Tours & Travels Platform Development Using CRM-Salesforce



A Capstone Project Presented to SmartBridge x Salesforce

By Cariño, Marcus Jeremy M.

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Project Overview

The Tours and Travels CRM is a custom Salesforce-based solution designed to address the operational needs of global travel agencies. It centralizes booking management, customer engagement, employee collaboration, and financial tracking into a unified platform. The system streamlines core processes such as trip bookings, payment tracking, customer onboarding, and feedback handling. Through tailored automation and role-based access controls, the CRM enhances service efficiency, reduces manual tasks, and enables data-driven decision-making for tour operators and managers.

Objectives

The primary objective of the Tours and Travels CRM is to build a scalable and intelligent system capable of managing the complete lifecycle of travel bookings and customer interactions. The project aims to:

- Automate booking processes and payment confirmations to minimize delays and human errors.
- Improve customer satisfaction through personalized communication and timely updates.
- Enable employee-specific access and functionality via roles, profiles, and permissions.
- Collect and analyze business insights through customized reports and dashboards.
- Maintain data security and integrity through validation rules, sharing settings, and audit trails.
- Provide a user-friendly interface tailored to the responsibilities of agents, guides, finance officers, and service representatives.

Phase 1: Requirement Analysis & Planning

Understanding Business Requirements

The project began with a comprehensive study of how tours and travel agencies operate globally. The analysis revealed several recurring challenges:

- Manual booking processes often result in slow responses and data inconsistencies.
- Fragmented communication between customers, agents, and finance staff hinders coordination.
- Lack of systematic tracking for guest information, payments, and tour feedback.
- Difficulty managing packages based on geography, group size, and membership levels.

Stakeholder interviews and secondary research were conducted to understand the roles and expectations of customers, travel agents, finance officers, and tour guides. Key user needs identified include real-time status updates, customizable tour options, and simplified task handling for internal staff.

Defining Project Scope and Objectives

The scope of this CRM includes designing a complete digital system for:

- Customer onboarding and data management
- Tour package listing and filtering
- Booking creation and guest tracking

- Payment processing and monitoring
- Automated follow-ups and feedback collection
- Employee assignment and task tracking

Project objectives were shaped to address these needs by leveraging Salesforce's declarative and programmatic capabilities. The CRM is built to serve not only individual travelers but also groups and corporate clients, offering flexible pricing and service structures.

Designing the Data Model and Security Model

The system's data model was designed around several key entities and their relationships:

- Booking_c is the core object linked to Customer_c, TravelPackage_c, and
 Employee_c.
- BookingGuest__c serves as a master-detail child of Booking__c, tracking individual travelers per booking.
- BookingPayment__c ensures traceability of transaction status for each booking.
- Feedback__c collects structured ratings and remarks linked to past trips.

Security was enforced through a combination of:

- Role hierarchy: enabling managers to view subordinate records.
- **Profiles**: defining object and field-level access based on job function.
- **Permission sets**: granting extra access for specific users as needed.
- Field-level security: hiding sensitive financial or contact data from unauthorized roles.

• Sharing rules: allowing controlled access to records across different user groups.

Creating the Project Roadmap and Milestones

A milestone-based roadmap was outlined to structure the development process. Each milestone addressed a functional layer of the system—from foundational object creation to advanced automation and testing. Milestones were grouped into five key phases:

- Phase 1: Requirement Analysis & Planning
- Phase 2: Salesforce Backend Development
- Phase 3: UI/UX Customization
- Phase 4: Data Migration, Testing & Security
- Phase 5: Deployment, Maintenance & Documentation

Phase 2: Salesforce Development – Backend & Configurations

Setup Environment and DevOps Workflow

The development environment was initialized through the Salesforce Developer Edition platform. This served as the base instance for configuring objects, automations, and Apex logic. Initial setup activities included:

- Activating the Developer Edition and accessing Setup.
- Verifying object creation permissions.
- Familiarizing with Salesforce CLI and Developer Console for Apex code deployment.
- Establishing naming conventions for objects, fields, and automation processes to maintain consistency throughout the application lifecycle.

Though this project did not require full DevOps integration or CI/CD pipelines, care was taken to separate configuration tasks logically to simulate modular development best practices.

Customization of Objects, Fields, and Validation Rules

Several custom objects were created to support core business processes:

- Customer_Info__c: Manages customer contact and demographic data.
- Booking_c: Tracks reservation details and is linked to customer and tour information.
- TravelPackage__c: Stores tour-related details such as country, price, duration, and availability.
- BookingGuest__c: Captures guest-specific data linked to a Booking record.
- BookingPayment__c: Handles payment status, type, and amount for bookings.

- Employee__c: Manages internal team members, including their department and role.
- Feedback__c: Collects post-travel evaluations from customers.

Each object was enhanced with the necessary custom fields, including picklists, formulas, checkboxes, and roll-up summary fields. Global value sets were implemented for fields like Country, City, Membership Type, and Department to standardize inputs. Below are related screenshots of object creation, custom fields, and formulas.

| Global Value Sets | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Action | Label ↑ | | |
| Edit Del | <u>City</u> | | |
| Edit Del | <u>Country</u> | | |
| Edit Del | Languages | | |
| Edit Del | <u>Membership</u> | | |
| Edit Del | Package Type | | |
| Edit Del | Preferred Accommodation | | |
| Edit Del Deleted Glob | Trip Type aal Value Sets (0) | | |

Figure 1. Global Value Sets



Figure 2. Code for Booking Status as default "Pending"

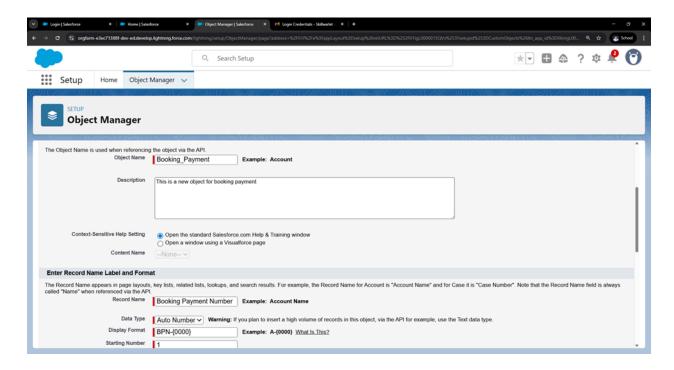


Figure 3. Sample Object Creation

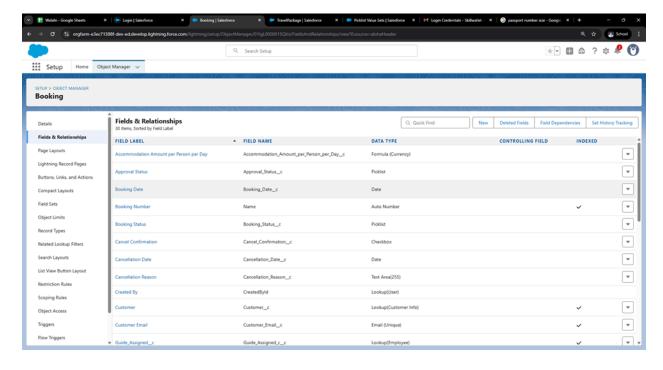


Figure 4. Sample Fields and Relationships

Validation rules were added to enforce data integrity:

- Phone numbers must be exactly 10 digits.
- Emails must follow a valid format.
- Guests cannot have future-dated birthdays.
- Mandatory fields are conditional based on role selection (e.g., Language for Guides).
- Age must be greater than zero.
- Booking Status must default to "Pending" upon record creation.

Automation: Workflow Rules, Process Builder, Flows, and Approval Process

A layered automation strategy was applied using Salesforce's declarative tools:

Workflow Rule: Automatically creates a Task record for the Booking Owner when a
Booking is marked as Completed. The task reminds the owner to collect feedback, with a
due date set three days after the travel end date.

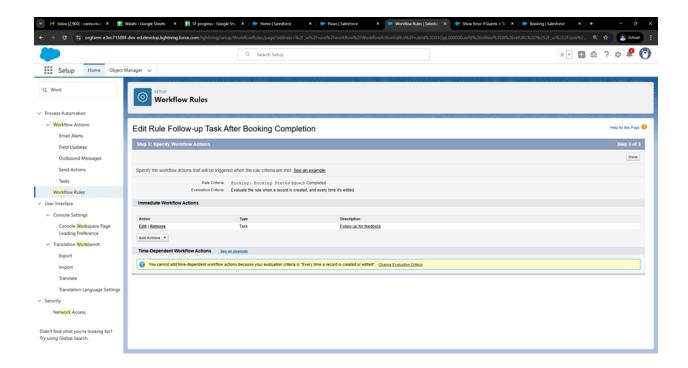


Figure 5. Sample Workflow Rule

• **Process Builder**: Updates the Booking_Status__c field to "Confirmed" when the related BookingPayment__c record is marked as "Completed".

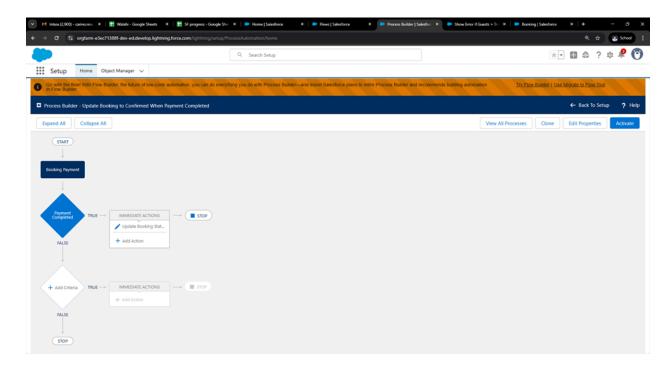


Figure 6. Sample Process Builder

 Approval Process: Enables multi-step review and approval of Booking cancellation requests. Notifications and field updates were configured to occur based on approval outcomes, with custom email templates sent to involved parties.

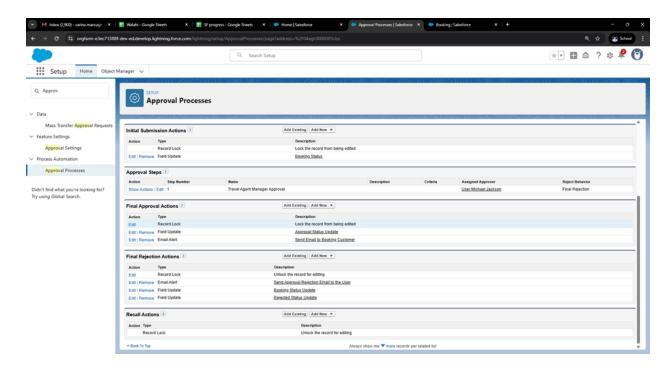


Figure 7. Sample Approval Process

Flow (Before Save): A record-triggered Flow was created on the BookingGuest__c object. It ensures that the number of guest records does not exceed the Number_of_Travelers__c value in the parent Booking. This helps enforce guest count consistency without Apex intervention.

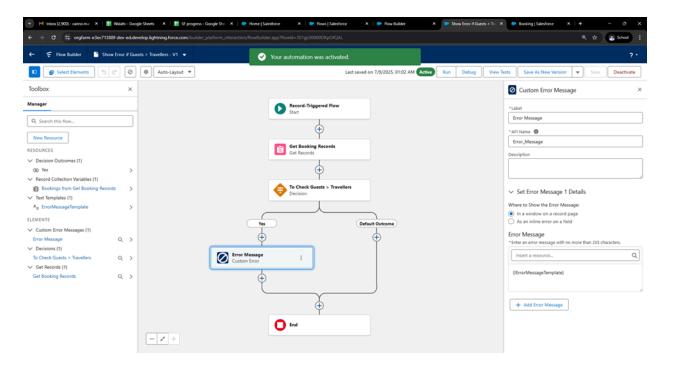


Figure 8. Sample Flow

Apex Classes, Triggers, and Asynchronous Apex

Where declarative tools were insufficient, Apex code was implemented:

- **Trigger on Booking**: When a Booking is created, it automatically generates:
 - One BookingPayment__c record with default status "Pending".
 - Multiple BookingGuest__c records matching the number of travelers.
- Trigger Handler Pattern: A trigger handler was used to centralize and maintain logic readability.
- Future Apex: An asynchronous email confirmation is triggered when a Booking is updated and its status becomes "Confirmed". This reduces blocking operations and ensures smooth user experience.

- Queueable Apex + Scheduler: A reminder email is sent to customers three days before their travel start date. This job is scheduled to run daily, ensuring timely communication.
- Batch Apex + Scheduler: Another scheduled batch job sends payment reminders for bookings created the previous day with status still marked as "Pending". A summary email is sent to the administrator after batch execution completes.

All custom logic was written following best practices for governor limits, bulkification, and test coverage.

To automate email notifications upon confirmation of a booking, a custom Apex Trigger was implemented. This logic ensures that an email is only sent when the **Booking Status** changes from any other value to "Confirmed".

```
for (Booking_c booking : Trigger.new) {
    Booking_c oldBooking = Trigger.oldMap.get(booking.Id);

    // Check for status change to "Confirmed"

    if (booking.Booking_Status_c == 'Confirmed' && oldBooking.Booking_Status_c != 'Confirmed') {
        bookingIdsToSend.add(booking.Id);
    }
}

if (!bookingIdsToSend.isEmpty()) {
    // Call the Future Method
    BookingConfirmationEmailer.sendBookingConfirmation(bookingIdsToSend);
}
```

Figure 9. Sample Snippet of Code

To enhance system responsiveness and avoid timeouts during record updates, a **Future Apex class** was implemented to handle outbound email processing after a booking is confirmed.

```
public class BookingConfirmationEmailer {
   @future(callout=false)
   public static void sendBookingConfirmation(Set<Id> bookingIds) {
       List<Messaging.SingleEmailMessage> emails = new List<Messaging.SingleEmailMessage>();
       List<Booking_c> bookings = [SELECT Id, Name, Customer_Email_c, Total_Billing_Amount_c
                                    FROM Booking c
                                    WHERE Id IN :bookingIds];
       for (Booking_c bookings) {
           if (String.isNotBlank(booking.Customer_Email__c)) {
               Messaging.SingleEmailMessage mail = new Messaging.SingleEmailMessage();
               mail.setToAddresses(new String[] { booking.Customer_Email__c });
               mail.setSubject('Booking Confirmed: ' + booking.Name);
               mail.setPlainTextBody(
                    'Dear Customer,' + '\n\n' +
                    'Your booking has been confirmed. Please find the details below:\n' +
                    'Booking ID: ' + booking.Name + '\n' +
                    'Total Bill Amount Paid: $' + booking.Total_Billing_Amount__c + '\n\n' +
                   'Thank you for booking with us!'
               );
               emails.add(mail);
           }
       }
       if (!emails.isEmpty()) {
           Messaging.sendEmail(emails);
       }
   }
```

Figure 10. Sample Snippet of Code

Phase 3: UI/UX Development & Customization

This phase of development was centered on enhancing user experience by customizing the interface of the Tours and Travels CRM. Through the use of Lightning components, page layout configurations, user account setup, and reporting tools, the application was optimized for role-based usage, clarity, and real-time data presentation. The goal was to provide a seamless and intuitive environment that supports day-to-day travel operations while adhering to data visibility requirements across roles.

Lightning App Configuration

A dedicated Lightning App named "Tours & Travels CRM" was created using the App Manager in Salesforce Setup. The app serves as the primary interface for users to access various objects and functionalities. It includes custom tabs for:

- Customer Info
- Travel Packages
- Bookings
- Booking Guests
- Employees
- Booking Payments
- Feedback
- Reports and Dashboards

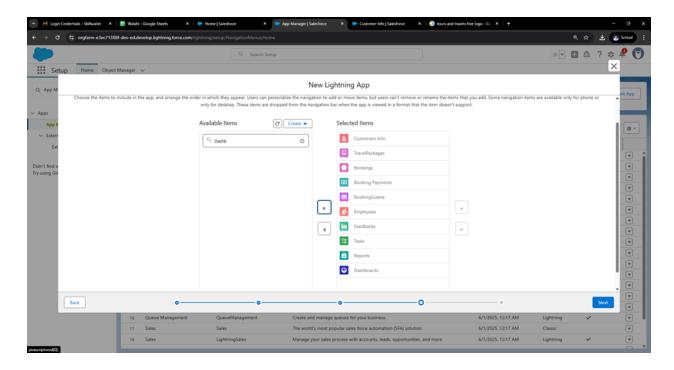


Figure 11. Lightning App for Tours & Travels CRM

This setup enables centralized navigation and modular access based on user roles.

Page Layouts and Dynamic Forms

Each major object was customized with an appropriate page layout to improve data entry and visibility. Fields were logically grouped and reordered to follow business process flows.

Dynamic Forms were enabled particularly for the **Booking** object to achieve conditional field visibility. For example:

- The Cancellation Date and Approval Status fields are only displayed when the Booking Status is set to "Cancelled".
- Conditional rendering was applied for both desktop and mobile platforms, ensuring consistency across devices.

This approach reduced form clutter and guided users based on the current context of the record.

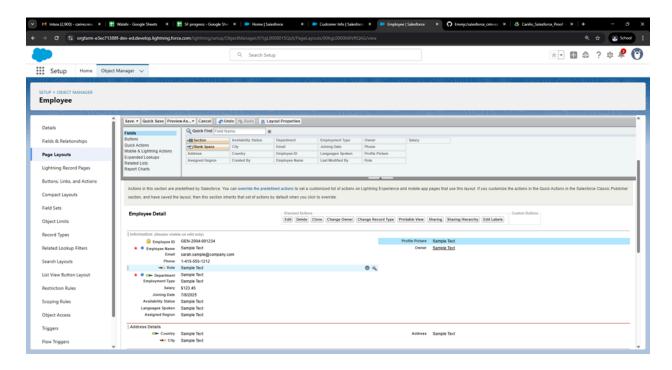


Figure 12. Page Layouts

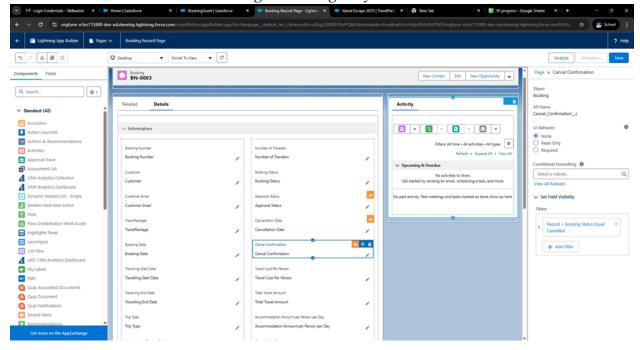


Figure 13. Dynamic Forms

User Management

Multiple user accounts were created and assigned appropriate roles and custom profiles established during Phase 2. Users included representatives for the following job functions:

- Travel Agent
- Travel Agent Manager
- Tour Guide
- Finance Officer
- Marketing Executive

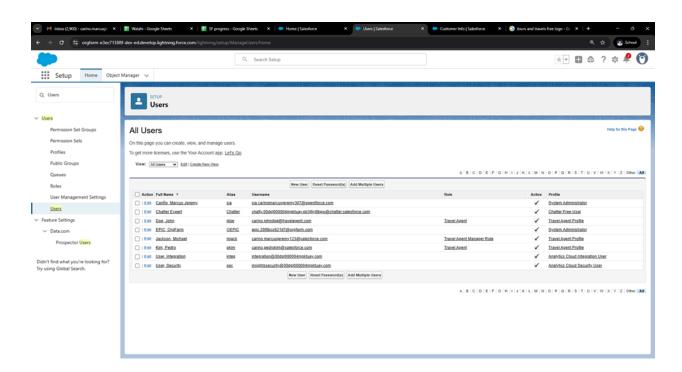


Figure 14. Users

Due to system constraints, only three active test users could be created. Each account was verified for login functionality, object access, and role-based record visibility.

Reports

Custom reports were developed to support operational monitoring and business decision-making. The reports leveraged standard and custom fields across objects, and were filtered and grouped according to business use cases. Some examples include:

- Monthly Revenue Report: Grouped by revenue range to classify low, medium, and high-earning bookings.
- **Pending Payments Report**: Shows bookings with unpaid status for follow-up.
- Top Travel Packages Report: Displays packages with the highest number of bookings.
- Employee Role Distribution: Visualizes the count of employees by assigned roles.

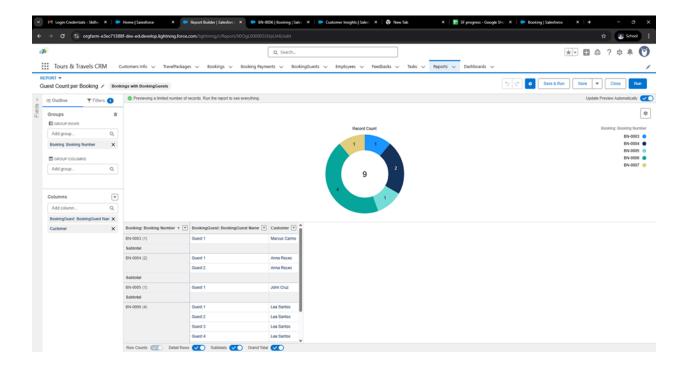


Figure 15. Sample Reports (Guest Count per Booking)

Each report was tested to confirm correct field inclusion, data grouping, and aggregation.

Dashboards

Dashboards were created to provide graphical representations of key performance indicators. The "Tours & Travels Dashboard" was configured using data from the above reports. Visual components include:

- Pie charts (e.g., for revenue segmentation)
- Bar charts (e.g., for package popularity)
- Metrics summaries (e.g., count of completed bookings)

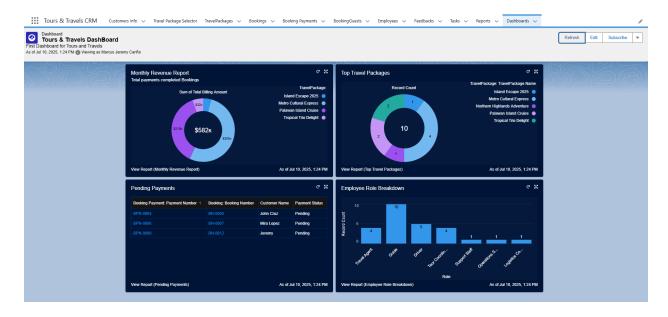


Figure 16. Sample Dashboard (Tours & Travels DashBoard)



Figure 17. Sample Dashboard (Customer and Employee Insights)

These dashboards were embedded into the Lightning App and set to auto-refresh daily.

Lightning Web Component (LWC)

An interactive **Lightning Web Component** named travelPackageSelector was developed to display available travel packages filtered by country. This feature enhances usability by enabling dynamic, real-time package filtering without page reloads.

The component was powered by a custom Apex controller (TravelPackageController) and was deployed on the App Home Page, the Travel Package record page, and the Lightning App Page. This reusable component improves package browsing efficiency for agents and customers.

Example Functionalities:

- Drop-down filter to select country
- Automatic update of visible packages based on filter
- Display of key package details including destination, pricing, and availability

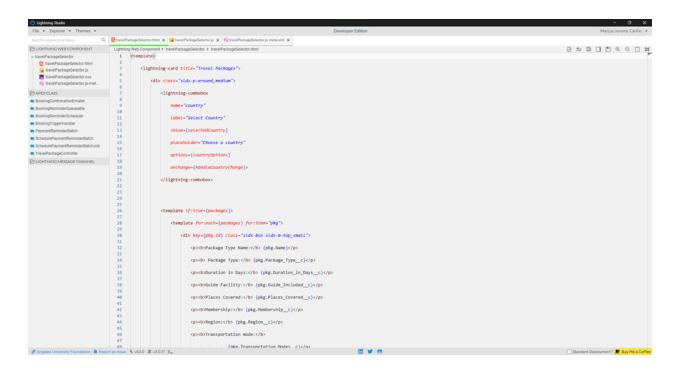


Figure 18. Lightning Web Component UI

Lightning App Page

A dedicated Lightning App Page titled "Travel Package Selector" was created using the Lightning App Builder. This page serves as a standalone interface to host the LWC and was included in the CRM's navigation menu. The app page was activated and set to be accessible by all user roles that interact with travel packages.

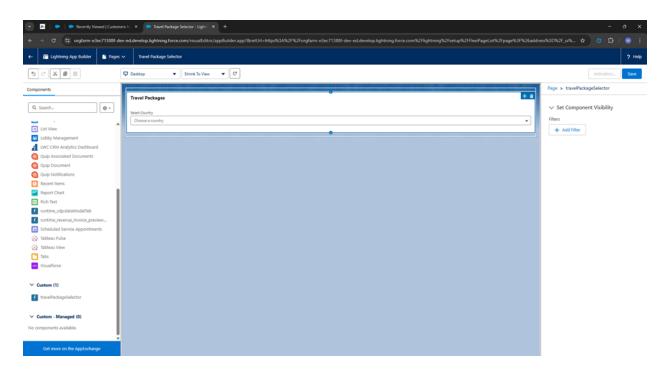


Figure 19. Lightning App Builder UI

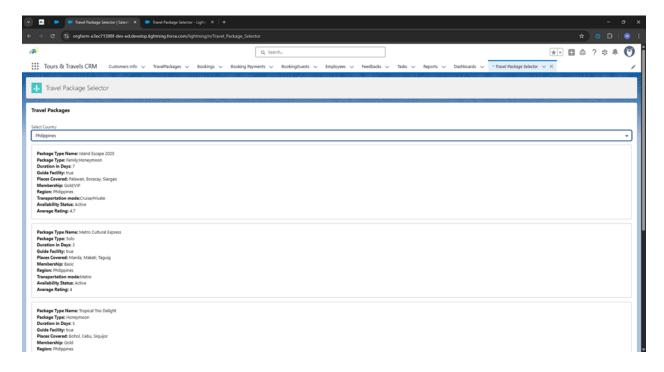


Figure 20. Lightning App Travel Packages

Phase 4: Data Migration, Testing & Security

This phase focused on ensuring the reliability, consistency, and security of the Tours & Travels CRM system. It involved the configuration of field tracking mechanisms, enforcement of data integrity rules, secure user access management, creation of test classes, and preparation of sample datasets for migration. The outcome of this phase was a secure and audit-ready CRM system, capable of supporting real-world travel operations with reliable data handling.

Field History Tracking

Field History Tracking was enabled to monitor changes made to critical fields. This ensured transparency, supported future audits, and helped in understanding record modifications over time.

Tracked Fields Included:

- Booking_c: Booking_Status_c, Number_of_Travelers_c,
 TravelPackage_c
- TravelPackage_c: Price_Per_Person_c, Availability_Status_c

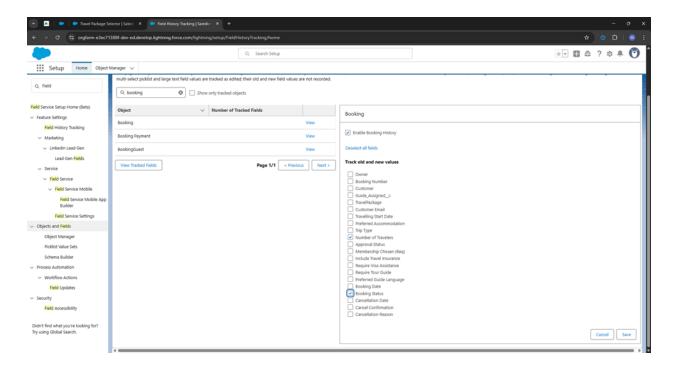


Figure 21. Field History Tracking

This configuration supports both operational tracking and post-travel data analysis.

Duplicate & Matching Rules

To prevent redundant or inconsistent data, Duplicate and Matching Rules were configured for the Customer_Info_c object.

- A **Matching Rule** was created to compare records using an exact match on **Email** and Phone.
- A Duplicate Rule was implemented to display a warning message to users when a
 duplicate record is detected, without blocking record creation (for manual review cases).

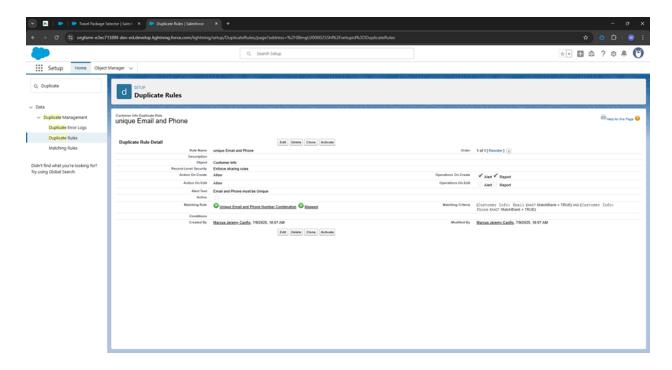


Figure 22. Duplicate & Matching Rules

This approach maintains data accuracy while allowing flexibility in user data entry.

Profiles

Custom profiles were created to define the object-level and field-level permissions based on the employee's role within the organization. This ensures that users have access only to the data necessary for their job function.

Profiles Configured:

- Travel Agent: Full access to Booking and Customer Info objects.
- Tour Guide: Read-only access to assigned bookings and package details.
- Finance Officer: Access to Booking and Payment data.
- Marketing Executive: Access to Travel Packages and Customer Feedback.
- Customer Service Rep: Access to Feedback object only.

Standard Salesforce security policies were also applied:

- Session timeout set to 2 hours
- Password policy enforced (minimum 8 characters, no expiration)

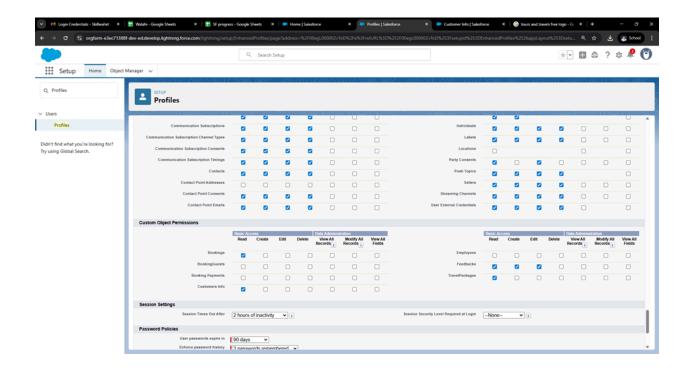


Figure 23. Profiles

Role Hierarchy

A role hierarchy was implemented to control record visibility based on organizational structure. This allows higher roles to view records owned by subordinate roles while preserving confidentiality for unrelated users.

Hierarchy Structure:

• Chief Executive Officer

o Travel Agent Manager

- Travel Agent
- Tour Guide
- Finance Officer
- Marketing Executive
- Customer Service Rep

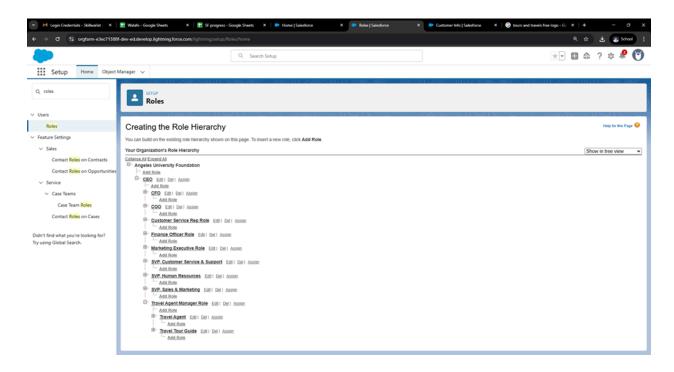


Figure 24. Role Hierarchy

This hierarchy enabled seamless delegation and oversight while respecting role boundaries.

Permission Sets

To grant additional access beyond the base profile, a Permission Set titled "Extended Travel Package Access" was created. This was assigned to selected Travel Agent Managers and enabled full CRUD access to the TravelPackage_c object, without affecting other users with the same profile.

Permission Sets were used to allow granular permission allocation based on operational needs.

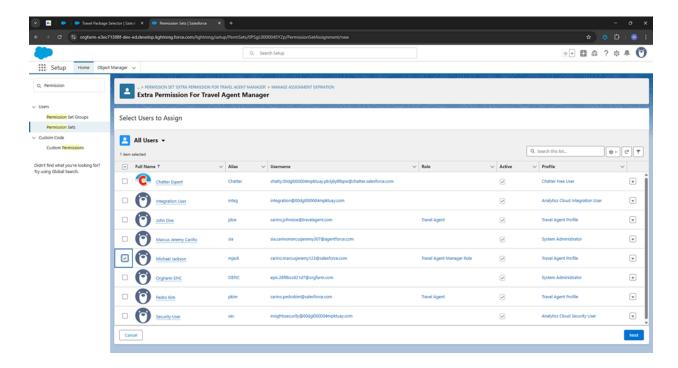


Figure 25. Permission Sets

Sharing Settings

The **Organization-Wide Default (OWD)** settings were reviewed and adjusted to align with the access model. The **Customer_Info_c** object was set to **Private** to restrict unauthorized data visibility.

A custom **Sharing Rule** was implemented to:

Automatically grant read-only access of a Customer record to the assigned Tour Guide,
 when linked via a Booking.

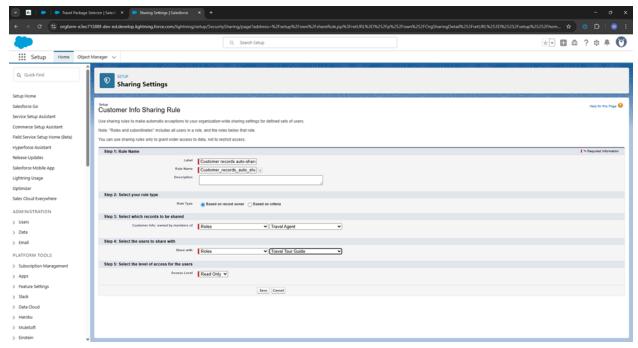


Figure 25. Sharing Settings

This ensured secure collaboration between agents and guides without compromising customer privacy.

Apex Test Classes

Custom Apex code written in earlier phases was validated using test classes to ensure functional correctness and code coverage.

Test Class Developed:

• BookingTriggerTest

- Verified auto-creation of Booking_Payment__c and BookingGuest__c
 records
- Checked trigger logic for Booking status updates and future email dispatch
- Ensured validation rules were enforced as expected

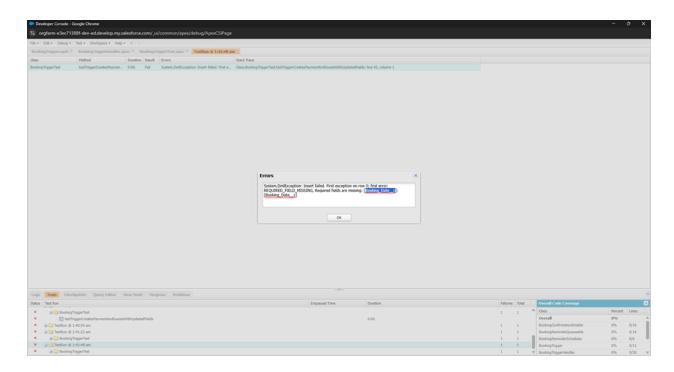


Figure 26. Sample Issues During Debugging the Test Class

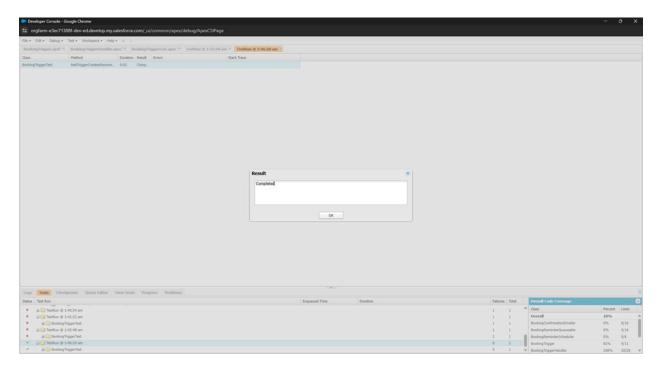


Figure 27. Successful Run of Test Class

The class was executed with the needed code coverage, meeting Salesforce deployment requirements.

Test Cases and Defect Fixing

Manual testing was performed to validate the behavior of each automation and business logic component. For each feature, the following details were documented:

- Scenario Description
- Input Values
- Expected Output
- Actual Output
- Pass/Fail Status

Examples of test cases included:

- Creating a booking and verifying automatic creation of related payment and guest records
- Updating payment status to "Completed" and observing automatic Booking status change to "Confirmed"
- Triggering email notifications and feedback follow-up tasks
- Approval process test for booking cancellations
- Validation rules blocking incorrect data entries

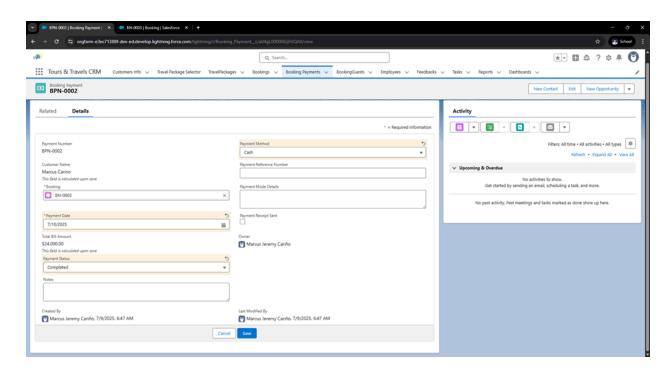


Figure 28. Completed Booking Payment



Figure 29. Email Confirmation of the Booking

A separate file was prepared containing all test case results, including screenshots of both input and output.

Milestone 28: Preparing Test Cases & Fixing Defects

Data Migration via Import Wizard

To simulate a real-world data import scenario, Salesforce's **Data Import Wizard** was used to load initial data sets.

Imported Objects and Sample Records:

- Customer Info c 20 sample customers with valid emails and contact numbers
- TravelPackage_c 20 travel packages with region and pricing details
- Employee_c 20 employees with roles, departments, and cities

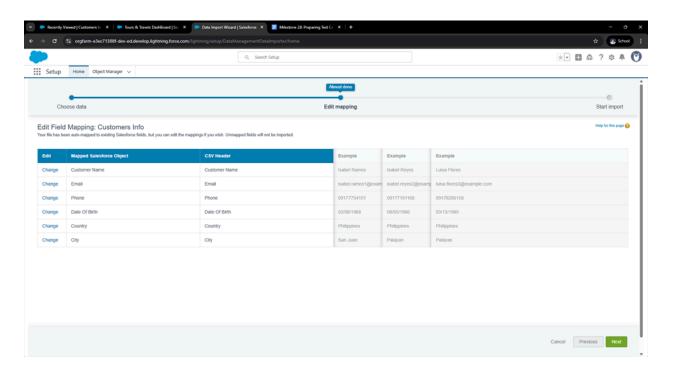


Figure 30. Data Migration via Import Wizard

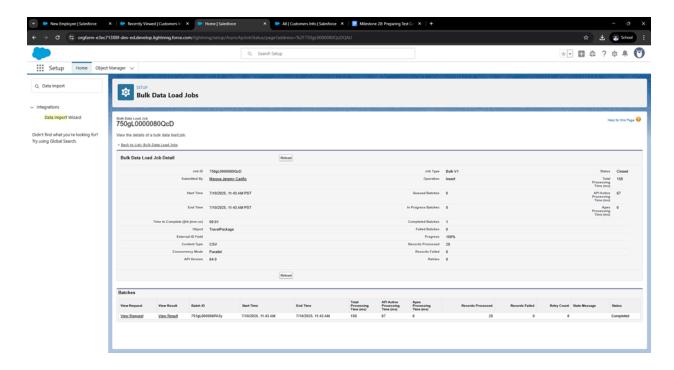


Figure 30. Sample Bulk Data Load Jobs (Travel Packages)

All field mappings were manually reviewed. Post-import verification was performed by inspecting record counts, validating picklist values, and confirming data integrity.

Phase 5: Deployment, Documentation & Maintenance

Although actual deployment to a live business environment was not required for this academic project, this phase outlines the theoretical deployment approach, ongoing maintenance strategies, and documentation protocols that would be followed in a real-world production scenario. It also includes reflections on system reliability and suggestions for future enhancements.

Deployment Strategy

If the CRM were to be deployed in a business setting, Change Sets would be the recommended deployment method within the Salesforce ecosystem. Change Sets allow developers to migrate components (e.g., objects, fields, Apex classes, Flows, dashboards) from a Developer Sandbox to a Production Environment while preserving dependencies.

Deployment Process Overview:

- Outbound Change Sets would be created in the Sandbox containing all custom objects, fields, triggers, flows, and other components.
- Inbound Change Sets would be received in the Production org and validated before deployment.
- 3. **Test Classes** (developed in Phase 4) would be executed to confirm functional readiness and meet Salesforce's code coverage requirements.
- 4. Post-deployment data loading (e.g., travel packages and employee data) would be performed using **Data Import Wizard** or **Data Loader** depending on the record volume.

All components would be version-controlled and reviewed by stakeholders before migration to ensure alignment with business requirements.

Maintenance Strategy

To ensure long-term reliability and adaptability of the CRM, the following maintenance practices are proposed:

- Monthly Performance Audits: Reviewing automation execution times, record volumes, and system errors.
- User Feedback Collection: Using internal forms or surveys to gather feedback from users (agents, finance officers, etc.) regarding UI usability or automation responsiveness.
- Quarterly Data Review: Identifying and resolving data inconsistencies such as missing relationships or duplicate entries.
- **Security Audit**: Verifying that sharing rules, role assignments, and field-level permissions continue to comply with data privacy policies.
- Bug Resolution Logs: Maintaining a centralized log of bugs and their resolutions to prevent recurrence and streamline support.

The system should also be monitored using Salesforce's built-in audit trails and diagnostic tools to track administrative and user activity.

Documentation Strategy

Comprehensive documentation is essential for future development, onboarding new administrators, and system troubleshooting. The following deliverables were prepared:

- Technical Documentation: Contains summaries of each object, relationship, validation rule, Apex class, and automation logic. This document is suitable for future developers or Salesforce administrators.
- **User Guide**: Provides a functional overview of each module, including how to create bookings, assign employees, manage travel packages, and review dashboards.
- **Testing Documentation**: Contains the test plan, test case results, and sample input/output screenshots (developed in Phase 4).
- **Security Model Document**: Illustrates the profiles, roles, permission sets, and sharing rules applied across the system.

All documentation is included in the capstone submission and maintained in a structured format for future reference.

Troubleshooting Approach

Common system issues were anticipated and categorized to ensure efficient resolution:

| Issue Category | Description | Suggested Resolution |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Data Validation Errors | Triggered when input fails business rules | Review validation criteria and provide user-friendly messages |
| Missing Lookup Relationships | Occurs when required related records are absent | Use validation rules or default lookup population |

| Incomplete | When Flows or Triggers do | Use debug logs and Flow error |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Automation | not execute properly | emails for diagnosis |
| Role/Permission | Access errors for users | Review profile and permission set |
| Conflicts | | assignments |
| Duplicate Entry | Triggered by duplicate rule | Alert user and guide them through |
| Conflicts | configuration | manual resolution |

Each error encountered during development was logged, tested, and corrected. Debug Logs and System Audit Trails were especially useful during troubleshooting.

Future Enhancements

To scale and improve the system for long-term business use, the following enhancements are proposed:

1. Chatbot Integration:

Enable conversational assistance for booking inquiries and FAQs using Salesforce
 Einstein Bot.

2. AI-Based Recommendations:

 Recommend travel packages based on user history and preferences through predictive analytics.

3. Customer Portal:

Develop a secure external portal where customers can view their bookings,
 provide feedback, and make payments.

4. Mobile-Optimized LWC Extensions:

 Build additional mobile-friendly Lightning Web Components to streamline guide assignments and payment collections.

5. Email-to-Case Integration:

 Automatically convert customer emails into cases for efficient customer service follow-up.

Conclusion

The completion of the *Tours & Travels Salesforce CRM* project demonstrates how a custom-built CRM platform can streamline end-to-end operations in the travel industry. By leveraging Salesforce's declarative tools and Apex programming capabilities, the system addresses challenges such as manual bookings, delayed communication, and inefficient task assignments.

From requirement gathering to backend configuration, user interface design, security enforcement, and test validation, the CRM has been structured to meet the real-world needs of travel agencies. It supports a wide range of operations including booking lifecycle management, employee coordination, payment processing, and customer feedback collection.

Overall, the project not only showcases technical competency in Salesforce development but also reflects an understanding of business process optimization, data integrity, and user-centered design. This CRM solution can serve as a strong foundation for future expansions and real-world deployment.