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## AccorHotels takes Mantra

**MANTRA** Hotels directors have unanimously recommended shareholders accept a \$1.18 billion takeover offer, which will see the Australian hospitality group become part of the global Accor network (**TD** breaking news).

AccorHotels ceo Sebastian Bazin said the deal would underpin the group's long-term growth in the Asia Pacific region.

"Mantra's portfolio would offer AccorHotels additional accommodation formats and a strong customer base to implement our successful hotel portfolio in Australia," he said.

Mantra's range includes 28 Peppers hotels, 75 Mantra properties and 24 operating under the BreakFree brand.

The company has more than 5,500 employees.

The transaction, which will be

voted on by shareholders at a meeting scheduled for Mar 2018, is subject to regulatory approvals including from the Foreign Investment Review Board and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

Mantra chairman Peter Bush said the offer represented an attractive proposition.

"Mantra's strong expertise in apartments, in particular, and our presence in resort locations are very complementary to the AccorHotels operation in Australia and New Zealand".

He said customers would benefit from the "market leading expertise" of both groups.

### QF companion sale

**THE** Qantas premium companion sale (**TD** yesterday) is offering special pricing in First, Business and Premium Economy classes when two or more seats are booked together.

Domestic and international routes are on offer as part of the promotion which is valid for bookings made by 16 Oct.

See the **cover page** for details.

### Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today has nine pages of news and photos, including a front cover page for **Qantas** plus full pages from:

- Albatross Tours
- AA Appointments jobs

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## IJ launches Footloose Tours

HELLOWORLD'S Insider Journeys has announced the debut of "Footloose Tours," a new touring concept offered as "an alternate way to tour for independent travellers".

Based on a maximum of 20 passengers, Footloose Tours gives travellers the freedom to select from a range of day tours and dining options in each destination.

Expert local English-speaking guides will be offered at each stop introducing travellers to their hometown and "providing

an experience that a guidebook simply cannot offer".

Departures will be guaranteed with a minimum of just two passengers, the company said.

Footloose Tours are featured in the newly released 156-page Insider Journeys brochure which is available from today.

The program also features the operator's private travel, river cruise and small group options.

## CT Partners names new supplier chief

NICOLE Hague has been appointed as general manager - supplier relations at CT Partners.

Hague will join CT from her current Singapore-based role with Travelport Worldwide, where she is commercial director air commerce, and is well known to the industry through former roles with Harvey World Travel and Helloworld Travel.

CT Partners chairman Grant Wilson said the appointment "comes at an exciting time as CT Partners posts record growth over the past 12 months, including over \$300 million in additional volume from new members".

Hague takes the role vacated by Sue Graham (TD 15 Apr).

More appointments on page nine of today's *Travel Daily*.

## Couture correction

PRICES quoted for Silversea Cruises' new 'Couture Collection' in yesterday's TD were in US\$.

The "industry-first exclusive series of ocean and land adventures" are priced up to A\$105,000 per guest, not \$78,000.

The portfolio of nine pre and post cruise luxury land programs ranges from a private helicopter service in Mongolia, a vintage rail journey in India and Gulfstream jet charters in and out of Antarctica - [silverseacouture.com](http://silverseacouture.com).

## Jet Europe boost

INDIAN carrier Jet Airways is expanding its European operations with new non-stop flights from Bengaluru and Chennai to Amsterdam and Paris.

The airline will also add a third daily Mumbai-London service, with the changes effective 29 Oct.

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## Incomes rise in industry

**DESPITE** low wage growth across Australia in the past year, the travel industry has bucked the trend and reported pay increases in *Travel Daily's* annual salaries and employment survey.

Conducted by Stollznow research last month, data from almost 1,200 respondents showed the industry's average total remuneration - comprising salary & bonus - rose by 2% over 2016 levels to reach \$72,003.

Higher bonuses were achieved in 2017, with a 22% jump in industry average over 2016 figures to sit at \$5,301.

Sectors where respondents reported income sitting above average included corporate, MICE, hotels & resorts as well as cruise and aviation.

The results also showed a

continuation of the gap in pay between women and men.

Despite 73% of respondents being female in the survey, their total average income was about \$21,000 less than their male counterparts.

The differences were most stark in the cruise, wholesale and aviation sectors.

Job satisfaction was also measured utilising the Net Promoter Score (NPS) with respondents generally optimistic about their workplace and employment conditions, though 54% said they were not actively looking for a new job but would take one if offered.

See the Oct issue of *travelBulletin* for more or email [research@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:research@traveldaily.com.au) to purchase the full report.

### Corporate Travel Consultants

**QBT** A member of the Helloworld Travel Group



- Seeking **Corporate Consultants**
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Your proficient, knowledgeable and pleasant approach to business travel has always been your selling point; and that is what sets you out as a **QBT Corporate Consultant**.

Applying your approach to each enquiry, you are key to ensuring our Corporate clients are provided with a second to none service each time that they reach out to QBT. As part of this close knit group, customer excellence is a priority that you deliver on effortlessly together as a team.

In your team, each day will look different as you provide a seamless, easy and professional experience for your client group. Utilising your expert technical travel skills gained from your experience processing various complex and high service requirements you will comfortably and confidently manage our client travel needs.

A minimum of 5 years International travel consulting experience (current), dealing with **top tier Corporate clientele**, is a pre-requisite for any applicants for this fantastic opportunity.

As a member of the Helloworld Group - working at QBT will provide you the opportunity to be part of Australia's leading integrated travel business. The group encompasses travel brands providing franchised retail services, wholesale products, specialist government and corporate business travel and ticket distribution services.

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### INDUSTRY DEALS



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## Discount fares fall

**DISCOUNT** Economy airfares have fallen sharply in Australia in the past month, according to the latest figures from the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics (BITRE).

The bureau's Discount Economy fare index dropped from 71.1 in Sep to 64.1 this month, though is still higher than the 61.6 recorded in Oct of last year.

BITRE's Business class index dropped from 95.3 in Sep to 95.1 this month.

Business fares are still higher than the 93.9 of Oct 2016.

## Hawaii bed tax rises

**HAWAII** will lift its hotel tax by 1% from 01 Jan to help pay for a new Honolulu metro system.

The Transient Accommodations Tax will increase to 10.25% and will remain in place until 2030.

The 32km light rail metro system will extend from Kapolei in Oahu through to the Ala Moana Center in Honolulu, with 21 stations along the way including Honolulu airport.

## Marriage at sea

**CELEBRITY** Cruises last night announced it will begin to offer legalised same-sex marriage ceremonies at sea.

Effective today, Celebrity can offer same-sex weddings in int'l waters under Maltese law.

More from Celebrity on **page 5**.



## Window Seat

**PLASTIC** surgery has proved somewhat of a problem for three Chinese women, who flew to South Korea for a facelift during the recent Golden Week holiday period.

The trio (**below**) had trouble getting home because they no longer looked like the photos in their passports.

They were spotted at an unnamed Korean airport with extremely swollen faces wrapped in bandages, and according to a fellow traveller they were barred from taking their flight, detained and questioned by authorities.



## Botanic New Year's

**TICKETS** to celebrate New Year's Eve at Sydney's Royal Botanic Garden are now on sale.

In past years a high proportion of international visitors have taken part in the celebrations, with four ticketed harbourside events offering a variety of dining and entertainment experiences - [new-years-eve-in-sydney.com](http://new-years-eve-in-sydney.com).



## Multi-Skilled Corporate Consultant

Complete Business Travel is seeking applicants for the above position to join its dynamic award-winning team.

If you are looking to take the next step in your career with one of Brisbane's most progressive Travel Management Company's, please forward your Resume to Simon McLean - Managing Director - [simon@cbtravel.com.au](mailto:simon@cbtravel.com.au)

# Travel Daily

Thursday 12th October 2017

## Scenic Aus release

SCENIC is offering savings of up to \$1,350 per couple with the release of its new Australia program for 2018/19.

The Endless Wonders of Australia brochure features 14 itineraries ranging from seven to 23 days, covering Western Australia and the Northern Territory, Tasmania, South Australia and Norfolk Island.

Bookings made by 28 Feb 2018 are eligible for included flights with the 23-day Treasures of the West Coast itinerary.

Other deals include a partner flies free offer and savings of \$600 per couple - [CLICK HERE](#).

## TA Tas briefing

TOURISM Australia (TA) will hold a briefing for the Tasmanian tourism industry on Fri 10 Nov.

The Hobart session will update on TA activity and market insights - [CLICK HERE](#) to register.

## BNE new facilities

BRISBANE Airport has become the first gateway in Australia to offer a dedicated Changing Places facility for pax with special needs.

Located on the ground floor of the domestic terminal, the facility provides extra amenities to a standard accessible bathroom, with more space and specialised equipment including a hoist and adult change table to serve people with severe disabilities and their carers.

## Collette TV spend

COLLETTE today launches a TV campaign on the Seven Network to increase awareness of its current Europe earlybird offer on over 60 tours.

"This activity is a significant investment to help drive proactive brand choice - we fully anticipate agents will reap the benefits," said Collette Aust head of sales Amanda McCann.

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## Vienna boys' Indigenous ties



THE Austrian National Tourist Office (ANTO) helped create a spectacular marriage of cultures at the Sydney Opera House on Tue when the celebrated Vienna Boys Choir united with Australia's Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir for a sell-out performance.

The combined voices were also joined by the Sydney Children's Choir in an exchange that followed a tour of Austria by Gondwana singers in May.

The children from Vienna and Gondwana have now flown to

Queensland for a performance in Cairns and an opportunity to spend time on country with Indigenous communities.

**Pictured** are the Vienna Boys Choir president and artistic director Prof Gerald Wirth, Austrian Consul General Karl Hartleb, ANTO Aus/NZ director Astrid Mulholland-Licht, past choir host Thomas Wenkhard and Vienna Tourism Board Aust/Canada market manager Elke Bachner, with members of the Vienna Boys Choir.

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## Monarch blast

**THE** Scottish Passenger Agents' Association has lambasted the UK government for not keeping pace with consumer protections in the air travel space.

According to the SPAA, when Monarch Airlines collapsed (**TD 03 Oct**) it exposed a large swathe of travellers who were not covered by the Air Travel Organisers' Licensing scheme.

The British government repatriated 110,000 pax stranded by the collapse, however, reports cite that only 20,000 of those brought home at taxpayers expense were ATOL-covered.

## Design for Zermatt

**THE** Overlook Lodge by Cervo in Zermatt is set to open its doors in Dec, boasting views of Switzerland's iconic Matterhorn.

It will have five exclusive apartments and will be accessible by train, taxi or helicopter.

## PATA extends CEO

**THE** Pacific Asia Travel Association has reappointed Dr Mario Hardy as its chief executive officer for another three years, with the contract extension to formally take effect from 01 Jan.

"We still face many challenges as a membership organisation but... we shall continue with our primary mission of promoting sustainable and responsible tourism development," said the reinstated chief executive.

## Cambodia start-up

**CHINESE** carrier Lanmei Airlines has commenced operations in Cambodia, making its first official flight on 29 Sep.

The airline will operate six-nation flights in the Greater Mekong Sub-region and will serve China's mammoth 'One Belt, One Road' economic plan.

Cambodia is targeting 2 million Chinese tourists by 2020.

## Celebrity ceo maiden Oz call



**CELEBRITY** Cruises' president and ceo Lisa Lutoff-Perlo told *Travel Daily* there was "a lot of potential" in the Australian market, during a media and trade event in Sydney last night.

In Australia this week for the first time, Lutoff-Perlo confirmed there were "a lot of discussions" around bringing more ships to Aussie waters, but "no specific plan".


"There's a couple of things that need to happen," she said.

"We need a terminal because we can't grow without a terminal and...to work really hard together to build the market in a way that would support a second ship."

As the number three source market for Celebrity Cruises, Lutoff-Perlo said she thinks the line needs to do more to make Australia a strong contender for the number two spot, including investing in marketing.

"I think it's our job to do more to consumer marketing so that the travel agent's job is easier when the consumers go in to talk to them," she said, adding that it would "probably" take 3-4 years to build the market enough so it could support a second ship.

Lutoff-Perlo is **pictured** with Adam Armstrong, RCL Cruises md Australia and New Zealand.





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GOING PLACES TOGETHER

\* Book until 16 October 2017. Fares quoted above are for departures from Perth. Fares shown are inclusive of taxes, fees, and airport surcharges, and are subject to availability. Business Class fares are for departures between 09 October 2017 - 31 May 2018. Blackout dates apply: 15 December 2017 - 10 January 2018. Minimum stay of 7 days applies. Other sale fares are available from Sydney (flights QR906/907 only), Adelaide, and Canberra. Offer is not valid for departures from Melbourne, and Sydney flights QR908/909. Fares may vary due to currency fluctuations. Seasonal surcharges, weekend surcharges, and blackout periods may apply. For all other terms and conditions please review at time of booking. Canberra flights and Sydney flights QR906/907 start 13 February 2018.



**QANTAS** hosted 150 agents from across Australia at its third annual "best of USA" agent experience in Sydney yesterday.

Designed to make learning fun and interactive, agents were taken on a tour of QF's A380 aircraft and participated in a series of 20-minute sessions on the airlines' value propositions, product, network and partnerships to and within the USA.

Speaking at the event, Rob Harrison, head of agency partnerships & business events at

the airline, said "today is about giving agents an experience of Qantas behind the scenes and it's also about giving agents the confidence to sell Qantas when talking to customers".

The day was supported by Brand USA which gathered representatives from Hawaii, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Las Vegas, Dallas and New York to demonstrate the unique experiences on offer in each of the destinations.

Flights and accommodation were up for grabs for agents taking the most creative selfie and tagging #QFlovesUSA.

**Pictured above** Rob Harrison and Kim Herbert-Jones manager agency partner & learning.

Left: agent selfie with US cheerleaders.



## Afterhours Corporate Travel Manager



After-hours service provider, 24x7 Solutions, has a unique opportunity for an experienced Afterhours Corporate Travel Manager to join its team on a part-time basis.

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- You are motivated to go above-and-beyond, think outside the square, multi-task and work in a high-pace environment while demonstrating high attention to detail.
- Extensive knowledge in at least two GDS systems is an advantage.
- A minimum of 5 years' experience as a Corporate Travel Consultant is required due to the variety and complexity of domestic and international client itineraries

Send your CV and covering letter to [mena.clark@24x7solutions.com.au](mailto:mena.clark@24x7solutions.com.au)

Thursday 12th October 2017

## Monkey Mia funds

**MONKEY** Mia will benefit from \$40,000 in federal funding to establish a plan to redevelop the popular WA tourist site.

The proposal will include world-class visitor facilities, experiences and tourism infrastructure.

The state's Tourism Minister Paul Papalia said the funding and redevelopment of Monkey Mia would attract more tourists into the region.

WA will match Federal Govt funding for the project.

## Eurowings' big vote

**MOSTAR** in Bosnia and Herzegovina has won a place on Eurowings' network after the airline invited social media users to vote for what destination it should fly to next.

The live Facebook poll saw Mostar compete against Shannon in Ireland and Trapani, Sicily, for a new Eurowings route which will take flight in the northern summer of 2018.

## Hawaii funding plan

**HAWAII** Tourism Authority (HTA) is providing funding of more than US\$3.5 million to 124 programs that perpetuate Hawaiian culture, protect natural resources and showcase community events in 2018.

Recipients of the funding are non-profit or community groups and individuals who strengthen Hawaii's legacy as a place to live and visit.

## QR lifts Seychelles

**QATAR** Airways has announced plans to upgrade service on its Seychelles route to an Airbus A330 aircraft, starting 29 Oct.

The 260-seater A330 aircraft will increase the airline's current daily capacity by 130% on this route.

QR's A330 has 24 Business class and 236 Economy class seats.

## Groups & Events Consultants

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**QBT** Business travel made simple

## EY to Azerbaijan

ETIHAD Airways has announced plans to launch flights between Abu Dhabi and Baku in Azerbaijan from 02 Mar.

The new route will operate thrice weekly using a 136-seat Airbus A320 with 16 seats in Business and room for a further 120 passengers in Economy class.

Flights will operate on Wed, Fri and Sat.

## Movenpick Africa

MOVENPICK has continued its expansion in Africa with construction starting for its Hotel Abidjan property in Cote d'Ivoire.

The Movenpick Hotel Abidjan will have 160 rooms and is expected to open in 2020.

The property will be located in the centre of Abidjan's central business district.

## Delta profit slips

DELTA Air Lines has reported a US\$182 million decrease in its adjusted pre-tax income in 3Q17 after two hurricanes disrupted its network across southern USA.

The adjusted pre-tax income was US\$1.7 billion while its operating revenue was up 5.5% to US\$11.1 billion.

Passenger revenue increased US\$328 million, while its Pacific operations saw unit revenue decrease by 3.1% in 3Q17.

DL expects passenger unit revenue to grow by 2-4% in its forecast for 4Q17.

## 4 Seasons Jet Plan

FOUR Seasons Hotels and Resorts and NetJets, the world's largest private aviation company, are joining to offer luxury travel in the sky and on the ground.

Under the plan, the hotelier and airline will offer a number of experiences including jetting between two of America's top ski resorts of Jackson Hole and Vail as well as a Hawaii Island Getaway and a European escape.

NetJets evp of sales & marketing Patrick Gallagher said it would open new doors to guests.

"Our goal is to make the impossible possible as we invite our guests to experience exceptional private aviation."

## RCI Symphony plans

ROYAL Caribbean International (RCI) has unveiled a number of new experiences that will be on board its new ship *Symphony of the Seas* when she debuts in Europe next Apr.

*Symphony* will be the largest ship in the world and will carry 5,500 passenger on board.

The ship will introduce the next generation of Royal's popular Boardwalk neighbourhood that will feature a number of new and existing venues.

The Ultimate Family Suite will debut on *Symphony* and is a two-level apartment that has a floor-to-ceiling LEGO wall.

*Symphony of the Seas* will have over 20 culinary options.

## Portland, Oregon down under



LAST night Travel Oregon and Travel Portland hosted an event in Sydney, celebrating the US destinations' "makers" culture which encompasses creativity in food, art, outdoor leisure, music, culture and design.

Eight delegates have travelled to Australia as part of the contingent with the visit also including product training sessions with travel agents in Auckland and Melbourne as well as Sydney.

The 'makers event' took place in a converted warehouse space, featuring donut makers, baristas, t-shirt printers and even a temporary tattooist.

Oregon wines and cocktails were complemented with other delicacies, while the state's year-round activity offering was also

on show with representation from Mount Hood, about 90 min from Portland which is home to the Timberline, Ski Bowl and Mt Hood Meadows snow resorts.

"We wanted guests to live and breathe the Portland and Oregon experience to complement our product training sessions and further engage the trade and industry we've been meeting with this week," said Heather Anderson from Travel Portland.

A special giveaway last night saw Alison O'Loughlan from Adventure World take away a backpack full of Portland and Oregon travel prizes.

She's pictured above with Heather Anderson from Travel Portland (left) and Lisa Itef of Travel Oregon.

## E-Commerce Sales Support Coordinator - Sydney

Temporary position to cover maternity leave

This is a great opportunity to join one of the fastest growing airlines in the world.

The core focus is to increase online direct sales to Emirates.com in Australia and New Zealand.

Familiarity with Excel and airfare pricing is essential. Google Analytics will be highly regarded.

Applications close on 22 October, 2017. For more information and online application visit [emiratesgroupcareers.com](http://emiratesgroupcareers.com) using job reference number 1700012L.

### Reservations & Pricing / Distributions Officer (MELBOURNE BASED)

A position exists for a reservations & pricing/distributions executive role for a GSA office representing an online carrier to Melbourne.

Applicants will be required to work closely with travel agents and all distribution channels focusing on daily sales & reservations matters.

The ideal candidate should possess a sound knowledge of minimum of 3-5 years Airline reservations and ticketing experience with an Airline/travel agency in Australia.

Primary responsibilities - General CRS based activities, monitor flight inventory, pricing & distributions, reservations & ticketing.

Attractive salary + other fringe benefits on offer for the right candidate.

Interested applicants with full work rights are invited to send their applications by 17th October 2017 to [info@srilankanau.com.au](mailto:info@srilankanau.com.au)



Thursday 12th October 2017



LATAM has celebrated the first ever non-stop commercial flight between Melbourne and South America with the debut of its new MEL-SCL service (TD 06 Oct).

The route will connect Melburnians to Santiago thrice weekly on Tue, Fri and Sat.

LA will connect the two cities in 15 hours using Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft.

Victorian Minister for Tourism and Major Events John Eren said the new service would continue to boost tourism in the state.

"Victoria is home to some of the strongest international visitor numbers in Australia and we're working to ensure that those figures keep climbing."



LATAM is one of 31 international airlines flying directly out of Victorian airports.

The airline also conducts daily flights to Sydney via Auckland. oneworld partner Qantas will codeshare on the route.

Pictured are representatives from LATAM celebrating the inaugural flight from Santiago to Melbourne, and, inset, the first touch-down at Tullamarine.



Hawaiian Airlines currently has the following opportunities for highly motivated candidates in their Sydney Sales Office.

### Sales Support Co-ordinator

Reporting to the Director of Sales Australia and Partnerships AU/NZ, you will be responsible for the implementation and management of all the sales support functions. You must have at least 3 years experience in a Sales and Marketing function within an airline or travel related company and a demonstrated knowledge of the Australia and New Zealand travel industry.

[https://rn11.ultipro.com/HAW1000/JobBoard/JobDetails.aspx?ID=\\*E0EE30A2398D128D](https://rn11.ultipro.com/HAW1000/JobBoard/JobDetails.aspx?ID=*E0EE30A2398D128D)

### Partnerships & Promotions Specialist

Reporting to the Director of Sales AU and Partnerships AU/NZ, you will be responsible for the implementation and management of all the promotional marketing and partnerships functions. You must have a Bachelors degree in Marketing, related degree, or equivalent work experience, 3 years experience managing and executing marketing strategies and campaigns, preferably with an Airline or Travel related company and experience in brand or trade marketing, planning and analytics.

[https://rn11.ultipro.com/HAW1000/JobBoard/JobDetails.aspx?ID=\\*366130D6A416CC6B](https://rn11.ultipro.com/HAW1000/JobBoard/JobDetails.aspx?ID=*366130D6A416CC6B)

Applications close 20 October. For full details and to apply click the links above.

## Access failures

A REPORT commissioned by Amadeus has found that nearly half of the travel industry is failing to fully cater for disabled guests.

The findings showed 46% of travel providers lacked relevant content on accessibility and skilled customer service in dealing with those with a disability.

A further 37% had inaccessibility of information on the matter.

The research recommends collaboration between private and public sectors to meet the expectations of disabled travellers.

## SQ sustainable food

SINGAPORE Airlines has committed to improving sustainability in its in-flight food and beverage offerings.

Under the new initiative, a "From Farm to Plane" concept will promote environmental sustainability and support local farming communities.

SQ will also use more meatless ingredients and the initiative will be introduced to First pax later this year before a full roll-out.

## 100 planes for 9W

JET Airways will place an order for as many as 100 narrow-body aircraft by the end of Mar, the airline's ceo Vinay Dube said at a briefing in Chennai.

The large order is part of 9W's plans to capitalise on India becoming the world's fastest growing major aviation market.

## Quayside hotel

INTERCONTINENTAL Singapore Robertson Quay with 225 studios and suites has commenced operations in the Lion City.

The hotel is the first major international luxury hotel brand in the Quayside area of Singapore.



## A GREAT WAY TO WIN!

WIN prepaid cash cards for bookings to Europe ticketed between

03 October - 03 November 2017.

Prizes will be awarded to the Top Seller # & the Most Improved Seller\*!

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## Airline Sales Executive (MELBOURNE BASED)

A position exists for a sales executive role at the Melbourne GSA office representing an online carrier to Melbourne.

Ideal candidate should possess at least 5 years' Airline sales experience with a proven track record in the airline/travel industry.

Existing strong relationships with key agents would be a distinct advantage. Primary responsibilities - Establishing, maintaining and managing all distribution channels and key accounts. Sourcing new business opportunities and participating in promotional activities is also required by the successful applicant.

Attractive salary + other fringe benefits on offer for the right candidate.

Interested applicants with full work rights are invited to send their applications by 17th October 2017 to [info@srilankanau.com.au](mailto:info@srilankanau.com.au)



**WELCOME** to Industry Appointments, *Travel Daily's* Thursday feature which has the latest job appointments from across the industry. If you have just appointed someone to a new position and would like to update the industry email [appointments@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:appointments@traveldaily.com.au).

**Tourism Fiji** has appointed **Sarah-Louise Robinson** to the position of Public Relations Manager – Australia. She will commence in the role from 16 Oct, with the newly-created role seeking to further strengthen Australian media relationships with the tourism body.

**Rakesh Raicar** has recently taken on the role of Regional General Manager Southwest Pacific for **Cathay Pacific Group**. Raicar succeeds Nelson Chin in the role who has relocated back to Hong Kong to oversee the company's Cargo Commercial Business worldwide.

The soon-to-be-opened **Holiday Inn Sydney St Marys** has appointed its General Manager, with **Winston Gong** taking on the role. He was most recently in the position of Executive Assistant Manager at Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley.

Consulting firm **Accenture** has chosen **Sarah Larkin** to join its London office where she will be working in EMEA Travel Management, Global Travel and Events. Her previous role was as Melbourne-based Director of Consulting Services with Travelport Locomote.

**Carnival Australia** has announced the appointment of **Nola Melamet** as its new Retail Marketing Specialist. She was previously a marketing and sales executive with Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection, having spent a decade with The Travel Corporation.

## Townsville bull ride

**TOWNSVILLE** is set to host the Professional Bull Riders Iron Cowboy event from 17-18 Nov.

Riders will be challenged to last eight seconds on top of a raging bull, with the sports event touted as the only one of its kind in Australia, and one of just three globally outside of Dallas & Brazil.

## Westjet 737 MAX

**WESTJET** has acquired its first Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft, with a further 50 to be added to its fleet over the next four years.

The move is designed to increase fuel efficiency and overall guest experience.

The 737 MAX 8 features a single cabin with 174 seats as well as improved lighting & sound.

## Aussies rate dining

**A STUDY** conducted by accommodation booking platform agoda has revealed Aussie travellers in the millennial age group opt for good food above any other tourist activity.

The latest research suggests that 'foodie' attractions are the most sought after according to 64% of respondents, with bars and nightlife only rating 20%.

## Sydney hotel data

**THE** Sydney hotel sector has recorded positive growth across most key areas in the last week of Sep compared with the same period last year, STR reports.

Supply was up 2.3%, the average daily rate increased 4.9%, however occupancy fell 1.7%.

## AirAsia X fleet swap

**AIRASIA X** is considering exchanging an order for 66 Airbus SE A330neo jets for larger A350s in a bid to increase capacity on its most frequented routes according to *Bloomberg* news service.

The airline will focus the A350s on routes in the 4-8 hour range and has confirmed the Boeing 787 *Dreamliner* will also be considered for purchase.

The switch sparked rumours of a possible European travel revival, a claim the airline has denied.

## Vail SUV services

**SKI** accommodation company Vail Resorts has entered into an exclusive partnership with truck and SUV manufacturer GMC.

The multi-year agreement will provide guests of Vail Resorts with complimentary vehicle services at its premier mountain lodging properties.

The deal will also see GMC vehicle displays and branding throughout Vail Resorts.

## Thai smoking ban

**TOURISTS** travelling to Thailand are being warned not to smoke on 20 selected beaches in Thailand or risk serving a year in jail.

From 01 Nov, the new law will apply in the popular tourist spots of Phuket, Prachuap Khiri Khan, Chon Buri & Songkhla.

The country reported 138,000 cigarette butts were picked up along Patong beach alone.

The move arrives just months after a ban on e-cigarettes.

## Just 1 in 4 unplug

**A NEW** report from Project: Time Off suggests that close to half of all American employees check in with work while on holidays using technology.

"In our always-on work world, it can be difficult to totally turn off, but many workers believe they are expected to be responsive no matter where they are," said Project: Time Off chief of research & strategy Katie Denis.

## Win a trip to SABAH

This month Royal Brunei Airlines, Sabah Tourism and Sutura Harbour Resort are giving travel agents the chance to win a trip to Sabah.

Prize includes:

- Economy return airfares for two on Royal Brunei Airlines
- Three nights accommodation at Sutura Harbour Magellan
- A North Borneo Sunset Cruise for 2

To win, send through a photo showing us why Royal Brunei Airlines and Sabah are your ideal escape?

Send your entries to [rba@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:rba@traveldaily.com.au)

terms and conditions



## YOUR CLIENTS CAN DISCOVER BRITAIN WITH ALBATROSS TOURS

✦ Smaller Groups ✦ Longer Stays ✦ Genuinely Inclusive ✦ Guaranteed 'My Time'

### Best of British

16 days from \$7,599pp twin share - London to London

- Enjoy 4 x 3 night stops at Bath, Edinburgh, Yorkshire and Stratford-Upon-Avon
- Be treated like royalty with an overnight stay in Leeds Castle
- Guaranteed 'My Time' and organised time to allow your clients to experience more of Britain
- Small group from 10 to 28 travellers
- 24 meals, including breakfast daily and complimentary beverages with all included dinners
- Genuinely inclusive, no additional 'on tour' costs
- All tips and gratuities to your Tour Manager, Driver and Guides



*Message from 'The Mo'*

### I hate hidden extras!

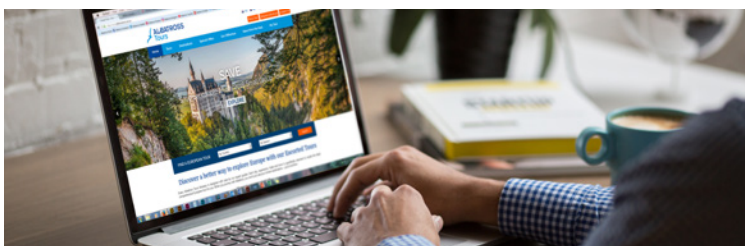
Just like you, I hate doing anything and suddenly discovering there are hidden extras and still more to pay! I think it is only fair and honest that if something should be included, it is.

That is why I insist our tours are always genuinely inclusive and I promise that your clients will never step onboard one of our coaches and be given a long list of expensive 'optional' extras, which can be so upsetting and, play havoc with your budget.

Our Tour Managers are not reliant on kickbacks from special shops or optional extras with grossly inflated prices. When our Tour Managers hold their hands out it is not to take your money but to shake your hand!



Euan Landborough, 'The Mo'  
Managing Director & Tour Designer



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### ARE YOU A DYNAMIC LEADER?

**GENERAL MANAGER**  
**PERTH – UP TO \$120K PKG+ BONUS**

Are you an innovative General Manager looking for a new challenge? Come join this growing hotel brand & be responsible for overseeing all hotel operations, lead the team with a focus on providing an exceptional guest experience & growing the bottom line. Experience as a GM in 4-5 star hotel is essential along with exceptional leadership, communication & interpersonal skills. Strong salary package on offer for the right candidate.

### LEAD A GREAT TEAM

**MANAGER – NATIONAL SUPPORT TEAM**  
**MELBOURNE - SALARY TO \$83K + BONUS + SUPER**

Great role available for a sales administration manager looking to expand their career. This globally recognised company are looking for a strong manager to lead their support team to continually look at ways to improve processes and efficiencies to support their sales team. You will have a number of direct reports across the support area, a great salary is on offer including a strong incentive scheme plus super, please ring or email for more info.

### LOOKING FOR THAT SOMETHING DIFFERENT

**AREA MANAGER - NSW**  
**SYDNEY - SALARY PACKAGE TO \$85 PLUS CAR**

Exclusive role to AA Appointments. This supplier to the Tourism Industry have a very rare opportunity for an area manager to join their team in NSW. This supplier has offices throughout NSW and you will be responsible for managing & developing a number of them to achieve top service and profitability. This will include training mentoring and managing staff to achieve this. Huge career opportunities available, great salary and company car.

### EARN THE BIG BUCKS

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**  
**SYD/MEL/WA – BIG BASE PLUS BIG BONUSES**

Create a valued impression when you join this outstanding company. You will have experience in sourcing and winning new business, with great negotiation skills and a fantastic personality. Representing this well-known brand in the market you will be proud to be part of this vast organization, showing off your sales skills and getting new clients to sign on the dotted line. If you want to join a fast paced role with excellent progression then don't wait any longer and

### AND THE WINNER IS

**BID MANAGER**  
**SYDNEY-BASE SALARY TO \$95K + SUPER**

Very rare opportunity with a leading TMC that is seeing extreme growth in 2017. They are looking for an experienced Bid Writer/Manager to join their team. You will have experience in a similar role and if you are Shipley trained this will be held in high regard. The office is located close to public transport and career progression is definitely something this company promotes. Please call us for more information.

### STEP UP FROM TL TO HEAD OF OPERATIONS

**NSW OPERATIONS MANAGER or TEAM LEADER**  
**SYDNEY-BASE SALARY TO \$100K + SUPER + BONUS**

Currently working for a Corporate TMC and thinking about a change? This company rarely recruits at this level which makes this all the more exciting. You will be managing a team of extremely talented corporate consultants on a very high demand account. We need someone extremely qualified in corporate travel, leadership is the key but someone who still understands how to consult is very important to this role. Call today to find out more.

### CALLING ALL FINANCE SPECIALISTS

**FINANCIAL CONTROLLER**  
**MELBOURNE – EXECUTIVE PACKAGE**

Great new opportunity for an experienced Financial Controller to join this expanding hotel group. Working closely with the GM you will be responsible for all financials including month end reporting, P&L's, general ledger, budgeting and forecasting & other general financial tasks. Experience in a similar role a must along with relevant qualifications, strong communication, analytical & problem solving skills. Executive package on offer.

### LAST CHANCE!

**DIRECTOR OF SALES**  
**MELBOURNE EXEC PKG + BONUS ++**

We are looking for a DOSM who has experience working with 800+ rooms. Is this you? Join this dynamic leader to help them to develop & manage the sales team, implement sales strategies & campaigns across all segments, budgeting & forecasting all to maximise revenues. Executive salary package on offer. Experience as a Director of Sales, a track record leading a successful sales team along with great communication, presentation & negotiation skills required.

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