Advance Reservation

To help you plan your journey well in advance, Indian Railways offer you the facility of Advance Reservation. About 97% of the advance reservation centres are computerised, making it possible for you to book your ticket from anywhere to anywhere. Given below are the answers to your questions on advance reservation, changes in travel plans, booking of special trains/carriages, etc.

Can I book a ticket from Nagpur to Bangalore at Howrah?
Yes, you can. In fact, you can book your ticket for any train on the Indian Railways network, from any originating station to any destination* at any of the Computerised Reservation Centres, across the country. With the network of Passenger Reservation Systems, you can now book your onward and return journey tickets from any Computerised Reservation Centre nearest to you - not just from major railway stations. This networking makes reservation of tickets faster and simpler. Reservations can also be made by accessing the website www.irctc.co.in. Please follow the instructions posted on the website.

*Reservations can be made subject to distance restrictions and availability of quotas

How many days in advance can I reserve my ticket?
You can reserve your ticket 120 days in advance, excluding the date of journey at the train originating station. At intermediate stations where the train arrives the following day, reservation can be done more than 120 days in advance. In case of some intercity day express trains, the advance reservation period is less. Special Trains are planned by Railways where ARP varies subject to maximum 120 days. Such Trains may have a higher fare than normal Trains.

How do I know the reservation status of my ticket?
The reservation status will be clearly indicated in your ticket. If your ticket is confirmed, your coach and berth numbers will be mentioned on your ticket in all classes other than First Class and AC First Class. For these, the the word "Confirmed", will be printed alongside the class of travel. If your ticket is in RAC (Reservation Against Cancellation)/Waitlisted status, the same will be mentioned on the ticket.

Note: Passengers are requested to kindly note that while every effort will be made to ensure a comfortable, hassle-free journey, Indian Railways are not liable to compensate a passenger due to non-provision of reserved accommodation or for any losses suffered due to late running of trains and other such unintended eventualities which are not wilful or deliberately perpetrated.

Can I board the train with an RAC?
You can board the train with an RAC ticket. You will be provided with sitting accommodation initially and allotted a berth (in case of passengers not turning up) in the train.

Can I board the reserved coach with Waitlisted Ticket?
Waitlisted ticket passengers are not permitted to board the reserved coaches if their ticket is not confirmed at the time of prepayment of chart, since no berth/seat has been reserved for their use in these coaches. Such passengers, if found in the reserved coach unauthorisedly, are detained at the next stoppage of train, if no vacant berth is available, (due to non turn up of passengers) to accommodate them. As per Section 155 of Railways Act, if any passenger, enters a compartment wherein no berth/seat has been reserved for his use or unauthorisedly occupies a berth/seat reserved for the use of another passenger, refuses to leave, he/she shall be removed from the berth/seat/compartment and be punishable with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees.

How can I board a train in the reserved coach if I am not able to get a waitlisted ticket?
Yes. If you don't have any ticket, you may approach the Train Superintendent/TTE after purchasing an unreserved ticket from the booking office as specified in the following table. The TTE will allot the accommodation, subject to availability.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category of Train</th>
<th>Class of Travel</th>
<th>Min. Class of Ticket required for boarding the train at originating and Intermediate Stations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i) Rajdhani/Shatabdi</td>
<td>IA, FC, 2A, 3A, ACC</td>
<td>1st Class Ordinary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii) Jan Shatabdi</td>
<td>ACC 2S</td>
<td>1st Class Ordinary 2nd Mail/Express</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iii) Maili/Express</td>
<td>FC, IA, 2A, 3A, CC, SL, 2S</td>
<td>1st Class Ordinary 2nd Mail/Express</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iv) Garib Rath Express</td>
<td>3A, CC</td>
<td>2nd Mail/Express</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v) Double Decker</td>
<td>Executive Class AC Chair Car</td>
<td>1st Class Ordinary AC Chair Car ticket through UTS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

However, in case you have a second class ticket and could not get the reservation in sleeper class and desire to travel in any upper class, you may approach the on-board ticket checking staff, who can upgrade your ticket accordingly subject to availability of accommodation except in Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express trains.

How do I find out the current status of my unconfirmed ticket?
You can contact the Reservation Enquiry Counters at your nearest Computerised Reservation Centre or call the Interactive Voice Response System, (available at major stations) Remember to always quote the 10 digit PNR Number indicated on the upper left hand corner of your ticket, to find out the current status.

The current status of your ticket can also be obtained from the Indian Railways Passenger Information Website: www.indianrailways.gov.in and www.indianrail.gov.in This site also provides real-time information relating to availability of seats (and berths in a train even between a pair of stations), time table and train fares etc. For general information on Indian Railways, passengers can access the Indian Railways Website: www.indianrailways.gov.in and www.indianrail.gov.in

Indian Railways provide telephonic enquiry services through a universal number “139” which is accessible from any where in the country without dialing any STD code. This number can be accessed from any type of phone (mobile, landline, WLL etc.). Information with regard to arrival/departure/running position of trains, accommodation availability, current status of ticket, fare enquiry etc. are disseminated through this number. After getting connected to “139”, the information with regard to arrival/departure of a train at a particular station can be obtained by dialing the train no. and STD code of that station.

Facility of Enquiry by sending SMS on 139
The current status of the ticket, status of arrival/departure of train, availability of train accommodation, fare enquiry, etc. can also be obtained by sending SMS to 139. For details kindly visit website www.irctc.co.in