



Welcome to the fourth [Up in the Air | Consultancy](#) monthly newsletter! It includes a round up of the content that I recently shared, plus some additional news and background items.

i Travel Fintech News

Security in Travel Payments: The Hidden Differentiator

A special edition of the [Up in the Air | Consultancy](#) Travel Fintech newsletter introducing a new infographic, this time covering one of the 'hygiene factors' in Travel payments: Data Security and more specifically Tokenization of sensitive card details.



Click on image to read the newsletter

Emirates signs MoU with Crypto.com for future integration of Crypto.com Pay as a payment option for customers

[Emirates](#) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with [Crypto.com](#) to explore ways to integrate [Crypto.com](#) Pay within its payments systems, while maintaining the highest security and compliance standards. Integration is expected to take effect next year.



Click on image to read the press release

i Vendor News

IATA launches Payments Strategic Partnerships Program

“ Strategic Partners within the Payments Area of Involvement are invited by [International Air Transport Association \(IATA\)](#) to collaborate with airline payments decision-makers to discuss specific airline industry related challenges with both consumer and corporate type payment methods and how to best address these ensuring a fit for purpose, future proof payments offering. ”



Click on image to read the article

Etraveli Group's Travel Fraud Prevention Specialist PRECISION Partners with Mastercard

“ [Etraveli Group](#), a leading global technology provider for flights, today announces a partnership between [Precision](#), the flagship product of the group's fintech arm, EG Fintech Solutions, and [Mastercard Gateway](#). This collaboration marks a significant advancement in fraud prevention, enhancing security for travel merchants and their customers. ”



Click on image to read the press release

Yuno welcomes Wingo - one of the most dynamic low-cost airlines in Latin America - to their ecosystem!

[Wingo](#), one of the leading low-cost airlines in Latin America, has enhanced its digital payment operations and improved the customer experience across the region through its adoption of services from [Yuno](#), the global payment infrastructure platform.

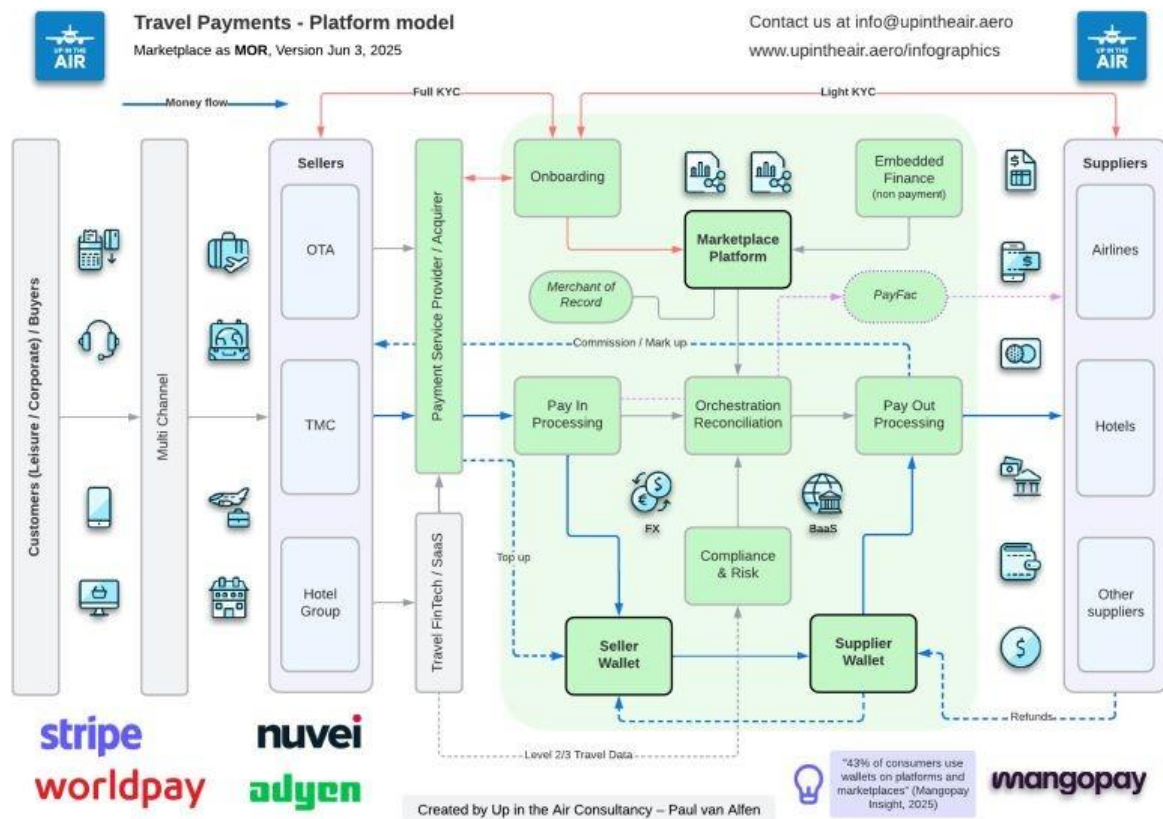


Click on image to read the press release

i Airline & Travel Payments 101

Travel Payments - Platform model with marketplace as MoR

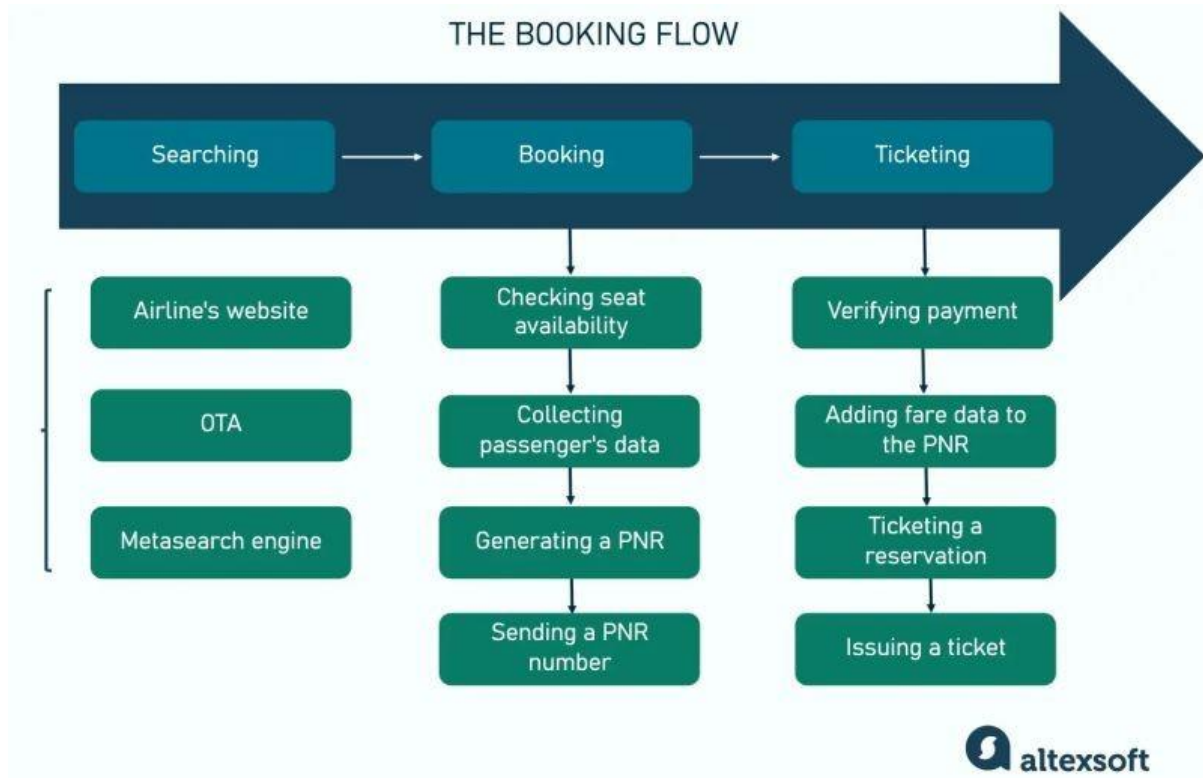
A new [Up in the Air | Consultancy](#) infographic.



Click on image to download the PDF version

Airline Ticketing: Key Functions, Steps, and Players Involved

“ Airline ticketing is not as simple as it may seem to passengers. It is a complex process that involves many systems, interactions, and regulations. This article by [AltexSoft](#) aims to explain how ticketing works, what a ticket is, which accreditations an agency should have in order to issue tickets, and how to sell flight seats without having major certifications. ”



Click on image to read article

i Blogs, white papers and other content

Why emerging markets are the next frontier for digital payments: The stablecoin revolution

In this blog [Thunes](#) looks at the 'low hanging fruit' when it comes to payments with stablecoins: emerging markets. “ Across emerging markets in Latin America, Asia, and Africa, digital payment ecosystems are evolving at a rapid pace. Mobile-first consumers, high remittance volumes and growing demand for stable stores of value are converging to create fertile ground for financial innovation. One of the most promising developments in this space is the rise of stablecoins like USD Coin (USDC), a regulated, dollar-backed digital currency issued by [Circle](#) ”



Click on image to read the blog

Cruise Industry, Explained: Top Cruise Line Brands and Market Share

An explainer by [AltexSoft](#). Cruise distribution is different from other segments of travel, like flights or hotels, primarily because of the following factors.

- **Longer booking windows**
- **Higher reliance on travel advisors**
- **Complex cruise ecosystems**

CRUISE INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

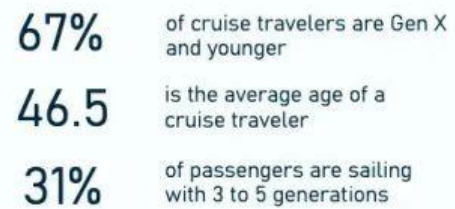
Passenger volume in 2024



The luxury cruise fleet has tripled since 2010



Intent to cruise among generations



Cruise line market share in 2025



Sources:

<https://cruising.org/sites/default/files/2025-05/State%20of%20the%20Cruise%20Industry%20Report%202025.pdf>
<https://cruisemarketwatch.com/market-share/>



Click on image to read the blog

Upcoming and recent events

T2RL Engage 2025

Join us for the new payments track during [T2RL](#) Engage 2025 in London!



The poster features a light blue background with a hexagonal grid pattern. At the top left, the text 'T2RL' is in large, bold, dark blue letters, followed by 'ENGAGE²⁰₂₅' in a similar font, and 'DELIVERING ON THE PROMISE' in smaller, dark blue capital letters below it. To the right of this text is a large, 3D blue cube with a thin blue line extending from its top-left corner, looping around and ending near a smaller blue cube. Below the main title, the words 'PAYMENTS TRACK' are written in large, bold, dark blue capital letters. Underneath that, the date and time 'TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER, 12:00 -18:00' are displayed in bold, dark blue capital letters. At the bottom, there are seven logos arranged in two rows. The top row includes ARC (Airlines Reporting Corporation) in teal, CELLPOINT DIGITAL in black, and endava in black with a red dot. The bottom row includes the Mastercard logo (two overlapping red and orange circles), outpayce from AMADEUS in blue, UATP in green, and worldpay in red. There are also two smaller 3D blue cubes, one on the left and one on the right, with thin blue lines extending from them.

T2RL[®]
ENGAGE²⁰₂₅
DELIVERING ON THE PROMISE

PAYMENTS TRACK
TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER, 12:00 -18:00

ARC
AIRLINES REPORTING CORPORATION

CELLPOINT
DIGITAL

endava

mastercard

outpayce
from **AMADEUS**

UATP

worldpay

Click on image for more information and registration

World Aviation Festival 2025 - Payments Track



The graphic is split into two main sections. On the left is a photograph of the Rua Augusta Arch in Lisbon, Portugal, a large white stone archway with a statue on top, set against a blue sky with clouds. On the right is a blue background with white and yellow text and graphics. At the top right, it says 'WORLD AVIATION FESTIVAL' with a stylized wing logo. Below that, 'World Aviation Festival 2025' is written in large white letters, followed by 'October 7-9, FIL, Lisbon, PT'. In the center, there is a circular portrait of Paul van Alfen, a man with grey hair wearing a light green shirt. Below his name, it says 'Host & Moderator'. To the right of the portrait, under the heading 'PAYMENTS TRACK:', there is a bulleted list of topics: 'FINTECH STRATEGY & ORCHESTRATION', 'PAYMENTS & RETAIL – EMBEDDED FINANCE & CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE', 'B2B PAYMENTS, FRAUD, SECURITY', and 'PAYMENTS INNOVATION & THE NEXT FRONTIER'. At the bottom left of the blue section is a logo for 'UP IN THE AIR' featuring a stylized airplane. To its right, it says 'Knowledge Partner Payments Track'.

WORLD AVIATION FESTIVAL

World Aviation Festival 2025

October 7-9, FIL, Lisbon, PT

PAYMENTS TRACK:

- FINTECH STRATEGY & ORCHESTRATION
- PAYMENTS & RETAIL – EMBEDDED FINANCE & CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE
- B2B PAYMENTS, FRAUD, SECURITY
- PAYMENTS INNOVATION & THE NEXT FRONTIER

Paul van Alfen
Host & Moderator

UP IN THE AIR

Knowledge Partner
Payments Track

Click on image for agenda

i 'Movers & Shakers'

M&C is welcoming seasoned travel tech executive **Joanna THIBAUT** as Chief Commercial Officer. Moving forward, Joanna will drive M&C's commercial and product strategy for their portfolio of financial and payment reconciliation services.



The graphic has a blue background on the left and a white background on the right. On the left, there is a dark blue rounded rectangle with the text 'MOVERS & SHAKERS' in white, followed by a small 'UP IN THE AIR' logo. Below this, the name 'Joanna Thibault' is written in large white letters, followed by 'Chief Commercial Officer' and 'M&C' in smaller white letters. At the bottom left, there is a paragraph of text: 'Founded by travel industry experts, M&C has been helping Travel companies reinvent their finance function, modernize their technology vision and continue to innovate in constantly changing markets'. On the right, there is a portrait of Joanna Thibault, a woman with short brown hair, wearing a dark green top and a watch. In the top right corner of the white area is the 'M&C aero' logo.

MOVERS & SHAKERS

UP IN THE AIR

Joanna Thibault

Chief Commercial Officer
M&C

Founded by travel industry experts, M&C has been helping Travel companies reinvent their finance function, modernize their technology vision and continue to innovate in constantly changing markets

M&C
aero

Joanna Thibault

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[Think Travel Payments](#) Webinar Series

YouTube:

[UpintheAirPay](#)

Would you like to suggest content for this newsletter? Contact me at paul@upintheair.aero