Travel in Upper Class Berths when Vacancies Occur by Kylea Taylor

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Indian railways , operating 65000 km routes and catering 7500 rail stations, transporting over 30 million passengers and 2.8 million tons of freight every day employes a work force around 1.36 million to take care of its operational and maintenance activities. However, Indian rail reservation for passenger travel is handled both by Railways department and through one of its BPOs called Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited.

Rail reservation is done for different classes of travel. The rail coaches in all important trains are equipped with the following classes:

â€¢Air Conditioned First Class

â€¢Air Conditioned Two tier berths

â€¢Ist Class â€“ Non Air conditioned

â€¢Air conditioned 3 tier

â€¢Air conditioned Chair Car

â€¢Sleeper

â€¢Second Class Sitting

Each of these classes has different fares and different reservation charges. When you do rail reservation in any of these classes, you can upgrade your class of travel while traveling by paying difference in fare.

Indian railways have also brought in a regulation which automatically upgrades your class of travel in their railways reservation procedures without paying the difference in fare when vacancies remain in higher classes even at the time of train departure, while the demand for accommodation is more in lower classes. This being a method of maintaining full occupancy of trains for commercial reasons, passengers consent is obtained for making this change at the time of rail reservation.

Rail reservation is also possible through Travel agents authorized by the Ministry of Railways and these agents are permitted to charge a small fee for the services, over and above the train fare and railways reservation charges.

Rail reservation is always for a specific person to travel and a rail ticket reserved for one person cannot be used by another person to travel. The ticket examiner verifies the identity of the person during travel. However, in case of emergencies close relatives of the person can travel by obtaining prior written permission from the railways divisional office.

Indian rail reservation can be done three months ahead of travel in all sections. The rail reservation can be cancelled at any point of time, even after 6 hours of the scheduled departure time. However, the fare refund is reduced according to the time of cancellation, like before 24 hours, a flat fee according to class of travel, 25% if it is within 24 hours before departure, and 50% of the fare if it is within 6 hours of the travel.

It is always better to do advance booking of your tickets through Indian rail reservation system for traveling in comfort and without hassle , although certain coaches are assigned for unreserved travel in most of the trains.

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a Indian Rail Reservation - Information about indian railway reservation, railway reservation rules for the travellers, enquiry about railway resrvation, railway timetable schedule at Indianrailwayreservation.net.in

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