Article published on June 19th 2012 | Travel Tips

A few years back, train reservations used to be directly from ticket counters. You needed to personally visit centralized reservation counters to get tickets to your destination. However the scenario is pretty different now. You can book tickets online from IRCTC counter. IRCTC is the booking counterpart of Indian railways. You can now simply register on IRCTC website and book train tickets to your preferred destination. When you register, make a note of account id and password for all future reservations. The process for booking train tickets is fairly simple. From your account, you can go to the ticket section and choose travel dates, source and destination station to see the available options.

You will be shown a list of trains like Rajdhani, Duronto, Shatabdi and similar trains if applicable. Though Rajdhani is considered to be Indiaâ€™s most luxurious train, Duronto trains are faster since they do not have any stops except for attending technical issues. You can then choose train and see if they are available or not. If train tickets are available, you can check fare and move to payment gateway. You need to fill some personal details like name, age etc and choose berth preference as well. If you belong to special category like defence, senior citizen group, you can also get discount on train ticket fare. There are two options for you when you choose to book train tickets. One option is i-tickets. These tickets are same as regular tickets obtained from any railway counter. You can pay for i-tickets and they will be delivered to your home address within 2 to 3 days. You need to book these a few days before travel so that they can be delivered within time. These train tickets can be booked regardless of whether they are confirmed, in reservation against cancellation or in waiting list status.

The other option for you to book ticket is to go for eticket. These can be booked even at the last moment i.e. before the chart of train gets prepared. You can make the payment and take print out of eticket. Carry identity proof as well to avoid any administration nuances.

Both of these tickets have different cancellation process. I-tickets can be cancelled from counter. E-tickets can be cancelled online and only before chart of train gets prepared. There is no cash refund option and the refund will only be electronically transferred to your account.

Article Source:
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Article Keywords:
Train Tickets, Duronto Tickets

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