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Rail Availability

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In India, majority of population use railways to travel across India. There are many reasons for the same. Foremost, they are very affordable and one can get discounts as well if belonging to some categories like defense, parliament etc. Secondly, they have most extensive network connecting all major cities, towns and many rural areas as well. Compared to other modes of transports, railways are considered to be best and as a result, their use is increasing every day. If you are planning to travel by rail, you can make a reservation of tickets 90-120 days in advance as well.

Steps to check rail availability

Visit the website http://www.indianrail.gov.in/. Go to the section train between important stations. Select the source station and destination station. Fill in the class like First AC, Second AC, Third AC, Sleeper Class etc. Go for all class if searching for broad options. Choose the journey date. Next comes departure time. Choose whatever time is comfortable with you. Move on to fill arrival time. You then have to choose train type (Shatabdi, Rajdhani, Duronto, Garibrath etc). Final selection is one way or return journey. When you click on get details, list of trains will be shown along with details like travel time, days of run etc. Select the preferred rail and click on get availability. Here you will see any one of the following things:

1. Available: It means the ticket is available. A number will also be shown which basically means the number of tickets available for purchase.

2. RAC/Reservation against Cancellation: After all berths are sold, railways offer Reservation against Cancellation which basically means that you are assured of travelling in the train by sitting during the entire journey. So you can occupy the seat and travel. There is also a number besides RAC like RAC 10. When confirmed tickets get cancelled, people who have reservation against cancellation have chances of getting confirmed tickets.

3. Waiting List/WL: When reservation against cancellation tickets get full, waiting list starts. You are not allowed to travel with waiting list ticket. However you can take a chance and book waiting list tickets as lot of cancellations take place at the last moment. Some peopleâ€™s plan change, some upgrade, some postpone so there is good probability that you waiting list can get confirmed especially if there is time.

4. Regret: This basically means that rail reservation system will not accept more bookings.

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