

Article published on June 27th 2012 | Outdoors

Air travel has become very economical in the last few years. The fares have dropped gradually which has led to more and more people travelling by air. There is stiff competition in air travel industry sparked by online comparisons. Additionally, air carriers have tie up with major credit card companies, banks to provide customers with easy EMI options so they can travel by air and also not be burdened financially. There are also loyalty schemes which have been introduced by many airlines providing free miles and similar discount which is best suited for regular flyers.

For getting air tickets, one usually thinks of travel agent. This option used to be common earlier when there were fewer alternatives. Travel agents charge their commission which increases the air travel quote. These days, people can get the best deal in matter of minutes by searching online. There are many online travel agents (OTA's) like makemytrip, expedia, travelguru, yaatra, cleartrip etc which provide online comparison of all flights be it internation or domestic. The process of getting quotes is very simple. You need to choose the departure and arrival place, travel dates, number of people, one way or round trip or multi city, economy or business class etc. You will be shown results which will include quotes and flight details from different airlines. Some of major airlines include Air India, Indigo, Kingfisher, Go Air, Spice Jet, Jet Konnect etc. You can also see the fare breakup if required. If it's a long distance journey, it is possible that you have two options. You can get direct flight which has less flight duration but higher price. Or you can choose connecting flight which has more flight duration but is bit cheaper than connecting flights. Also check the refund policy as some different airlines have different policies regarding refund. You can proceed to booking flights. You will be shown flight details once you click on book. Many online travel agents have tie up with insurance companies so you can get travel insurance at additional price if you want. You need to then fill traveller's person details and seat preference. You will be moved to payment gateway where you can pay using net banking, credit card, debit card etc. Once payment is made, a confirmation SMS, email will be sent to you. Tickets will be sent to your email address and you can take its print out. And the process is done.

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Drue Bear - About Author:

Author is an associate editor for a <u>Travel in India</u>. We also provide information about Online Flight Booking, Holiday Packages and Flights Booking in India.

Article Keywords: Air travel in India

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