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Peer Eco-Systems

Getting your Experience in front of customers using tourism distributors











Getting your Experience in front of customers using tourism distributors

Today, we will;

- What are tourism distributors and why are they helpful?
- Key Speaker: Charlie Wilde, TXGB
- Learnings for the Visitor Economy
- Breakout Session discussions
- Summary and Close

What are Tourism Distribution Channels?

"An operating structure, system, or linkage of various combinations of organisations through which a producer of travel products describes, sells, or confirms travel arrangements to the buyer"

PUT SIMPLY...

all the channels through which a visitor can buy a product, other than directly with the business itself.

The travel distribution system

PRODUCT TO MARKET SEARCH AGENTS AGGREGATORS SUPPLIERS Traditional **Airlines** GDS Retail media travel e.g press agents Hotel chains **DMCs** International travellers Tour Car operators (including specialists) Rental Wholesalers SME/Independent accommodation Search engine Meta **DMOs** Online travel agents Attractions and events Accommodation aggregators Rail Online ticketing agents Experience Local transportation aggregators

What are the benefits?

- ✓ Wider customer base beyond your marketing budget
- ✓ Tap into existing and well-established market channels including bigger markets with intelligence, insights and advice
- ✓ Piggyback off the visibility and brand awareness of intermediary
- ✓ Partnerships and packages
- ✓ Pay only for results
- √ Form long-lasting relationships

What are the challenges?

Intermediary fees

Difficult to display real time availability

Loss of control over marketing/communications

Reliant on intermediary to deliver expected level of service

Reduces direct customer contact

Difficult to change/amend packages

Things to think about

- ➤ Talk Take some time to discuss your Experience with each distribution channel/intermediary to find out what you can do to help them generate more sales
- ➤ **Model** Tap into best practices displayed by similar Experiences
- ➤ **Track** Set up ways to monitor and track the performance of across each channel, so that you know which are working best for you
- ➤ Avoid Price Conflicts —You want all of your customer touchpoints to be aligned, so avoid price conflicts as this could harm future sales



Ed Cummins

Product Development and Distribution Executive





Taking England to the World programme
How to get your business

TXGBOnline

Online technology platform enabling suppliers to become bookable and strengthen their distribution channels

Product Audit

internationally ready

Ensuring key global markets have the latest products for itineraries and familiarisation trips **Camelot Days Out campaign**

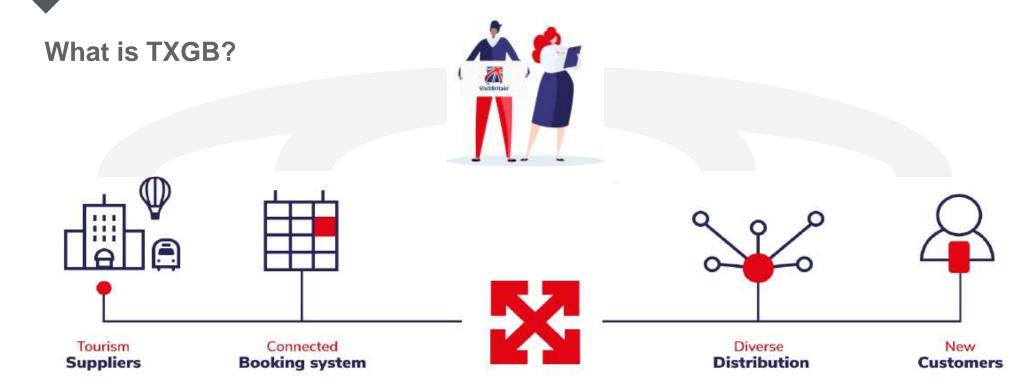
Aim to increase the shoulder season for participating attractions around the UK





Tourism Exchange Great Britain







Launched in partnership with VisitBritain, TXGB connects tourism businesses to a range of distribution channels, in order to reach new customers and grow sales



What is TXGB?

TXGB Benefits



- FREE to join pay nothing until you start to generate bookings
- EASY to connect share live availability via your booking system or direct load availability and pricing
- REACH consumers via over 150 connected channels including global OTAs, to access domestic and international customers
- UNIQUE access to a variety of destination campaigns







National Lottery Days Out campaign



National Lottery Days Out

Claim your £25 voucher code* to use at hundreds of top attractions using your Lotto ticket

Claim your voucher code

Play Lotto now



SUP Bristol Taster Session



Camera Obscura & World of Illusions





What are distributors looking for?

What should you look for?

Quality products and experiences

Reliability and efficiency

High levels of customer service

Clear and easy to understand assets

Identify distributors that are strong in your target market

Start with local distributors

Meet through workshops, missions, agent familiarization trips, face to face



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Key Learnings

- > Tourism Distribution Channels can provide widespread customer reach
- > Technology is leading more customers to search online for travel inspiration and package ideas
- > Tourism Distribution Channels can allow you to scale quickly
- > They can cross-promote 'experiences' which helps draw in new customers
- The limitations include a loss of revenue through commission/fees, lack of control over marketing and lack of flexibility

Breakout Session

Participant Thoughts

- ➤ Which distribution channels such as AirBNB Experiences have you tried?
- ➤ What are the pros and cons of the distribution channels you have used?
- ➤ Would you have different offers for distribution channels vs. direct customer?

Session Summary