# Advance Booking of Rail Tickets Gives You Hassle Free Travel by Kylea Taylor

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Indian railways , which is the fourth largest rail track  in the world has 114500 km track length, operating 65000 km routes and catering 7500 rail stations. It transports over 30 million passengers and 2.8 million tons of freight every day, with a work forces around 1.36 million.

Indian rail reservation for passenger travel is handled both by Railways department and through one of its BPOs called Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited.

Earlier days, rail reservation was done only through railway counter of selected railway stations, when manual reservation process was going on. Now, with the introduction of computerization of railways reservation, the facility for seat reservations has been improved stage by stage, with todayâ€™s online booking facilities enabling a passenger to do rail reservation right from home, assisted by corresponding online payment facilities through net banking or credit card usage.

Even now Indian rail reservation through rail station counters is the most popular method, although most of the affluent society members choose to do online booking.  IRCTC which helps the rail reservation charges a fee for online booking, scheduled according to the class of travel and charged per ticket booked.

Rail reservation is also possible through Travel agents authorized by the Ministry of Railways and these agents are permitted to charge a small fee for the services, over and above the train fare and reservation charges.

Rail reservation is always for a specific person to travel and a rail ticket reserved for one person cannot be used by another person to travel.  The ticket examiner verifies the identity of the person during travel.  However, in case of emergencies close relatives of the person can travel by obtaining prior written permission from the railways divisional office.

Indian rail reservation allots a certain percentage of seats for specific categories of travelers, such as senior citizens, physically handicapped, etc. They also retain an emergency quota for last minute requirements decided by the divisional offices.

Indian rail reservation can be done three months ahead of travel in all sections. The rail reservation can be cancelled at any point of time, even after 6 hours of the scheduled departure time. However, the fare refund is reduced according to the time of cancellation, like before 24 hours, a flat fee according to class of travel, 25% if it is within 24 hours before departure, and 50% of the fare if it is within 6 hours of the travel.

It is needless to say that advance booking of your tickets through Indian rail reservation is the best way to travel in comfort and without hassle, although certain coaches are assigned for unreserved travel in most of the trains.

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a Indian Rail Reservation - Information about indian railway reservation, railway reservation rules for the travellers, enquiry about railway resrvation, railway timetable schedule at Indianrailwayreservation.net.in

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