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## Star confirms Ritz-Carlton

STAR Entertainment Group has today lodged a formal development application for its previously announced new Ritz-Carlton tower (**TD 19 Sep 2016**), which will add 220 upscale rooms to Sydney's hotel stock.

The 61-storey project will also feature about 200 residences, 15 food and beverage outlets and a new Sky Terrace with a publicly accessible restaurant.

Star Entertainment ceo Matt Bekier said the building would sit within the existing footprint of The Star Sydney, supporting the new Sydney International Convention Centre and helping connect Darling Harbour to the Sydney Fishmarket.

"This country is experiencing significant growth in inbound tourism, an upward trend which shows all the hallmarks of continuing well into the future.

"To cater for that demand we need the necessary tourism infrastructure...Sydney lacks sufficient high-end hotels to meet this wave of international tourist demand," Bekier added.

The \$500m project will see the return of the Ritz-Carlton brand to the Sydney market a decade after the closure of the former Ritz-Carlton Double Bay.

The development application details a new rooftop pool terrace above the existing Star casino, but no additional gambling space.

Bekier said the new Ritz-Carlton would be a factor in embedding the Star Sydney's reputation as a "tourism and entertainment destination of global appeal".

## Winter wonderland

**ALBATROSS** Tours has outlined the perfect way to spend a day amid the wintry splendour of the Austrian Alps in its latest winter tour profile.

Snowy scenes and mountain railways are featured in its Austrian and Swiss Winter Wonderland Tour - see **page eight** for full details.

## Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today has seven pages of news and photos, plus full pages from:

- Albatross Tours
- Travel Trade Recruitment

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## Tourism key for NZ

**TRAVEL** and tourism generated 18% of New Zealand's gross domestic product in 2017, according to research published by the World Travel and Tourism Council this week.

The report also forecasts this proportion increasing to 20% of NZ GDP over the next decade.

The tourism and travel sector also employed 212,000 people or 8.8% of NZ's total jobs, and grew faster than the wider economy.

## Biz travel begins to surge

**BUSINESS** travel spending is set to surge by more than 7% this year as corporations worldwide emerge from an "era of uncertainty", the Global Business Travel Association (GBTA) has forecast in a new report.

The association has identified 2017 and 2018 as the strongest two-year period for business travel since the initial recovery from the global financial crisis at the start of the decade, and says 18 of the world's top 20 business travel markets are expecting growth rates above the average of the past five years.

The annual GBTA BTI Outlook report says global business travel spending reached US\$1.33 trillion in 2017, a 5.8% increase over the previous year.

It forecasts spending is likely to increase a further 7.1% in 2018 and reach a total annual spend of US\$1.7 trillion by 2022.

However, the association also warns of potential negative impacts from political forces.

"This pick-up in growth could signify an end to the 'era of uncertainty' in global business

travel, but rising protectionism is coming at precisely the wrong time," said GBTA executive director Michael W McCormick.

"The direction of trade policy is far and away the biggest wild card that could impact our forecast for global business creating uncertainty that could derail the recovery," he said.

The GBTA says India, Indonesia, Sweden, Norway & China are likely to show the highest growth.

## California events

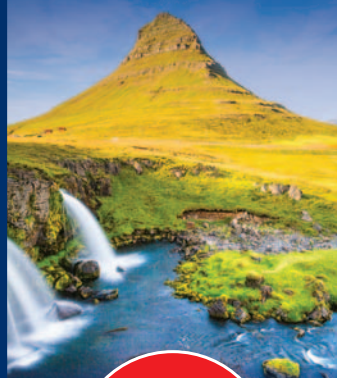
**VISIT** California Australia/ NZ will host a whopping 20 events next week, with a large delegation heading down under to meet the trade in Auckland, Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney.

The biennial mission, with over 30 Californian participants, will focus on road trip experiences to creatively bring the destination to life, with *Getaway* presenter Jason Dundas also featuring as host at two events in Sydney.

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## JQ foreign spotlight

**JETSTAR** has defended its use of foreign crews and their employment conditions after a segment on the ABC's *7.30 Report* last night.

The program found foreign crews had been used on ADL-DRW flights and that Thai-based crew had a base pay of as little as \$100 a week.

JQ said foreign crews had only been used domestically on "tag flights" with onward int'l services, and that Thai crew were paid an average \$2,600 per month, or five times the average Thai salary.

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## Saudia Aust GSA

**SAUDI** Arabian Airlines (Saudia) has appointed APG Australia as its general sales agent as part of a move to boost its bookings in the Australian market.

The carrier last year reported a 30% growth in passengers from outside Saudi Arabia.

## TNZ names new gm Australia

**TOURISM** New Zealand today confirmed the appointment of Andrew Waddel (**pictured**) as general manager Australia, with the marketing expert joining TNZ after previous roles at a range of beverage brands.

Waddel was most recently with organic syrup manufacturer Soda Press Co, and is a former marketing director for Red Bull Australia.

TNZ ceo Stephen England-Hall said Waddel "has a passion for all things New Zealand & is a strong advocate for understanding consumer needs."

"His growth mindset for developing brands coupled with



a deep connection to NZ was a stand-out," England-Hall added.

Waddel will be based in TNZ's Sydney office, and takes up the new role effective immediately.

He replaces Tony Saunders, who left TNZ in Jan this year to take up a new role as head of marketing for TravelCard travel insurance.

## Lombok recovery

**LOMBOK'S** provincial authorities have highlighted tourism as a vital source of income as the island recovers from its recent earthquakes.

The Government of Nusa Tenggara Barat says the majority of damage has been in Lombok's north and other areas of the island are "largely unaffected".

"We welcome tourists to Lombok to keep our people employed and support our recovery from this natural disaster," a govt statement says.

DFAT advises against travel to the Gili Islands & north Lombok.

## Window Seat

**FORGET** pinching branded shampoos and soaps from your next stay at a fancy hotel - the Grand Nashville in Tennessee has launched its very own flavours of hot sauce.

Guests are welcome to take home a "lasting taste" of the destination, with the range including the "fiery garlic cayenne Honky-Tonk Heat" as well as the "smoky chipotle-tinged Tennessee Torch".

The tasty treats are available for guests dining in the hotel, are used in the property's signature Bloody Marys and sold in the bar and gift shop.

Meeting planners are also being offered them as a bonus.

And if a Bloody Mary isn't your tippie, don't worry - the Library Bar also offers a collection of more than 50 types of bourbon.



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## Aussies to USA/Canada

A NEW report released by travel network Virtuoso has revealed that Canada and the USA are among the top preferred destinations of Australian travellers for the upcoming 2018 holiday season, with the research showing a "solid pull" in visitors to both countries.

The results, which were delivered at the 30th annual Virtuoso Travel Week in Las Vegas earlier this week, are reportedly being driven by an increased variety of carriers providing greater dispersal and connectivity.

"With Qantas and Air New Zealand accessing new gateways like Dallas and Houston, the true tourism potential of the United States is becoming realised as

the destination becomes more available," said Virtuoso Asia-Pacific managing director Michael Londregan.

Cruising was also highlighted by the report as a popular choice due to its differentiation, which offers travellers "the ability to choose the kind of cruise that is right for them".

Top international destinations listed in the report include USA, Canada, Japan, France and New Zealand, while some of the top trip trends were ocean cruises, family trips, beach destinations, active and adventure trips, and river cruises.

### APAC room bump

A TOTAL of 13,917 hotel rooms were under construction in Australia during Jul 2018, according to the latest figures from STR.

The number represented 4.9% of the total existing room supply.

The Asia Pacific region experienced a significant 33.9% spike on new rooms built for Jul when compared to the previous corresponding period last year.

### Seabourn collection

THE latest edition of the annual Seabourn Collection is now available, detailing more than 180 cruises across 450 destinations.

The 128-page "Extraordinary Worlds 2019/20 Cruise Collection" highlights both onboard & on-shore experiences and includes new voyages to Cuba plus a world cruise.

### Overhaul of Trump

TRUMP International Hotel & Tower New York located near Central Park has completed the refurbishment of its guest rooms, suites and common spaces.

New touches include updated carpeting, a different colour scheme throughout, and new fittings and fixtures in the rooms.



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## Cebu brings MEL to MNL



MELBOURNE Airport has officially welcomed Cebu Pacific Air, with the inaugural MEL-MNL service taking off yesterday afternoon (TD yesterday).

The new nonstop service will connect travellers from Melbourne to Manila three times per week, departing at 5:05pm & landing in Manila at 11:15pm.

Ambassador Minda Calaguian-Cruz of the Philippine Embassy in Canberra said the new service would strengthen ties between Victoria and the Philippines.

"The Philippine Embassy looks forward to building on this partnership with Cebu Pacific,

together with the Department of Tourism of the Philippines, to showcase more of our culture and heritage," she said.

Cebu Pacific chief operations officer Rick Howell also welcomed the service, adding that the route was a "wonderful opportunity to live up to the Cebu Pacific mission of bringing people together through safe, affordable, and reliable air travel".

Melbourne is the second destination in the country for the airline following its 2014 launch in Sydney (TD 09 Sep 2014).

The inaugural takeoff yesterday is pictured above.

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A detailed position description and requirement for each of the two positions will be sent to interested candidates on request.

**Qualified candidates with full work right are invited to submit their application by Friday 31 August 2018 to Ms. Thuy Nguyen via**  
[admin.au@vietnamairlines.com](mailto:admin.au@vietnamairlines.com)

(We regret that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interview)



## Tramada talks tech at GBTA



**THE** Global Business Travel Association is this week hosting its 2018 convention in San Diego, with more than 1,300 business travel buyers in attendance from around the world.

Leading the tech start up panel earlier in the week was Mary Ellen George-Hess, head of North America for travel technology

provider Tramada Systems (pictured, second from left with fellow panellists), who took to the floor to discuss the popular topic.

George-Hess discussed her experience on what it was like being a travel technology start-up in North America, despite existing success in Australia and NZ.

The event concludes today.

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<https://www.topdeck.travel/all-jobs>

## Regional funding

**THE** NSW Government has announced a further \$100 million for new tourism projects in regional areas from round two of its Regional Growth - Environment and Tourism Fund.

Applications for funding are open until 21 Sep, with grants of up to \$50 million available for "regionally iconic tourism activation projects" that cost more than \$5 million.

"We want to see your big projects now - projects that will help to enliven and kick-start local economies," said Minister for Regional NSW John Barilaro.

## AccorHotels pkgs

**ACCORHOTELS** has released over 50 luxury hotel packages across its luxury network of brands in Australia including Sofitel, Pullman, MGallery by Sofitel and Swissotel.

The "Curated by AccorHotels" packages are designed to appeal to travellers seeking gourmet, arts and culture or health and wellness offerings.

Deals range from one- to five-night stays and offer savings of up to 50%.

Bookings are available until 31 Oct 2018 for stays through to 31 Mar 2019.

See [accorhotels.com/curated](http://accorhotels.com/curated).

## Kaikoura 4.5 star

**A 4.5-STAR** hotel in New Zealand's Kaikoura is set to open during the summer of 2019/20 offering 118 rooms, a restaurant and bar, conference facilities, a gym and pool.

Sudima Kaikoura will be located on the shore of the Kaikoura township and will have mountain and sea views.

## Expedia purchase

**EXPEDIA** Group has announced the purchase of the remaining 25% equity interest in AirAsia's AAE Travel, the joint venture formed by the two firms in 2011.

President and chief executive officer of Expedia Group, Mark Okerstrom said, "This transaction unlocks better integration of our Brand Expedia Asia business into our core global travel platform, giving us even greater confidence in our ability to harness the huge growth potential that Asia represents".

## NSW letting laws

**SHORT-TERM** holiday letting will have tougher regulation from 2019, after the NSW Government passed new laws yesterday.

A Code of Conduct, developed by NSW Fair Trading and industry stakeholders (**TD** 06 Jun) will apply to online accommodation platforms, letting agents, hosts and guests across the state.

Minister for Better Regulation, Matt Kean said, "It acknowledges the huge financial contribution online booking platforms make to the NSW economy, but also takes a zero-tolerance approach to raucous guests."

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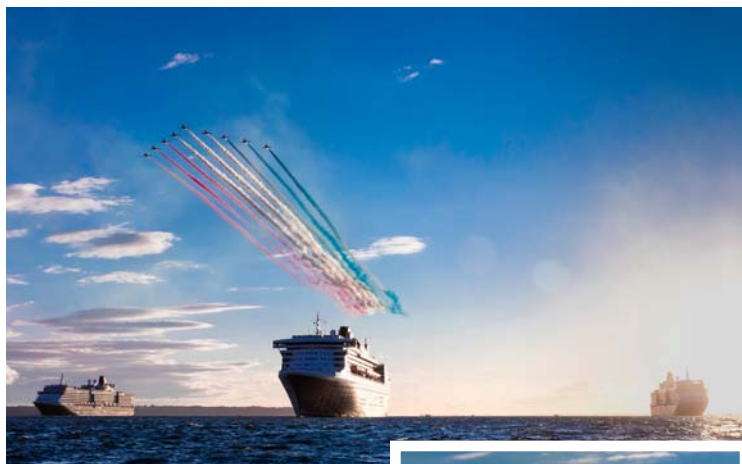
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## Cunard given royal welcome



**AUSTRALIAN** guests on board Cunard's three-ship royal tour were recently treated to a spectacular flyover by the Royal Air Force's famous Red Arrows display team in Southampton (pictured above and inset).

The *Queen Mary 2*, *Queen Victoria* and *Queen Elizabeth* all bore witness to some colourful aerobatics across a deep blue sky, delighting passengers.

The three ship royal tour experience has so far included a *Queen Mary 2* crossing from New York to Southampton, a two-week *Queen Elizabeth* voyage that included sailings of Iceland in addition to calls to Rotterdam and Belfast, as well as a *Queen Victoria* voyage that took in the fjords of Norway.



### Open scalper alert

**THE** Victorian Government has declared next year's Australian Open a major event under its anti-scalping laws.

The measure means tickets to the tennis tournament cannot be advertised or resold for more than 10% of their original value.



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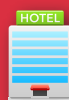
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## Accommodation Updates

**WELCOME** to Accommodation Updates, *Travel Daily's* Wed 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](mailto:accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au).



The **Fairmont Resort & Spa Blue Mountains** has opened its Ubika Day Spa. The two-storey relaxation space boasts 16 treatment rooms including four couples rooms, one with a private spa bath. The spa also features a Vichy Shower room, a "zen room" to relax pre- and post-treatment in front of a fireplace, as well as a yoga space, gymnasium and beauty salon.



The **Boston Harbor Hotel** has debuted its new luxury John Adams Presidential Suite. The two-bedroom private suite boasts views of Boston Harbor and amenities including large outdoor seating area, custom sound system, and outdoor heating. The John Adams Presidential Suite can accommodate up to eight guests.



An extensive renovation was completed earlier this month at **Swissotel The Stamford** in Singapore. The multi-million dollar overhaul included new guest rooms, a contemporary hotel lobby and a new tech-enhanced check-in and check-out experience. The property is one of the largest hotels in Singapore, with the refresh designed to look "aesthetically chic".

### NZ camp initiatives

**THE** New Zealand Government has allocated NZ\$8.5 million to finance several camping initiatives ahead of summer.

The funds will be used to enhance infrastructure and education at camp sites, launch a marketing campaign to reinforce proper camping etiquette, and invest in data technology to provide real-time updates on the availability of camp sites.

Funding was set aside following guidance from the Responsible Camping Working Group which laid out a raft of recommendations for the government to improve camping management.

### Health cruise deal

**FITNESS** cruise line Blue World Voyages has formed a partnership with women's health magazine *Oxygen*, a deal that will see two health voyages a year operated exclusively for readers of the periodical.

"This is exactly the kind of vacation our readers have been asking for, one that...offers fresh and healthy food and caters to their fitness needs," said *Oxygen* editor Lara McGlashan.

### Edgy entertainment

**CELEBRITY** Cruises has unveiled a new technologically advanced main theatre to be on board its new vessel *Celebrity Edge*.

The new space features four stage areas and three large moving projection screens.

"We wanted to take the idea of traditional theatre and turn it on its head...it was designed to awaken people and immerse them in the experience, stimulating their senses," said the theatre's designer Scott Butler.

### Vic welcome flights

**VICTORIAN** Minister for Tourism and Major Events John Eren has welcomed LATAM Airlines' decision to boost flights between Melbourne and Santiago, Chile (**TD** 09 Aug).

"This will open up more business and tourism opportunities," Eren said.

### Florida emergency

**FLORIDA** has declared a state of emergency amid a bloom of toxic algae that has made its waters unswimmable for tourists.

The "red tide" has also killed a vast amount of marine life.



## Beanies for brain cancer



**TRAVELMANAGERS** personal travel manager (PTM) Erin Ross and her children recently organised a Beanies for Brain Cancer fundraiser, which raised \$13,546 towards the Cure Brain Cancer Foundation.

Held with support from Elysium Restaurant and Bar and TravelManagers, the event was inspired by Carrie Bickmore's and Mark Hughes' Beanies 4 Brain Cancer initiatives.

The team created their own TravelManagers beanie to raise

funds for the cause after the Ross family lost their husband and dad, Matt.

TravelManagers executive general manager, Michael Gazal, said the company was extremely proud of the efforts made by PTMs like Ross to support causes that are important to them.

The Beanies for Brain Cancer PTM team **pictured** are: Amanda Brady, Erin Ross, Cassandra Zayonce, Georgina Grandi, Annette Fyfe, and in the front row Lisa Smith.

## WA new liquor laws

**NEW** liquor laws in Western Australia which are designed to provide a "more relaxed and tourism-friendly hospitality industry" will come into effect this weekend.

Among the changes, diners will be able to take home partially consumed wine from a small bar or tavern & venues with capacity for up to 120 won't need to apply for a separate liquor license.

## Egencia biz tool

**DIGITAL** travel management company Egencia has launched Egencia Analytics Studio, a new data visualisation and analytics platform.

The company said the tool allows travel managers to explore data visually, discover insights, identify new sources of savings and optimise spend across air, hotel, train and car.

To find out more, **CLICK HERE**.

## WIN A LUXURY RIVER CRUISE



This month, Scenic and *Travel Daily* are giving readers the chance to win a luxurious river cruise. Experience a 15-day cruise in a balcony suite. The prize includes:

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**Q11.** Which itinerary has the exclusive Scenic Enrich experience 'Best of the Sound of Music and Salzburg Show'?

## Mt Isa Rodeo surge

**BOOKINGS** for the Mount Isa Rodeo event held 09 to 12 Aug in Queensland doubled from last year, with Platinum and Gold reserved seating selling out weeks ahead.

"Events like the Mount Isa Mines Rotary Rodeo are an important part of the outback's \$573m tourism industry," said Tourism Industry Development Minister Kate Jones.

The event "now attracts around 15,000 people who spend more than \$8m each year," Jones said.

## Southwest update

**SOUTHWEST** Airlines has made changes to its policies for trained service and emotional support animals, commencing 17 Sep.

The changes aim to provide clearer guidance to customers travelling with service animals.

## Kilo of Kindness

**MOVENPICK** Hotels & Resorts will run a 2018 Kilo of Kindness global charity campaign, from 01-15 Sep, in honour of United Nations International Day of Charity on 05 Sep.

The initiative calls on guests to donate at least one kilo of food, clothing and educational supplies to disadvantaged communities.

For info on participating hotels - **CLICK HERE**.

## Brand USA impact

**BRAND** USA's first IMAX and giant-screen film *National Parks Adventure* is expected to attract over 172,000 international visitors to the US between FY2017 and FY2019.

Research by Phocuswright and Oxford Economics predicts the film will generate \$700m in incremental spend.

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# Discover the magic of Europe's Winter Wonderland with Albatross Tours

Imagine travelling through snowy woods surrounded by majestic mountains on a horse drawn carriage ride, to a remote Oberhofalm alpine hut... Relax over a leisurely lunch with a glass or two of something to keep you warm! Afterwards, jump into the snow to enjoy a snow ball fight with new found friends and slide down the snow-covered hills, all before returning to your warm cosy hotel in one of Europe's truly great cities, Salzburg! This is just one day on our magical Austrian and Swiss Winter Wonderland tour – see day 4!

On another day, board the famous Glacier Express train and travel over ravines and through gorges along the Valais to Switzerland's finest mountain scenery. Travelling from Chur to Zermatt, there is time to sit back and relax with a glass of wine or a hot drink and take in the views. On arrival we check into our superb chalet hotel right in the heart of Zermatt for four magical nights!



Find out more about our  
Winter Wonderland tours

## A Perfect Winter Wonderland Day!

Experience the Horse & Carriage Ride  
and Oberhofalm Hut Lunch with Albatross



The Glacier Express Experience  
with Albatross



**Are you offering your clients Australia's leading Festive program of Europe?**  
Contact our friendly reservation staff to find out more





*Working in partnership with the Australian Travel Industry*

### **Inbound Luxury Travel Designer**

**Sydney, Up to \$65k, DOE, Ref: 3225PE1**

My client is a leading provider of luxury inbound travel arrangements & has unrivalled expertise in delivering market-leading tailored tours to groups visiting Australia & the Pacific. They offer bespoke itineraries – from city breaks to multi destination and special interest tours. I am looking for a talented inbound travel specialist to work with this creative travel team, you must have strong Australian tourism knowledge & experience in dealing with Western Markets. Excellent remuneration is on offer.

For more information please call Paul on (02) 9119 8744 or click [APPLY](#) now.

### **Travel Consultant | Call Centre**

**North Gold Coast, \$40k + Super + Comms, Ref: 1313CGA1**

Seeking a dynamic, enthusiastic, sales focused travel consultant with at least 2 years' experience within a sales role. Come and join a leading name in travel within their growing department. This company really looks after their staff so expect excellent working environment and amazing perks! This role is for someone with a proven background in achieving targets and displays the highest level of customer service. Apply now if you're ready to take your next step in your career.

For more information please call Courtney on (07) 3123 6107 or click [APPLY](#) now.

### **Training & Development Specialist**

**Gold Coast, \$60-\$62k + super + review, Ref: 3538S22**

Are you a Call Centre Manager with travel industry experience or a Training Specialist wanting to work closer to home or needing a change of scenery from your current position? This is an autonomous role within a medium size organisation and growing! Use your knowledge & skills in creating both online & manual training programs to assist 3 departments with new induction and existing employees. Mon-Fri only in an office based environment, fresh new ideas and approach are highly welcomed!

For more information please call Serena on (07) 3123 6107 or click [APPLY](#) now.

### **OBT – Support Specialist**

**Melbourne, \$57-\$64k + Super, Ref: 3566HC1**

An exciting new role has become available in the travel industry for an OBT Technical Support Specialist to join a leading Travel Management Company. If you have this type of experience then this role could be what you are looking for. Your main responsibility is to support clients using the OBT and provide excellent support. The successful candidate will have experience and knowledge of GDS & OBTs (Galileo advantageous, Serko and Concur) and strong travel and technical consulting experience.

For more information please call Hannah on (03) 9988 0616 or click [APPLY](#) now.

### **Tour Coordinator**

**Sydney, High Base + Super, Ref: 4054AJ01**

Join a well-established and highly regarded company providing exciting, one of a kind itineraries to educational groups, clubs and various associations. We are currently searching for a superstar within the travel industry who is looking to step away from the face to face operations and move into the exciting behind the scenes, product based side of the industry. This will be a great introduction to product and offers the rare opportunity to get into this highly sought after career path.

For more information please call Antony on (02) 9119 8744 or click [APPLY](#) now.

### **Travel Consulting | Award-Winning Agency**

**Gold Coast, \$50k + Super + Bonus, Ref: 2055AW1**

Want to provide outstanding customer service to valued customers of this award-winning agency? Want to get your work/life balance back? Want to step away from customer facing consulting? Then this is the role for you! With the ability to create customised travel itineraries including flights, accommodation, transfers and stopovers and proficient in GDS (preferably Sabre), you will pride yourself in delivering exceptional customer service! This is your chance to work in an online agency!

For more information please call Amanda on (07) 3123 6107 or click [APPLY](#) now.

### **Travel Consultant | Hiking Expert**

**Melbourne, \$60k-\$65k, Ref: 3586JP1**

If your idea of a great holiday is hiking through some of the best and greatest trails the world has to offer such as the Camino De Santiago or Everest Base Camp and you have experience working in the travel industry this is a great opportunity for you to really turn your passion into your career. You'll be rewarded with a great salary plus bonus opportunities, great office environment near the beach and amazing travel opportunities to some breathtaking destinations. This role is truly unique.

For more information please call Josh on (03) 9988 0616 or click [APPLY](#) now.

### **Corporate Travel Consultant – Temp Role**

**Perth, 50k-60k + Super, Ref: 5432JB1**

Our client is seeking an experienced Corporate Travel Consultant for a temp role in their office near Perth CBD! You will have the ability to organise and book business travel arrangements whilst delivering an unparalleled level of client care. You will ideally possess a background in corporate travel and have experience using either Amadeus or Sabre. Experience using Tramada is also desirable. The role is Monday to Friday and the successful candidate will enjoy a competitive remuneration.

For more information please call Jacqueline on (08) 6365 4313 or click [APPLY](#) now.



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