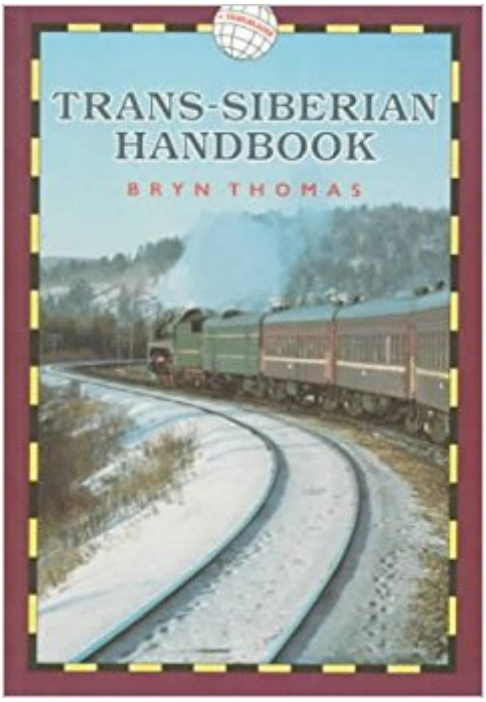
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Trans-Siberian Handbook (World Rail Guides)



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Synopsis

This new edition of the guide to the world’s longest rail journey is packed with practical information on planning the trip and booking tickets. Background information is also included on Siberia’s infamous past and the history of the railway. 30 color photos.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Definitive guide."--Conde Nast Traveler"Tells you everything you need to know."--Cosmopolitan"An invaluable guidebook."--The Financial Times"The Trans-Siberian Handbook ...is a must."--The Sunday Times"Well researched...A wealth of information... Is is a fascinating read and contains so much more than the usual handbook."--The Herald"An invaluable travelling companion."--Traveller First edition shortlisted for the Thomas Cook Travel and Guide Book Awards --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A trip across Siberia on the longest continuous railway track in the world is undoubtedly the journey of a lifetime. It’s also a convenient way to reach China, Mongolia or Japan. Tickets are not expensive or difficult to arrange. You can now travel almost anywhere you want in Siberia: we tell you how to organize a trip, where to get tickets and where to go.Inside you will find: Kilometer-by-kilometer route guide - covering the entire routes of the Trans-Siberian, Trans-Manchurian and Trans-Mongolian railways with 38 strip maps in English, Russian and Chinese: see where you are as you travel; Siberia and the railway - the detailed history of Siberia,

the construction of the railway and the running of the Trans-Siberian today will be of great interest not only to visitors but also to armchair travelers; City guides with maps - the best sights, places to stay and restaurants for all budgets plus Russian and Chinese phrases, rail fares and timetables. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I had this guide along for a 3-week, Vladivostok-to-Moscow trip in summer 2011, and it was the best travel book I've ever used.The coverage depth of every city & town along the way as well as many sidetrips is just right. Lonely Planet finds a way to make even the most gritty, barren town sound like an interesting experience, while this book is a bit more straightforward about the types of places that are likely not worth your time when there's so much else.As many others have said, the KM-by-KM guide is an outstanding feature, pointing out sights from the major to the comically minor ("two lovely church ruins"). Even making several stops along the way, you're on the train for some pretty substantial blocks of time, and pressing your face against the glass to see the KM markers whizz by as you count down to the next point of interest is a welcome distraction.The timing was unfortunate being just at the end of the lifespan of this edition -- this lead to a few befuddling instances of looking for lodgings gone long ago!

I recently used this on a three-week trans-siberian trip. It attempts to cover the major cities along 10,000 km of Russian rail, as well as prepare the reader for the ride experience. It explains how to get a visa, how to buy train tickets and get by on the train, and details the sights of Siberia. Like any travel guide, numerous details on locations are outdated (addresses off by a number, hotel costs), but that's unavoidable. There's a section devoted to buying a ticket in russian by handwriting your request, which proved invaluable at the stations. The maps were extremely convenient for the different cities, though the multipaged one for Moscow is a bit tricky. The brief russian phrase section was surprisingly helpful for ordering food at restaurants.Some minor complaints... The book doesn't mention the official russian rail website [...], which shows the complete train schedules in english. This lets you request a specific train at a specific time, instead of attempting a QA with the ticket cashiers (very difficult unless you're fluent in russian). There's not enough winter tourist information. For shoes, "sturdy trainers" should actually be "lightweight, waterproof, hiking boots," unless you like trenchfoot. Frozen-over Lake Baikal can be amazing. There aren't enough pictures. How do platskartny, kupe car classes etc. differ? Not enough information on flying into Russia. Flying to or from Moscow is obvious (DME airport), but departing from Siberia can be cheaper taking a local airline (S7) back to Moscow, rather than leaving from Vladivostok to the US.Various

notes... Contrary to what the guide says, amateur photography in the Moscow Metro IS allowed according to the official Metro website: [...] (scroll to the bottom). Long-distance train tickets were considerably more expensive than what the guide mentions (I did it in the off-season, but my tickets were for trains just days in advance), costing more than a plane ticket for the same distance (though they are sleeping cars). I also recommend going east-to-west (Vladivostok to Moscow). It's easier to adjust to the days getting longer, and the smaller cities you visit on the way will prepare you for the grey bazaar that is Moscow.

While planning for my Trans-Siberian Railway trip, I looked at several guidebooks and websites to help me prepare for the journey. Numerous reviews pointed to Bryn Thomas' book as the most authoritative on the subject. I read the book cover to cover and have to agree that it's all I could have hoped for and more. Thomas covers not only the details and need-to-know information for the train routes, but also covers Russian history, essential trip items, and info on the towns along the route(s) (including in Mongolia and China). I particularly liked his reference to the kilometer posts and noteworthy things to see along the route. All info in the book is surprisingly accurate and conveys an intimate level of knowledge that can only be gained by having ridden the railroad numerous times. For anyone considering a Trans-Siberian trip, this book is a must read.

This book was invaluable prior to taking the Trans-Mongolian from Beijing to Moscow and on to St. Petersburg 3 days later. The trip was phenomenal, but only because there were few surprises after taking this book along for the ride...not only to point out all the stops (which were usually not announced), but also for explaining strange things like the train being boarded at 11pm when entering Russia, and having each compartment inspected (even the heating vents!) and being unable to step back into our compartments before 1:00am...all part of the "intrigue" of the trip. People actually had tried to "stow away" within compartments and were pulled off. Especially interesting was the stop to change the wheels to the different guage rail-width between Mongolia and Russia. This is all explained in the book, and tells you what you can observe up close, and what you cannot. A "must have" for the traveler!

I did the Trans-Siberian back in March of 2009, and I sat down with both the Lonely Planet book and the Trailblazer Guides. After I used the Trailblazer Guide to Kilimanjaro a few years back, I was slightly biased.This one book helped me pick out the train schedules, places to stay, things to do, where to eat and how to manage something as intimidating as traveling solo along the

Trans-Siberian.Between this andÃ Â The Man In Seat 61, I had the trip planned out before I left. And on the trip, I referred to the other 6 Moscow/Mongolia/Beijing books a handful of times, and wish I didn't bring them along to save weight.The Trans-Siberian was one of the coolest things I've ever done in my life, and I'd do it again if I could bring friends along (I'd want to do East to West this time) and take more stops along the way. Even if I don't, I can still go back to this book and relive memories.

A must have book to have in hand if you are planning to take the Tran-Siberian train. We went from Beijing to Moscow last May and enjoyed reading about the places along the way.

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