

Now get your pizza on train ordered through internet

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The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) is shortly launching a separate travel portal within its existing www.irctc.co.in that will give travel destinations, hotels and other lodgings, choice of meals - vegetarian or non-vegetarian - mode of travel, car rentals, bus connections with advance bookings et al.

IRCTC Managing Director P.K. Goel said the travel portal is aimed at providing a single window facility to the tourist and traveller anywhere in the world. It is targeting both foreign tourists and Indians on sight seeing and visiting pilgrimage spots.

The internet bookings will take care of everything. For instance, if a person has booked a pizza to be delivered at Khandwa station in Madhya Pradesh, he shall get it there.

'The bookings naturally involve the customers' credit cards and we are aware of the fear of misuse of cards. That is why the travel portal will have a system wherein it will not have the capacity to store information about the credit card or its pin number. This may go a long way in setting to rest apprehensions of customers on the misuse of their credit card,' Goel told IANS

After the successful run of the Palace on Wheels in Rajasthan, Indian Railways is all set to extend the run of heritage trains in Punjab and Karnataka as well.

For those looking at luxury and comfort, the IRCTC is coming up with 'Punjab Palace on Wheels' that will take tourists to places like Amritsar, Patiala, Kapurthala, the Wagah border in Punjab along with hill resorts of Kangra valley and Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh besides touching Jaipur and Agra in an eight-day package.

Later in the year, it is expected to unveil 'Karnataka Palace on Wheels' that will extend from the Arabian Sea to the forested ridges of the Western Ghats, covering ancient Hindu temples at Badami, Pattadakal and Alihole, to the ones built in the 18th century.

- Faraz Ahmad