



connect25

agenda

9 – 11 April 2025

Powerscourt Hotel, Resort & Spa

Wednesday, April 9

Welcome & Networking Mixer

Arrival – 18:00 Check-In / Free Time / Meetings / Optional Activities including:

11:00 onwards – Golf
15:00 – Guided Tour of Powerscourt Gardens
16:00 – Powerscourt Distillery Tour

18:00 – 22:30 CarTrawler's Enchanted Evening – A Taste of Ireland

To kick off Connect25, join us for a relaxed Networking Mixer set against the breathtaking backdrop of the Wicklow Mountains. Taking inspiration from the natural surroundings, the Sika Restaurant at Powerscourt Hotel will reflect the beauty of the outdoors with thematic touches that evoke a woodland oasis. Enjoy an evening of delicious food, great company, and enchanting scenery.

Dress Code: *Smart Casual* | **Location:** *Sika Restaurant, Powerscourt Hotel*

07:20 – 8:00 Free Time / Optional Activities: Morning Run Club or Yoga

09:20 Take your seats for the Connect25 Conference in The Ballroom, Powerscourt Hotel

09:30 – 10:05 Welcome to Connect25

KEYNOTE

Peter O'Donovan, Chief Executive, CarTrawler

10:05 – 11:00 Gen AI: Transforming Today and Shaping Tomorrow, with Dhiraj Mukherjee

KEYNOTE

Shazam co-founder and OpenAI investor Dhiraj Mukherjee shares his journey from building a global brand to backing 250+ cutting-edge startups. In this dynamic session, Dhiraj will explore Gen AI's impact on the travel industry, offering real-world insights and strategies, with an opportunity at the end for attendees to engage in a live Q&A with one of tech's leading visionaries.

11:00 – 11:20 Refreshment Break

11:20 – 12:10 Leading the Charge: Industry Perspectives on Trends, Technology, and Customer Expectations

PANEL

MC Anton Savage hosts some of the best leaders in travel in a dynamic discussion on emerging trends, technological advancements, and evolving customer expectations when it comes to travel. Panellists include leaders from IATA, Ryanair DAC, Avis Budget Group, and Southwest Airlines.

12:10 – 13:30 Lunch Interlude

13:30 – 13:55 The Power of Paradox: Human Traveltech in a World of Contradictions

KEYNOTE

Jim Carr, Director of Engineering and Laura Demery, Director of Business Strategy & Operations at CarTrawler, explore how the company embraces the paradox of human expertise and technology to fuel innovation and create transformative travel experiences in an AI-driven world.

13:55 – 14:35 Lessons in Leadership: Audrey Hendley on Innovation, Inclusion, and Navigating a Transformative Career

FIRESIDE CHAT

MC Anton Savage hosts Audrey Hendley, President of American Express Travel, for an insightful conversation on pivotal career moments, inclusive leadership, and driving innovation in a rapidly evolving industry.

14:35 – 14:55 Refreshment Break

14:55 – 15:30 Beyond Points: Elevating Customer Loyalty through Personalisation and Seamless Experiences

PANEL

Join MC Anton Savage and an expert panel as they explore how brands are moving beyond points and discounts to build deeper, more meaningful connections with consumers. Panellists include leaders from Bilt Rewards, IAG Loyalty, Hertz, and Klarna.

15:30 – 15:55 Forecasting the Future of Travel: The Next Chapter

KEYNOTE

Join Gavin Sweeney, Chief Revenue Officer at CarTrawler, for a dynamic follow-up to last year's captivating trends presentation. Back by popular demand, Gavin will revisit his previous predictions, explore how they've evolved, and share fresh, forward-looking insights that are shaping the future of travel.

15:55 – 16:10 Closing Remarks

Aileen McCormack, Chief Commercial Officer & Andrew Murphy, Chief Business Officer, CarTrawler

16:10 – 18:00 Free Time / Optional Activities: Breathwork & Meditation or Powerscourt Distillery Tour

18:00 – Late Connect25 Gala Dinner & Awards Ceremony

The day concludes with a drinks reception at the Sugar Loaf Lounge, located on the lobby level, followed by a Gala Dinner in the elegant Ballroom of the Powerscourt Hotel. The evening will feature a fine dining experience and the annual CarTrawler Connect Awards Ceremony. After the awards, the festivities continue at a lively venue on-site that captures the essence of CarTrawler's core value: Craic — bringing people together through fun, energy, and unforgettable moments. Prepare for a delightful twist and a special experience crafted to keep the celebration alive long into the night.

Dress Code: Smart Casual | Locations: The Sugar Loaf Lounge, followed by The Ballroom, Powerscourt Hotel

09:00 – 12:00 Free Time / Meetings / Optional Activity: Golf

12:00 Leisurely departure with a 12pm checkout