

The Global Business Travel Buffet - For Travellers Who Are Eager To Serve Themselves

The self-service economy – it's how things get done now, and has been for years. Self-checkout kiosks at the supermarket, where you scan and bag your own groceries for a quicker visit. Pump-your-own petrol. Car parks without attendants, where a machine gives you a voucher ticket on the way in, and you pay with a credit card as you drive out. Not to mention, restaurants where you can have a proper sit-down meal, but not be rushed to get back to the office because you simply serve yourself from a buffet line. It's a world that our grandparents would not have accepted, but with today's mindset of personal choice and time constraints of modern life, we embrace it.

That self-service model which has been available for consumer and transient business travel is now available for extended stay business travel.

The Business Travel Planning Buffet – Satisfaction For All

The days of business travellers putting in requests for extended stay accommodations, and slowly awaiting confirmation from corporate travel departments, are quickly disappearing. Those days of the past likewise meant that busy corporate travel managers had to handle not only a daily stack of business trips for individual travellers, but also the most complicated travel plans, such as accommodations for large employee teams in unfamiliar destinations.

With today's shift from corporate-centric business travel planning to a traveller-centric model, everyone wins. Individual travellers want more choice and control about where they'll live while on a distant extended stay assignment, how they'll get there and even how they'll fill their free time for better work-life balance. With customisable, single-point booking resources for extended stay accommodations, corporate travel departments can have more control

about how much their travellers spend, who is authorised to make their own bookings, how costs are tracked, and what types of accommodations are acceptable within corporate guidelines.

In addition to all these benefits of this new one-stop-shop, DIY approach to extended stay business travel, there's the ubiquity of mobile devices, allowing everyone immediate access to business travel planning anytime, anywhere. This comes with the capability to track reservations, make changes and command customer service in real time.

The "self-service buffet" era of long-term business travel planning is wide open. It's fresh, it's hot, and it offers immediate gratification in an aspect of global business that was starved for a better way to do things.

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Benefits Beyond The Obvious

The ability for individual travellers to choose and book their own options has more benefits than just better time management for organisations and their on-the-go employees. This new found time efficiency brings cost efficiency, as well, by streamlining the entire planning and booking process. It creates an ancillary but noticeable uptick in job satisfaction, which translates to employee retention. Why wouldn't staff and executives, who routinely travel for extended stay work assignments, be happy about having a say in their travel plans? The new paradigm makes it easier for companies to attract and retain staff for their travel planning departments, too, as

travel managers now have more time to plan travel for, say, a cadre of C-suite executives or a project team of 100 employees. They can also still maintain control over costs, travel policies and property supplier relationships, keeping daily logistical frustrations at bay.

Just like lunch at everyone's favourite new corner buffet restaurant, today's new style of extended stay business travel planning is less expensive, faster, and the best way for everyone to see all available options in one place and choose exactly what they want. With today's technology and accessibility, global business travel has never been more deliciously satisfying.



KAMAL ADVANI

Chief Executive Officer, BridgeStreet
BridgeStreet is using technology to push the industry forward with its technology platform, where it is EASY to LIST and BOOK extended stay experiences. To meet the extended stay needs of tomorrow's Business Traveller, we have re-imagined the level choice, convenience and transparency that is possible. Yes, it's a bold new world. And we're excited about it!
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