harbour.

"Crown and its chairman James Packer are committed to building a truly iconic six-star hotel for

Sydney that will be recognised globally.

"Crown Sydney will help bring additional international and domestic tourists to Sydney, create over 1,200 jobs and generate economic growth for NSW," Craigie commented.

He added that Crown Resort would make the Barangaroo precinct a "safe and vibrant place for tourists, local residents and all Sydneysiders."

However, gaming licence approval does not signal the start of construction for The Crown Sydney Hotel Resort, with the project still subject to planning approval and negotiation of final agreements with Lend Lease and Barangaroo Delivery Authority.

Spirit crew overboard

CARNIVAL Spirit has confirmed a search and rescue operation in the Pacific after a crew member went missing and was presumed to have been lost overboard en route from Vanuatu to Fiji.

The man is believed to have worked in the kitchens, and is still currently unaccounted for.

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QF axes domestic carbon tax

QANTAS has acted swiftly in response to the expected axing of the government's controversial carbon tax, yesterday removing the YQ charge relating to the tax from its domestic fares.

However the base fare level

has been increased by the same amount, so the actual prices paid by passengers haven't changed.

A Qantas spokesman told *Travel Daily* that when the tax was first imposed, the airline had intended to recover the additional cost through fare increases - however it had not been able to achieve this "given the level of competition and the unique pressures in the domestic aviation market."

"Our all-inclusive fares have not risen, though we have kept a small carbon surcharge on domestic fares...this has now been removed, but there won't be any change to the prices that customers pay," he said.

The YQ carbon surcharge - now removed as an "administrative step only" - had been in place "so that we can keep track internally of the cost of the tax," which had gone straight to the airline's bottom line, totalling over \$100 million annually in FY13 and 14.

TUI's PEAK 'non-core'

THE merger between German firm TUI AG and its English sister company TUI Travel (*TD* 30 Jun) has seen a number of the group's businesses, including the PEAK Adventure Travel Group joint venture operated in partnership with Intrepid Travel, designated as "non-core" operations.

These businesses will be "run separately and maximised for value," according to the merger documents, with affected divisions including Online Accommodation, Container Shipping and Specialist & Activity.

Analysts are speculating that the merged travel giant will attempt to sell the non-core businesses as it reshapes its operations.

As well as the PEAK Adventure Travel Group JV with Intrepid, TUI's Specialist & Activity sector includes other brands such as luxury operator Hayes & Jarvis, TUI Marine's Le Boat, Sunsail and The Moorings, and polar cruise operator Quark Expeditions.



Window Seat

THE humble "selfie" has become as much a part of our everyday existence as it has become part of the Oxford Dictionary.

Travellers especially love a good selfie to immortalise their worldly adventures, and now a major technology company has built a product tuned for selfies.

Sony Mobile Communications has today launched Xperia C3, a new smartphone designed for the selfie-happy consumer.

The phone features a five megapixel front-facing camera allowing for more people or a wider landscape to fit in a shot.

Software on the phone has been optimised to social media to speed up the uploading to Facebook or Twitter.

Details of the phone's launch into the Australian market are yet to be finalised, Sony said.

HURTIGRUTEN will be bringing some wonder and amazement to the Travel Industry Exhibition next week as it debuts a model of its *MS Midnatsol* vessel, built entirely out of LEGO pieces.

The model (pictured below) will be displayed at the stand of 50 Degrees North and offers remarkable detail such as flowers in suite & a top deck spa.



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Yankees not the only winners!



CREATIVE Holidays started selling tickets to baseball games in the United States this year, and a group of Magellan Travel agents were recently lucky enough to 'get out to the ball game.'

The agents were recently treated to a week long famil to New York, where they witnessed first-hand the New York Yankees topple the Baltimore Orioles.

Of course, such an experience wouldn't be complete without the accompanying beer and hot dog to ensure the group were totally immersed in the quintessential American past-time.

The Big Apple visit also included tickets to Broadway shows,

Rocky - The Musical and *Bullets on Broadway*, lunch at the iconic Russian Tea Room restaurant and a side-trip to Washington DC.

Pictured at Yankee Stadium back row from left are Andrew Buerckner, Platinum Travel; Bianca Orsola-Rose, Creative Holidays sales manager Vic/Tas; Emma Rodgers, Andrew Jones Travel and Mary Damic, VA travel industry account manager Vic.

Front row: Nicole Thompson, Trans World Travel; Angela Heyne, Flying Colours Travel; Caren Cassidy, Travel Sense; Judy Tanner, Aurora Travel; Andrew Cross, Wings Away Travel & Kelly Cutting, Brighton Travelworld.

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3rd Rocket for CCC

CAPTAIN Cook Cruises' newest vessel, a next-generation 24m Rocket catamaran, debuted on Sydney Harbour yesterday.

The \$2.6m *Annabelle Rankin* is the third state-of-the-art new vessel added to the company's operation since Nov, and is part of Captain Cook Cruises' mission to be a "major" charter operator in the NSW capital.

SeaLink Travel Group md Jeff Ellison reiterated the new class of rockets provide high levels of comfort for 116 seated passengers in the main cabin, 51 on the upper deck and a further 31 seats on an outdoor deck.

"The vessels are multi-purpose and designed for balance of efficiency with ruggedness."

Annabelle Rankin is contracted to Sydney Ferries until Jun 2017 and will be providing ferry charter services.

A fourth new catamaran will join the fleet in Dec.

JAL flight disruptions

JAPAN Airlines is warning of likely domestic flight delays and cancellations due to the effects of Typhoon Neoguri across the Okinawa island chain.

Disruptions are expected at Amani-Oshima Airport & another 15 airports, including Sendai, Yakushima and Okinawa Naha.

Canada-Panama link

AIR Canada is introducing a new thrice weekly service between Toronto and Panama City, utilising dual-class Airbus A319 aircraft.

Flights are scheduled to launch on 17 Dec on a year-round basis.

EVEN second opening

THE second of InterContinental Hotels Group's new EVEN Hotels lifestyle and wellness brand has opened in Rockville, Maryland.

Located within the Washington DC metro area, EVEN Hotel Rockville features 167 rooms.

Bench International – the Africa Experts Part-Time Sales Representative - WA

Bench International, the founder of African holidays in Australia, has a unique opportunity for a highly motivated and energetic Sales Representative in WA.

Experience in sales together with first-hand travel knowledge of Africa is a must. The successful candidate will be responsible for managing existing relationships with key travel agents, as well as developing new ones within Western Australia.

Participation at travel shows and consumer nights are some of the aspects of the role.

To apply to join the pride, email your CV to jobs@benchinternational.com.au with the position title in the subject header by 18 July 2014.



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Solomons outbreak

THE Solomon Islands Ministry of Health & Medical Services has issued a nationwide alert after an outbreak of diarrhoea led to a number of deaths in the country. Smartraveller yesterday issued an update for Solomon Islands-bound travellers to take extra care when washing hands after using the toilet, preparing food or caring for people with diarrhoea. Six provinces in the country have been impacted to date.

Bench safari saving

BENCH International's seven day Wildlife & Wilderness package through South Africa has been discounted by \$1,070 per person for new bookings travelling before the end of Aug. The package is based on three nights at Madikwe safari lodge & three at Marataba safari lodge and incl game-drives & meals. It's priced at \$3,050pp, which also includes flights from Jo'burg to Madikwe - call 1300 AFRICA.

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APT brings World Cup to agents



AUSTRALIA can now feel a bit better at having missed out on hosting the World Cup in 2022 as APT and Travelmarvel last night brought its version of the prestigious tourney to the trade.

The luxury touring firm finished up its annual national roadshow tour in Sydney, bringing its World Cup of Products to the final event in Sydney.

The timing of the event naturally went hand-in-hand with the actual tournament in Brazil, which is rapidly reaching its crescendo.

Held at the Hilton in the CBD, more than 200 agents packed into one of the property's function spaces to determine which of APT's product and travel styles would be crowned champion.

APT took its roadshows first to Adelaide for 2014, with events also held in Perth, Melbourne and Brisbane and attracting around 1000 agents in total to the series.

Attendees were run through the latest updates and highlights of APT and Travelmarvel itineraries

and products in Europe, Asia, Africa, India & Burma, South America and USA/Canada/Alaska, with Luxury Small Ship Cruising also covered.

Products and itineraries were presented and showcased in a way similar to the World Cup tournament brackets, with the highlights, or "offense" delivered at the end in injury time.

The soccer skills of the Sydney trade were also put to the test, with several attendees invited to try and kick a goal to enter into the major prize draw.

Up for grabs at each event was a cabin on an APT European river cruise and a berth on a Travelmarvel Asian itinerary for two lucky winners to experience.

Pictured above dressed in the kit of participating World Cup nations are the APT sales team, in the back row from left is Susan Haberle, Ryan Montgomery and Melanie Hogg.

Front row: Rowena Morris and Suzie Coughlin.

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Hilton Hawaii Aussie sales blitz



THE sales and marketing team from Hilton Hawaii hit Australian shores last week for a sales blitz, teaming up with the team from Hawaii Tourism Oceania and Hawaiian Airlines.

Reps from Hilton Hawaii, Hilton Waikiki Beach and Embassy Suites provided industry partners with an update on the latest Hilton Hawaii developments at an event

at Zeta Bar at Hilton Sydney.

Guests were treated to an island inspired menu created by Hilton Waikiki Beach chef James Aptakin.

Pictured from left are Cynthia Rankin, Hilton Hawaii; Janaya Birse, HTO; Valerie Okamoto-Moad, Hilton Hawaii; chef James Aptakin and Sandy Narvaez from Hilton Waikiki Beach and Maria Alaveras, Embassy Suites.

Solo holidays on the rise

EASE of access to airfares to Asia has been identified as a core driver behind a sizeable increase in the percentage of solo travellers heading overseas for a break, according to new data collated by Roy Morgan Research.

The latest RMR Travel & Tourism study found 22% of Australians aged 14 and up travelling alone went overseas for their last trip, up from 14% ten years ago.

Domestic destinations were still preferred for a solo getaway, with 80% of solo travellers remaining in Australia, down from 87%.

Poll results also favoured a climb in couples going on a solo holiday for their last trip (16%, up from 12%), while the proportion of travellers who last travelled as part of a family with kids was also down slightly from 28% to 27%.

Roy Morgan Research director of tourism, travel and leisure Jane

lanniello said the solo traveller market was potentially lucrative for tour operators and airlines.

“They may account for a smaller proportion of Australia’s holiday-makers than those who travel with others, but they’re the only segment that has grown in the last decade – and which shows no sign of declining any time soon.”

Solo travellers are increasingly moving away from the young backpacker market and toward the more mature ‘empty-nesters’.

Nearly half of the market was made up of people aged 50 or up, with the overall percentage of solo travellers aged under 35 declining in the last decade.

“More often than not, these mature travellers are single, divorced, separated or widowed, with their main parental responsibilities behind them, and are keen to get out there and enjoy their newfound freedom,” lanniello added.



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The ideal candidate should have prior managerial experience, sales and consulting experience in the travel industry, be well travelled, have a passion for adventurous destinations.

For more information [Click Here](#) and to apply email your CV to melita@tucantravel.com

Transaero to Taipei

RUSSIAN carrier Transaero Airlines has commenced a new weekly service linking Moscow Vnukovo and Taipei.

The non-stop route is operated using two-class Boeing 767-300s.

JAL tweeting flt info

JAPAN Airlines Group has begun sending the latest international & domestic flight info four times daily using the Twitter handle of @JALFlightInfo_e, in line with updated data on the JAL website.

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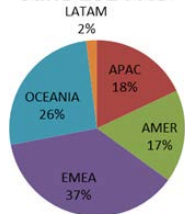
HOT DESTINATIONS



THE TAAP TOP TEN Brought to you by Expedia

Expedia TAAP Destinations

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Expedia TAAP declared another fabulous month of growth for June 2014. TAAP recorded fantastic Year on Year growth in bookings with a huge 570 different destinations booked through Expedia TAAP last month. The top Expedia TAAP destinations booked were Sydney, London, Melbourne, Paris, Singapore, New York, Kowloon, Rome, Los Angeles and Kuta. Dubai and Brisbane were just outside the top 10 while the warmth of Oahu and Fiji prompted strong bookings as well. Europe continued as the dominant destination although compared to last month decrease of 2% to 37%. USA down 1% to 17% of the destination mix while Oceania shot up 3% to 26% and APAC steady at 18%.

Some of the out of the way destinations last month included Ba Ria-Vung Tau in Vietnam, Yakima Washington and Flanders Belgium. Expedia TAAP are proud sponsors of the 2014 Travel Industry Exhibition so hope to see many of you there.



On The Go India guide

ESCORTED touring firm On The Go Tours has launched its new brochure for India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Tibet.

The 2014/15 guide features a range of tours aimed at different market segments including event tours, festivals and itineraries aimed at families with teenagers.

Highlighted itineraries include the 14-day Golden Triangle and Kerala which visits popular Indian highlights before heading to the tropical southern Kerala region, priced from \$3,369pp.

Phone 1300 855 684 for details.

Pier One spruced up

WORKS have begun on a 17-week "beautification process" at Pier One Sydney Harbour, which will see upgrades carried out on the lobby, dining & bar facilities.

The property will be showcasing renderings of the finished product and other innovations in hotel design at luxury travel show Luxperience, having signed on as the show's newest accom partner.

Niccolo now on show

HONG Kong-based hotel group Marco Polo Hotels has launched its first new sister brand in the form of Niccolo Hotels, with the first to open in China next year.

Niccolo Hotels will be positioned as a luxury alternative to the midscale Marco Polo brand itself.

Chengdu will be the first city to see a Niccolo branded property, with Chongqing, Changsha and Suzhou to follow soon before the group looks at further expansion.

Ratua add air services

VANUATU property Ratua Private Island has launched its own private air shuttle for guests to use as a transfer service to the resort's own private landing strip.

Services operate using a five-seat Cessna Stationair T206H and can be booked to connect to int'l services - phone Precise Travel Marketing for more information.



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Counsellors webinar

HOME-BASED consultant group Travel Counsellors will host a recruitment webinar tonight at 7pm, aimed at promoting the benefits on offer in the group.

The live session will also look at the company's Phenix packaging system and feature current group members discussing their own decisions to join the organisation.

Phone (03) 9034 7075 for more details on how to register to view.

CX newspaper stream

CATHAY Pacific has launched a free newspaper streaming service at its Hong Kong Int'l Airport lounge, with the service offering access to 2,200 titles worldwide.

The carrier says it will gradually add the benefit to other lounges.

Club Med offer raised

AN ITALIAN investment firm has submitted a buyout bid for the all-inclusive resort operator Club Med, tabling US\$1.1 billion (AUD\$1.16b) for the organisation.

Investindustrial Fund is currently a minority shareholder, holding 11% of the firm at the moment.

The offer is nearly double that of a €557 bid made last year by Asian shareholder Fosun Int'l and European investment firm AXA Private Equity (**TD** 27 Jun 2013).

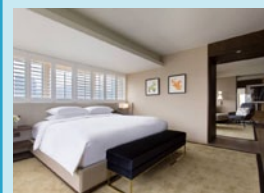
Despite the cloud of uncertainty hovering over any possible buyout of Club Med, the operator continues to pursue rapid growth and expansion, mainly in Europe.

Club Med plans to increase its presence in China to five resorts by next year, building on the three it has opened there since 2010.



Accommodation Updates

WELCOME to Accommodation Updates, *Travel Daily's* Wednesday 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.



A massive \$100m project has been completed at the **Grand Hyatt Taipei**, which has resulted in 853 new-look rooms and suites. Fourteen new room categories have been unveiled, with the next phase of work to see a total reconstruction of four of the hotel's nine restaurants carried out. Behind the scenes

features such as air-conditioning and electrics will also be improved, with the full renovation expected in time for its 25th anniversary next year.



Best Western Aspen & Apartments in the regional Victoria suburb of Sale has put the final touches on a major refurbishment, in which it spent \$300,000. As a result of the works, the property has been upgraded from a 3.5-star to a 4-star and now offers 24 new-look rooms and apartments for parties of all sizes. New bathrooms have been fitted along with LED lighting, free wi-fi connectivity in-room, large screen TVs, desks, new beds and solar energy.



Two brand new Deluxe Waterfront Villas have been unveiled at **The Havannah, Vanuatu** & are located 12 metres apart to ensure privacy. Each villa offers a large deck, large bedroom and lounge area on split levels to maximise the view over the lagoon and nearby islands. Each villa features a king bed, both indoor and outdoor bathrooms with walk-in shower and luxury products, while outdoors offers a gazebo, private swimming pool and private BBQ.

VA goes flying on the trapeze



ABOVE: Virgin Australia recently treated this group of trade friends and families to a day at the circus.

Circus Oz is an animal-free environment offering live music, humour and exciting stunts such as the ever-popular trapeze.

Pictured above centre are Nick and Kristina Sutherland from Corporate Travel Connections (with their kids Noah, Oliver and Isabelle in front), flanked by Maretta Coetzer, Felicity Allan & Ben Allan, Virgin Australia.

Pitch for hotel school

RENOWNED hospitality school The Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School has embarked on a recruitment mission to source new students.

The institute has engaged creative marketing agency BLOKE to design a global ad campaign based around Instagram images.

Content will be submitted by alumni who have gone on to work around the world, BLOKE said.

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LH 747-8Is to JFK

LUFTHANSA is set to introduce Boeing 747-8 Intercontinental jet on one of two daily services from Frankfurt to New York JFK starting 15 Jul, according to LH's website.

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WIN A TRIP TO MAURITIUS

In July, **TD** is giving readers the chance to win a holiday to Mauritius, courtesy of **Club Med and Air Mauritius**.

The prize includes return economy class fares to Mauritius with Air Mauritius, airport transfers and six nights accommodation at either Club Med Albion or La Pointe aux Canonnières, for two.

Every day this month **TD** will ask a different question about Club Med or Air Mauritius. The subscriber with the most correct entries and the most creative response to the final question will win this holiday.

Email answers to: clubmedcomp@traveldaily.com.au

Q7: Name one of the Club Med Resorts located in Brazil.

Hint: www.clubmedta.com.au



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AIR MAURITIUS

Terms & conditions

Whale & Stay deal

OAKS Lure in Nelson Bay has developed a new two-night whale-watching package priced from \$484 per couple.

The deal includes accom in a one-bedroom apartment and a whale-watching voyage with Moonshadow Cruises, available for travel until 19 Sep - book at www.oakshotelsresorts.com.

Air NZ extends Niue

NIUE Tourism says an "ongoing increase in demand" has resulted in Air New Zealand extending its second weekly service between Auckland and Niue until 19 Nov.

Megabus bookings

US EXPRESS bus company Megabus.com is expanding its reserved-seating program on select routes between 30 cities, including Chicago, Las Vegas, Dallas/Ft Worth & New Orleans.

HX plans public float

HONG Kong Airlines is planning to launch an Initial Public Offering which will see the carrier attempt to raise US\$500 million in capital.

The float, to be completed by year's end, will see shares put up for sale in both Hong Kong dollars and Chinese yuan as part of a dual tranche dual counter model.

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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Ideally you will come from a strong corporate or retail travel background, with excellent client account management experience, strong communication and interpersonal skills and the ability to work well in a team.

Want to know more? Contact our MD today 02 9231 6377.

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Are you looking for a change of scenery? Do you have 2 years corporate travel experience? This well-known travel brand now requires a superstar consultant to join their growing team. You will be servicing the academic sector with all their travel needs booking intricate and interesting itineraries. Working in a fun team environment, you will be offered a sensational salary package and the chance to attend a fun annual conference and join sensational families. Monday – Friday only. Hurry and apply now!

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This global leader in service providers is looking for a technical savvy travel professional to join their growing team. Be responsible for liaising with fellow travel industry personnel providing specialist support to their online systems. Top salary package and access to development opportunities as well as career progression on offer. If you have a min 2 years experience, very strong GDS skills as well as knowledge of online booking tools and back office systems, we want to hear from you today.

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