# Train Availability

by Frank Antire

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Trains have the most extensive network throughout India. It connects all major cities, metros, state capitals and even reaches far off places including both rural and urban. They are also very economical and used by thousands of people every day. In order to travel all over India, people use trains to reach their destinations. As the number of people increase, availability falls. That is the reason many people book rail tickets in advance. One can book rail tickets around 3-4 months in advance.

Checking Train Availability:

IRCTC (Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited) is the website for online reservation of railway tickets. You can check train schedules, ticket availability, and reservation status and buy tickets online. You can start with registering on the website. You will have to choose user name and password. Furnish valid details as they will be used for all future correspondence. Once registered, you should go to train between stations. Choose source station and destination station, class (Sleeper, First AC, Second AC, Third AC, AC Chair Car, First Class etc), journey dates, departure and arrival time range, train type (Rajdhani, Shatabdi, Garib Rath etc), one way or return journey etc. Once you provide these details, you will be shown available train options. Select the desired train and click on check availability. You will be shown train details and its availability. You can also modify dates and time if seats are not available.

During the holiday season, occupancy is full and itâ€™s very hard to get confirmed tickets. This is especially true in case of premium trains like Rajdhani, Shatabdi, Duronto etc which are usually the first to get full.  In such instances, person can still book and his name will appear in the RAC or waiting list.  There are few specific tickets which provide seating facility only. This is known as Reservation against Cancellation. This allows passenger to board train and travel. As confirmed tickets begin cancelling, RAC tickets start getting confirmed. After RAC is waiting list. Tickets getting cancelled are common occurrence and if waiting list is short, there are good chances that you can get ticket. However one is not allowed to travel in waiting list status.

The last option is to get tatkal tickets which can be booked only within last 24 hours. The tatkal tickets are a bit expensive than regular tickets but very beneficial for those who are unable to get tickets and have to travel due to urgent business.

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Frank Antire - About Author:
Author is an associate for a Train Availability and a Shatabdi Tickets. IRCTC Indian Railways Train Reservation can be done effortlessly at MakeMyTrip.

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