

## **My career in brief...**

Name: Mario Bodini

Job title: |Executive Vice President

Employer: JacTravel

### **1. Please give a brief overview of your career history – where you started, how you progressed, the companies you have worked for etc.**

Having studied Business Studies/Tourism I initially worked for a small local tour operator in south London, before doing a season as a tour guide for CIT and then joined JacTravel in 1981.

I have been here for over 30 years in varying aspects including CEO/MB for many years and oversaw the sale of the company twice to Private Equity

During my period here we have grown from a UK based DMC to a global online distributor of hotel rooms now employing nearly 300 staff.

### **2. Have you always wanted to work within hospitality and tourism? If not, how did you end up where you are now?**

Yes to a degree. Through my Italian background and schoolboy French tourism seemed like a good option hence the course I did. I did not however have any idea of what I would get into, simply that it was an exciting people industry, and that I wanted to be part of it.

### **3. What sort of qualifications and training have you had?**

HND Business studies/tourism is my main business qualification.

### **4. What are the top 5 activities you would typically carry out on a daily basis?**

- Customer negotiations.
- Supply chain issues
- Staff issues: structure, recruitment, setting targets, communicating
- Unblocking blockages
- Working on solutions for growth in new areas of expansion

### **5. What do you most enjoy about your job?**

The diversity and constant change and opportunity of being involved in an expanding and fast changing environment and working with good people to help them become great people.

### **6. What would you say is the biggest challenge you face on a daily basis?**

Communications with long distance offices.

## **7. What would you say is your biggest achievement to date?**

Taking the business online in 2000.

## **8. Who has been the greatest influence/role model in your career and why?**

Jack Coronna the founder of JacTravel

## **9. Do you have a favourite tale or most memorable moment from your career? If so, please tell us about it!**

Handling some very difficult clients during London 2012 springs to mind, especially the NBA who apart from being extremely used to pampering at all times were very tall and needed bed extensions. Generally has us running around like headless chickens but overall was a good learning experience.

## **10. What piece of advice would you offer someone who wants to work within our industries?**

Try your hand at different things and work on the front line, its hard to be good at tourism in any form unless you are part of the front of house delivery process.

## **11. Why would you encourage someone to work in our industry?**

Because if you like people and service there is no better industry to work in and its s full of opportunities for those who wish to progress.

## **Further information**

For further information on career opportunities at Jac Travel please visit [www.jactravel.co.uk/join-the-team](http://www.jactravel.co.uk/join-the-team)

For further information on career opportunities in passenger transport and travel please visit [www.careerthatmove.co.uk](http://www.careerthatmove.co.uk)