

# Luxury India Train Journeys Planning Checklist

A planning checklist for booking a luxury train journey across India, organized by when to act — these trains run on a very different booking calendar than hotels.

## WHY A CHECKLIST, NOT JUST AN ITINERARY

Luxury train journeys run on fixed seasonal departure calendars with limited cabins, which makes them behave more like booking a cruise than booking a hotel night. A day-by-day itinerary assumes flexibility that these trains simply don't offer — this checklist is built around their actual booking rhythm.

## BEFORE YOU BOOK ANYTHING

- Check the train's seasonal departure calendar — most luxury routes run only within a specific window, often October through March or April
- Compare cabin categories and decide your budget tier, since pricing varies significantly by suite type
- Decide which route fits your interests — options vary in regional focus, from Rajasthan-focused circuits to broader pan-India routes
- Confirm whether meals, on-board experiences, and off-train excursions are included or booked separately
- Check visa requirements and timing relative to your chosen departure date

## MONTHS OUT

- Book your cabin as early as possible — these trains have a small number of departures per season and limited cabins per category
- Arrange any pre- or post-train hotel nights in the start or end city, since journeys typically begin and end in a major hub
- Check baggage allowances, which tend to be stricter than standard hotel-based travel
- Review the off-train excursion list and flag any that need separate advance booking
- Confirm any dress code expectations for formal dinners on board

## THE WEEK BEFORE DEPARTURE

- Reconfirm your boarding city, time, and any pre-departure lounge or hotel arrangements directly
- Pack versatile clothing — daytime excursions plus a couple of more formal onboard evenings
- Save digital copies of your ticket, visa, and any onboard itinerary documents
- Check the weather for both your boarding city and the regions the route passes through
- Confirm transfer arrangements to and from the departure station

Cancellation policies on luxury train cabins tend to be stricter than hotels — read the fine print before booking.

