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Business as usual for C&K

COX & Kings says its operations in Australia, which include Bentours and Tempo Holidays, are not being impacted by a “temporary cash flow mismatch” at its Indian parent company.

A spokesperson for the firm told **TD** this morning that the C&K overseas businesses are “able to trade independently”.

The company missed a key debt repayment deadline earlier this week, triggering a financial markets ratings downgrade and a share price slump to an all-time low, having fallen almost 85% over the last 12 months.

“For the benefit of all its stakeholders, the company asserts that C&K has robust operating businesses,” a statement released to the Indian stock exchange said.

“The company requests the co-operation and understanding of all its stakeholders, including employees, franchisees, shareholders, lenders, vendors and other partners, as we work tirelessly to restore the unblemished value in the legacy brand,” it added.

C&K said it proposes to meet its financial obligations through “a combination of internal accruals and monetisation of assets”.

A statement noted the business was taking all required measures to resolve the issue, evaluating each business and identifying ways to improve performance.

“The company is focusing on cash flow generation from each business and working at the highest priority to free working capital,” it said.

Cox & Kings added that it would be approaching its lenders to “work out some time bound program to meet this emergency,” with its thriving and highly valuable subsidiaries also including the Europe-based Meininer Hotels business.

New Pedersen role

ANA Pedersen has been appointed as Managing Director Australia & New Zealand for hotel reservation specialist HRS Group.

Pedersen recently departed Helloworld, where she was Global Director of Corporate Sales for QBT and APX.

Locally, HRS signed a strategic deal with the Lido Group three years ago (**TD** 25 May 2016).

Hidden Italy tours

ALBATROSS Tours is today promoting its new 2020 Europe & UK Small Group Touring brochure, with highlights including the new Hidden Italy, the Lands of the Etruscans adventure.

For more information on the trip, see **page nine**.

Rocky's self-drive

ROCKY Mountaineer is showcasing its latest self-drive holidays, where travellers can explore the scenery of the Rocky Mountains at their own pace.

Packages for 2020 are currently available to book, for more information about what's on offer, see **page 11**.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has eight pages of news, a front cover wrap for **AFTA After Party**, a photo page for **ATEC** plus full pages from:

- Albatross Tours
- Travel Trade Recruitment
- Rocky Mountaineer prod pg

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An iconic ecotourism opportunity

Tourism operators can now register interest to deliver world class ecotourism experiences along the proposed Wangetti Trail, an iconic multi-day hiking and mountain biking trail between Port Douglas and Palm Cove.

CLICK TO REGISTER NOW



Authorised by the Queensland Government, George Street, Brisbane, Australia



Thai Lion roars

THAI Lion Air has expanded its offerings in Southeast Asia, announcing it will fly to Manila and Siem Reap once daily from Bangkok Don Mueang beginning 01 Oct.

The airline will fly its 737-800 to MNL, and 737-800/-900ER to REP.

Aer Lingus GSA shutdown

IRISH carrier Aer Lingus has announced the cessation of its long-running General Sales Agency (GSA) agreement with World Aviation Systems in Australia and NZ, as it globally centralises its support services.

The carrier said a key component of its growth strategy was maintaining a low cost base.

“A significant portion of passenger sales growth has been through direct distribution channels, therefore, like many airlines, we are adapting our sales model accordingly,” a spokesperson for the airline said.

“All global support services will migrate from our current GSA structure to Aer Lingus head office,” the spokesperson added.

The change is effective immediately, with agents wishing to make contact advised to call +353 1 886 8505 or email ROW.queries@aerlingus.com.

Aer Lingus is part of the International Airlines Group, which also owns British Airways and Iberia (TD 19 Aug 2015).

Seabourn subs

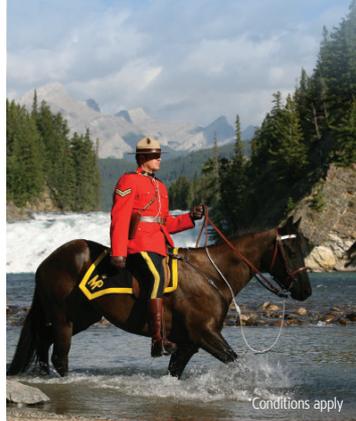
SEABOURN Cruise Line has revealed details of the submarine which will operate excursions from the new *Seabourn Venture* and its sister expedition ship.

The custom-designed U-Boat Worx Cruise Sub 7 vessels will each carry six guests plus a driver.



NEW 2020 CANADA & ALASKA

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Costsaver Asia prog

FOLLOWING a successful launch into Asia in 2019, Costsaver has announced it has added a series of new trips to the region in 2020.

Highlights include the 22-day Essence of South East Asia tour, and the 15-day Thai and Malaysian Odyssey trip.

TD/CW and C360

CRUISE Lines International Association has again partnered with *Cruise Weekly* and *Travel Daily* to bring coverage of this year's Cruise360 Australasia conference.

The Business Publishing Group will return as media partner for the 30 Aug event, the cruise industry's peak annual forum for sharing ideas, knowledge and visions for the future.

Subscribers to *TD*, *CW* and *travelBulletin* will be able to keep up with all the news surrounding this year's conference, including in the lead-up, during the event, and in a special Cruise360 edition.

Royal orders more

ROYAL Caribbean Cruises has entered into an agreement with shipbuilder Meyer Turku to order a third environmentally friendly Icon-class ship scheduled for delivery in 2025.

Announced today, it will join its two sister ships – to be delivered in 2022 and 2024 – in Royal Caribbean International's fleet.

“We are thrilled to announce the newest addition to our Icon-class fleet that affirms our commitment to clean-power technologies at sea,” said the company's CEO, Richard Fain.

The Icon-class vessels are powered by liquefied natural gas that leverages the “latest, environmentally friendly applications,” he said.



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pacific princess® returns

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Sixth Princess for Australia

PRINCESS Cruises has revealed that a sixth ship will join its fleet of vessels in Australia for the 2020/21 cruise season.

The cruise line has confirmed that *Pacific Princess* will return to local waters as part of the 2020/21 deployment (**CW** breaking news), with the 670-passenger vessel to make 15 maiden calls during Princess' biggest local season.

Princess will also make inaugural visits to Kaikoura and New Plymouth in New Zealand, Wewak and Gizo Island in the Soloman Islands, and Madang in Papua New Guinea, as well as a 90-day roundtrip voyage from Sydney around South America.

"*Pacific Princess* was christened in Australia and became a

popular favourite amongst Australian cruisers, offering the first premium cruise experience in the region," said Stuart Allison, SVP Asia-Pacific, Princess Cruises.

The addition of the ship means Australian cruisers will have a wide choice of six Princess ships over the course of the season, including *Sapphire Princess*, *Sun Princess*, *Sea Princess*, *Majestic Princess* and *Regal Princess*.

Bookings open on 11 Jul for Elite members, and later to the general public on 12 Jul.

DXB to crack 16m

DUBAI'S DXB airport is expecting to exceed more than 16 million passengers during the holiday rush of Jul and Aug.

Boeing further issues

THE US Department of Justice (DOJ) has issued a subpoena to troubled aviation manufacturer Boeing to investigate the production of its 787 *Dreamliners* in South Carolina, according to *The Seattle Times*.

The move significantly widens the scope of the DOJ's investigation of safety issues at Boeing, which is also currently the subject of a criminal investigation regarding the design of its 737 MAX aircraft following two deadly crashes.

It is not clear if the subpoena served to the company was issued by the same prosecutors overseeing the 737 MAX investigation.

NCL Pearl issues

AN UPCOMING Norwegian *Pearl* cruise of the Greek Isles and Italy scheduled to depart on 05 Jul has been cancelled after the ship experienced mechanical issues.

The technical fault also affected Norwegian Cruise Line's current 13-day repositioning cruise from Northern Europe to the Mediterranean, forcing the vessel to reduce its speed and skip a call to Palma, Majorca.

After a mechanical review, *Pearl* remained in Barcelona for an extra evening and will sail to Livorno, Italy, later today, missing her call to Monte Carlo.

"Our team is working diligently to assist all of our guests, and we thank them for their continued support," NCL said in a statement.



Window Seat

AN UNSUSPECTING family of four were recently treated to the in-flight entertainment experience of a lifetime when they accidentally booked onto a flight celebrating gay pride.

The parents and their two children were flying on what they thought was a routine flight to New York, but were instead met with flamboyant scenes of glittering drag queens and colourful Broadway stars.

The two boys were reportedly seen dancing excitedly on the seats to Lady Gaga's hit *Born This Way* - rock on!



Plaza ups fam appeal

AIRPORT lounge network, The Plaza Premium Lounge, is launching "Kids' Corner" - a dedicated children's zone to be made available in select global locations, including Brisbane and Melbourne.

The offering features a range of kids' attractions including books, wooden toys, kids' cutlery, and activity packs.

Kids' Corner will be rolled out in Brisbane and Melbourne in the coming weeks.

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Phil Hoffmann
mobile travel

Wednesday 3rd July 2019

Delta's reinvention

WELCOME cocktails, hot towel service and bistro-style dining will all feature in Delta Air Lines' reinvented international Main Cabin experience.

Launching on flights in Nov, customers can also expect larger entrees and mix-and-match options for premium appetisers.

Delta has tested the experience on more than 700 flights between Portland and Tokyo Narita the past year, receiving high satisfaction scores.

P&O signs spa deal

P&O Cruises UK has extended its 16-year partnership with OneSpaWorld, which under the new five-year deal will continue to provide health products and services on board its cruise ships.

The terms include the management of P&O's spa facilities, which will include the cruise line's new *Iona* vessel that launches in 2020.

TC new GM Finance

TRAVELLERS Choice has announced the appointment of Lutz Poelchow to the role of General Manager - Finance & Administration.

Poelchow joins from Flight Centre and brings with him 20 years of experience in the retail, corporate and aviation sectors.

"He will...help position Travellers Choice for continued growth and further enhance our ability to offer unrivalled support to our national network," said Travellers Choice Managing Director Christian Hunter.

WHM expands list

THE Australian Government has added Greece and Ecuador to its Working Holiday Maker (WHM) visa program, taking the total number of eligible nations to 44.

A number of extra places have also been added for Spain, Israel, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Malaysia, Singapore and Portugal.

Opening the door to Ecuador



SIX agents from across Australia were recently whisked away to Ecuador, where Contours Travel treated them to a 14-day journey discovering the wonders of the South American destination.

The trip kicked off in Quito, where the group spent three nights at luxury boutique hotel, Casa Gangotena.

Next, agents had the chance to explore the "biodiversity hotspot", Choco Rainforest, before heading across to Mashpi Lodge, to indulge in a delicious array of local Ecuadorian cuisine.

Other highlights of the trip included a four-night cruise

around the Galapagos Islands, where they swam with sea lions, watched giant tortoises, joined in some bird watching, and enjoyed a lava and boulder terrain walk.

The famail was topped off with a flight to Guayaquil, where they were able to explore the largest & most populous city in Ecuador.

Pictured in the Galapagos are: Brett Ambrose, Contours Travel; Mary Edwards, Travel Works WA; Rose Hurle, AJ Travel Tas; Anne Fitzgerald, Helloworld Brighton Vic; Alexandra Lee, Bright Travel & Cruise; Susan Plos, MTA Qld; and Karen Majsay, Travel Associates NSW.

RSVP now to celebrate the 4th of July!

American Airlines, Anchorage, Nevada, New England, Oregon and Washington DC invite you to celebrate 4th July (on the 3rd of July)!

Join us for a night of all things Americana... food, fancy dress, frolics... fun prizes!

Top incentive sellers will be priority guests. Please RSVP to Syd.Sales@aa.com to secure your place on the night.

Date: 3rd July 2019 (we like to start early)
Venue: Mary's Underground, 7 Macquarie Place
Time: 6.00pm until 10.30pm
Dress: American Vintage

Wednesday 3rd July 2019

50 Deg, Hurti show

TOUR operator 50 Degrees North has partnered with expedition cruise line Hurtigruten to showcase cruises of Antarctica & the Nordic region to Australian travel agents next month.

The two-week roadshow will travel to six cities including Newcastle, Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Adelaide, and will also provide the latest info on Hurtigruten's eco-friendly ship *MS Roald Amundsen* which launched in Norway this week.

Sessions are free but bookings are essential - reserve your spot on the roadshow [HERE](#).

CA SYD change up

AIR China has changed up the aircraft deployment on its Beijing to Sydney route, using a two-class 777-300ER between 27 Oct and 09 Jan, a three-class 777-300ER between 10 Jan and 19 Feb, and a two-class 777-300ER between 20 Feb and 28 Mar.

QF USA Fly Away

QANTAS has launched its USA Fly Away Sale which offers discount fares to Honolulu, Los Angeles San Francisco, Dallas, and New York.

The US promotion expires 05 Jul 11.59pm (AEST).

Airbnb \$100b bump

A SURVEY of 228,000 Airbnb customers and hosts suggest the accommodation platform injected over US\$100 billion in direct economic impact across 30 countries in 2018.

The same report claims Airbnb generated US\$4.4 billion in Australia during the same period.

Part of the value metric is comprised of flow-on effects from Airbnb host recommendations, with 84% saying they recommend restaurants and cafes to guests, 69% recommending cultural activities like museums, & Airbnb guests extending their stay by an average 4.3 days.

APT treats NSW agents



APT hosted eight of its key NSW travel agents at the opening night performance of *Madama Butterfly* at the Sydney Opera House on Fri.

The event follows on from APT's new partnership with Opera Australia as Production Partner for the National Tour of the performance.

The experience provided an unique insight to APT's Opera in the Kimberley series, where two exclusive performances, held in the heart of the Bungle Bungle Range at Cathedral Gorge, will take place on 08 and 09 Sep.

The evening included dinner at Overture Dining in the Northern

Foyer of the Joan Sutherland Theatre, an interval function in the Utzon Room with beverages and sandwiches, and post-performance speeches by Opera Australia executives with the cast and crew in the Lounge.

Pictured are: Pil Yi, Flight Centre Northbridge; Kathie Bogнар, Impulse Travel Group; Melanie Hogg, APT; Esther Lee, Flight Centre Northbridge; Judy Bullock and Nicole Mirams-Harrison, Helloworld Corrimal; Stephanie Savage, Impulse Travel Group; Kate Thornburg, APT; Stacey Dudley, Smartflyer Australia and Michelle Di Rosa, Travel Associates Gympiea.



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GOING PLACES TOGETHER

U's *The B* is back

U RIVER Cruises will relaunch *The B* for the 2020 season, adding three new European itineraries taking in Vienna, Brussels, Bratislava and more.

The line's new offerings include added overnight stays, complimentary happy hour every night and more active excursions.

The new eight-day itineraries for 2020 include, Amsterdam & Brussels Bound, with overnight stays in Rotterdam, Middelburg, Antwerp and Brussels; Vienna Vibe, along the Danube between the Austrian capital and Nuremberg, Germany; and Eastern Europe Escape, taking in some of the continent's lesser-known destinations alongside its most popular cities.

CLICK HERE for more information.

Swagman incentive

AGENTS are being given the opportunity to win a place on the 2020 Swagman Africa educational, as part of a Beginning of Financial Year incentive.

Swagman is offering the spot to the top selling agent for new bookings finalised between Jul and Dec.

The operator has also raised commissions to 15% for Jul FIT bookings as part of the incentive.

Qld WeChat prog

TOURISM and Events Queensland is hoping to harness the power of WeChat to attract Chinese tourists to the state.

The tourism body has partnered with Ctrip to develop the Queensland CityExperience Mini Program, to showcase the state's key attractions through the popular social media platform.

The platform will enable operators to connect with the market directly, while tourists can book trips through the app on their smartphones.

Insider clarification

TRAVEL Daily would like to clarify that the purchaser of Insider Journeys, Eight at Work, is a holding company based in Singapore, and not a division of Focus Asia as originally reported in **TD** yesterday.

Eight at Work has ownership interests in a wide variety of travel and hospitality entities, which are owned by various combinations of shareholders.

"Focus Asia and Insider Journeys were and remain completely separate businesses with no operational connection to each other," Eight at Work Director of Marketing Scott Busch told **TD**.

"We are very excited about this new opportunity with Insider Journeys and we look forward to bringing more unique, creative, competitively-priced tours and excursions to the Australian market," he said.

Constellation crowns winner



CONSTELLATION Journeys has named the winner of its around the world luxury tour.

Mary-Jayne Lawless from National Seniors Travel in Brisbane has won two seats on Constellation Journey's next 20-day lux trip, departing 30 Sep, valued at \$43,000.

With her travel partner, Mary-Jayne will join other guests on board the next extravaganza departing Sydney and visiting Seoul, South Korea; Jerusalem,

Israel; Valletta, Malta; Barcelona, Spain; Cartagena, Colombia; Machu Pichu, Peru and Easter Island on a privately chartered Qantas 747.

Guests will see iconic sights and encounter ancient cultures, stay in luxury accommodation, enjoy full catering, the Constellation Concierge for all luggage transport and a private doctor.

Lawless is **pictured** with Constellation Journeys Qld representative Larry Burrows.

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Popping the cork on wine tourism

LAST month, 120 people took part in the first-ever National Wine Tourism Conference, “Beyond the Barrel” in South Australia.

Delivered by the Australian Tourism Export Council (ATEC), business-to-business meetings were held with wineries including Wirra Wirra, d’Arenberg, Serafino, Gemtree and Shottesbrooke in McLaren Vale, the event was designed for Australian wine tourism businesses wanting to grow their international visitor numbers.

Back in Adelaide, the conference session was opened by Federal Minister for Tourism, Simon Birmingham, followed by speakers including, MONA CEO Mark Wilsdon, and Daniel McMahon, from Tasmanian Walking Company, who provided their insights to success.

The panel series included conversations around the evolving diversification of wine tourism products, visitor service culture, fostering commercial relationships and the emerging Chinese wine tourist.

Managing Director Peter Shelley says “having an authentic wine tourism experience has become an important part of an Australian holiday for many of our



AN AFTERNOON of cycling McLaren Vale for buyers and sellers with Escapegoat Adventures.

international visitors - especially the China and US markets, and ATEC wanted to support the evolution of Australian wine makers to become export tourism operators”.

“The Australian wine industry has so much to offer international visitors, from the quality of the wine, the friendliness of the people and the natural setting of our wineries - these things all combine to deliver powerful, memorable holiday experiences.”

Beyond the Barrel was delivered by ATEC, in partnership with Wine Australia and the South Australian Tourism Commission, through a grant under the Australian Government’s \$50 million Export and Regional Wine Support Package.



THE d’Arenberg Cube.



THE Farewell Dinner at Penfolds Magill Estate.



BUYERS enjoying local tastings.



BUYERS at the Farewell Dinner held at Penfolds Magill Estate.



JACKIE Walshe and Mark Abercromby at the buyers lunch and blending bench workshop at d’Arenberg.



BUSINESS to business meetings at the Serafino Barrel Room in McLaren Vale.



ATEC MD Peter Shelley, Andreas Clark, CEO of Wine Australia, Minister Simon Birmingham and ATEC Chair, Denis Pierce.

Etihad upgrades

ETIHAD Airways is introducing a larger aircraft to accommodate growth of three key Asian routes.

Flights between Shanghai and Chengdu in China and the airline's hub in Abu Dhabi will use Boeing 787 *Dreamliners*, while the Seoul route will get an Airbus A380.

EY now operates *Dreamliners* to all four of its China gateways, having introduced them to Hong Kong and Beijing earlier this year. *Dreamliners* have also been deployed to London and Rome.

Delta's bumper Jun

DELTA Air Lines recorded an all-time monthly high for the number of carried passengers across its global network in Jun, notching up 18.9m pax.

The impressive result was a 6.6% bump on the previous corresponding period last year.

Next Stop Vietnam

HOSPITALITY brand Next Story Group has opened Kafnu Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam.

The development features eight en-suite hotel rooms hot desks, private offices, high-speed internet, a soundproof phone booth and meeting rooms.

It is the fifth Kafnu property to open globally, following launches in Taipei, Bengaluru and Sydney since the brand's debut in Hong Kong in late 2017.

Mate extended

BLUE Lagoon Cruises has extended its Take A Mate deal, where guests can book a three-night Explorer Cruise or four-night Wanderer Cruise and take a friend along for free.

Subject to availability, the offer has been extended on select dates for sales until 15 Aug.

ACCOMMODATION

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.



A new dining experience is available at **The Mulia, Mulia Resort & Villas** in Nusa Dua, Bali. The new experience, named Apericena, features creations by Michelin star Chef Nicola Russo, and is set along a secluded beach. Apericena also boasts views of the

Indian Ocean from the Oasis Pool - Bali's longest oceanfront infinity swimming pool.



Garden & Villas Resort in Ischia, Italy, has unveiled its new spa this month, featuring a wide range of body and face treatments inspired by natural essences from the resort's gardens. Highlights on the new menu include the range of Garden Massages

using lavender, lemon or thyme along with the Mint and Rosemary Body Toning Treatment.

WIN A TRIP TO morocco

This month Gate 1 Travel is joining Travel Daily to give agents the chance to win a trip to Morocco for two. The 11-night Kaleidoscope of Morocco trip takes in ancient wonders such as the UNESCO-listed Roman ruins of Volubilis, the ancient desert city of Ait Benhaddou, the imperial city of Fez and the bustling medina of Marrakesh. Click here for more trip details.

To win you need to correctly answer one question each week in July, and at the end of the month tell us in 25 words or less why you should be the person to win this prize. Send your answers to gate1@traveldaily.com.au.

Q1. What is the name of the currency used in Morocco?



MontAzure opening

MONTAZURE Phuket has opened Twinpalms MontAzure, a lux new retreat on Kamala Beach.

The 72-hectare mountain-to-ocean development features 46 suites and penthouses and multiple dining options.

Suites feature private balconies, Twinpalms' signature "Heavenly Bedding", flat-screen TVs, Nespresso coffee machines and complimentary wi-fi.

Riviera solo cruise

RIVIERA Travel has announced another solo-exclusive sailing for 2020, with all cabins free of any single supplement.

The new sailing is a seven-night round-trip from Paris departing 31 Mar aboard the five-star *Jane Austen*, taking in Normandy.

Riviera announced 10 other 2020 sailings reserved exclusively for solos in May (**TD 23 May**).

Perth Skybridge

CONSTRUCTION is now under way on the \$31 million Skybridge connecting Perth Airport's Terminal 1 to Airport Central Station.

The 280-metre enclosed walkway is designed to complement the opening of the Forrestfield-Airport train link in late 2021.

Tucan Africa tours

TUCAN Travel has added a number of African itineraries to its offerings.

Countries featured in the new programs include South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Kenya and Tanzania.

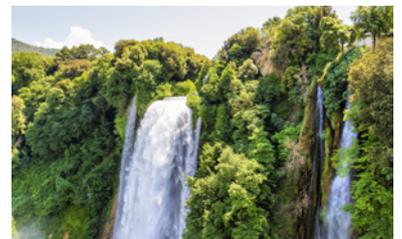
All itineraries include flexible transport and activities, with customers also able to mix and match three-, four- and five-star accommodation.



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

Cruise Consultant

Sydney, \$55-\$60k + Super + Bonus, Ref: 4125SJ1

Do you love Cruise and would you like to specialise in this niche but booming travel product? If you have a passion for cruising and for travel sales then apply now. You will be working towards targets and earning a great salary in return within in a sales and service focused environment. You will ideally be experienced within the travel industry, have GDS skills and have been on several cruises yourself. Long term career progression and a CBD location are perks to this role.

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

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Corporate Domestic—Must have Sabre and ticketing, Tramada experience preferred, Salary \$60K+Super.

Corporate Leisure—2 years retail exp, Sabre & Tramada preferred, Salary \$65k+Super.

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PR, Communication & Promotions Executive

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