

Global Travel Outlook

Spring 2024







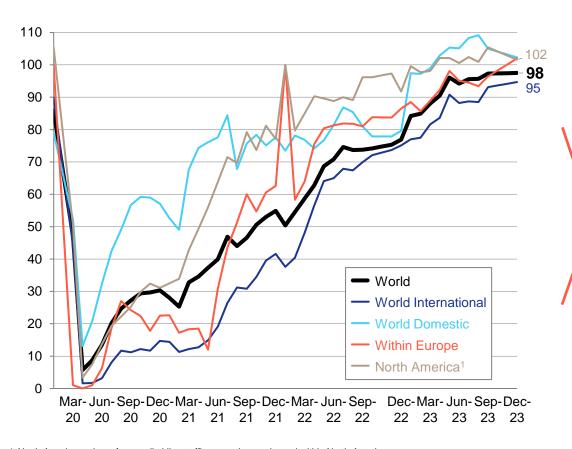
- The travel industry has suffered a turbulent recovery path post-Covid, facing into high-cost inflation, labour shortages, conflicts in the Ukraine and the Middle East, low consumer confidence and limited growth in real disposable incomes...
- ...however, consumer demand for leisure experiences remains strong (with consumers prioritising spend on travel including willingness to spend COVID savings on travel); alongside this, business travel is returning faster than many expected
- As a result, and in spite of the challenging macro outlook, we cautiously expect calmer waters ahead for the global travel industry with travel volumes forecast to grow at 4-6% pa¹ over the next 5 years
- However, pressures on management teams remain high with multiple challenges including ensuring fit for purpose commercial, marketing, distribution and loyalty strategies, refining product propositions to meet evolving consumer needs, and ensuring a lean operating model (leveraging strong tech/digital capabilities, and attractive talent propositions)
- For investors there are a range of sector opportunities in the coming year, as we expect a backlog of high-quality, investible assets to come to market after the hiatus of the last few years

Current State of Travel Recovery

In aggregate, global travel has almost recovered to 2019 levels – however in certain regions it remains at 75-90%

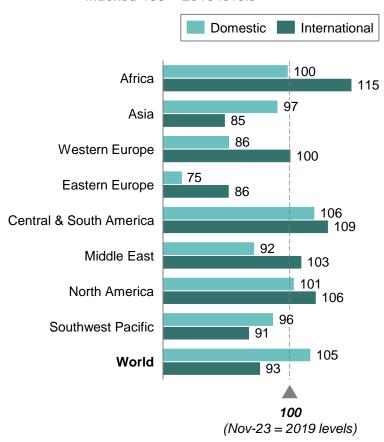
Global Travel Recovery

Revenue Passenger Kilometres by Carrier Registered Region¹ Indexed 100 = 2019 levels



By Region

Seat Capacity by Destination Region, Indexed 100 = 2019 levels





^{1.} North America series refers to all airline traffic on carriers registered within North America

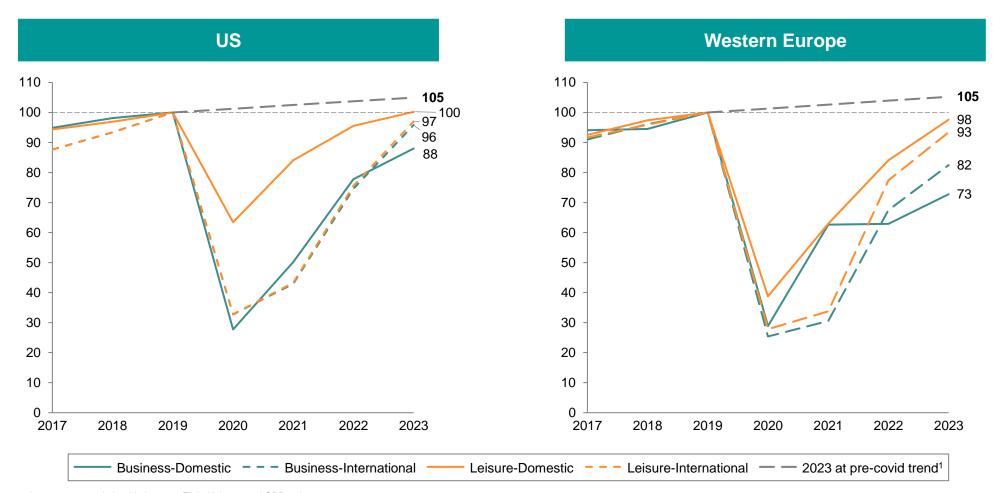
^{2.} Weighted by OAG % change for regions by Euromonitor inbound arrival volumes for each region to form continental / macro region totals Source: IATA, OAG, OC&C analysis

Current State of Travel Recovery

Overall travel recovery is further ahead in US vs. Western Europe – although in both regions, leisure trips have recovered more quickly than business

Air Trips by Trip Purpose

Business / Leisure, Domestic/International 2019 = 100



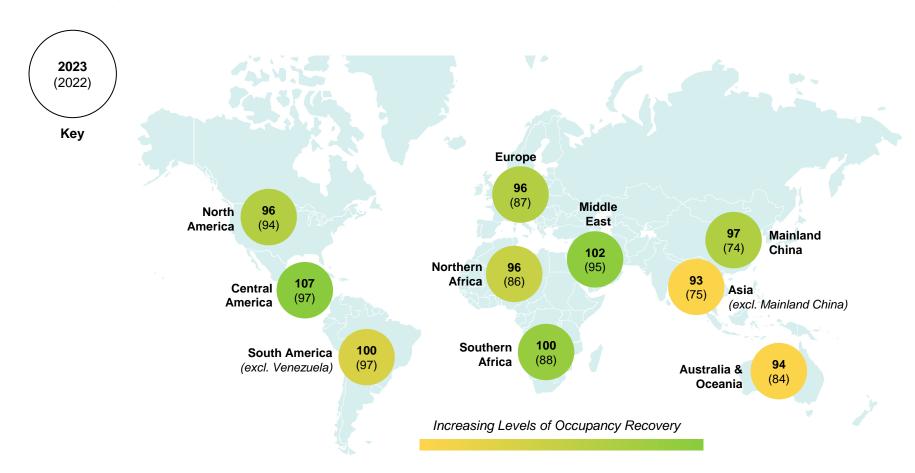
^{1.} Assumes same relationship between Flight Volumes and GDP as in 2019 Source: Oxford Economics, Euromonitor, OC&C analysis



Global occupancy rates have also returned to 2019 levels with the exceptions of Asia and Australia – although both regions have improved vs. 2022

Hotel Occupancy by Region

Full Year 2023, Indexed $2019 = 100^{1}$

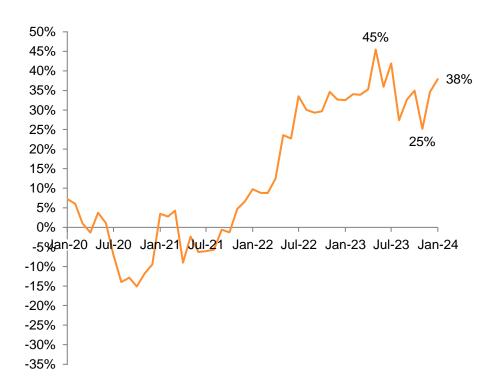


In 2023, global travel prices were 20-40% higher than 2019 levels...

Flight & Hotel Prices

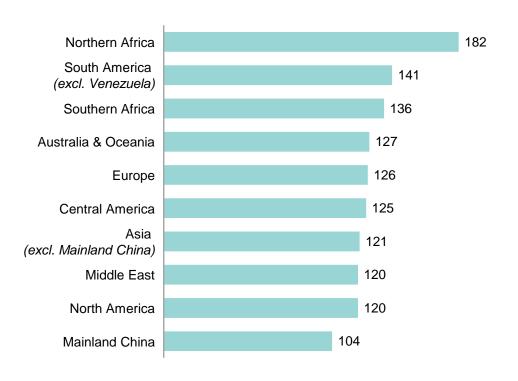
Airfares have risen at double-digit rates...

Average Airfares for Euro Area (19 Countries), Jan '20 - Jan'24 % change vs. same month 2019



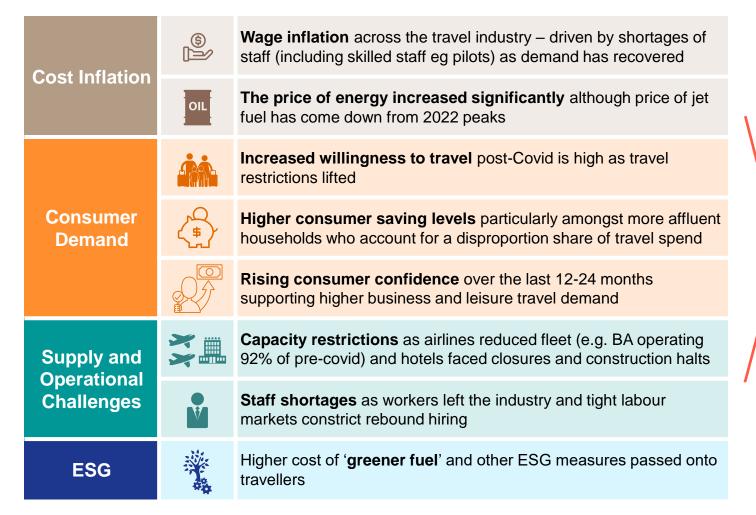
...Hotel prices are also significantly higher than 2019 levels in all regions

Hotels Average Day Rate by Region 2023 Full Year, Indexed 2019 = 100



... with a number of factors impacting these dynamics including underlying cost inflation, consumer demand and changes to supply/demand balance

Drivers of Travel Inflation



These factors have played out differently for different travel segments.

For example, strong growth and then softening of domestic vacation rental yields driven by restrictions on international travel inflating demand in 2021/22 which have then softened as international travel has returned

Source: OC&C analysis

The global macroeconomic outlook is improving, with inflation subsiding and real GDP growth returning to c.2%pa

Macroeconomic Outlook





Inflation (CPI)



Real GDP Growth

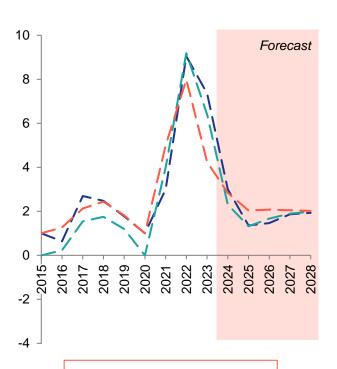


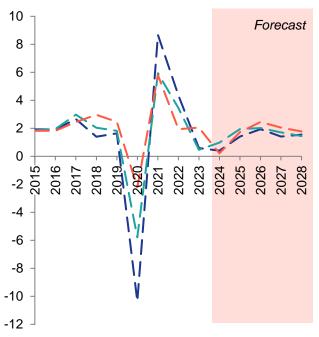
Real Disposable Income Growth

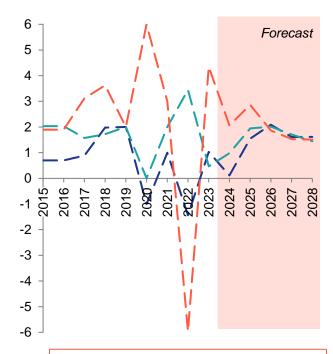
CPI Inflation, 2021-28F (% YoY)



Real Disposable Income, 2021-28F (% YoY)







European Central Bank target is 2%, this is expected to be achieved in 2024/25

EU Real GDP growth is anticipated to return to 2019 level of c.1.6% by 2025, followed by an average growth rate of 1.8% 2025-28 EU Disposable Income is due to grow positively from around 2024, followed by an average growth rate of 2% 2024-28

Source: Oxford Economics, IHS, Euromonitor, IMF, OBR, OC&C analysis

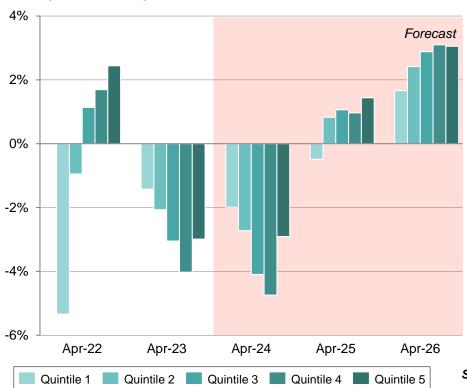


Households across nearly all income deciles are forecast to have higher discretionary spend & savings in 2024 and 2025 vs. 2023

Financial Pressure on UK Households

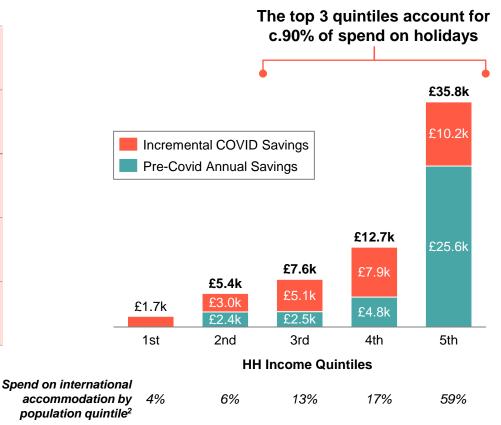
Real disposable incomes are expected to decline across all segments of the population...

Annual Real Growth in Avg. HH Disposable Income After Housing Costs (Non-Retirees)¹



... however more affluent households have a substantial savings buffer which has been enhanced through COVID

UK HH Savings, Fiscal Year 2021¹

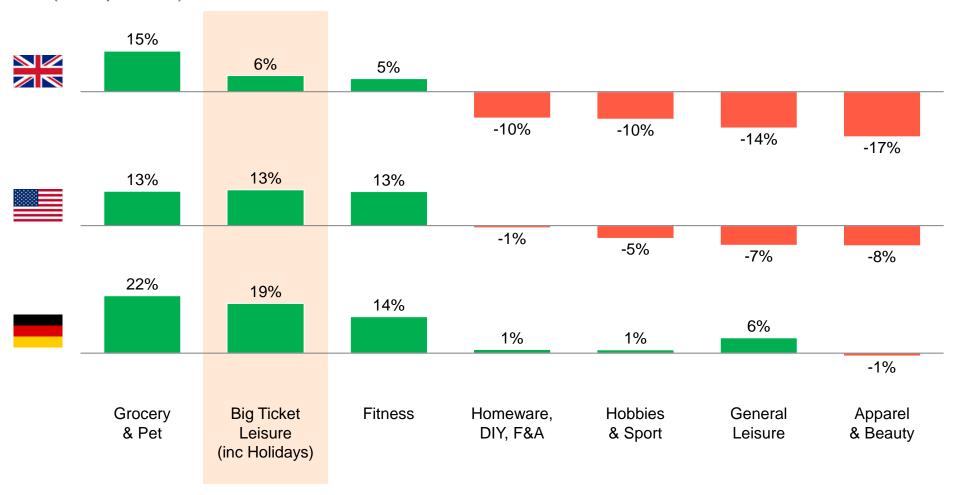


Year ending Apr;
 UK Example
 Source: Resolution Foundation, ONS, OC&C analysis

Global Travel Outlook

Moreover, consumers expect to increase spend on 'big ticket leisure including holidays' over the next 12 months ahead of other categories

Anticipated Net Spend Changes in N12M¹ 2023 (% Respondents)



^{1.} Looking forward for the next 12 months, how do you think your spend on these different categories is likely to be different relative to the last 12 months? Only respondents purchasing category in last 3 months.

Source: OC&C Consumer Survey, OC&C analysis

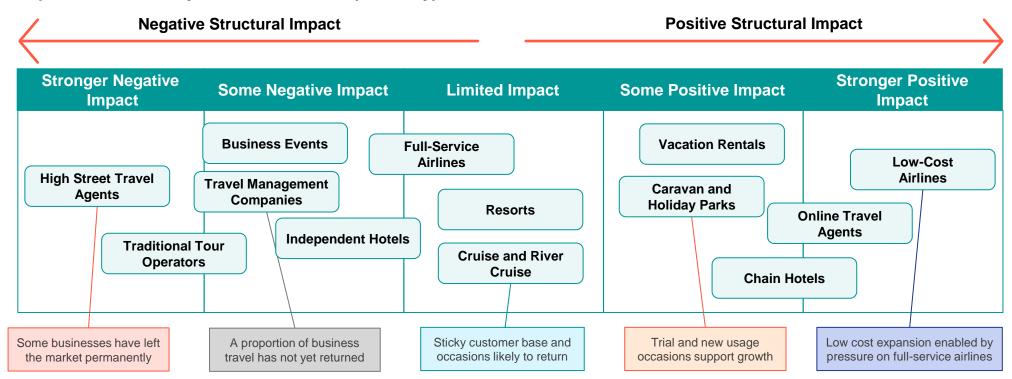
Calmer Waters Ahead - Global Travel Outlook - March 2024 | © OC&C Strategy Consultants 2023



The recovery trajectory is expected to differ by sub-sector, with winners navigating both the short term and structural changes

Impact of Pandemic By Travel Subsector / Operator Type

Illustrative



Selected Structural drivers

- The pandemic has caused businesses in some segments to leave the market (e.g. independent hotels and physical travel retail) this has left an opportunity for others (e.g. chain hotels and online travel agents) to fill the gap
- The slower return of international business travel, which disproportionately impacts full-service airlines, has given budget airlines an opportunity to take share
- Remote and hybrid working looks set to stay with opportunities for leisure breaks and challenges to some segments
 of business travel where in-person interactions are less critical

We've identified 7 key trends that will shape the global travel industry in the medium term





The travel market is expected to continue to recover into 2024, with international leisure volumes exceeding 2019 levels for the first time in many markets. Business travel volume recovery lags 1-2 years behind





In aggregate, pricing is expected to stabilise as volumes recover – pricing dynamics vary materially by segment with pricing outlook impacted by supply-demand dynamics as well as underlying cost inflation





The resurgence of chain hotels is likely to challenge the growth of non-hotel accommodation, which had been growing strongly prior to the pandemic and accelerated over the last few years





Consumers and travel operators continue to look for value-additive travel ancillaries and packages – both to increase margin per booking/transaction on the operator side and to improve experience for travellers





Generational changes continue to impact travel behaviours, with younger cohorts more likely to take more frequent, shorter, cheaper breaks and use more digital channels compared to older, more affluent generations





A majority of travellers (50%-70%) state that sustainability impacts their choice of vacation, however only c.10% state any willingness to pay more for it – the onus remains on operators to drive sustainability





Al has generated a lot of excitement in the sector – while we expect further innovation over the coming year, current solutions focus on supporting customer inspiration/research and streamlining post-booking services

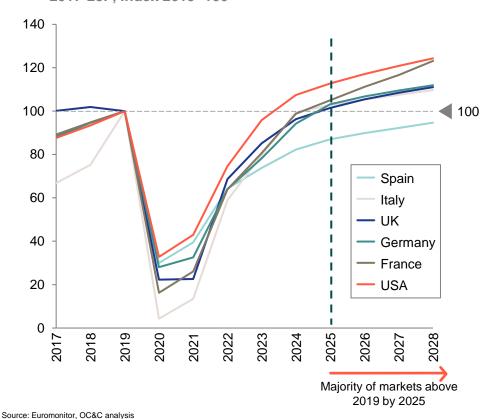
Travel recovery will continue into 2024, with int'l leisure volumes exceeding 2019 levels in many markets; business recovery 1-2 years behind

International Travel Market Outlook



Business International Travel Volume

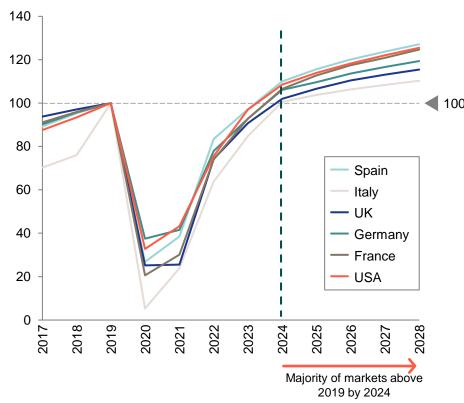
Business International Travel, Air (# trips) 2017-28F, Index 2019=100





Leisure International Travel Volume

Leisure International Travel, Air (# trips) 2017-28F, Index 2019=100







In aggregate, pricing is expected to stabilise as volumes recover, although pricing dynamics vary materially by segment

Drivers of Travel Outlook

	Driver		2020-23 (vs 2019)	2023-28 (vs 2023)	Commentary	
Cost Inflation	(a)	Wage Inflation		•	 ECB forecasts lower wage inflation in 2024 vs 2023 and lower still in 2025 	
	OIL	Energy Inflation	*	>	 The ECB forecasts continuation of inflated energy inflation in 2024, normalizing in 2025 	
Post-Covid Surge in Travel Demand	İ	Travel Demand	-		Long-run trend towards more experiences versus retail expected to continue	
	Q# <u>}</u>	Consumer Savings		-	Availability of incremental COVID savings for travel spend reducing	
		Consumer Confidence	>		Consumer confidence expected to continue to recover from COVID lows	
Supply and Restr		Capacity Restrictions		>	Airline and hotel supply constraints expected to soften in medium term	
Operational Challenges		Staff Shortages		>	Staff shortages are likely to continue into the short-term as labour markets remain tight	
ESG		ESG Costs			Increasing ESG costs expcted	
		Broadly Positive Neutral Broadly Negative				

There are several 'tests' we would apply to assess outlook for pricing within different travel sub-segments:

- 1. What is the current level of inflation versus 2019 in real rather than nominal terms?
 - While nominal inflation is high in many cases the cost of travel hasn't grown in real terms
- 2. How is supply and demand evolving and to what extent have travel demand patterns normalised?

We expect continued recovery of international travel which may negatively impact domestic/value substitutes

3. How is the underlying economics of suppliers impacting the market?

Lower profitability in hotels for example

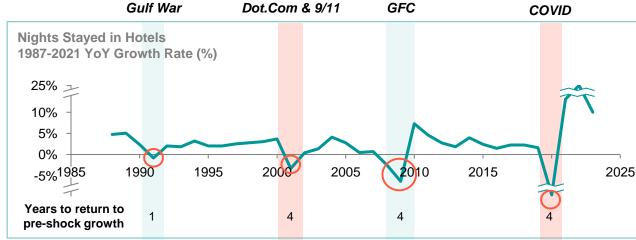
Lower profitability in hotels for example has historically slowed the approval rate for new projects and therefore overall growth in supply supporting recovery of pricing

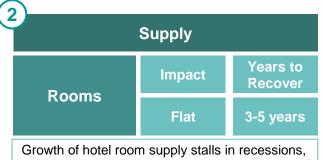
Back-up: Recessions and other one-off shocks have driven modest, but short-lived, declines in demand, with larger & prolonged impacts on supply of rooms

Impact of Recession on Hotel Market

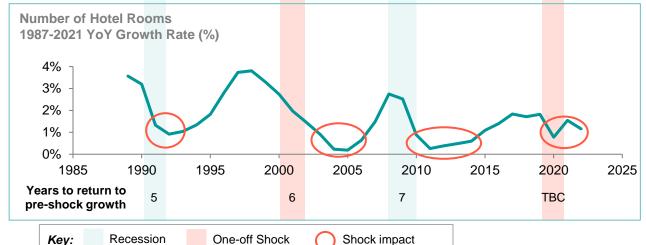


Demand for accommodation is closely correlated with real GDP and population. Recessions typically cause a modest (-1% to -6%) and short-lived (<2 years) decline in demand





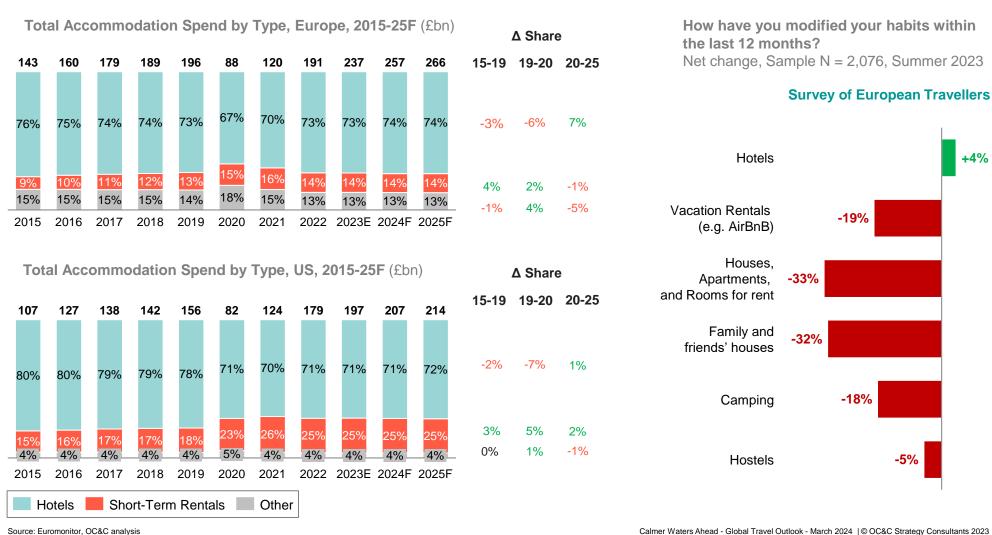
as the completion of ongoing construction projects offsets closures amongst independents. Supply can take 3-5 years to recover, with chains benefitting as independents are harder hit



Source: OC&C analysis

The resurgence of chain hotels is likely to challenge the growth of non-hotel accommodation, which had been growing strongly over recent years

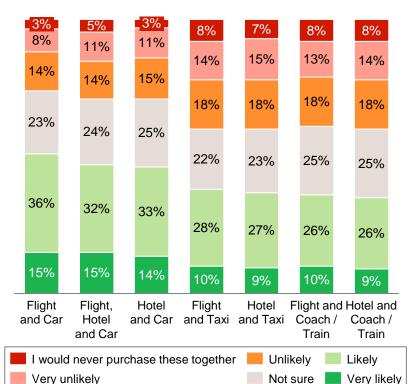
Non-Hotel Evolution



35-50% of consumers are interested in bundling services during their holiday, driven by better price and simplicity – suppliers do this to protect margin

Willingness to Combine Purchases

Willingness to Combine Purchases by Product Type¹ (% of Respondents)



Top Reasons to Bundle Purchases

Better price from bundling together (reality + perception)

2 Convenience with one website taking care of everything / single point of contact

Protection in case of any difficulties / challenges, (cf ATOL in the UK)

Supplier Incentive to Sell Ancillaries / Packages

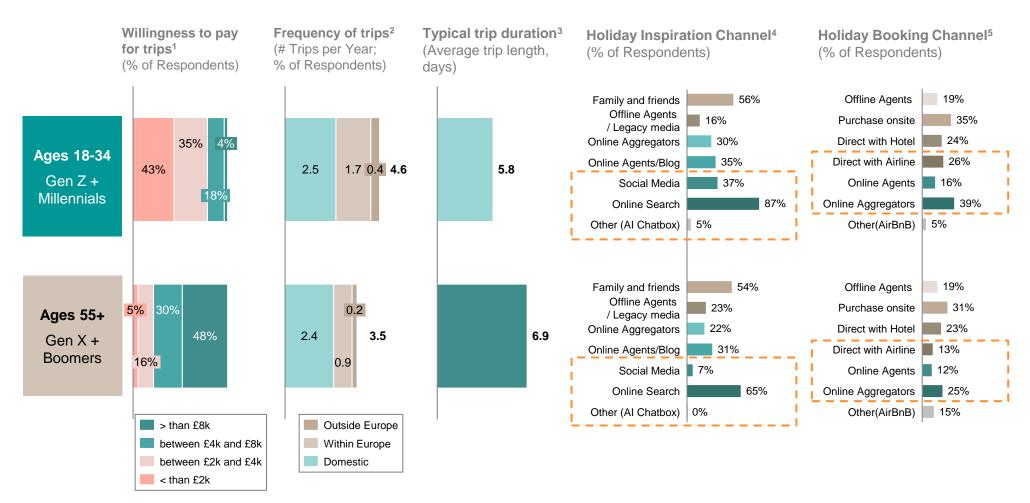
- There is a strong incentive from suppliers to sell ancillaries and bundles / packages to consumers
- A key driver is profitability with the addition of extra products to a transaction driving up overall margin per transaction and transforming unit economics
- Examples include dynamic packages, airlines/OTAs selling flight ancillaries, hotels unbundling product and selling experiences etc

^{1.} How likely are you to purchase your [insert products] together (as part of the same booking process)? N = 1,975 Source: OC&C analysis

Younger travellers take more frequent, shorter and lower cost trips than older travellers; they also increasingly seek inspiration from social media

Travel Behaviour Differences by Generation

Survey of European Travellers



^{1.} How much did you spend on travel and vacations in the past 12 months? N=2,076; 2. How many trips have you done in last twelve months to following destinations? N=2,076

^{3.} How many trips have you done of each length in last 12 months? N=2,076; 4. Where do you get inspiration for your holidays? N=2,076; 5. How have you bought your trips after Covid? N=2,076 Source: OC&C survey, OC&C analysis

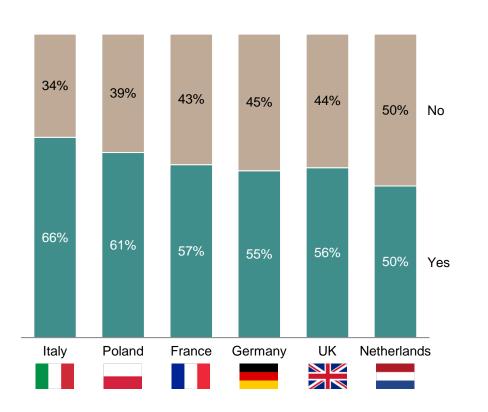
Over half of travellers are concerned by sustainability, yet less than 10% are willing to pay more to act on this

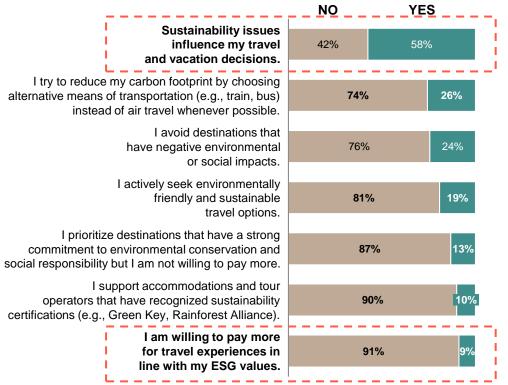
ESG impacts on vacation choices

Survey of European Travellers

Impact of Environment Concerns on Vacation Choices by Country¹ (% of Respondents)

Degree of Environmental Impact² (% of Respondents)









^{1.} How much environmental concerns influence your vacation choices? N = 2,076

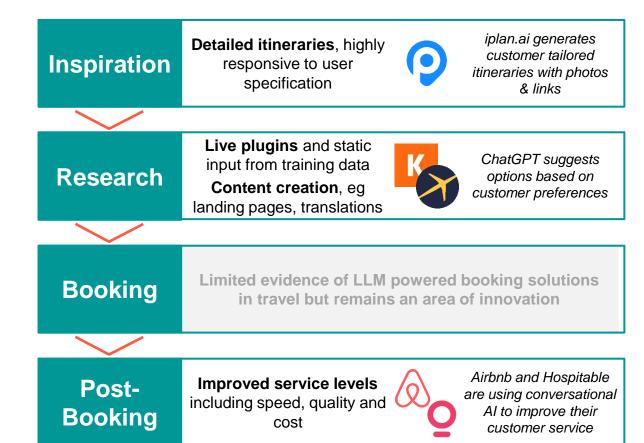
^{2.} How much do issues related to the environment and sustainability more generally influence your travel and vacation choices? N=2,076 Source: OC&C analysis

Large Language Models, led by ChatGPT, have grown at an unprecedented pace; there are emerging solutions in inspiration/research and post-booking

Al Implementation in Travel

Months Taken To Reach 100m Global Monthly Active Users

M OpenAI 30 41 Pinterest 55 61 **Uber** 70 Google **78** **Example Implementation of LLMs by Stage in Booking Journey**



Translate

Currently, LLMs are best suited to 'do it yourself', complex missions, yet ongoing improvements & innovation will unlock other journey types

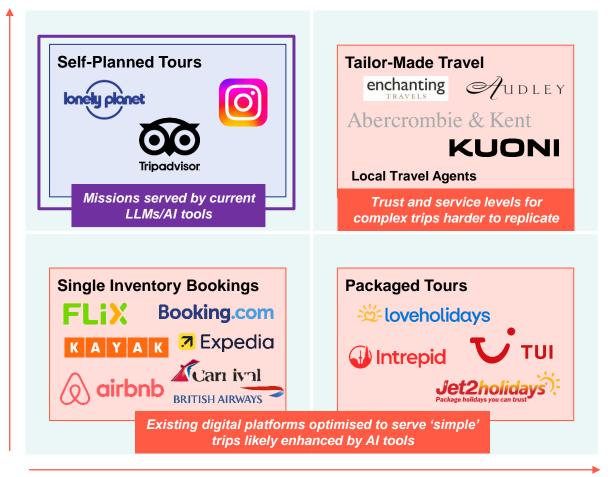
Application of Current AI Tools by Trip Type

Conceptual

Complex / Emotional

Trip Complexity

Simple



Currently, LLMs are best suited supporting inspiration and research for to 'do it yourself', complex missions...

...yet ongoing improvements & model innovation will make it more relevant for other journey types

Low Touch (Do-It-Yourself)

Service Level

High Touch (Done-For-Your)

Source: OC&C analysis



For management teams, there are a number of imperatives to ensure businesses capture share of the next wave of growth

Strategic Imperatives for Travel Businesses



Refine / upgrade commercial strategy to reflect changing demand & yield opportunities



Maximise customer retention and loyalty



Strengthen distribution channels beyond paid search



Seek opportunities to own the end-to-end customer relationship



Adopt a 'learn fast' mindset with technology, including Al



Refine product & proposition to meet customer needs and maximise value



Continue to develop leading proposition to talent

For investors in the travel space, there are a range of potential opportunities this presents over the next 12-24 months

Not Exhaustive

Ongoing
Consolidation of
Corporate Travel
Management
Companies

Premium /
Experiential
Operators with
Long-Term Tailwinds

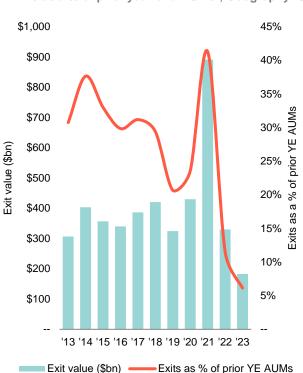
Inventory-Light,
Digital
Intermediaries and
Scalable Tech-Led
Operators

Scalable Consumer-Champion Hospitality Brands Investment Across
E2E Value Chain
with Technology,
Data and Ancillaries

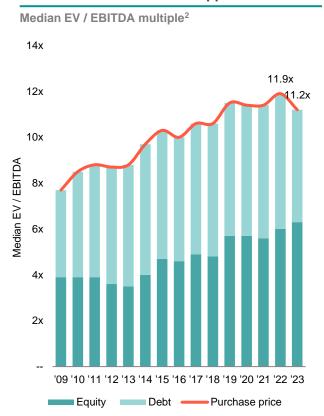
2023 was a year of recalibration. That said, investors are still looking to back high-quality platform assets

Exits have slumped...

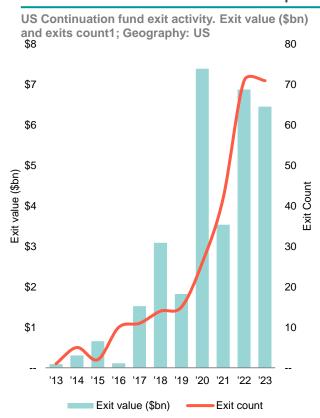
US Private Equity exit activity. Exit value (\$bn) and Exits as a % of prior year-end AUMs¹; Geography: US



...and PE valuations have dipped...



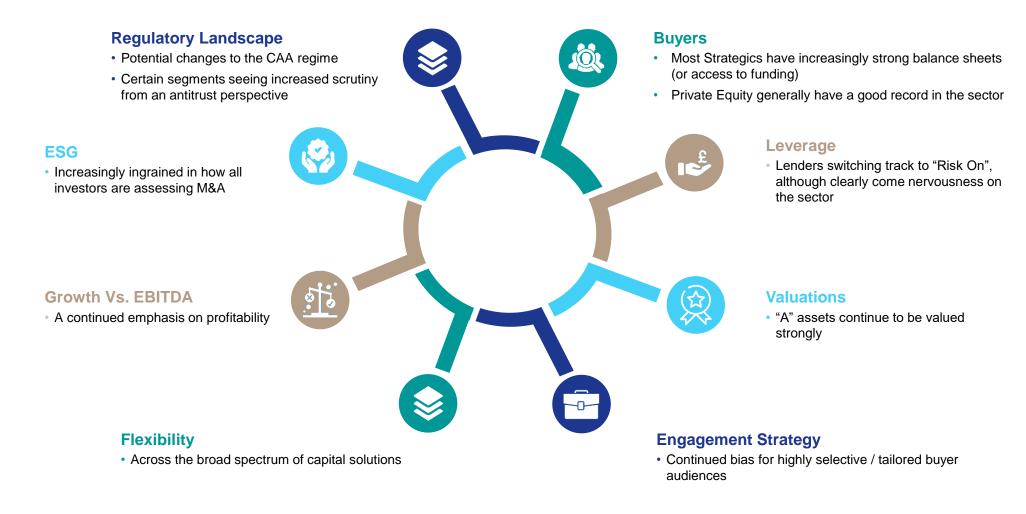
...whilst continuation deals are on the up



2023 was a year of recalibration characterised by slower deal activity and complexities in fund raising

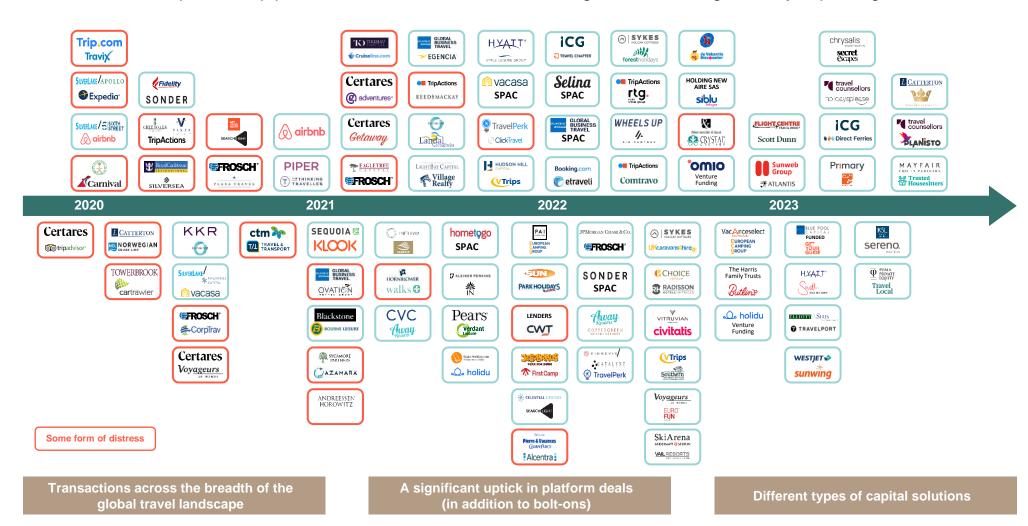
Looking into 2024, with inflation and interest rates tapering down, there appears to be a clearer and more optimistic view of the broader M&A market Private equity firms have entered 2024 with a record \$2.6tn of dry powder, suggesting there will be an increasing imbalance between supply and demand

We expect to see continued increasing momentum for M&A involving high quality assets



M&A – recent transaction activity

Sector M&A momentum continues to build – high quality international operators are once again beginning to transact for decent multiples. The pipeline of assets in the market / coming to market is significantly improving



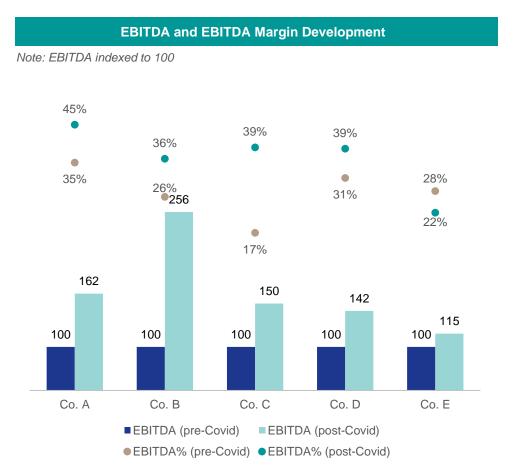
Hw Harris Williams

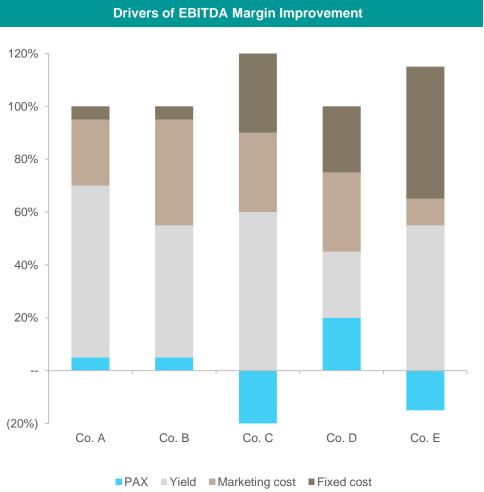
Source: S&P Capital IQ, MergerMarket and Pitchbook

Successful transactions in the post-Covid world have been anchored around two core elements – proving out that the new margin profiles are sustainable and then layering an attractive long-term growth story on top

Evidence Recovery And SUSTAINABILITY OF New Base Evidence That Recovery Is Important not only to evidence that recovery is **Gross margins stabilise (to prior level or new normal)** Complete "complete" but also to establish a new base from which to grow Prove out that the increased cost efficiency is adequate AND scalable • Hard to be precise, but generally need 6/12+ 'New' EBITDA margins are sustainable months' evidence of this "new norm" We believe that investors will need to see both to be able to meaningfully Painting A Compelling Long-term Equity Story engage in M&A at Articulating The Long-term attractive valuations Strong booking **Growth Strategy Evidence supporting** momentum / visibility long term topline growth with a roadmap back to (volume and yield) Near-term growth evidenced by a mix of >100% of FY19 PAX "Momentum" and future "Revenue Visibility" Important to focus on the 10-year vision; the route to a much larger business in the future Evidence stable or expanding margins 10+ year vision (including CAC)

Most operators have seen a significant increase in EBITDA margins post-Covid. Clear articulation of why this step-change is sustainable is critical to ensure the story stands up to diligence





The travel deals that HW has transacted post-Pandemic are the ones where there is a compelling and 'evidenceable' long-term equity story

Compelling Long-Term Equity Stories That Have Sold Well					
Company	Comment	Long-term whitespace			
Forest Holidays	 12 sites at time of sale Clear whitespace for 70+ sites across the UK 				
Scott Dunn	 £110m+ TTV Considerable growth potential across UK, US and APAC 				
[♠]♠♠ Direct Ferries	 The largest global ferry OTA in a fragmented market Diversified across many international markets Clear opportunity to accelerate (organic and inorganic) 				
Company A	 National leader in highly fragmented market Exposure to both Corporate and Leisure 	✓			

Post-Covid trading experiences have highlighted several areas investors are looking to understand in detail

 For many, 2019 was the last "normal" booking curve given Covid-related disruption Shape of the However, customer behaviour has changed significantly since then, with many operators seeing booking curves shift out as customers **Booking Curve** book later. Is 2024 therefore a "new normal"? When do PAX recover to 2019 levels (if still below)? CPAs have generally rebounded since the lows seen during Covid **Marketing Efficiency** Where is the new market norm, by channel? What evidence will be needed to underpin long-term forecasts? **Dynamics** What levers exist to mitigate CPA inflation (e.g., channel diversification, growing share of repeat customers etc.)? A combination of demand and supply-side factors have driven significant yield inflation – for some segments, this has already unwound somewhat **Yield Stability** What does yield growth look like in a lower inflation environment? To what extent will improving consumer sentiment support continued yield growth? A key area of focus for many given repeat customer CPA < new customer CPA **Focus On** Repeat / LTV . In some cases, investment in technology / CRM systems will be required to fully maximise repeat booking potential **Platform** Many operators undertook significant platform investment during Covid – are there gaps (people or capability) which remain? **Sophistication**

Acquired vs. synergised multiples?

Is M&A still as accretive given the higher cost of debt?

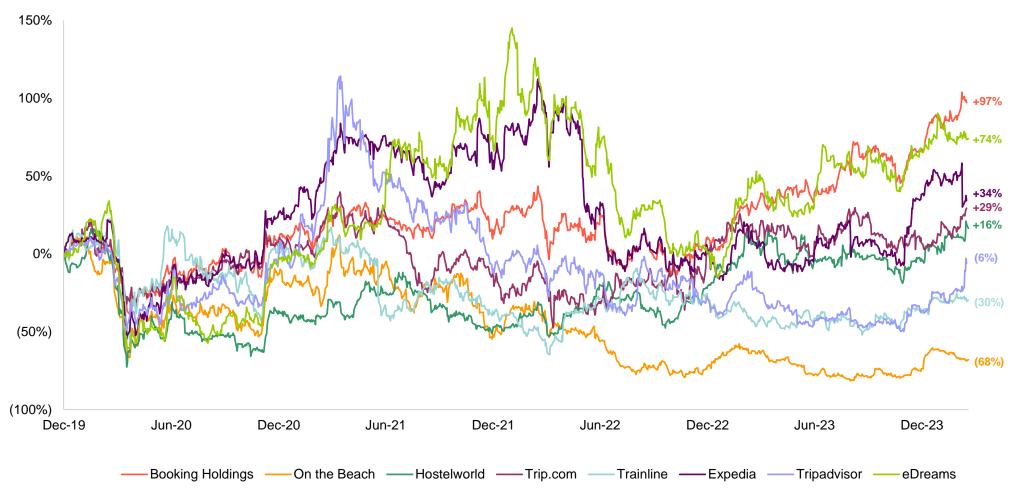
Are there acquisitions which add another brand / product / source market which will increase long-term addressable white space?

H_W HarrisWilliams

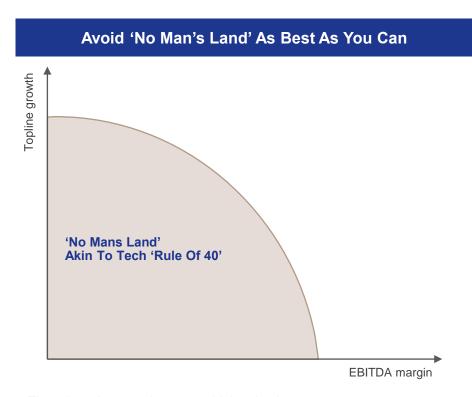
M&A

Stock performance has fluctuated since Dec-19, however the OTAs (Booking Holdings and eDreams in particular) are seeing strong performance vs. the rest of the sector

Travel Sector Stock Performance - Stock Price Performance vs. Dec-19 close



While the domain of the very high growth / no profit transaction still exists, all investors are becoming more focused on EBITDA. The Pandemic has only reinforced this



Three broad camps that attract high valuations:

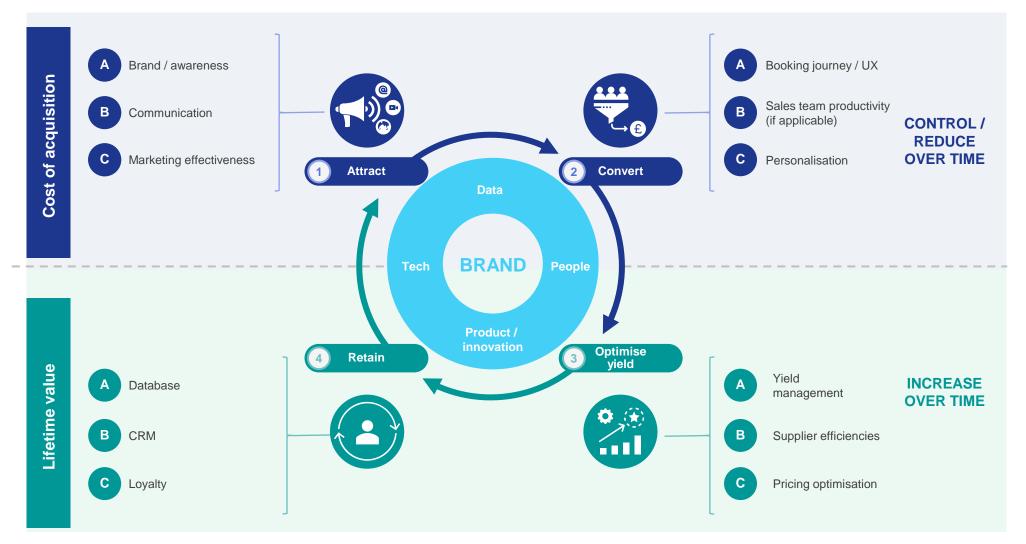
- Very high growth (35%+) + loss making = Revenue multiples
- Solid growth (10-20%+) + solid margins (10-20%) = EBITDA multiples
- Lower growth (<10%) + exceptional margins (25%+) = EBITDA multiples

Evidenceable 'TAM' Is The Largest Factor Driving Valuation



- We see valuation driven by three principal buckets, each of increasing importance
- Ultimately, it is proven whitespace for growth which impacts valuation the most. But the other building blocks have to be in place first to form a "sustainable and solid platform"

Investors have become attuned to diligencing travel businesses through a CAC / LTV lens



The best stories are easily diligenced by extensive KPIs – we have set out selected KPIs below. It is well worth compiling all KPIs in a data warehouse well ahead of any exit sale process

Drive Demand at Effective Cost of Acquisition (CAC)

ATTRACT

- Brand awareness (prompted and unpromoted, by source market)
- 2. Spend on marketing, by channel
- 3. NPS (vs. competitors, industry benchmark)
- 4. Other guest ratings, awards, etc.
- 5. Customer target demographic
- 6. Channel mix over time
- 7. Email database size and shape
- 8. # emails sent to database
- 9. # followers on social media / level of interaction / # of posts etc.
- Average page ranking on Google (Visibility Index)
- 11. Effectiveness of third-party distribution channels

CONVERT

- Conversion rates through the funnel, by channel
- 2. Website performance metrics (load speeds, bounce rates)
- 3. Traffic metrics by device
- 4. Repeat customer % of bookings
- Pre-book customer experience statistics (UX)
- 6. Personalisation / CRM
- Pricing sophistication (driving conversion)
- 8. Review site feedback (TrustPilot etc.)
- SEO (# of keywords, sophistication)
- 10. Attribution sophistication
- 11. % of free / nearly free bookings (direct)
- 12. CAC and CPB

Drive Lifetime Value (LTV)

OPTIMISE YIELD

- Pricing sophistication (frequency of changes, revenue management)
- 2. GM %
- 3. PAX and # of bookings
- 4. Average Booking Value
- Average trip duration (If applicable)
- 6. Forward revenue visibility (booking curve)
- LTV/CAC ratios

RETAIN

- 1. # of repeat bookings
- Cohort analysis (both PAX and ABV)
- 3. Database size and shape
- CRM effectiveness (personalization and impact on reactivation rates etc.)
- Repeat booking analysis (conversion from first to second booking, and second to third etc.)
- Average # of repeat bookings per repeater (and ABV understanding)
- 7. NPS (repeat vs. new customers)
- 8. Intention of repeat dynamics (survey data)
- 9. # of complaints
- 10. LTV (3-year, GM)



Credentials

OC&C: ADVISING LEADERS AND DISRUPTORS ACROSS THE VALUE CHAIN



HARRIS WILLIAMS: THE MOST ACTIVE ADVISOR IN THE SECTOR







Luxury tour operator



Forest-based cabins





TMC





Vacation rental



Holiday parks



Tour operator





Online travel agent



River cruise



River cruise



City pass provider



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