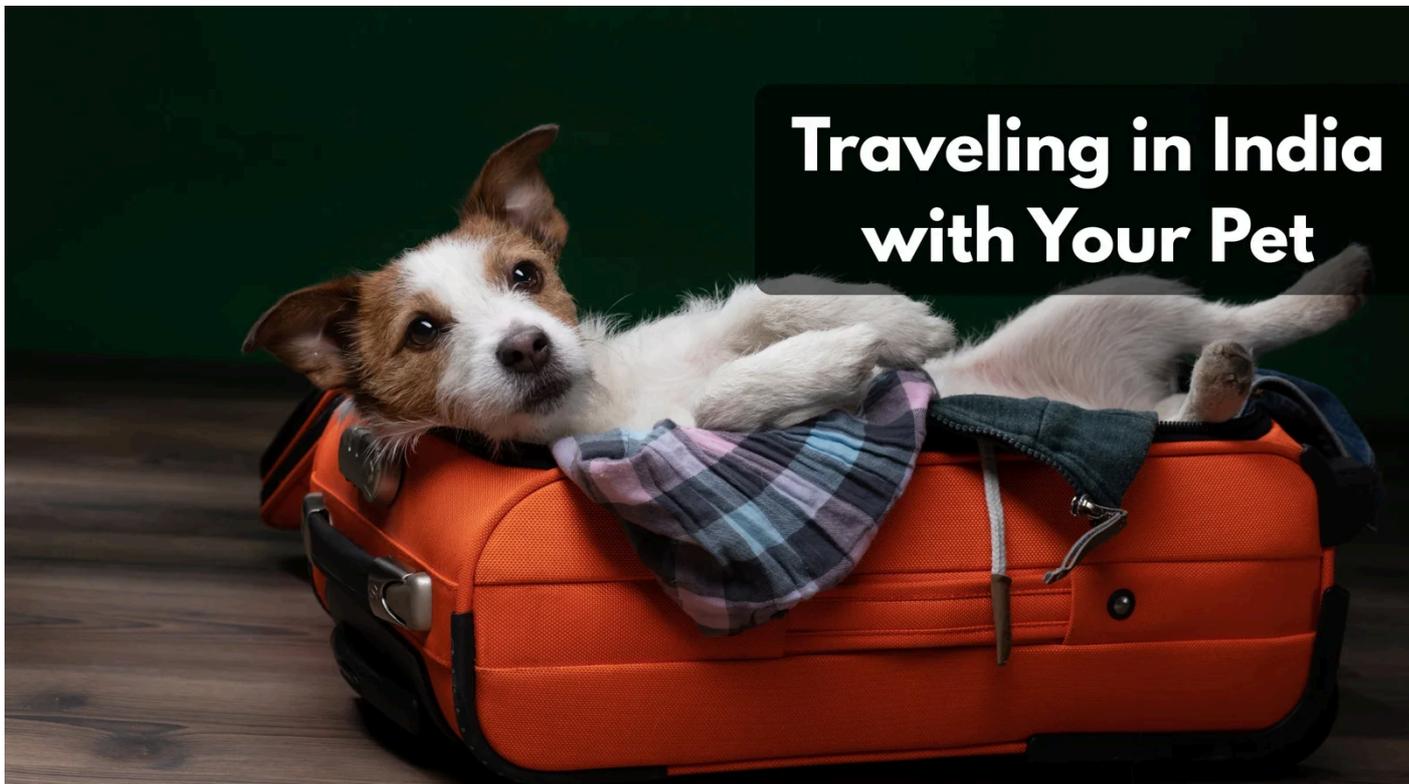


Detailed Guide To Traveling In India With Your Pet

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Traveling in India with Your Pet

Table of Contents

More and more pet parents in India are choosing to travel with their furry companions. It isn't just about convenience — it's about creating memories together. Whether you're planning to fly, book a train journey, hit the road, or check into a resort, traveling with pets in India can be done smoothly with the right preparation.

At POP, we know how important your pets are to you, and that's why we've created this comprehensive guide. Think of it as your go-to companion for every trip you take with your dog or cat in India.

Why Travel with Pets in India?

For most of us, pets are not just animals; they are part of the household. Leaving them behind during a vacation often means added stress — for you and for them. By planning ahead, you can keep your pet safe, comfortable, and part of your adventure.

Traveling with pets in India is easier than ever before, thanks to evolving airline policies, growing numbers of pet-friendly hotels, and increased awareness among service providers. But success depends on one thing: preparation. That's what we are here to help you with.

The Essential Pet Travel Checklist

Before setting out on any trip, ensure you've packed the following essentials:

- Vaccination records up to date (anti-rabies is essential)
- A vet's fitness certificate (issued just before travel)
- IATA-approved carrier or sturdy crate
- Collar with ID tag (or a microchip)
- Leash, portable water bowl, waste bags, and a mini first-aid kit.
- Familiar bedding or a favorite toy
- Emergency vet contacts at your destination
- Hard copies of airline/railway/hotel rules

Pro tip: Don't assume digital copies will do. Carry paper documents. Digital copies are often rejected by officials.

Source: ([The times of India](#))

Flying in India with Pets

Air travel may sound daunting, but with the right knowledge, it becomes manageable.

And Indian airlines are becoming more pet-friendly.

Which Airlines Allow Pets?

- Air India: Cats and dogs under ~7 kg (with carrier) allowed in the cabin; larger ones go in cargo.
- Akasa Air: A newer airline that allows in-cabin pets.
- IndiGo, SpiceJet, Vistara, GoFirst: Mostly cargo-only, except service animals.

Since airlines allow only a limited number of pets per flight, booking well in advance is essential.

How to Book Pet Tickets?

- You can't just "add a pet" online — you'll have to call or email. Do this the same day you book your tickets to make sure your furry friend also get their spot.

- Cabin charges can run between ₹20,000 – ₹60,000. Cargo fees are calculated by weight (pet + carrier).
- Expect to send vaccination and health certificates by email before they confirm your pet booking.
- One passenger = one pet. If you're traveling with more than one, bring a partner so each cat has someone.

Crates and Carriers:

Make sure your cat can stand, turn, and lie down comfortably. We recommend that you line your pet's carrier with absorbent bedding or pee pads (some tend to get queasy) and add their favorite toy. Label the crate with your details.

Flight Essentials:

- Vet certificate (within 48–72 hours)
- Vaccination record
- Your ID + pet booking confirmation

Tips that can help you:

- Get to the airport early. It can sometimes take you nearly an extra hour to finish paperwork.
- Light meal an hour before travel is what we recommend. And avoid feeding very close to departure.
- No sedatives unless your vet prescribes. Calming sprays or pheromone wipes can work if your pets get anxious.
- Crate train in advance. You can start feeding your fur babies in their carriers at home weeks before the trip to get them comfortable with eating inside it.

Source: ([CN Traveller India](#))

Traveling by Train

For many pet parents, trains are the most comfortable option. But rules apply here too.

Where Cats Can Travel:

- First Class AC Coupe or Cabin: Book the entire coupe (2 berths) or cabin (4 berths) and your cats can stay with you.

- Guard's/Parcel Van: Allowed, but stressful. We do not recommend leaving them there.

What You'll Need:

- Fitness certificate + vaccination record
- Pet fare (paid at the parcel office)
- Printed copy of pet travel rules (this can end unnecessary debate with TC)

Tips:

- Coupes are limited, so book early.
- Arrive at the parcel office ahead of time to finish the paperwork calmly.
- Use washable pee pads in carriers. In long journeys, they can save the day.

Pet Parents' Appeal

Pet parents on forums like Reddit often share frustrations about the lack of inclusivity. Pets are currently not allowed in Sleeper, 2AC, or 3AC — leaving First AC as the only humane option. Advocacy for pet-friendly compartments is growing, but for now, booking a coupe remains the best bet.

Source: ([Reddit](#))

Road Trips

Some pets love the car; some tolerate it. Road trips give you freedom and flexibility, but safety comes first.

Private Car:

- Use a seatbelt harness or crate. Free-roaming cats in cars = disaster waiting to happen.
- Never leave them in a parked car — even a few minutes can be dangerous.
- Stop every 2–3 hours for water, food, and bathroom breaks.

Taxis & Ride-Shares:

- Uber Pet exists in some cities, but you should always call drivers in advance to confirm.
- Always call the driver beforehand to confirm that you're bringing a pet.

- Keep your pet in a carrier for smoother acceptance.

Road-Trip Kit:

- ORS or electrolyte sachets (for hot days)
- Sunshades for the windows
- Locate “pet-friendly pit stops” along highways — some dhabas and cafes near cities are becoming welcoming.

Short practice drives are recommended before long journeys.

Source: ([Reddit](#))

Pet-Friendly Stays

Finding places that welcome pets used to be hard a few years ago. Now it's so much easier, but policies vary.

Questions to Ask First:

- Any restrictions on size or breed?
- Extra cleaning fees?
- Can pets be left alone in rooms?

Where We've Found Success:

- Budget: Many homestays on Airbnb/MakeMyTrip allow cats and dogs, but always call the hosts first to confirm.
- Luxury resorts: Increasingly pet-inclusive, with menus and play areas.
- Pet Hotels: Critterati in Gurgaon has daycare, a pool, and even a spa.

Source: [India's Top Pet-friendly Hotels](#)

Health & Comfort

Across air, rail, or road, some things don't change:

- Vet fitness certificate (within 48 hours)

- Vaccination records up to date
- ID tag or microchip
- Paper copies of rules

Pro tip: Carry a small medical kit: thermometer, antiseptic wipes, basic meds recommended by your vet.

Comfort Hacks That Helped Us:

- Light meals before journeys
- Collapsible bowls for water breaks
- Familiar bedding
- Built-in rest time in the itinerary — cats tire quickly
- Respect hotel rules (a scratched sofa is a sure way to lose deposits)

Source: ([Wikipedia](#))

Planning Days & Local Laws

- Some beaches (like in Goa) ban pets at peak hours.
- Many cities have leash/muzzle requirements — check ahead.
- Look up local vets before you arrive.
- Don't overschedule — most pets can handle half a day of activity before needing downtime. Some, even less.

FAQs

Q – Can I take cats in Sleeper or 3AC?

A – No, only First AC coupes/cabins.

Q – Do airlines charge extra?

A – Yes — fees vary by airline and pet size.

Q – Is pet insurance mandatory?

A – Not yet, but worth considering.

Q – Do small cats still need carriers in cabins?

A – Yes. Airlines require IATA-approved carriers for all pets.

Q – Do I need a vet certificate for car trips?

A – Not legally everywhere, but advisable — especially across states.

Q – Can TCs make me share a coupe if I booked it for my cats?

A – No. If you booked the entire coupe under one PNR, it's yours. Carry printed rules in case of disputes.

Ready to Pack?

Final Thoughts

Traveling with pets in India takes extra planning, but it's worth every effort. Whether you're flying, boarding a train, or driving cross-country, the right preparation ensures your pet stays safe, healthy, and comfortable.

At the end of the day, these trips are about shared experiences — and those are the memories that last. So pack your bags, don't forget their favorite toy or treat, and get ready to embark on a journey together.

Because the best adventures are the ones where no family member gets left behind.