

# HARNESSING THE POWER OF AI IN TRAVEL RETAILING WITH SMART TECHNOLOGY

🕒 August 15, 2023 📌 In-the-Issue, TECHNOLOGY, Technology



*In today's fast-paced travel industry, staying ahead of the competition and meeting the evolving needs of travellers is essential. One way to achieve this is by harnessing the power of artificial intelligence (AI). AI has become a game-changer, revolutionizing various aspects of the travel journey and empowering travel agents and providers to deliver exceptional experiences to their customers, says Sanjay Kumar, President and CEO, InterGlobe Technology Quotient (ITQ).*

In recent years, the travel industry has witnessed a significant transformation with the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into various aspects of the journey. From planning and booking to on-the-go assistance, AI has revolutionized the way we experience travel. With its ability to analyse vast amounts of data and provide personalized recommendations, AI has become a powerful tool for both travellers and travel service providers. Almost all tourism-related businesses currently utilise at least one AI-powered technology, which is expected to result in a CAGR of over 9.7% by 2026. (Source – <https://anywhere.epam.com/business/artificial-intelligence-in-tourism-and-travel> )

Explore the power of AI in travel retailing through ITQ lens and enhance your service offerings for high growth:

- **Efficient Trip Planning** – As travel agents and providers, you understand the challenges of planning customized trips for your clients. With AI-powered travel platforms, you can simplify the planning process by utilizing machine learning algorithms to analyse vast amounts of data. These platforms can generate personalized itineraries based on traveller preferences, budget, and past travel patterns. By leveraging AI, you can save time, reduce stress, and offer curated experiences that align perfectly with your clients' interests.
- **Seamless Booking Experience** – Gone are the days of lengthy booking processes and manual comparison shopping. AI has transformed the booking landscape, offering streamlined solutions. By incorporating AI-powered chatbots and virtual assistants into your services, you can provide instant support and recommendations to your clients. These virtual assistants, equipped with natural language processing capabilities, can handle complex travel queries, assist in finding the best deals, and ensure a seamless booking experience. By leveraging AI algorithms that analyse historical pricing data, you can offer real-time insights and help your clients make informed decisions while securing the best prices.
- **Personalized Recommendations** – As travel agents and providers, you strive to offer tailored recommendations that resonate with your clients' preferences. AI can be your powerful ally in achieving this goal. By utilizing AI algorithms that analyse travel reviews, social media posts, and personal preferences, you can provide highly personalized recommendations. Whether it's suggesting local restaurants, offbeat attractions, or hidden gems, AI-powered platforms can help you curate unique experiences that cater to your clients' specific interests and preferences.
- **Enhanced Safety and Security** – The safety and security of travellers are of paramount importance. AI has been instrumental in enhancing security measures across the travel industry, and as a travel agent or provider, you can leverage these advancements. AI-powered technologies such as facial recognition and real-time risk monitoring can help streamline airport security processes and provide timely alerts to your clients. By adopting AI-driven safety solutions, you can prioritize the well-being of your clients and instil confidence in their travel experiences.

- **Smart Assistance on the Go** – AI-powered virtual assistants can serve as valuable companions for travellers throughout their journey. By integrating smart assistants into your services, you can offer real-time flight updates, suggest nearby attractions, recommend local services, and provide translations. These AI-powered assistants can enhance the convenience and enjoyment of your clients' travel experiences, providing them with immediate support and guidance whenever they need it.
- **The Future of AI in Travel** – The potential of AI in the travel industry is limitless and continuously evolving. As a travel agent or provider, staying abreast of AI advancements is crucial. Technologies such as predictive analytics, natural language processing, and machine learning will further enhance personalization and enable you to deliver tailored experiences to your clients. Additionally, exploring AI-powered virtual reality and augmented reality solutions can provide immersive pre-travel experiences, elevating the way your clients engage with destinations.

How can you harness the power of AI in your travel business?

To harness the potential of AI in your travel business, contemplate deploying the subsequent approaches:

**Embrace AI-driven tools and software:** Examine your data to uncover valuable information about your clientele and their travel inclinations. The modern travel technology of Travelport+ allows you to analyse customer data based on their previous experiences. You can apply this knowledge to create personalized itineraries that enrich the customer journey.

**Collaborate with AI-powered companies:** Partner with AI-powered companies that offer solutions tailored to the travel industry. These companies can provide you with AI-powered tools, applications, and platforms that can enhance your services. Collaborating with experts in the field will help you stay at the forefront of AI advancements and ensure you deliver cutting-edge solutions to your clients.

**Stay informed about AI advancements:** Continuously educate yourself about the latest AI technologies and trends in the travel industry. Attend conferences, participate in webinars, and engage with industry experts

to stay up to date. By staying informed, you can identify new opportunities to leverage AI in your travel business and provide innovative solutions to your clients.

**Prioritize data collection and analysis:** Collect and analyse data about your clients, their travel preferences, and their feedback. This data will serve as the foundation for developing AI-powered solutions that cater to their specific needs. By leveraging data-driven insights, you can offer personalized recommendations, improve customer satisfaction, and foster long-term loyalty.

Harnessing the power of AI in the travel industry presents exciting opportunities for travel agents and providers. By embracing AI-powered technology, you can elevate your services, offer seamless experiences, and cater to the unique preferences of your clients. So, make the most of AI and watch as your business thrives into the dynamic world of travel.