

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
RAILWAY BOARD**

No. 2004/Tourism/140/1

New Delhi, 9 /09/2010

General Manager (Comml.),
Southern Railway, Chennai.
Central Railway, Mumbai.
Northern Railway, New Delhi.
North Frontier Railway, Maligaon

(Commercial Circular No. 44 of 2010)

Sub: Master circular for booking of charter trains on Hill Railways.

- Ref: 1. Board's letter no. 2004/Tourism/140/1 dated 12/02/2009 (Comml. Circular 8 of 2009)
2. Board's letter no. 2004/Tourism/140/1 dated 18/03/2010 & 28/04/2010
3. Board's letter no. 2009/Tourism/140/4 dated 10/06/2010
4. CCM/FM/NR's letter no. 360-R/Hill Railway/2010 dated 02/08/2010

In order to promote rail based tourism, Board reviewed the existing mechanism of hill charters, its charging principles and decided to issue a comprehensive circular covering various aspects of booking of hill charters on the following sections of Indian Railways:

- (i) Kalka – Shimla
- (ii) Nilgiri Mountain Railway
- (iii) Neral – Matheran
- (iv) Darjeeling Himalayan Railway
- (v) Pathankot – Joginder Nagar

2. These instructions are applicable for the bookings made by IRCTC as well as general public for both one way and return journeys.

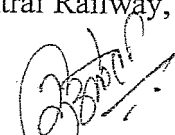
3. The Sr.DCMs of the concerned division shall be the nodal officer for booking of hill charters /coaches/saloons over the hill railways. In case of DHR, NFR may appoint Director/DHR as nodal officer. Request for chartering of hill trains / attachment of coaches should be processed within 5 working days. In the case of requests made by IRCTC, reasons for non feasibility alongwith the alternative options should be communicated to IRCTC. The operational feasibility and instructions concerning operating department will be handled by the Sr.DOM/DOM(BO) of the concerned Division (Board's letter no. 2009/Tourism/140/4 dated 10/06/2010 & dated 06/08/2010). Reasonable publicity regarding the availability of trains for charters and the details of nodal officers and other concerned persons shall be made by the respective Railways.

4. In the Nilgiri Mountain Railway, the Railway may continue to charter any one coach of the regular train and also fully charter the second/seasonal train (Board's letter No. 2004/Tourism/140/1 dated 10/11/2008).

5. The charging principles shall be as under:
- i. The minimum distance to be charged in each trip is 200 KM for one way trip and 400 km for round trip.
 - ii. Fare of Mail / Express to be charged.
 - iii. Maximum permissible load on the train composition to be considered for calculation of haulage charges, i.e. if the proposed charter is with a lesser number of coaches than the maximum load, the difference in number of coaches may be charged notionally for second class coaches. The maximum permissible load on the section will be taken as the higher of the maximum permissible load for steam or diesel locos if there is a difference between the two.
 - iv. Service and safety surcharge to be levied and the same are to be applied on the base fare. At present service charge is 15% for the IRCTC, while 20% for the general public.
 - v. Coach/SLR and engine detention charges will be levied @ Rs. 600/- & Rs. 619/- respectively per hour or part thereof after giving a free time of five and a half hours.
 - vi. No empty haulage charges.
 - vii. The seating capacity of SLR / Dining car will be charged on the basis of IInd class Mail Express fare with necessary service and safety surcharge. Luggage portion of SLR not to be charged unless specifically requested and utilized. If luggage portion is not utilized then the same should be kept in locked condition. This may be mentioned in the FTR ticket. In case luggage portion is utilized, it will be charged as per normal rules for the entire journey and not for part journey.
 - viii. The security deposit for general public will be Rs. 4,000/- per coach.
 - ix. The charges so calculated will be applicable from any station to any station irrespective of the distance.
6. The base fare, service charge, safety surcharge, engine/coach detention charge will be taken as applicable form time to time.
7. The minimum charges for single journey / one way trip and round trips shall be Rs. 22,000/- and Rs. 40,000/- respectively. The booking of charters for both one way and return journey shall continue to be made by general public as well as IRCTC and the only difference in charges shall be the service charge.
8. The above instructions shall have no effect on the existing method of charging for chartering of Rail Motor car on Kalka – Shimla section and the same shall continue to be governed by the Full Tariff Rate. For example, the charges for chartering of 18 seater Rail Motor car comes to Rs. 16,681/- {Base fare (298 X 18 X 2) + Service charge (20%) + Safety Surcharge (20 X 18 X 2) + Empty haulage charge {50% of 18 X (298+20+25)}}. There shall be no notional charges for short composition but detention charges shall be applicable as notified from time to time, the current rate is Rs. 600/-per hour with minimum charges of Rs. 1500 per day. (CCM/FM/NR's letter no. 360-R/Hill Railway/2010 dated 02/08/2010)
9. The above instructions are valid for a period of three years from 11/06/2010 and refund, if any, due to overcharging may be granted for hill charters booked prior to date of issue of this letter.

Copy forwarded to:

1. Dy. Comptroller & Auditor General of India (Railways), Room No. 224, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi with 36 spares.
2. FA & CAO, Southern Railway, Central Railway, Northern Railway, North Frontier Railway.
3. Principal Director of Audit, Southern Railway, Central Railway, Northern Railway, North Frontier Railway.


For Financial Commissioner / Railways

Copy forwarded to:

1. Secretary (Tourism), Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, New Delhi.
2. AM(B), Adv.(Finance), AM(IT), AM(C), Adv.(Vig.), ED(PM), ED(A), EDF(C), ED(C&IS), EDTC(R), EDV(T), ED/Safety, DPR, DFC, TC(CR), V(SS), PR, F(C) Branches, Railway Board.
3. Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), 9th Floor, Bank of Baroda Building, 16, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001.
4. CPTM/ Southern Railway, Central Railway, Northern Railway, North Frontier Railway.
5. DRM/UMB, DRM/FZR, DRM/BCT, DRM/SA, DRM/KIR


**Director/Tourism & Catering
Railway Board**