How Your Travel Policy Should Address C-suite Needs

by Direct Travel on 07/12/2018

Your organization's executive travelers deserve round-the-clock support, no matter where in the world business takes them. But if your corporate travel policy doesn't differentiate needs of the C-suite from the everyday corporate traveler, then it will be difficult to provide satisfying and compliant travel experiences at low costs.

Here are a few ways your organization can take care of its senior-level travelers:

VIP Treatment for Executive Travelers

Who counts as an executive traveler? For many companies, a VIP traveler isn't just someone with the word "chief" in their job title. Business Travel News reported that some organizations are beginning to demand **executive-level travel service for a broader group of travelers** - namely those who drive quantifiable value for their businesses. They, many businesses believe, deserve to be escorted around the world in style.

In other cases, VIP treatment isn't about giving the traveler every single amenity he or she could possibly want. Rather, VIP treatment is about listening to the individual traveler's needs and acting to realize those needs as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Which brings us to an important point on executive travel: If you're writing a travel policy that addresses executive travel needs, the C-suite needs to be involved. Writing a policy without leadership involvement would be akin to buying an expensive gift for someone you don't know very well. To exceed the expectations of your VIP travelers, travel managers must give them an active role in the development of their organizations' travel policies.

C-suite Travelers and Policy

Why should your corporate travel policy address C-suite travel needs separately from those of other employees? The answer is twofold: cost control and the traveler experience. (To get more granular, one might even break down traveler experience into duty of care and traveler satisfaction.)

Standardizing executive travel ensures flawless execution of every trip while staying within a predefined travel budget. Depending on the size of your organization, your travel policy may need to account for travel options that aren't available to lower-level employees. Business-class plane tickets, exclusive hotel suites or larger per diems are just a few examples of travel options that the C-Suite could have access to.

Your policy may need to establish different allowed payment methods for executive travelers. For instance, lower-level employees may use their personal credit cards to make purchases which they will expense after the trip. Meanwhile, C-suite travelers may have access to a corporate card. The policy should also designate what kind of expenses can be placed on the company card.

Preparing for every contingency can be a difficult challenge for travel managers, but partnering with a travel management company can give you access to the technologies and support you need to manage executive travel effectively. Direct Travel **offers 24/7 support for VIP travelers**. No matter what happens, someone is watching out for them. Our expert staff can handle everything from flight confirmations to a last-minute global itinerary. We understand that in business, timing can be everything, and that's why we make sure your VIP travelers never have to wait for assistance.

Booking executive travel requires intimate knowledge of the industry and a dedication to personalized service. To learn how to optimize C-suite travel at your organization, **speak with a Direct Travel consultant today**.

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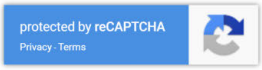

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