



# Railways And Tourism



## Introduction

India by rail offers a fascinating odyssey through time and space, cultures and history offering glimpses of unity amidst diversity, shrouded in enchanting mystery, colours that capture the heart while soothing the soul.

No one offers the multi-dimensional magic of the real India more excitingly than the Indian Railways – the second largest railway system in the world covering around 65,000 km of track laid across around 8,000 stations, running around 19,000 trains every day. The convenient, well connected routes offer passengers hassle-free tours to some of the most exotic places in the world.

## Segments of Rail Tourism

### Luxury Tourist Trains

#### Palace on Wheels

An extraordinary train for the extraordinary people. A train with historic charm and modern conveniences. A royal train beckoning you to step aboard for a week of splendour. It takes you on a royal odyssey. Bringing alive the luxury of princely travel of the age of the Raj, the Palace-on-Wheels has also been designed to suit the modern needs with central air-conditioning, soothing four channel music, interconnected telephone system in the train, a separate pantry and lounge in each coach, comfortable with privacy of attached bathrooms, two specialty restaurants – “Maharaja” and “Maharani”, serving exotic Indian,



Continental and Rajasthani cuisine, a well stocked bar, a reading and relaxing coach and friendly smiling attendants serving you round the clock.

The 14 coaches of the Palace-on-Wheels with rich decor that evoke the age of Rajput chivalry, are named after former Rajput States - Kota, Jaipur, Udaipur, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Alwar, Sirahi, Kishangarh, Bundi, Dungarpur, Bharatpur, Jhalawar and Dholpur.

As most of the travelling is done at night, your days are left free for discovering the delights of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh covering the itinerary of Delhi - Jaipur - Sawai Madhopur - Chittaurgarh - Udaipur - Jaisalmer - Jodhpur - Bharatpur - Agra - Delhi.

Website: [www.rtdc.in](http://www.rtdc.in)

#### Royal Rajasthan on Wheels

After successfully running Palace on Wheels for more than two and a half decades, the Indian Railways in association with Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. launched a new train “Royal Rajasthan on Wheels” with added facilities compared to Palace on Wheels which itself is the bench mark in its segment, on the itinerary of Delhi - Jodhpur - Udaipur - Chittaurgarh - Sawai Madhopur - Jaipur - Khajuraho - Varanasi - Agra - Delhi.

Website: [www.rtdc.in](http://www.rtdc.in)

#### Deccan Odyssey

Experience the finest and the best of train journeys of the world. The Deccan Odyssey is more than a mere luxury train cruise. A lavishly decorated train that transports its guests on an unforgettable sojourn on different itineraries covering different parts of the country. Facilities onboard include channel music, intercom, CD/MP3 player, wall-to-wall carpeting, money exchange / credit card facility, safety & security arrangements, health spa, bar, conference equipments. The current itineraries are as under:

1. Mumbai - Aurangabad - Chandrapur -Jalgaon - Nasik Road - Kolhapur - Madgaon - Mumbai
2. Mumbai - Viswamitri - Palitana – Verawal - Viramgam - Patan - Gandhi Nagar - Delhi
3. Delhi - Sawai Madhopur - Agra - Jaipur - Jodhpur - Udaipur - Vadodara - Viswamitri - Mumbai
4. Delhi - Sawai Madhopur - Jaipur - Agra - Vidisha - Jalgaon - Aurangabad - Mumbai
5. Delhi - Agra - Bharatpur - Sawai Madhopur - Jaipur - Delhi
6. Mumbai - Jalgaon - Vidisha - Sawai Madhopur - Jaipur - Bharatpur - Agra - Delhi

Website: [www.maharashtratourism.gov.in](http://www.maharashtratourism.gov.in)

#### The Golden Chariot

The land once ridden by formidable armies is now traversed by the world's unique luxury train. The Golden Chariot beckons you to discover worlds that are enriched with history and culture. Recline and relax as the magnificent scenery unfolds outside your window with luxury on the inside, thus far reserved for royalty. The Golden Chariot presents a fine balance between a glorious yesterday and an omnipresent tomorrow in the magical land... Karnataka, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry on the following itineraries.

1. KSR Bengaluru - Mysuru - Hassan - Hosapet - Badami - Goa - KSR Bengaluru.
2. KSR Bengaluru - Chennai - Puducherry - Thanjavur - Madurai - Nagercoil - Thiruvananthapuram - Ernakulam - KSR Bengaluru.

Website: [www.goldenchariot.org](http://www.goldenchariot.org)

#### Maharajas' Express

An Experience Extraordinaire – The Maharajas' Express is a Luxury Offering from Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd., New Delhi.

A design marvel, the train offers several unique features from having most spacious cabins to having personal valets attached to each cabin to take care of the guests. State of the art facilities like live TV, Wi-Fi internet, individual temperature control in each cabin, environment friendly toilet systems, CCTV cameras in public areas to ensure security, direct dialling telephones to make international calls, make the experience all the more enjoyable. With hair dryers, electronic safe deposit boxes in each room, bath tubs and mini bars (in suites and presidential suite), the train offers almost everything that one would imagine to travel in luxury. Savoring the culinary delights, sitting in either of the two restaurants – Mayur Mahal and Rang Mahal, one can have a glimpse of the picturesque hinterland from the large windows specially created for the Maharajas' Express. The guests can relax in the Safari Bar or the Rajah Club and choose from our selection of choicest wines and liquors.

With four categories of accommodation to choose from guests can select the cabin they would wish to spend their sojourn – all with ensuite facilities. The train can accommodate 88 guests. There are 14 guest carriages featuring 43 cabins in total, which include 20 Deluxe Cabins, 18 Junior Suites, 4 Suites and one truly classical Presidential Suite.

A lifetime experience, the journey on Maharajas' Express brings one closer to bygone era of imperial India.

It operates on a number of itineraries, mainly

1. Delhi - Agra - Sawai Madhopur - Jaipur - Bikaner - Jodhpur - Udaipur - Mumbai.
2. Mumbai - Bhusawal - Udaipur - Jodhpur - Bikaner - Jaipur - Sawai Madhopur - Fatehpur Sikri - Agra - Delhi.
3. Delhi - Jaipur - Sawai Madhopur - Fatehpur Sikri - Agra - Gwalior - Khajuraho - Varanasi - Lucknow - Delhi
4. Delhi - Agra - Sawai Madhopur - Jaipur - Delhi

Tele: +91-9717635915, Fax: +91-11-23232908 E-mal: [maharajas@irctc.com](mailto:maharajas@irctc.com), Web: [www.the-maharajas.com](http://www.the-maharajas.com)





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### Steam Train

Indian Railways proudly offer a unique two days all-inclusive package by combining thrills, romance and wildlife and heritage on a steam train.

Special Feature:

- Exciting journey on board a steam train
- Stay at Hotel Tiger den or similar hotel
- Safari in Tiger sanctuary
- Train journey only also available
- Steam train is also available for charter trips

Itinerary (on every 2nd and 4th Saturday starting from 2nd Saturday of October to 4th Saturday of April)

Website: [www.irtctourism.com](http://www.irtctourism.com)



## Hill Railways



### Hill Railways

The mighty Himalayas are an apt crown for India. The glory of the Himalayan range is unmatched and can best be appreciated by seeing them with one's own eyes. The Indian Railways have made awe-inspiring



contribution by bringing the mountain range closer to us through engineering marvels and dedicated efforts put up by the masters of the craft. The Indian Railways has moved a step forward with working out affordable rates for chartered trips for the tourist-group on the mountain Railways.

### Kalka – Shimla Railway (KSR)

- Offers tourists a breathtaking view of the Himalayan Peaks, snow capped mountains, inviting trails, the heady fragrance of flowers.... and a wonderful opportunity to take in all these leisurely, as the toy train from Kalka winds its way up slowly and steadily to Shimla.
- The train takes 5 hours for the 96 km. Journey from Kalka to Shimla. The toy train journey from Kalka to Shimla is entrancing with 107 tunnels and lofty arched bridges.
- The dazzling view and the stops at the picturesque stations along the way-all add up to an exhilarating experience.
- Special trains are also available for charter trips.

#### For further details and bookings contact:

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager,  
DRM Office, Rail Vihar, Ambala Cantt.  
Ph No. 0171-2610125  
Fax No. 0171-2610596

Station Superintendent,  
Kalka Railway Station, Kalka  
Ph No. 01 733-225088  
Mob No. 09729539932



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## Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR)

The most famous of the hill trains, links the town of New Jalpaiguri to Darjeeling.

The breathtaking landscape of Darjeeling (2127 m above the sea level) must be seen to be believed – the Himalayas in all their glory, orchids swaying in the gentle breeze, lush green tea estates...

The toy train runs on the world's narrowest (2ft) of the regular narrow gauge lines.

Conferred with the status of World Heritage Site, the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) is really a tourist's delight.

DHR also offers special Joy Rides between Darjeeling and Ghum, extra pair of train to / from New Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling and Jungle (Heritage) Safai during the tourist season. You can call at +913542252555 to know about special services or ask by email to director@dhr.in or director.dhr@gmail.com

## Nilgiri Mountain Railway (NMR)

Nestling among the Nilgiri Hills of Tamil Nadu, at 2,600 m above sea level, is the "Queen of Indian Hill Stations"- Udhagamandalam (Ooty).

- The train starts from the town of Mettupalaiyam and thus begins a journey full of twist and turns, as this Metre Gauge train ascends 46 Km on its way to the hill resort of Ooty in four and half hours.
- The toy train treks across the plains, the plantations and the forest clad hills.
- The 16 tunnels and tall girder bridges on the way, along with breathtaking view, making it a 'not-to-be-missed' journey.
- The only Rack-n-Pinion section on the Indian Railways.

## Kangra Valley Railway (KVR)

- The Pathankot - Joginder Nagar section is the rail approach to the beautiful Kangra Valley of Himachal Pradesh.
- The Kangra Valley is one of the most picturesque valleys of the lower Himalayas. The Valley, sheltered by the sublime Dhauladhar range, is green and luxuriant.

- It provides a tremendous contrast in nature of places to be visited. Dharmasala is full of Buddhist air where ancient Hindu Temples like Brajeshwari, Baijnath, Jawalamukhi and Chamunda Devi dot the country side.

## Matheran Light Railway (MLR)

This line connects Neral to Matheran.

Matheran is a tiny hill resort, close to Mumbai.

No blaring car horns. No trucks rumbling down the roads. No buses... Matheran is a quiet and peaceful hill resort which is out of bounds to vehicular traffic all through the year.

The lack of vehicular traffic at Matheran makes it an unusual and peaceful retreat.

The hill charters can be booked through IRCTC at the following addresses:

### Corporate Office:

Asst Manager / Hill Charters  
Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd.  
B-148, 11th Floor, Statesman House, Barakhamba Road, New Dehi-110001. Telfax: +91-11-123316560,  
E-mail: ggmts@irctc.com / hillcharter@irctc.com

### Regional Offices:

**For KSR & KVR contact IRCTC Chandigarh Office:**  
SCO-80-81-82, Sector - 34A, Chandigarh - 160034,  
Tel: 0172-4645795, 6572156,  
E-mail: crmchandigarh@irctc.com

### For DHR contact IRCTC Guwahati Office:

4-D, Mandavi Aptts, In front of Ravinder Bhawan,  
GNB Road, Ambari, Guwahati, Assam -781001,  
Tel: +91-0361-2737122 / 23,  
E-mail: crmguwahati@irctc.com

### For NMR contact IRCTC Ernakulam Office:

Salih Arcade, 1st Floor, Building No. 40 / 8194,  
Convent Road, Kochi - 682035.  
Board Nos: 0484-2382991-92  
Website: www.irctctourism.com



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## Indrail Pass

To explore the splendour of multi - faceted India, Indrail Passes provide excellent value and enhance the charm of holidays for visitors from abroad. It offer visitors on a budget, the facility of travel as they like, over the entire Indian railways network without any route restriction, reservation fee, super fast charges etc. The existing Indrail pass tariff structure is as below:

Fare in US Dollars per Pass						
Period of validity	A.C. First Class		First Class/ AC2/3 Tier/ AC Chair-Car		Sleeper Class Second Class (Non AC)	
	Adult	Child	Adult	Child	Adult	Child
1/2 day	57	29	26	13	11	6
1 day	95	47	43	22	19	10
2 days	160	80	70	35	30	15
4 days	220	110	110	55	50	25
7 days	270	135	135	68	80	40
15 days	370	185	185	95	90	45
21 days	396	198	198	99	100	50
30 days	495	248	248	126	125	65
60 days	800	400	400	200	185	95
90 days	1060	530	530	265	235	120

For further information and bookings please contact:

**The Manager, International Tourist Bureau,**  
New Delhi Railway Station, New Delhi - 110055,  
Tel: 91-11-23405156, 23346804, Fax: 91-11-23343050,  
E-mail: [itbnr@hotmail.com](mailto:itbnr@hotmail.com)

## Bharat Darshan Train

Bharat Darshan Trains offer highly economic packages for the budget traveller costing Rs.800/- per passenger per day. The tariff includes rail travel, road transfer, meals, accommodation, sightseeing etc. These trains run on a number of different itineraries across the country. For details visit [www.irctctourism.com](http://www.irctctourism.com) or Tourism Facilitation Centres of IRCTC.



## Buddhist Special Train (Mahaparinirvan Express)

The Buddhist Circuit Special Train offers an all inclusive 7 nights / 8 day package covering major destinations related to the life of Lord Buddha. The itinerary starts from & terminates at Delhi and covers Bodhgaya, Rajgir, Nalanda, Varanasi, Sarnath, Kushinagar, Lumbini, Sravasti & Agra. The package is operated using a special train with Air-Conditioned coaches including hotel stay and local sightseeing at places of tourist interest. For details, visit [www.irctctourism.com](http://www.irctctourism.com) or contact Tourism Facilitation Centres of IRCTC.

## Pilgrim Trains

Tourist trains on special Pilgrim Circuits, decided from time to time, like Devi circuit, Jyotirling circuit, Jain circuit, Christian circuit, Muslim/Sufi circuit, Sikh circuit, Buddhist circuit, Famous Temple circuit etc are available. The train comprises Sleeper, 3AC and 2AC coaches. The packages include train journey, local transport, meals, accommodation, sightseeing / Darshan, guides etc. the introductory fare are Rs. 910/-, Rs. 1970/- and Rs.2650/- for SL, 3AC and 2AC classes respectively. For details, visit [www.irctctourism.com](http://www.irctctourism.com) or contact Tourism Facilitation Centres of IRCTC.

## Rail Tour Packages

These are all-inclusive packages with rail travel, road transfer, accommodation in 2/3 star Hotels as well as meal and sightseeing as per detailed itineraries. These packages are available almost to all the popular historic pilgrimage and other tourist destinations across the country. New packages are being developed on a continuous basis as per demand. For details and booking, visit [www.irctctourism.com](http://www.irctctourism.com) or contact Tourism Facilitation Centres of IRCTC.

## Travel and Tourism Portal

[www.irctctourism.com](http://www.irctctourism.com) is the travel and Tourism portal operated by IRCTC which provides onestop solutions to all travel and tourism requirements including tour packages, special trains, Bharat Darshan trains, Pilgrim trains, Concierges services etc.