

Health check.

Where are you in terms of traveller wellbeing?

Traveller wellbeing is now one of the hottest topics of 2022, and if employers don't address flexibility, health and wellness, and traveller safety head on, their ability to retain key staff is at risk.

Here are just 5 ways you can support your travellers and help them to navigate the current travel landscape – while managing their health and wellbeing.

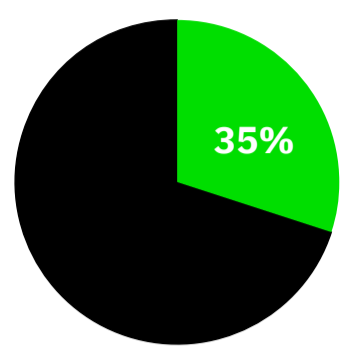
Frequent fliers often feel isolated from their homes and family and missing their regular routine. Changing time zones plays havoc with one's sleep patterns, while jet lag can sometimes take up to a week (or more) to shake off. All of this impacts employee productivity, negatively impacting your company's bottom line.

The answer?

A new, proactive approach to health and wellbeing - One which looks at closely at company culture, your current travel policy, and travel programme data.



1 Understand the challenges



35% of business travellers had concerns about the impact of travel on their mental health.

2 Update your travel policy



- Reward healthy travel habits: Would you consider health and fitness reimbursements for travellers?
- Consider alternative accommodation options that offer a homier atmosphere.
- Negotiate perks and upgrades with your TMC to improve the travel experience and prevent traveller burnout

What might a 'health-centric' travel policy look like?

- Make it easy for business travellers to make healthier choices with convenient flight times and comfortable accommodation – which includes all the mod cons and amenities they need.
- Take note of traveller preferences:

“Ideally, we want the traveller to feel safe and well cared for, but also to thoroughly enjoy their trip from beginning to end,” says Smith.

3 Deliver a seamless journey

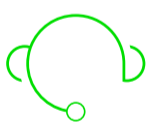


According to SAP Concur, anxiety and stress around the current travel landscape is top of mind for most business travellers. Enter tech.

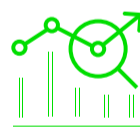
A fast, easy-to-use booking platform, with a streamlined approval process, digital travel wallets and on-the-go communication is imperative.

59% travel managers include technology as one of the most important factors when selecting a TMC.

The FCM platform focuses on:



Content (with a wide choice of on-policy options)



Analytics (for up-to-the-minute reporting)



24-hour, 'always on' support.

The FCM platform is available across all devices which means a traveller can check their itinerary, receive updated information and travel alerts, and even ask questions and receive support. The FCM chatbot deals with straight forward questions, while a traveller can access instant support from a travel expert at the touch of a button.

The wonderful thing about travel data? Strategic visibility. Not only in terms of financial visibility and travel risk management, but also in terms of the health and wellbeing of your travellers.

The FCM Platform's dynamic Health & Safety Dashboard allows travel managers to analyse past, current and future trips to improve traveller

safety, or to structure trips to ensure that travellers are happy and healthy.



4 Upgrade your duty of care

The biggest tech advancements have been around real-time traveller tracking features, as well as round-the-clock communication channels.

“Tech features like instant alerts, traveller tracking, monitoring and reporting are now non-negotiables when it comes to risk management,” says Smith. “. Increasingly, companies are relying on travel advisors with the in-depth knowledge and experience to identify and mitigate risks”

5 Put bleisure back on the agenda

82% workers were equally or more interested in blended travel

In a survey conducted by Deloitte in late 2021, an overwhelming majority of corporate travel managers (82%) indicated that their workers were equally or more interested in blended travel than they used to be.

Bleisure travel is a win-win for everyone. Business travellers get to add days onto the front or back end of their business trip to relax, recharge or explore new destinations, while businesses reap the benefits of happy, healthy, productive employees.

