

# Gimmonix Travel Glossary

## APIs in travel

Operating and competing as an Online Travel Agency requires the use of numerous APIs. They provide you with the tools and features you need to beat out the competition. Discover the key APIs in travel with this guide.



### Global Distribution System (GDS)

A GDS' API passes real-time information and enables the booking of airfares, railways, cruise lines, car rentals, and hotels, enabling travel agents to make bookings.

The three largest providers of GDS services are Amadeus, Travelport and Sabre.

### Central Reservation System (CRS or Computer Reservation System)

An API for hotels, also known as a reservation software that manages the hotel's information, such as: room bookings, inventory, rates, availability.

The CRS sends this information to Online Travel Agencies (OTAs), Internet Booking Engines (IBEs), 3rd party websites, etc.

### Hotel Supplier

A hotel supplier's API provides static hotel data such as hotel locations, descriptions, and images. The API also returns dynamic data, such as rates, and availability. Connecting to a hotel supplier's API allows a bedbank, wholesaler, DMC or distributor to book from said entity.

### Payment Gateway

A Payment Gateway's API allows distributors to authorize credit card or direct payments without navigating users away to an external webpage.

### Channel Manager

Channel Manager APIs connect travel booking websites, such as Booking.com, AirBnB, or Expedia, to a hotel (or hotel chain) to ensure they keep rates, restrictions, availability and reservation information up to date on both ends.

