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HOLIDAYS



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Travel Daily

First with the news

Tuesday 21st March 2017



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Jetstar in bed with Airbnb

JETSTAR has followed the lead of parent company Qantas, becoming the first low-cost carrier to form an alliance with Airbnb.

The partnership will enable pax booking flights on jetstar.com to marry up Airbnb homestays.

"We know more & more Jetstar customers are choosing to stay at Airbnb properties, particularly while on holidays in Australia's capital cities and beachside destinations, New Zealand and throughout Asia," Jetstar Group ceo Jayne Hrdlicka said today.

Hrdlicka said the arrangement would make it easier for Aussies to tie-up low fares and homestay

accommodation for a holiday.

Airbnb country manager for Australia Sam McDonagh said the partnership with Jetstar would open up even more Australians to the Airbnb community.

Until 04 Jun, JQ pax will receive a \$25 Jetstar voucher with Airbnb bookings of \$250+ - more **HERE**.

MEANWHILE, Jetstar Asia and Jet Airways have launched a new codeshare deal from Singapore to 11 destinations in the Asia Pacific region, including Perth & Darwin.

Rex grounds six 340Bs

REGIONAL Express has taken five of its SAAB 340B aircraft out of service following last Fri's incident when a propellor was lost in Sydney's west (**TD** yest).

Rex has a fleet of 55 SAAB 340Bs & will pull three of its passenger planes off its Sydney & Melbourne networks, along with two freight carriers (and the aircraft involved in last week's mid-air incident) to carry out further inspections.

Excite wants votes

B2B wholesaler Excite Holidays is calling for votes in the 2017 NTIAs (see **cover wrap**).

Excite Hols is up for three awards including Best Wholesaler for both Australia and International Product and three Excite staff vying for Best Sales Executive.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has eight pages of news, including a front cover wrap for **Excite Holidays** a full page from:

- inPlace Recruitment

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discover
travel & cruise

AFL 2017 tipping

ROUND one of the 2017 AFL Premiership kicks off on Thu night and heralds the start of **TD's** AFL Footy Tipping competition.

Industry staff are invited to be involved with great prizes up for grabs including flights to Europe with Emirates - register **HERE**.

Virgin confirms MEL/HKG

FIVE weekly services between Melbourne and Hong Kong will be launched by Virgin Australia from early Jul (**TD** breaking news), providing increased competition to incumbents on the route, Qantas and Cathay Pacific.

VA will utilise Airbus A330-200s on its first route into Greater China, a "key pillar of our int'l strategy, allowing us to tap into Australia's fastest growing and most valuable inbound travel market," ceo John Borgegetti said.

Flights go on sale tomorrow, providing links through HKG to 13 destinations in mainland China.

The announcement this morning follows interim authorisation from the ACCC yesterday for Virgin Australia's proposed alliance with HNA Group, Hong Kong Airlines and Hong Kong Express Airways.

Interim approval for its Alliance Framework Agreement (AFA) with its Chinese co-owner, HNA, enables Virgin Australia the ability

to begin selling tickets on the route ahead of final approval, expected by May/Jun.

It also allows VA "to support the existing and planned services that are and will be operated by Hong Kong Airlines and HNA Group" on Australian routes.

The competition regulator said it believed the tie-up will "likely result in some public benefit and limited public detriment".

It added the AFA will support HNA's existing services between China and Hong Kong to Australia and VA's domestic services by allowing the applicants to market and sell each others services "sooner than would otherwise be the case".

The ACCC highlighted that draft authorisation should not be taken to be indicative as to whether or not final authorisation will be granted to Virgin Australia.

VA's mainland China routes from Australia remain under wraps.

MK A350 routes

AIR Mauritius is set to deploy its brand new carbon-composite Airbus A350s to Johannesburg from 18 Nov, London Heathrow from 02 Dec and Paris Charles de Gaulle from 16 Dec, GDS shows.

MK's A350s will offer 28 seats in Business and 298 in Economy.

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Travel Daily

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Tuesday 21st March 2017

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CLICK HERE for further details

Rupee on Money Oz

FLIGHT Centre offshoot Travel Money OZ has recommenced dealing in the Indian Rupee (INR) following trade restrictions.

The 1000 INR note, which has been demonetised, is unable to be processed but 50, 100, 2000 and newly issued 500 are accepted.

EK Ks TD exclusive

EMIRATES has confirmed it has extended pay-per-visit access to 25 of its dedicated lounges outside of Dubai, as flagged first by **Travel Daily** yesterday.

A spokesperson for Emirates told **TD** the move was only available to guests travelling with the airline, accompanying eligible Business & First class lounge customers, incl Gold and Platinum Skyward members, for a fee of US\$100.

"This has been implemented in response to increasing demand from our valued customers for guest access to our lounges," the spokesperson said.

la Grange at 2017 TIE

PRESIDENTIAL Aide to Nelson Mandela, Zelda la Grange, has been announced as the headline speaker at this year's Travel Industry Exhibition & Conference.

She will share experiences and anecdotes of her work life.

See **page 4** for more details.

Cathay deploys A350s to PER

CATHAY Pacific will expand its Airbus A350 services to Australia later this year, introducing the aircraft on daily flights to Perth and a second flight to Melbourne.

The airline's new A350-900 aircraft will be deployed on the daily CX170/171 Perth services and CX134/135 Melbourne services from 29 Oct.

The announcement follows last month's launch of an initial A350 daily flight from Melbourne and will join a daily Brisbane service, due to commence next week.

Perth Airport welcomed the announcement, saying it would add 17,000 seats per year.

"Last year, visitor arrivals from

Hong Kong were up 12% which saw over 79,000 passengers travelling on the route," said the airport's ceo Kevin Brown.

"Today's announcement will certainly help to ensure these figures keep rising," he said.

Kokomo stay pays

KOKOMO Private Island Fiji has 'Stay 3, Pay 2' & 'Stay 7, Pay 5' deals until 31 Dec for stays in its Villas, outside school holidays.

The resort opens on 31 Mar.

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HOLIDAYS

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Category 19: Best Airline International - Online

Category 32: Best Sales Executive - Industry Supplier
Kirstie Egan

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Tuesday 21st March 2017

NT push for routes

TWO Northern Territory Airports staff are in Japan for the Routes Asia conference, with a plan to lure foreign airlines to the region.

The conference attracts more than 900 aviation professionals, 200 airports and 100 airlines.

NT Airports chief executive Ian Kew said it was part of a strategy to attract international airlines to the Territory and Chinese airlines are key targets.

"We've got meetings with all the Chinese carriers... so we are hopeful we can get a mainland Chinese service."

He said China Southern is a potential target for the Territory.

Clinton Jr to Expedia

FORMER first daughter Chelsea Clinton has been appointed to the board of directors of Expedia.

Clinton becomes the 14th board member for the travel company & will earn a US\$45,000 retainer.

MGM to Dubai

MGM Resorts International has been picked to run a new resort complex in Dubai.

The 26-acre beachfront resort will feature an MGM Hotel, MGM Residences and a Bellagio Hotel.

This will mark the debut of MGM and Bellagio names in the Middle East and will include 1,000 rooms and 10 villas.

A entertainment complex with a theatre, retail shops, a beach club and museums will feature in the new development.

DL adds SEA/ORD

DELTA Air Lines will add three daily flights to Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD) from Seattle this summer.

Services will begin on 19 Jun and flights will be operated by Airbus A319 aircraft.

Flights depart from ORD and SEA morning, lunch time & early evening from both destinations with tickets on sale now.

6th Anniversary
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ATPM joins NRMA

NRMA has entered into an agreement with ATPM, which will see it take over the company in the next few months.

ATPM was recently awarded a 10-year management contract of five caravan parks owned by Kempsey Shire Council.

The holidays parks are located on the mid north coast and include parks in Hat Head, Crescent Head Stuarts Point, Grassy Head and Horseshoe Bay.

NRMA executive general manager travel Paul Davies said the company was committed to work with Kempsey Shire Council to manage the parks, improve facilities and make experiences more accessible.

"Holiday Parks are the cornerstone of the quintessential Australian driving holiday and the NRMA's acquisition of ATPM is a tangible way that we can safeguard this wonderful tradition for future generations," he said.



Window Seat

BRITISH comedian David Walliams teamed up with British Airways to prank unsuspecting passengers during check-in ahead of Red Nose Day on Thu.

A video clip features Walliams making pax at Terminal 5 do crazy and strange things as "part of the check-in process".

Posing as a BA customer service rep Dave, the comic asks travellers to pose seriously for security photos and even kisses a passenger's passport photo.

BA also arranged two other videos with Spice Girl Emma Bunton and diver Tom Daley.

CLICK HERE to watch the clip.



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Vistara SIA c'sharing

SINGAPORE Airlines and regional subsidiary SilkAir have begun codesharing on Vistara's Indian domestic flights.

SQ has added its designator code to Vistara-operated flights beyond Mumbai and New Delhi to 10 destinations within India and SilkAir has added its 'MI' designator code to Vistara flights to six destinations within India.

NCL raises gratuities

DAILY service charges on Norwegian Cruise Line are going up from 01 Apr.

The new rates are US\$13.99pppd for categories up to a mini-suite stateroom and US\$16.99pppd for any suite category.

On *Norwegian Sky* the rate will be adjusted to US\$18.99pppd for inside, ocean view and balcony staterooms, and US\$21.99pppd for any suite category.

Book by 31 Mar to prepay the charges at the current rate.

SYD traffic steady

SYDNEY Airport's traffic in Feb slid 0.1% in Feb on Feb 2016, but the year-to-date performance of the airport is still up 2.5%.

International traffic grew by 4.2%, despite the Chinese New Year timing difference and the leap year in 2016 while domestic traffic decreased 2.5%, attributed by Sydney Airport managing director and ceo Kerrie Mather to the leap year effect.

Mather said international traffic remained strong with an extra 220,000 international seats on a year-to-date basis.

Hilton into Jordan

THE first Hilton Hotels & Resorts property in Jordan, Hilton Dead Sea Resort & Spa officially opened yesterday on the eastern shores of the Dead Sea.

The 285-room hotel has direct beach access and is adjacent to the King Hussein Bin Talal Convention Centre.

Find out how the big screen and travel marketing can go hand in hand in the March issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK HERE to read
travelBulletin



© Mark Rogers, Lion

Good France Project in Sydney



THE 2017 Good France project was celebrated last night at Sydney's Sofitel Wentworth with a gathering of invitees treated to a delectable menu of French inspired cuisine.

The event took place as part of a global initiative that sees some 2,000 chefs across five continents dish up a gastronomic experience, the brainchild of celebrity chef

Alain Ducasse.

The Sydney function had a unique twist to it as for the first time France paired with its south pacific siblings, Tahiti and New Caledonia, to give the menu a distinct flair.

Pictured are: Patrick Benhamou, Atout France; Caroline Brunel, New Caledonia Tourism and Robert Thompson, Tahiti Tourism.

GLOBUS

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BEST TOUR OPERATOR – INTERNATIONAL

VOTE NOW (CAT 25)

GLOBUS





NORFOLK Select founder David Bantoft has created a frequent flyer status all of his own, notching up 100 visits to Norfolk Island in just over 20 years.

The milestone was reached on a recent famil involving nine Travellers Choice members, and despite his unrivalled familiarity with the destination it still managed to throw up a surprise.

To mark his 100th visit, locals caught Bantoft off guard with a surprise honorary dinner at the island's pirate-themed restaurant The Jolly Roger.

Bantoft says many of his 100 visits to the island have involved tour groups or agent famils.

"On one occasion, for instance, I

escorted a group of seniors to the island and a lovely couple, aged in their 80's, decided to elope... It was the quickest wedding I've ever organised."

Pictured on left David Bantoft, Norfolk Select; Charmaine Colbeck, TravelTime Kings Meadows; Therese Oliver, Naracoorte Travel n Cruise; Suzanne Whitby, The Rocks Travel; Haley Morris, Sisterhood Womens Travel; Kim Rayner, Mudgee Travel & Cruise; Michael French, Roxby Travel and Cruise and Hans Went, Canadian Bay Travel.

In front are Jodie Yopp, Tewantin Travel; Renee McLennan, Leongatha Travel & Cruise and Marion Belus, UTC.

Qld China aviation strategy

QUEENSLAND will work to attract more Chinese visitors under a new partnership aimed at securing extra air services.

The state's government has given in-principle support to a plan put forward by a consortium of tourism organisations under its Connecting with Asia Strategy, in which it will match industry contributions dollar-for-dollar.

Tourism Minister Kate Jones announced the plan yesterday and said it would result in millions of dollars in additional Chinese visitor expenditure.

"This latest proposal focuses on passengers arriving into Brisbane, then dispersing to other parts of the state including the Whitsundays and the Gold Coast," Jones said.

"The project aims to secure a new direct service between Beijing and Brisbane and increase the frequency of existing services," she said.

The consortium behind the plan involves organisations from Brisbane, the Gold Coast and the Whitsundays, including Brisbane Airport Corporation (BAC).

BAC general manager aviation & retail Andrew Brodie welcomed the government backing.

"The Connecting with Asia funding will assist in securing additional capacity from the three top tier cities in China, which will ultimately provide wide reaching returns for the city and state," Brodie said.

Contiki ANZ brochure

A NEW Year's Eve tour beginning in Queenstown has been introduced by Contiki in its newly released 2017/18 brochure for Australia and New Zealand.

The seven-day Rhythm and Alps tour involves a week on the South Island including adventure activities and a 'glamping' expedition to a two-day music festival in Cardrona.

The youth brand is offering an early payment discount of 7.5% on trips paid in full by 11 Apr.

Canada's strong start

CANADA has begun 2017 on a high, posting an 18.6% increase in visitor arrivals during Jan.

Overseas arrivals (excluding the US) were up 48,466 over the previous Jan to 308,981.

Australian arrivals were up by almost a third during Jan, increasing 29.9% to 26,823.

Chinese visitors increased 46% to 44,615, while the US increased 5.7% to 566,595.

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Best Agency Support Service. Voting closes Friday 31 March 5pm AEST

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Money

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

\$1AUD = US0.772

CURRENTLY the Australian Dollar is strong against the major currencies, despite a drop at the end of last week.

The current rise is driven by a weaker US Dollar after the Federal Reserve increased interest rates in the U.S.

Political tensions ahead of the French Presidential elections, saw the AUD reach a near two-week high with the EUR, likewise with GBP as the UK government will formally announce UK's exit from the E.U next Wed.

Canadian bound visitors will get value for money as the AUD/CAD reached a five month high today.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.772
UK	£0.625
NZ	\$1.096
Euro	€0.720
Japan	¥86.96
Thailand	฿26.78
China	¥5.335
South Africa	R9.775
Canada	\$1.031
Crude oil	US\$48.78

Sudan plane crash

DOZENS of passengers had a miraculous escape after the crash of an Antonov 26 aircraft in South Sudan yesterday.

The plane burst into flames after crash-landing at Wau Airport in the country's north-west.

While all 44 passengers and five crew were initially feared dead, media have since reported all on board survived, with several taken to hospital for treatment.

The flight was travelling from the country's capital of Juba.

Achievers take an African safari



THE Africa Safari Co hosted six Travellers Choice high achievers in Kenya and Tanzania last month.

The group first visited Nairobi and its Giraffe Manor, then flew to the Serengeti National Park for three nights at the five-star Singita Grumeti Reserves.

Disney pays out

THE Walt Disney Company will pay US\$3.8 million to more than 16,000 of its Florida workers after it was found to have breached minimum wage and overtime rules by the US Department of Labor (DOL).

The department alleged that Disney had deducted a uniform or 'costume' expense from staff pay and had not paid for duties done before and after their shifts.

The DOL said it was hoped the resolution of the case would alert other employers who may be paying staff in a similar manner "so that they can correct their practices and operate in compliance with the law."

Disney was also alleged to have failed to keep proper payroll records at its Florida operations.

Then it was on to the Ngorongoro Crater at the &Beyond Crater lodge which overlooks spectacular scenery and wildlife.

The team was treated to a dance by a local Masai tribe which The Africa Safari Co ceo Susie Potter said was "magical."

The group also stayed at the Asilia Highlands located in Ngorongoro on their last night to top off their amazing African adventure.

Pictured are Tullie, Travel and Cruise Ceduna; Brian, Travel and Cruise Professionals; Viv, Viv's Travel Bug; Kathy, Burnie Travel; Jane, Cairns Travel Professionals; Anni, Moss Vale Cruise & Travel and Susie Potter.

CZ starts PEK/SGN

CHINA Southern Airlines has launched direct flights from Beijing to Ho Chi Minh City.

The daily flights, operated by Boeing 737-800s depart PEK at 0140, arriving at 0610am.

The return flight leaves Ho Chi Minh City at 23:55, arriving the following day at 07:45.

Tuesday 21st Mar 2017

Aero axing staff

NIGERIAN airline Aero has cut over 60% of its workforce in response to ongoing fuel shortages in recent months.

The cuts, involving about 400 staff, follow increased cancellations and delayed flights across the African nation.

Support staff such as baggage handlers were made redundant.

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Best Wholesaler - **International product**
Best Sales Executive - **Industry Support**

Stacy Harsh - **NSW**
Jamie Giddens - **VIC**
Shari Rokosuka - **QLD**

Thank you for your support!



Vote here



Thank you for your nomination!

VOTE

Best Wholesaler – Australian Product

Sunlover Holidays, Qantas Holidays & Viva! Holidays

Best Wholesaler – International Product

Qantas Holidays & Viva! Holidays

Best Sales Executive – Industry Supplier

Darren Evans – Qantas Holidays & Viva! Holidays (NSW/ACT),
Kim Knight – Qantas Holidays & Viva! Holidays (QLD),
Mick Boylan – Sunlover Holidays (VIC)

CLICK TO VOTE



Holidays



Solos to Sri Lanka

INDIVIDUAL Traveller has added a 12-night exclusive tour of Sri Lanka to its range, including cities and regions of Colombo, Sigiriya, Kandy and Galle, priced from \$5,200 per person.

The tours are specifically designed for those travelling alone to do so in a safe and welcoming environment.

Features of the package include 12 nights in a double room for single use, English speaking guides throughout and an open bar at each hotel between 5.30pm-6.30pm.

Tours will depart Aus on 12 Jun, 10 Jul, 14 Aug and 11 Sep.

See individualtraveller.com.

Chile hot for Aussies

TOURISM Authority of Chile has reported record numbers of Australians visiting Chile, with a 10.8% growth in 2016, reaching 50,968 Aussie visitors.

Chimu Adventures and the Tourism Authority of Chile cited "increased air capacity, value for money and reduced misconceptions regarding accessibility" as main factors leading to this inflation.

For 2017, tourism is projected to see a 14% increase in arrivals from 5.6 million to 6.4 million.

Greg Carter, co-founder at Chimu Adventures said, "Both Qantas and LATAM have increased their capacity into South America over the last three years by switching to larger aircraft with some very competitive airfares."

The country has been dubbed 'The Switzerland of South America', offering travellers diverse landscapes from glaciers to salt plains and the desert.

Friends of California unite



VISIT California has established 'Friends of California' as a formal initiative to foster networking and stronger collaboration opportunities for all California travel and tourism companies with offices or representative outlets in Australia and NZ.

Members of the group include Beverley Hills Conference & Visitors Bureau, California Snow (North Lake Tahoe, Mammoth Lakes, Mammoth Mountain), Disney Parks & Resorts, Greater Palm Springs Convention & Visitors Authority, Los Angeles

Tourism & Convention Bureau, San Diego Tourism Authority, San Francisco Airport, San Francisco Travel, Santa Monica Travel and Tourism, Sonoma County Tourism, Univesal Studios Hollywood, Visit Anaheim, Visit Huntington Beach, Visit Napa Valley, Visit Santa Barbara, Visit West Hollywood and Warner Bros Studios.

An informal evening of bowling & networking was held at Strike Bowling Entertainment Quarter in Sydney last night, which included special guests from Visit California head office, Lynn Carpenter, vp of marketing; Leona Reed, associate vp of marketing and Jennifer Montero, director of Americas and Australia.

Pictured at the event from left are Lynn Carpenter; Michael Cassis, travel and business development manager, Disney Parks & Resorts; Jennifer Montero; Penny Brand, account manager California Snow and Danielle Tuffield, director of travel trade, Gate 7.

SAS baggage advice

SCANDINAVIAN Airlines is reminding agents to be aware of its checked baggage requirements for pax travelling on separate tickets in Europe.

The carrier says its 'SAS Go' airfares permit one piece of luggage up to 23kg, while its 'SAS Go Light' fares provide no checked baggage allowance.

Hertz LGW outlet

HERTZ UK is the first to offer full car rental service from London Gatwick Airport's North Terminal meaning customers won't need to take an inter-terminal shuttle to the South Terminal.

A new rental branch opened at Sofitel London Gatwick Hotel is part of Hertz's investment in expanding its UK network for travellers on the go.

Nobu Ibiza opening

SMALL Luxury Hotels of the World has confirmed Nobu Hotel Ibiza Bay is set to open on 30 Jun.

Located on Talamanca Bay on the Balearic island, the property promises to be the ultimate playground for grown ups including pools, spas, restaurants and adult and family experiences.

The hotel has 152 rooms and suites, with rates from \$638pn.



experts

This month **Travel Daily** and Lufthansa Group are offering readers the chance to experience their award-winning long haul product on a trip to any European destination served by the Lufthansa Group. The Lufthansa Group prize includes two return economy class flights with Lufthansa Group and their airline partners ex-Australia to **any European destination of your choice**.

The Lufthansa Group - composed of Austrian, Lufthansa and Swiss International Air Lines - offers Australian travelers the world's most comprehensive European network and more than 300 global destinations accessed through their four regional hubs. The theme of this competition is Mixed Class - learn more about the product [HERE](#).

Open to all Australian Travel Agents, the lucky winner will have the most correct answers as well as the most creative entry to the final question. Send your answers to lufthansa@traveldaily.com.au

Q10. Lufthansa and SWISS offer Mixed Business-First Class fares between Australia and Europe/Middle East/North Africa - what is the net fare level?

Terms & conditions

Lufthansa Group **Austrian** **Lufthansa** **SWISS**

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We'd love your vote - category 31

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Sydney

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- Great famils
- Supportive Management

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2 x Leisure / Retail Travel Consultants

Sydney - The Hills & Northern Beaches

Salary \$50 - \$60K + super + commissions

Save time on your commute to work with these 2 great suburban roles. Both companies cater to the more affluent traveller with lucrative, high-end itineraries. You will work as part of a small knowledgeable team in both roles where customer service is paramount. Previous Retail / Leisure travel experience is required. Amadeus CRS an advantage. 4 days a week is also a possibility!

- Luxury itineraries
- Service orientated

Call Susan or [click here](#)

VIP Concierge & Customer Service

Sydney - Macquarie Park

8 Day fortnight 24/7 roster

From travel bookings & restaurant reservations to theatre tickets & concerts, this role will bring you something new every day. Our client is a premium concierge provider to platinum credit card holders. A service focused role where no request is too big. When handling this affluent market customer service is paramount and a background as a travel consultant would be ideal.

- Variety plus!
- Suburban role

Call Ben or [click here](#)

Account Manager - Travel Technology

Sydney, Salary to \$70K + super + incentives

Maintain existing relationships and target new potential users of this travel tech product. Generate new ideas & opportunities for further product development. Previous sales experience in the Travel Industry required.

Call Susan or [click here](#)

Wholesale Reservations

Melbourne, Salary from \$60K + super

Create life changing memories for your clients with this luxury African specialist wholesaler. Previous reservations or retail consulting experience is essential and excellent product knowledge of Africa.

Call Ben or [click here](#)