Trains in India

by Frank Antire

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Trains in India are the life line of common masses for travelling from one place to another. Even though air travel fares have decreased over the years, they are still very expensive. On the other hand, trains are very economical option. Furthermore, Indian railways have much more connectivity to far off places as compared to air carriers which connect major cities only. In India, there are lots of trains and more trains get introduced every year. Shatabdi is considered to be fastest and travels short to medium distances. For long distances, Rajdhani and Duronto are excellent options. Rajdhani is long distance train which connects state capitals and comes among premium trains. Duronto express is similar to Rajdhani but has no stops unless faced by technical glitches. Duronto express travels from source station to final destination and runs nonstop. Duronto express connects major cities in India. As per recent records, a total of 29 duronto express trains are connecting major metros. Garib Rath is comparatively recent train; a premium train with full facilities but for people who canâ€™t afford high fares.

In India, train booking is done through IRCTC (Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited). You can book either online or through mobile ticketing. The website for online reservation is irctc.co.in and for mobile ticketing, portal is https://www.irctc.co.in/mobile. On these websites, after entering the stations and travel dates, you can find list of trains available. The initial step is to register on the website. The registration is free of cost and you can make new username and password as per your preference. Do remember the same for any future railway booking. Then you can start finding the trains connecting your location to your destination. You need to choose your source station, destination station, travel dates, one way or return journey etc. You will be shown a list of trains through different routes. You can get details about route and timing by clicking on details. You can choose concession if applicable to certain categories like blind, handicapped people etc. There is also quote for ladies, defense, parliament etc. You can get fare by selecting a train and clicking on get full fare. Proceed to the payment gateway and make the final payment using multiple options like credit card, debit card, net banking etc. Before boarding, do remember to carry identification papers (UID, Pan card, Driving license) which will be required by railway personnel.

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